

Antropologichesky Forum # 13

Forum

The Place of Applied Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences

The “Forum” is devoted to a discussion of applied research. In recent years, it has become increasingly common for academic researchers in the social sciences and humanities to face accusations of being “out of touch” with reality. At the same time, the past decades have seen a significant development in applied research, an approach that is directly related to the needs expressed by political interest groups and local communities. This combination of increased distance and convergence between the academic and the wider world is the background to the discussion.

Keywords: applied research, applied anthropology, humanities, social sciences.

Articles

Larisa Fialkova. Folklore in Applied Use

This essay provides a historical overview of the development of the multifaceted phenomenon of applying folk material in a practical way in various fields, e.g. in political technologies, in medicine, in social work, in the law studies and so on. The author challenges the theoretical assumption, popular in Western folklore studies, according to which applied folklore is a field which can be utilised exclusively by the pro-

fessional folklorists. Instead she proposes the establishing of an introductory course in applied folklore as an integral part of university general studies in order to enrich the learning of non-folklorists with new perspectives and methods which will be applicable in their future professional activities.

Keywords: applied folklore, inter-disciplinarity, general studies.

Zinaida Vasilyeva. Video-mediated Interactions: An Example of Applied Anthropological Knowledge

The paper provides a review of recent studies (mostly by French and British scholars) about communication mediated through the medium of video. Particularly, it is focused on the contribution of anthropologists and anthropological linguists to research into the exchanges that take place through video. The article shows several crucial facets of mediated interaction that could not be investigated and understood without the participation of specialists in human behaviour. Based on this material, the author discusses the place and role of anthropological knowledge in applied studies.

Keywords: mediated communication, mediated collaboration, situated activity, distributed cognition, intelligibility, workplace studies, ethnomethodology of work, video-conferencing, desktop video, mobile videophone, human-technology interaction, CSCW (Computer Supported Collaborative Work), applied anthropology.

Tatiana Safonova. A Study of Practices through Learning in Social Anthropology

More and more attention is paid to the possibilities of learning as a field method of collecting empirical data in the context of modern social anthropology (K. Hastrup, J. Lave, E. Wenger). In this article I present the main arguments of the debate that stand in favour of learning as a strategy for field research.

Keywords: learning, methodology, practices.

Konstantin Bogdanov. A Short History of the Blot: Calligraphy in the Soviet School and Media Anthropology

This article, based on literary sources, memoirs, and documents, deals with handwriting lessons in Soviet schools and their discursive and social context. It argues that the induction into calligraphy should be understood as training in a set of physical procedures which implicitly link bodily experience to the communicative and functional strategies of Soviet ideology. Soviet schoolchildren's assimila-

tion of educational norms was associated with a “hygienic” understanding of the act of writing, so that being able to write properly stood for bodily cleanliness, and was associated with appropriate strategies of face-to-face communication. Thus, the acquisition of handwriting skills constituted a form of initiation, an enforced socialisation of the body, and an absorption into the asymmetry of social power.

Keywords: ink-blot, calligraphy, face-to-face communication, socialisation of the body.

Olga Ilyukha. Karelian Philipok: Distinctive Regional Traits of the Socio-Cultural Appearance of the Village Schoolchild in the Late 19th–early 20th Centuries

The paper throws light upon the daily life of a rural school in Karelia in the late 19th–early 20th centuries. We attempt to show the methods and means used to raise a disciplined individual — *Homo obligans*, and the mental reef the school hit in dealing with this task. The reader’s attention is drawn to the way the status of a schoolchild changed and was marked, and to the things that filled the time of school-age children who did not enter the doors of educational establishments.

Keywords: Karelian countryside, history of school, history of childhood, daily life.

Artem Kozmin. Fish and Laughter in Tongareva

In 1929, the great researcher of Polynesian cultures Peter Buck (Te Rangi Hiroa) described a comic ritual involving visiting guests. In the ritual guests were identified as fish. In the paper I will discuss the deep semantics of such identification — “fish” is a Polynesian verbal substitution for a human sacrifice victim. The comic ritual can be described as a tool for incorporating dangerous guests into the local community.

Keywords: Polynesia, cultural anthropology, theory of humour, human sacrifice.

Magomedhan Magomedhnov. Babeldom (Ethnic and Language Processes in Dagestan)

The article considers such ethnic and language processes in Dagestan as language shift. It is based on statistics and the author’s field data.

Keywords: ethnic and language processes, Dagestan.

Conference “Migrancy and Diaspora”

Andy Byford. Eurasia on the Move

The foreword introduces the topic of migrancy and diaspora in Eurasia, reports on the conference “National Identity in Eurasia II: Migrancy & Diaspora” (Oxford, 10–12 July 2009), and presents the articles that follow. The text discusses in what way the collapse of the Communist bloc contributed to the explosion of contemporary global migration. It dwells on how Russia / USSR’s former imperial borderlands — in Europe, Central Asia and the Far East — emerged as particularly vibrant foci of multi-directional mobility, economic growth and social development. It emphasises how migration and diasporisation impacts on the re-crystallisation of national, ethnic, religious and social identities in post-Communist Eurasia.

Keywords: Eurasia, migration, diaspora, deterritorialisation, identity.

Anne de Tinguy. Post-Soviet States and Their Migrations in Reflection

The paper is a version of a keynote lecture presented at the conference. The author surveys transformations in the field of migration in the former Soviet space since the Second World War, with a special emphasis on the way in which these developments reflected broader social and political changes in this geopolitical area since the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

Keywords: Post-Soviet states, migration.

Siobhan Peeling. Displacement, Deviance and Civic Identity: Migrants into Leningrad at the End of the Second World War

The paper discusses the resettlement of Leningrad in the aftermath of the Second World War, showing how migrants to the city were treated ambiguously, both as a valuable source of labour for its reconstruction and repopulation, and as a deviant category — a threat to public order, sanitary conditions and the city’s cultural traditions.

Keywords: migration, Leningrad, Second World War.

Anne Gorsuch. Performing on the International Stage: Soviet Tourism to the Capitalist West in the Khrushchev Era

In August 1955, *Pravda* proudly displayed on its front page a picture of smiling Leningrad tourists, suitcases in hand, leaving for the first

Soviet tourist trip abroad, to Poland. The ability to travel signaled a shift away from the ideological rigidity and unalloyed fear of the “other” under Stalin towards the comparative openness of the Khrushchev era. By the mid-1960s, hundreds of thousands of Soviet citizens traveled abroad as tourists each year. This article explores the performative function of Soviet tourism to Western Europe, what we might call a theatre of diplomacy. Tourists to Western Europe served a political function, sent abroad to reinforce the ideological and economic goals of newly normalized relations through personal encounter and political performance. Tourism as a form of cold war diplomacy differed from other forms of cultural contest in the Cold War in that it required relatively ordinary citizens — in contrast to the more usual delegates, artists, and scientists — to perform Soviet identity on the basis of modest training. This article explores Soviet performances, “successes,” and indiscretions, and the reception of these efforts by locals. It contributes to a recent literature that explores the various non-military means by which “East” and “West” engaged, competed with, and transformed each other through transcultural encounter in the Cold War.

Keywords: Soviet tourism, Khrushchev, diplomacy, performance, Cold War, Soviet propaganda.

Amandine Regamey. Representations of Migrants and Migration Policy in Russia

This text examines the perception of migrants in the elites, the media and public opinion, and analyses how this perception influences Russian migration policy, and how in turn migration policy leaves its mark on the image of migrants. This mutual influence can be seen for example in the decision to cut quotas due to the economic crisis of 2008, the actions of “Molodaya Gvardiya” directed at “illegals”, and also the widespread image of the “Tajik” or the “contagious migrant”.

Keywords: image of migrants, migration policy.

Nicholas Harney. The East Gets its Mediterranean Port: Ukrainians in Naples, Italy

Naples, Italy has become a destination for Ukrainian migrants in the last decade escaping the economic uncertainty of their homeland. A sign of the city’s importance in the diaspora is that the Ukrainian government in 2008 opened a local consulate. Estimates are that nearly a million Ukrainians have used Italy as a point of labour transit even if only a fifth of those are formally registered. A porous border, an overwhelmed and disinterested police force, niche job oppor-

tunities for middle age women as caregivers, migrant legalisation amnesties and easy road transport through Europe all make Italy a popular destination. The vast underground economy and permissiveness of authorities with respect to irregular status, has made Naples particularly attractive. In this paper I explore the socio-economic development of the Ukrainian presence in the city. Particular attention is paid to the strategies used by Ukrainian migrants to arrange and maintain transnational connections, seek work, and develop a sense of belonging in the face of the ambiguities of Neapolitan society.

Keywords: migration, Ukrainians, Naples.

Reviews

The section contains reviews of books on the history of Soviet gender (namely, Soviet femininity and Soviet underwear), history of the Cossacks and gender among Komi. Reviewers briefly describe the contents of reviewed books and mention their merits and failings.

Keywords: gender studies, history, femininity, underwear, Cossacks, Komi, Soviet history.

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 2009 in ethnography, anthropology, folklore and ethno-/sociolinguistics (books, collections of articles, published field and archive data, reference books, reviews, manuals, published discussions, conferences, websites), as well as emerging tendencies in the disciplines of the anthropological circle.

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