

## Antropologicheskii Forum # 11

### Forum

#### Generations in Academia

Over the last few decades, the issue of relationships between different generations in the Russian academic world has become particularly acute. The academic preferences and intellectual influences of the younger generations are significantly different from those of earlier ones. Participants of the forum answer questions on generations in academia from the editors.

Keywords: generations.

### Articles

#### *Dmitri Zakharine*. From Soundscape to Sound Design

Following on from the concepts of soundscape and acoustic community devised by Murray Schafer and Barry Truax the author analyses the interactive relationship between Soviet people and their sonic environment. He postulates the existence of integral cognitive patterns, which listeners apply in order to understand the meaning of environmental sound. When using mechanical or electronic media to communicate with a mass audience, sound designers are limited in their choice of material. They cannot

choose sound characteristics (like intensity, frequency, timbre and duration) arbitrarily, they must take into account the collective experience of the community. The article examines sound politics and the religious meaning of sound in early Soviet society, focusing particularly on the communicative meaning of industrial noise, signals of danger (sirens), signals of social integration (applause, bells), etc. as well as on the role of these signals in the early sound film projects of the 1930s.

Keywords: soundscape, acoustic community, sound film, sound design, sound symbols, signals of danger, signals of social integration, sirens, bells, applause, industrial noise.

*Tatiana Bukina.* «The High Classics» in the Everyday Space of Culture: Technologies of Adaptation (Wagnerian Tradition in St. Petersburg around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century)

This work is devoted to the situation of Russian Wagnerism in the Silver Age which began a new chapter in the culture of St Petersburg around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In contrast to the attitude, traditional in Russian and Western musicology, that sees Wagnerism in Russia as a phenomenon primarily of elite culture, which is connected to triumphal performances at the Mariinsky Theatre, and which initiated a whole series of creative innovations, in this article the research subject is the mass reception of Wagner's art and the role of other sources in the dissemination of his music (scores, concerts, gramophone recordings, performances in popular theatres) which allowed an adaptation of the exotic «Zukunftsmusik» which was accessible to broad sections of the public. The research material was made up of archive and reference documents — concert programs, reviews, 'guidebooks' to Wagner's operas, pre-revolutionary sound recordings and notation publications, photos of the performances and so on.

Keywords: Wagnerism in Russia, Russian culture of the Silver Age, reception of art.

*Svetlana Ryzhakova.* Latvian National History: on Cultural Mechanisms in the Construction and Abstracting of the Past

The article examines the phenomenon of national history as a special type of narrative expressed in professional historiography, and realised through various cultural mechanisms and the institution of 'memory' — the movements of historical reconstruction groups, museums, theatre, festival activity, fiction writing and everyday life. The author closely analyses the Latvian case of the construction and abstracting of images of 'the past'. Special attention is paid to images

of the ‘glorious past’, ‘Latvian antiquity’ and the ‘13<sup>th</sup> century’, which are some of the most important elements in creating a national cultural heritage.

Keywords: national history, ethnocultural identity, historic and cultural memory.

*Mikhail Alekseevsky, Mihkail Lurie, Anna Senkina.* The Legend of the Monument to Gogol in Mohilev-Podolsky: a Commentary to a Fragment of Local Text

The article analyses tales about the monument to N.V. Gogol in Mohilev-Podolsky (Ukraine, Vinnitsa region), which were collected in folk expeditions in 2007–2008. The story in question is a significant element of the local literature of Mohilev-Podolsky, existing not only as oral folk tales but also in newspaper articles and local history literature.

Keywords: urban anthropology, local text, urban folklore, local history, narrative, story, monument.

### Zeleninskie chtenia

*Olga Minkina.* The Goat and the Deputies. Jewish Politics in the late 18<sup>th</sup>—early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in Folklore of the Pale of Settlement

The article is dedicated to Jewish historical legends concerning the Jewish political representation and unofficial lobbying in the Russian Empire in the late 18<sup>th</sup>—early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These legends (collected and published in Yiddish in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century) represent the idealized image of the defender of their community, very similar to the biblical image of Mordecai. The modernising changes in Jewish society — placing Jewish communities under Russian imperial power and the interaction of Jewish leaders with the Russian authorities — are interpreted through later folklore within the framework of old archetypes.

Keywords: Russian Empire, Jewish politics, historical legends, The Book of Esther, parody.

*Gayane Shagoyan.* The Memorialization of the Earthquake in Gyumri

The paper discusses the problem of memorializing the destructive earthquake in Armenia that took place on December 7, 1988 and claimed nearly 25,000 human lives and completely or partially destroyed the cities of Spitak, Leninakan (now Gyumri), Kirovakan (now Vanadzor). Discussion of the problem of remembering and/or

forgetting the earthquake is based on the case of Gyumri, in the context of correlation between the two types of memory, which, using the terminology of Assman (2004), we call communicative and cultural memories, that is, living, everyday memory (oral narratives, commemoration rituals, physical memory) and official, monumental memory, which have canonized the cultural literature on this event.

An example given of the official memorialization of the earthquake is the model of the monument dedicated to the earthquake victims, which in many respects is oriented towards the existing scheme of remembering (cf. commemoration) the Armenian genocide of 1915. Memory of the genocide is often considered in the context of the re-establishment of historical justice, while in the case of an earthquake the issue of the moral dimension of the event leads to the rationalization of collective memory (by revealing the 'lessons' of the tragedy), as well as of individual memory, which seeks the paths of oblivion or transformation, of 'cooling' the trauma (memorizing the positive events of those days, re-understanding them, e.g. marking the day of the earthquake as the second birthday). One of the ways of 'cooling' is to transfer one's attention from emotional details to the 'earthquake statistics', humanitarian aid, etc. However, 'cold statistics' and 'bare figures' in their turn can be placed on a scale of 'warming' and 'cooling'.

Within the symbolism of the earthquake, of particular significance is a clock-face indicating 11:41 a.m. — the moment of the earthquake, which became a necessary component of 'solid memory'. The sound memory of the earthquake, which is difficult to become «solidified», is specified in modern urban discourse, besides the tolling of bells and chimes, as consisting of: factory hooting, some popular melodies, the 'geological sound' of the earthquake, and finally, human voices and groans.

Memorable places were the ruins of public buildings, especially those of schools. The damaged temple of All-Saviour became the symbol of the city and its resurrection — the symbol of resurrection of Gyumri. Numerous minor monuments do not fulfil the function of being a common place of memory about the tragedy. This role is claimed by the project for a new memorial, intended to be created by a witness of the tragedy, which will represent many elements of memory, both cultural and communicative.

Keywords: earthquake, memory.

*Pavel Kuprianov, Liudmila Sadovnikova.* Memory Locus in the Memory of the Locals: Cultural Meanings of the Urban Space (Based on Interviews with Moscow Zariadie Inhabitants)

The article is based on a report from the conference «Zeleninskii chteniya» and focuses on the study of space and memory interaction. The transformation of cultural meanings in an urban landscape is traced in the case of an ancient part of Moscow, Zariadie. Interviews with its former residents are the main sources of the research. While analyzing the perception and use of space in different periods (the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and the present day), the authors underline that the cultural meaning of a space is defined by its external appearance as well as by the observer's position.

Keywords: space, memory, remembrance, everyday life, cultural meaning, Zariadie.

*Anna Petrova.* Chastushka and Sadistic Rhyme: The Memory of Genre. Verbal, Virtual, Visual

The expansion of the Internet and 'visual turnaround' have provoked the mediamorphosis of two popular genres — the chastushka and sadistic rhyme. The main theme of a hacker chastushka is relations between men and women: the texts express the preference to real relations before virtual, and the image of a network is mainly negative. Visualized on a screen, the chastushka begins to be perceived as a written text: incomplete cross rhyme (xaxa) is replaced by a full pair rhyme (aabb), so, the structure of a line became isosyllabic. A sadistic rhyme existing in a network turned out to be more stable and conservative in its formal organization, having transformed a formulaic 'little boy' into a 'little user' and a 'little hacker', left alone with the horrors of the anthropogenic virtual world. Contemporary art often uses old, well-known, 'memorable' texts. Graphic artist Tamara Ivanova and photographer Serei Bratkov visualize the topics and situations of chastushkas and sadistic rhymes.

Keywords: chastushka, sadistic rhyme, memory of genre, folklore, popular verse, folk verse, contemporary art, Tamara Ivanova, Sergey Bratkov, photography.

## Reviews

The section contains reviews of books on the history of physical anthropology, the anthropology of academic life, Soviet history and source studies. Reviewers briefly describe the contents of reviewed books and mention their merits and failings. Among others, there are two reviews on Marina Mogilner's book «Homo Imperii», which offer opposite views on the book.

Keywords: history of physical anthropology, anthropology of academia, Soviet history, source studies.

### **Questionnaire**

The text gives a summary of the annual questionnaire, which was carried out by «Antropologicheskoy forum» with the purpose of monitoring the activity of the Russian anthropological community. The questionnaire considered the results of scientific activity in 2008 in ethnography, anthropology, folklore and ethno-/sociolinguistics (books, collections of articles, published field data, reference books, reviews, manuals, published discussions, conferences), as well as emerging tendencies in the disciplines of the anthropological circle.

**Keywords:** results of scientific life, anthropology, ethnography, folklore, ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics.