

ABSTRACTS

MAX WEBER: 140th ANNIVERSARY FROM HIS BIRTHDAY

Kozlovsky V., Shpakova R., Ettrich F. The Topicality of Max Weber's Sociology

This material provides an introduction to a discussion of Max Weber's place in modern sociological thinking and underlines the topicality of his work.

Weber M. Ethnic Groups

This is a translation of Chapter IV Part II of Max Weber's «Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft: Grunriss der verstehenden Soziologie» (Besorgt von Johannes Winkelmann. — 5., rev. Aufl., Studienausg., — Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1980. S. 234–244)

Schluchter W. Agency, Order and Culture: Main Features of Weberian Research Program

This article attempts at comprehensive analysis of Weberian research program, uncovering its heuristic and creative potential. The following key notions are considered: 1) critical rationalism; 2) ideal type; 3) explanation by understanding; 4) heuristic rationalism; 5) methodological individualism; 4) multilevel analysis; 5) orientation toward success and toward inner values; 6) discussion about values; 7) struggle between classes and orders and struggle between organizations; 8) personality.

Lepsius M.R. The Originality and Potential of Weber's Paradigm

Weberian sociology connects social action with structuring the coordination of actions and meaning connections of action orientation. This type of object construction gives to Weberian sociology its inner dynamics, which leads to constant testing of the constellations where social action takes place, the action coordination is happening and meaning is provided. The formation of the «chains of circumstances» or the intertwining and contextual differentiation of actors and institutions, which from one sphere of social action are transferred into another, is illustrated with the examples of «Protestant Ethics and the "Spirit" of Capitalism» and the development of European Union.

Shpakova R. Max Weber: «Agrarian Question»

The agrarian problems of German eastern provinces required much-needed solutions. On the one hand there were the crisis processes in the social domain of agriculture, on the other hand there were the national conflicts between Poles and Germans. Max Weber conducted two broad empirical researches (1891–1893). The first investigation was organized by the «Verband der Sozialpolitik» under the supervision of famous politician and economist Gustav Schmoller, the second by the «Evangelisch-sozialen Kongress» under the supervision of well-known pastor Paul Gühre. Max Weber proposed his own solution, namely the «inner colonization». The Weber's empirical analysis and his solution are topical for the modern Russia.

Simultaneously with the specific case of east agrarian problems Weber discussed the main important dynamics of European capitalism.

THEORETICAL PROBLEMS OF SOCIOLOGY

Radov A. Metatheory in Action

The author proposes a possibility to construct a metasociological theory and at the same time apply it to modern sociology, which is constituted by sociocultural specificities of society and social institutions. His analysis is critical, he rather refutes than asserts hoping that his critique will give an impetus to better solutions.

Gallyamov R. Pitirim Sorokin's stratification theory and conceptual model of ethnosocial stratification

This article develops the conceptual model of ethnosocial stratification, which from author's point of view does not contradict Pitirim Sorokin's stratification theory, but rather complements it. Departing from analysis of main approaches to definitions of social stratification (structural-functional, process and axiological conception) this paper suggests an original definition of ethnosocial stratification of society, its fundamental and functional characteristics.

SOCIOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Gurova O. The Underwear in Soviet Culture: Peculiarities of a Private Object

This text is devoted to conceptualisation of «private object» as a social phenomenon and to the analysis of underwear as a private object in Soviet culture. The question is whether Soviet underwear was a private object, or it wasn't. Some features of private object are determined — first, private objects are hidden in personal space, second, they have only one owner, and, third, they should reflect the individuality of its owner. As data shows, Soviet underwear was not a private object in normative sense. The question is why and when the features listed above differed from normative model in the case of underwear in Soviet culture.

SOCIAL POLICY: CRITICAL VIEW

Romanov P., Iarskaia-Smirnova E. The Sociology of the Body and Social Policy

The authors consider the interrelations of two intellectual perspectives — the sociology of the body and the social policy. The body is in focus of postmodern and poststructuralist approaches, while analysis of social policy belongs to positivist and managerial project. However, there are points of conjunction of these two perspectives, in particular, when social policy is considered as a system of control over the body. The use of theories of the body including phenomenological and critical approaches in the analysis of social policy is fruitful as it helps interpret bodily experience of the elderly, disabled, women, men and children — patients, clients, those citizens who experience direct and indirect influences of social policy, as well as to uncover power relations and inequality in such practices and regulations, which have been designed as a means to achieve social justice.

SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE

Boiko O. The Mythology of Suicide

The point of view presented in this article takes suicide as a mythological subject in the history of sociology, in cultural practices, and everyday life. The development of theoretical knowledge of what is suicide, the emergence of sociological conceptions of suicide in Russia and abroad are considered, and the famous Durkheim's formulations are reconsidered. The cultural representations of this phenomenon are discussed and dynamics of social attitudes to suicidal action is demonstrated. The special consideration is given to a question how attitudes toward suicide influence their actual level.

REFLEXIVE ANTHROPOLOGY

Oushakine S. Ethnography Of One's Self: On Benefits of Formalism in Anthropology

Using two texts as prime examples — C. Geertz' article on «Thick description» (1973) and P. Rabinow's «Reflections on fieldwork in Marocco» (1977) — the essay discusses two major traditions in the American sociocultural anthropology. If followers of Geertz usually emphasize the hermeneutic, explanatory, interpretative aspects of anthropological writing and ethnographic study, then those who share Rabinow's views

tend to base their approach on a more aesthetically oriented perception of reality. Refusal to look for «deep», «objective» or at least «objectified» structures and motivations that might have determined human behavior, results in this case in a highly sensitive attention to the processes and events that are centered on the researcher him / herself.

ESSAY

Damberg S., Semenov V. Theodor Adorno's «Sociology of the Music» and Contemporary Musical Culture

Theodor Adorno's views on modern musical culture are discussed in this essay. The authors compare Adorno's conception built on explanation of musical life in modern society with position of modern Russian researches, particularly Tatjana Cherednichenko, who is the follower of Adorno. In conclusion they argue that Adorno's ideas are inappropriate to the modern level of social research.

REPORT

Karamysheva N. Privatization and Labor Relations

This report gives an assessment of the privatization process and its influence on social reforming concerning personnel of industrial companies in Southern Region of the Republic of Bashkortostan.

NEWS / INFORMATION

The International Conference «The Culture and Mentality of Siberians»

The International Conference «Culture and mentality of Siberians» was held at the Faculty of Sociology of Saint-Petersburg State University and at Russian Museum of Ethnography 22–24 October 2003. It was dedicated to Professor R. Its' 75th anniversary.

The International Seminar «Russia and European Space of Higher Education: Plans and Perspectives after Berlin Conference»

Presented are debates developed by participants of the seminar, which took place at Saint-Petersburg State University 29–30 October 2003. It was organized by the Ministry of Education of the RF, the Education and Science Committee of the State Duma of the RF, European Council and Saint-Petersburg State University.

Seminar in Memory of A. Galaktionov

Presented are contributions made by participants of the seminar dedicated to the memory of A. Galaktionov, Professor of Saint-Petersburg State University, Faculty of Sociology, which took place at the Faculty of Sociology 9 December 2003.

NEW BOOKS ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Ilyeva I., Kotelnikov G. The Man and the Time.

Toshchenko Zh. The Paradoxical Man. M.: Gardariki, 2001. — 398 p.