

## ABSTRACTS

### SOCIOLOGY: PROFESSION AND VOCATION

#### **Interview with Professor Peter Wagner**

Peter Wagner answers questions of Maxim Khomyakov concerning his life and academic career.

#### ***Wagner P. The Political Form of Europe — Europe as a Political Form***

The article aims at reconstructing normative self-understanding of European political modernity; it both elucidates the values and focuses on institutional form that may incorporate these values. It clarifies universalistic elements of political philosophy of modernity that found their expression in four fundamental narratives, and then it explores various — normative and institutional — compromises that specific national constellations engendered. The current discussion on normative integration of Europe that strives to highlight European specificity, distinct both from the West and European nation-states, should be placed into the context of new problematiques — globalization, postcoloniality, and inadequacy of individualistic liberalism for articulation of new social bond that might constitute new Europe as political form.

#### ***Khomyakov M. Modernity: A Way to the Openness of the Future***

The article is devoted to the analysis of different theories of modernity in contemporary social and political theory. Drawing upon a conception of a prominent scholar of modernity, Peter Wagner, the article identifies such theories of modernity as *an era and set of institutions*, as *ethos and experience*, as *interpretation*, as well as some critical approaches to modernity. Then the author proceeds to introducing the term *monolithic modernity*, which, according to his opinion, is tightly connected with uni-polar organization of international relations in the sphere of concrete international politics. Finally, the article undertakes an analysis of the advantages of a plural concept of modernity as *experience and interpretation* as against traditional theories of modernization.

### CONCEPTUALIZING CAPITAL

#### ***Naydenova L., Fedotov L. Non-Economic Capital and its Implications for Regional Social Development***

Article is devoted to the concept of non-economic capital, which refers to the social, human, cultural and symbolic capital. These concepts have appeared, on the one hand, to demonstrate the universality of the concept of “capital”, on the other hand, to justify the fact that the domination of economic capital is inappropriate in relation to other, equally important types of capital. The article discusses the importance of social and other types of non-economic capital for the reproduction and development of regional society.

#### ***Fidrya E. Transcendent Capital as Extra-Social Relation: An Attempt at Conceptualization***

An attempt to elaborate a conceptual notion of the “transcendent capital” to explain social phenomena associated with the organization of transcendent uncertainty is

undertaken in the article. The methodological framework involves the theories of conventions and the field, the concepts of the multiple forms of capital and of the sociality with objects. The author proposes the description of the properties, states, agents and forms of manifestation of transcendent capital in social life, as well as the characteristics of the corresponding “divine world” and ways of its coordination with the other orders of worth. In conclusion, the author emphasizes the role of the transcendent capital in managing the uncontrollable and unpredictable uncertainty and its embeddedness in social relations and outlines the prospects for applying the concept in the study of various social phenomena.

## RURAL SOCIOLOGY

### ***Vinogradsky V., Yakovlev L. Adaptive Rural Structures in the Context of Comprehensive Understanding of Globalization***

The authors analyze the contemporary debate on globalization. They argue that conceptualizations of globalization are normative and teleological because they subordinate analytic judgments to predictions. To better understand the phenomenon of globalization, it is important to study its logic in specific areas.

The case in point is the agrarian sector of Russian economy. The peculiarities of regionalization determine deepening deprivation of the majority of rural population. One way to overcome it is through the integration of rural locality in the communities of a higher order. Globalization launches, on the basis of the world market orientation of agricultural production, the mechanisms of integration, creating a different type of social space organization, more adequate for civil society, together with new models of social relations, in which may be included rural residents.

## SOCIAL POLICY

### ***Kos A., Karpova G., Antonova E. People with Disability: Quality of Life in Treatment Centres***

The article presents the results of the study of quality of life of persons with disabilities living in treatment institutions. Data analysis of group interviews with persons with mental health disorders, living in the psycho-neurological treatment centres, provides a set of their judgments on their disability, on the characteristics of their employment, on leisure opportunities and quality of social services in treatment centres, their legal awareness. The image of “disability” in this case is constructed by people with disability themselves. The authors emphasize the difficulties faced by residents of treatment centres in everyday life.

## ESSAY

### ***Veselov Y. Economic Sociology of a City: the Space of St. Petersburg***

Diverse areas of study are now well represented in economic sociology — sociology of markets, sociology of money, sociology of consumption, sociology of production, etc., but so far no urban economic sociology. Although there is no reason why economic sociology could not engage in research of urban space. The closest equivalent exists in the

U.S. academic environment under the name of “urban political economy”. The author draws attention to the special issue of the city: neither “urban economics”, nor “urban sociology” pose the problem of the mutual influence of economics, politics and culture in an urban environment, which is sometimes more important than anything else. The author tries to prove this assertion by the example of St. Petersburg.

## REPORTS

### ***Grigoryeva I., Chernyshova S. Preventing the Social Exclusion of the Elderly: New Approaches***

This article considers the connection between processes of social exclusion of the elderly and their information practices, presenting the results of the study dealing with pensioners and their information practices. The data included 238 questionnaires from members of NGOs from Russia, Belorussia, Lithuania, Denmark and Sweden. It was important to determine whether retirees use the Internet and for what reason. The Lithuanian pensioners were the most active, and the Russian and Belorussian respondents less active. However the set of opportunities was rather limited. Information inequality can be overcome through education and active participation of the senior citizens in the processes of communication.

### ***Mikhaleva A. Services for Elderly: Social and Medical Aspects of their Development***

The article examines the impact of medicalized views prevalent in modern society, on constructing the image of old age, on the outlook of people and on needs formation in the field of health. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of concepts such as functional capability, health and disease. The results of a sociological study conducted in 2007 in St. Petersburg are presented.

## NEWS / INFORMATION

### **Care and Control: Health, Gender, Disability in the Focus of Social Policy**

An international seminar “Health, disability, gender, and social work in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia” was held in Saratov, from 21 to 22 May 2009. It was organized by the Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies, the Center for Sociological and Political Science Education in collaboration with the Department of Social Anthropology and Social Work, SGTU, with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and EU program TEMPUS.

## NEW BOOKS ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

### ***Shapiro N. “Neocapitalist” Theory of New Modernity***

**Fedotova V., Kolpakov V., Fedotova N. Global Capitalism: Three Great Transformations. M.: Kulturnaya Revolyutsia, 2008. – 608 P.**