

ABSTRACTS

SOCIOLOGY: PROFESSION AND VOCATION

Interview with Professor Edward Markarian

Professor Edward Markarian answers questions of Vladimir Kozlovsky concerning his life and academic career.

ACTUAL SOCIOLOGY

Ivanov D. Actual Sociology: Laughing Science Searching for Wicked Truths

The article is about tendencies in the current sociology considered in the context of glam capitalism and glam science dominating today economy, politics, and culture. As an alternative to ritualistic sociology and epoch-making sociology, the project of actual sociology is proposed. The actual sociology is viewed as a laughing science that critically and ironically reformulates traditional research agendas using concepts of glamour, trash and flow-structures.

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 in the second half of the twentieth century. The beginning of 1960s until mid-1970s is characterized as a time of “warming” (“sexual renaissance”), after which came the “epoch of permission”. The first part of the article was published in the previous issue of the JSSA (pp. 69–89).

SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Shkurko Y. Situational Structure of Social Change Process: Theoretical and Methodological Assumptions

In this paper the author assumes that social actors have an impact on social processes, making the choice in favor of countersystem ways to solve problems in different areas of life. The term “countersystem” means alternative or simply other forms of treatment of social reality; they are a form of denial of the dominant social system. The choices with significant social impact occur in situations characterized by “potential risks”, “transition of critical threshold”, “adoption of alternatives” where conditions for social change are created. The process of social change is considered as a process of transition from one social paradigm — widespread and routine social solutions to important social problems — to the other.

Sheblanova V. The Phenomenon of Terrorism from the Perspective of the Risks of Social Changes

The article presents the author’s analysis with a new conceptualization of terrorism as a factor of social change. The author shows that terrorist actions require temporary relations and take place in a spatial relationship with other events. The terrorism has

specific goals. It is discrete and consists of several components. The characteristics of terrorism associated with social changes are briefly traced in Russian retrospective. The author uses theoretical and methodological approach that emphasizes the specific nature of this risk-generating phenomenon and allowing explanations of concepts in the context of social change, highlighting the main features, structural complexity of modern terrorism and its impact on the social system. Modern terrorism is represented by a global risk factor, which modifies the social organization of society, social structure and established social patterns.

SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE

Artiushina A. Actor-Network Theory in Inaction: Strategies and Limitations of the Anthropological Study of the Russian Physical Laboratory

The year 2009 has suddenly become a landmark for Russian science: the critical letter of American-Siberian scientists initiated the public debate about the role of the RAS and has provoked the country's leadership to make a reform project. At the background were a large number of calls to the press of research teams unhappy with the current situation, and publications of well-known scientists who have been talking about the crisis in Russian science for two decades. The present study was not originally aimed to join this heightened and mostly political discussion. The main idea of the work was to conduct a new type of research in the Russian context — «laboratory study» — anthropological, aimed at the study of everyday culture of the Russian physical lab within the framework of actor-network theory (ANT). However, the results obtained at the first stage of fieldwork in a laboratory came as a surprise, and reoriented the author from the micro case study to the problems prevailing in the Russian crisis, forcing her to rethink the methodological basis of research. It made the use of “purely scientific” and “far removed from politics” method in the Russian laboratories impossible.

SOCIOLOGY OF LABOR

Perfiljeva M. Social Conditions of Managing the Quality of Working Life

In this paper, relying on her own sociological research, the author gives a characterization of the quality of working life of several organizations in St. Petersburg. The main problem is manifested by the fact that in most organizations today, there is a significant gap between the high level of technical equipment and unacceptably low level of interest of the employees in an efficient and high-quality work. Nowadays it is widely accepted that the organization's strategy can not be achieved without ensuring the interests of workers. Creating the decent conditions of working life, contributing to the employee's initiative and engaging his/her personal goals in the working process is a prerequisite for the success of the organization and contributes to the solution of its strategic objectives.

SOCIOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Sergeeva O. Everyday Life and Computer: an Ethnographic Study

The article draws on in-depth interviews with a sample of PC owners living in Volgograd. The author examines changes in everyday life caused by the acquisition and

use of new media. The narratives about interactions with the computer and photographs of computers in domestic space allow the author to reconstruct and analyze the process of technology domestication.

SOCIOLOGY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Temaev T., Melnikova O. Role of the Family in Social Adaptation of Elderly Prisoners

Using qualitative methodology this article analyzes the significance of family institution in the life of elderly prisoners. Contrary to widespread views the authors show its inefficiency in correctional and educational terms. They identify resocialization trajectories of the elderly prisoners concerning post-prison period and suggest the typology of elderly inmates, based on their relationships with family and close relatives.

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Lurye S. General Cultural Script and Socio-Cultural Systems Functioning

To create a multidimensional picture of the functioning of socio-cultural systems this paper makes an attempt at synthesis of psychological anthropology, cognitive anthropology and cultural psychology. Pursuing the detailed analysis of the concepts of “artifact” and “set” the author proposes the concept of “cultural constants complex”, defining it as a general interiorized cultural script, which makes the basis of “intentional world” and “intentional person” acting within the culture.

REPORTS

Vanke A. The Work of Imagination in the Construction of Reality: Drawings of Russian Society by Political Activists, Journalists and Politicians

In this article the author makes an attempt to grasp the world slipping away from the social researcher and to describe the perception of social reality of contemporary Russian society by critically-minded civic and political activists, journalists and politicians. The perception of reality reflected in spontaneous associations has been objectified in pictures of Russian society and investigated by the use of projective techniques and biographical interviews. Then these images were correlated with the desire of respondents sensitive to social injustice to change and improve the world.

Sizova N. Theories of Postindustrial Society and Environmental Issues

This article argues that environmental issues can be considered in terms of benefits and advantages. Particular attention is paid to the concepts of theorists of postindustrial society. Emphasis is placed on aspects that allow to see the prospects for further development of societies in the light of current trends. In particular, the author examines the impact on the ecology of such processes as globalization, technological advances, the emergence of virtual space and the development of intelligent technologies. The basic idea is that in the XXI century under conditions of interdependence and mutual influence in all spheres of society the vector of further development depends on values that will guide each person individually and society as a whole in achieving a particular purpose.

NEWS / INFORMATION

The All-Russia Seminar “Civilizational Identity of the Contemporary Russian Society”

The All-Russia Seminar “Civilizational Identity of the Contemporary Russian Society” was organized by the Sector of the History of Russian Sociology, Sociological Institute, RAS and Faculty of Sociology, St. Petersburg State University (19 June, 2009, St. Petersburg). It was devoted to 100 anniversary of the release of well-known book “Milestones” (1909), in which Russian intellectuals discussed critical issues concerning the foundations and prospects for Russian culture, society and government. At a seminar the main discussion was focused on new topic: the identity of Russia in the context of civilization.

NEW BOOKS ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

***Borisova Y.* Social Policy in a Society of Unequal Opportunities**

Social Inequality and Public Policy / Ed. by V. Medvedev, M. Gorshkov, Y. Krasin. M.: Kulturnaya Revolyutsia, 2007. — 336 p.

***Ilyin V.* Fieldwork as Theatre**

To Leave in Order to Stay: Sociologists in the Field / Ed. by V. Voronkov, E. Chikadze. St. Petersburg: Aleteya, 2009. — 148 p.