

ABSTRACTS

EDITOR'S PREFACE

Kozlovsky V. Public Sociology and the Journal: a Dialogue of Reader and Author

Establishing itself in 1998 as a new academic quarterly the Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology celebrates its tenth anniversary. Reviewing a decade of Journal's activities the editor Vladimir Kozlovsky underlines its orientation towards high academic standards and hopes for fruitful dialogue of Journal's readers and authors.

SOCIOLOGY: PROFESSION AND VOCATION

"I don't Like Elites". Interview with Professor Gennady Ashin

Alexander Duka interviews Professor Gennady Ashin about his life and academic career.

Ashin G. Elite University in the System of Elite Education

The article investigates the role of universities in training intellectual elite. The evolution of the university education, its functions and role in society are analyzed. Author compares different systems of elite education in various countries. Special attention is paid to American experience.

SOCIOLOGY OF ELITES

Duka A. Theoretical Problems in Power Elite Studies

The article discusses the application of the classical approaches to the elite study in new historical and social conditions. It also provides theoretical framework for the investigation of power elites. Three research dimensions are examined. First, elites are explored as functional groups or aggregates of persons playing specific roles in a society. Second, elites could be imagined as a social stratum. And third, since elites in their (de)stabilizing function determine the limits of other institutions and persons they could be considered as "institutionalizing" institutions.

Kolesnik N.V., Tev D.B., Nevskiy A.V. Economic Elite in Russian Region: Sample Construction Methodology

The article deals with the problem of identification of the economic elites in modern Russia. The attempt is made to answer the question: who should be considered as economic elite in Russian society? A brief analysis of Russian and Western literature referring to these issues shows that controversial questions concerning the identification of economic elite are still relevant. The work includes the description of the empirical study that resulted in elaboration of the multivariate index for exposure of the regional economic elite (by the example of the city of St. Petersburg and Leningrad, Kaliningrad, and Rostov regions).

Kornev N. Where Elite is Living in St. Petersburg

In this paper the positions of St. Petersburg's elite are compared in two spaces — physical space of the city (with 872 flats of this group) and in a social space, where 757 persons of the city elite (in 4 spheres of governing, business, culture and science) have the highest status positions. Due to the research of their flats location the territorial hierarchy of 13 administrative city districts was exhibited. The districts of historic center have the highest status, and among them, at the first position — the Central district. A different value of Central district parts (blocks and groups of neighbouring blocks) was determined by measuring concentration of highest status flats, which are in a private ownership and intended for commercial rent. The reverse logic was used to determine and compare the status of different elite groups by means of the extent of their localiza-

tion at the city center, some of their housing characteristics and size of real estate as a form of capital.

SOCIOLOGY OF COMMUNICATION

Vatolina J. Communication as Existential Problem (the Experience of M. Wittig, W. Benjamin, J. Bodrillard)

Basing on the description of communication from “theoretical distance” (P. Bourdieu) the author makes an attempt to approach the modern man experience of living in the communicative medium. The author also provides her analysis of the literary and philosophical works of M. Wittig, W. Benjamin, J. Bodrillard.

Gavra D., Ipatova N. T.A. Van-Dijk’s Concept of Discourse Methodologies in Social Research

In this article the authors compare three different discourse analysis methodologies in an attempt to find the most suitable one for sociological research purposes. The methodologies compared are the text grammar approach developed by T.A. Van-Dijk, the generative grammar model by Noam Chomsky, and the cognitive discourse model by Olga T. Yokoyama. All approaches are analyzed with respect to the following questions: 1) What class of problems is the model intended for? 2) Is the model complete? 3) How formalized is the model? 4) Can the model be tested by empirical data? 5) What is the model value (i.e., explanatory value or descriptive value)? 6) What were the specific studies (professional communities, in this case), based on this model? As the result of the analysis the text grammar model by T.A. Van-Dijk is found to best suit sociological research purposes, as it reveals the social embedment of discourse structures.

VISUAL SOCIOLOGY

Sergeeva O. Visual Sociology as New Research Field

Visual sociology employs images and other visual displays to analyze society and culture. As an emerging focus for study, it draws on three intellectual impulses that reflect a more general preoccupation with the visual. The first impulse is concerned with the meanings of a culture’s visual representations and has deeper roots in Western intellectual history. The second impulse is committed to using more effective methods for research into human affairs. The third impulse is a result of epistemological turn which has taken the social theory to the interpretive tradition. Using an analysis of visual studies evolution and legitimation of new scientific design in Western sociology, this article explains the principles of visual sociology as new research field.

Zakharova N. Visual Sociology: Photography as an Object of Sociological Analysis

Visual sociology in Russia is on its theoretical and methodological forming stage. The growing popularity of this field is determined by social-cultural context (visualizing of culture) of the Russian society and Western academic context where it gains in importance as an approach to the modern cultural situation. This paper is an attempt to analyze the phenomenon of “visual sociology” in contemporary Russian sociology, to systematize its theoretical base and to observe the research techniques focused on photography.

MIGRATION STUDIES

Pachenkov O. Role of “Ethnic Identity” in Migration Studies and Public Responsibility of a Social Scientist

The article is a try at critical analysis of the concepts of “ethnicity” and “identity”. The empirical background of the text is provided by several research projects realized by the author and his colleagues from CISR (1997–2002). These research projects were

focused on the ethnic economic migration from Caucasus region (namely Azerbaijan and Tajikistan) to St.-Petersburg, Russia. Using examples from the empirical data, the author demonstrates the limitations related to the usage of the term “ethnicity” as an analytical category in the migration studies. At the end he turns from “ethnicity” to criticism towards the “identity” concept. Following the argumentation and conceptualizations by the other critics of the identity concept — Roger Brubaker and Frederic Cooper — the author shows the analytical potential of the alternative categories that allow describing and characterizing activities, interactions and social networks of the migrants in a more precise and less dogmatic manner. The author also sees this text that sums up his work in the realm of ethnic and migration studies, as his input in the discussion about the public responsibility of a social scientist.

REPORT

Duke A. Tools of Social Interaction of Local Authorities with Population

This article concerns the main tools of social interaction applied at the local authorities level for the purpose of implementing the information policy of local authorities.

It contains an overview of methods directed towards achieving informational openness (transparency) of local authorities, building positive reputation of local bodies, and getting feedback from the population. The main targets of social interaction at the local authorities level are determined herein, namely: stimulating processes of self-organization of the population, involving people in social structures for resolving social problems in the areas of their residence.

Ilchuk S. Demand for Graduates on Labour Market as the Higher School Efficiency Indicator

This paper analyzes the labour market of the Astrakhan Region on the basis of regional mass-media, higher schools statistics, Agency for employment of population, annual surveys of higher schools graduates and employers made by the Regional Center for youth employment assistance under direction of the author. Indicators of the demand for graduates are pointed out: the period of employment after graduation; number of appeals to employment service, ways of employment. Suggestions for the improvement of supply and demand regulation on labour market are offered.

NEWS / INFORMATION

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

The Seminar was held at the Sociological Institute (St. Petersburg) 14–15 December 2007.

NEW BOOKS ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Suslov I. Everyday Postmodernism

The Masscult: Contemporary Western Research / Ed. by V. Zvereva, V. Podoroga. M.: Fund of scientific research “The pragmatics of culture”, 2005. 339 P.

Kononenko R. Car in Everyday Culture

Against Automobility / Ed. by S. Bohm, C. Jones. Malden; Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2006. 268 P.