

ABSTRACTS

SOCIOLOGY: PROFESSION AND VOCATION

Interview with Professor Irina Eliseeva

Professor Irina Eliseeva answers questions of Vladimir Kozlovsky concerning her life and academic career.

HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY

***Bochkareva V.* Development of Theoretical and Methodological Foundations of Sociology of Law in Russia**

This article analyses the theoretical views of S. Muromtzev, Russian “jurist-sociologist”, the founder of the study of law as a social phenomenon.

SOCIOLOGY OF YOUTH

***Sharova E., Mulina T.* Professional Self-Determination of Young People in the Context of Social and Cultural Transformation of Russian Society (Regional Aspect)**

The paper deals with a question of specific features of youth’s professional self-determination in the context of sociocultural transformation of modern Russian society. The attempt to describe primary educational and professional strategies of secondary school graduates on regional level is made. The analysis of contradictions and factors defining the structure of the youth’s professional self-determination revealed several trends. Firstly, the universalization of the value of higher education, which is expressed in the dominant orientation of high school graduates to enroll in university, secondly, increase of uncertainty about socio-professional status, and thirdly, the substitution of educational choice for professional choice. In general, the transformation of Russian society brings about the dynamics of youth’s labour culture based on the achievement of material prosperity and consumer values. This change concerns not only the attitude to work, but also the problem of choosing a profession.

SOCIOLOGY OF SEXUALITY

***Golod S.* Transformation of Erotic and Emotional Relations of Youth in the XX Century**

The article based on concrete sociological research examines the transformation of sexual morality and sexual practices of young people in Russia during the twentieth century. The author characterizes this change as a movement from the era of the emancipation of sexuality in the 1920s to the era of prohibition associated with the expansion of state and party institutions in the private life in the second half of the twentieth century. However, the period between the 1930s and 1960s was marked by significant variations of the principles of sexual morality.

SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION

Pavlenko K. Neoinstitutional Approach to Quality Evaluation in Higher Education

In this article the evaluation of educational quality is studied as an organizational process in which different interest parties are involved. A neoinstitutional approach is used to build a theoretical scheme. This approach allows considering quality evaluation as a set of institutional rules that are based on a specific concept of control. The interaction between interest parties in higher education is characterized by a struggle for the right to impose its own rules of evaluation and advantageous concepts of control. Concepts of control, in accordance with which certain patterns of evaluation are formed, are connected with different views on the quality of education. In this article peculiarities of quality evaluation are studied, actors, who are interested in their reproduction as well as contradictions between different patterns of evaluation, are described.

Ilichuk S., Kuropyatnik A. On the Model of the Graduates in a Transforming Society (the Case of Astrakhan Region)

At the present stage of development of Russian economy a gap exists between the labor market and vocational education system. This requires the development of a model of a professional, capable of meeting the needs of a rapidly developing society. The authors made a theoretical analysis of existing models. The basic approaches to building a model of a professional are “qualification”, “activity”, “system”, “competence”.

Basing on the study in the Astrakhan region, the authors propose a parametric model of a higher school graduate. The main parameters of the model were identified by means of the sample survey which included employers, graduates, and young professionals: general (key) qualifications, professional (basic) qualifications, level of personal development. The study confirmed the need to develop new, more “flexible” model of a specialist, which will enhance the competitiveness of higher school graduates in the market environment.

SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Smirnova A. Mechanisms of Interpersonal and Intergroup Threat Perception in International Relations

The article analyzes the significance of the mechanisms of interpersonal and intergroup perception, namely, identification, empathy, comparison, attribution and reflection, in the process of threat perception in international relations. The theoretical basis of this research is the identification of threats as a form of intersubjective relations. The perception of threat is seen as a process of social cognition. In this case the subject of this process is the State exercising the knowledge through public figures who share a political identity of the country and

represent it on the international arena. Knowledge is completed by a construction of reciprocal images of the states, which are bind by the relationship of threat. The theoretical conclusions are supported by the results of empirical research aimed at identifying threats, perceived by Russia and the U.S., of North Korea possessing nuclear weapons.

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Isaeva V. The Phenomenon of Conversion: Construction of Religious Identity in the Biographic Narrative

In the present article the author considers the phenomenon of conversion using theoretical approaches of the western sociologists and data of the field research of St. Petersburg Buddhist layman community Karma Kague. Conversion is interpreted as joining religions which are not traditional for a specific territory. In relation to Western Europe and North-West of Russia these religions are Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, etc. Resting upon the methodology of social constructivism and functionalism the author examines the biographies of adherents of Buddhist community Karma Kague and its religious leader Ole Nydal. The author comes to the conclusion that converts construct their new religious identities in the biographic narratives following biography of their religious leader, applying certain techniques and strategies of self-presentation.

ESSAY

Makurin I. Property Reform and Modern Economic Crisis

The essay examines the private property to land in Russia. Historically, property rights were formed primarily as a right to land. It is the quality of institutions of private ownership of land that draws an invisible line between many countries in today's multipolar world, including Russia. The essay traces the extent to which social attitudes and opinions, as well as the specific actions of the Russian historical and contemporary ruling class had an impact on the existence of private property rights in this country. To the author's opinion, the influence of the domestic ruling class is historically decisive for the functioning of private property in Russia.

REPORTS

Sibireva M. The Study of Childhood in Sociology

The article briefly describes the evolution of the category "Childhood", focusing on two historical status of childhood. It raises the question of "muffled" groups and analyzes the emergence of research practices with regard to childhood, the reasons for their long absence in sociology, as well as the emergence of "new" sociology of childhood, which has grown out of traditional theories of socialization. The author considers the project "Child Friendly Cities" and the possibility of its

realization in the framework of new approaches to the study of children and of modern childhood.

NEWS / INFORMATION

Round Table “Problems of Quality and Prospects of Standardization in Sociological Research”

The round table “Problems of quality and prospects of standardization in sociological research” was held 18 December 2009 in St. Petersburg following the initiative of the Faculty of Sociology, St. Petersburg State University and CIRCON research group.

The Eighth All-Russia Seminar “Sociological Problems of Power Institutions in the Context of Russian Transformation”

The Eighth All-Russia Seminar “Sociological Problems of Power Institutions in the Context of Russian Transformation” was organized by the Sector of Sociology of Power and Civil Society, Sociological Institute, RAS and Friedrich Ebert Foundation (22–24 October, 2009, St. Petersburg). The seminar was animated by researches from different regions of Russia and researches and post-graduates from Sociological Institute, RAS.

NEW BOOKS ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Razumovskaya T. Methodological Optics: Culture Projections in the Focus of Research

Book Review: Visual Anthropology: Configuring Optics / Ed. E. Yarskaya-Smirnova, P. Romanov. M.: Variant, CSPGS, 2009. — 296 p.

Karpova G. Cultural Policy in Market Conditions: the Controversy of Modernity

Book Review: Kostina A., Gudima T. Cultural Politics of Modern Russia: Ethnic and National Dimension. M.: LKI Publishing. — 240 p.