

Antropologicheskyy Forum # 14

Forum

The Internet and Academic Life

This Forum is devoted to a discussion of the effects of the Internet on modern academic life. A great deal of discussion has been devoted to the topic, yet many questions relating to the perception of scholarly knowledge and the ways in which this functions in the new electronic world have barely been addressed. Participants of the Forum replied to the questionnaire concerning the Internet and academic life.

Keywords: Internet, academic life.

Articles

Viktor Shnirelman. Arkaim: Archaeology, Esoteric Tourism and the National Idea

Arkaim is a Bronze Age site in the Southern Urals. It was discovered and excavated in the early 1990s. Since that time, due to the extraordinary activity both of archaeologists and occult teachers it has become a centre for new religions and a place attracting mass tourism and intensive pilgrimage for many people from various regions of Russia. The author discusses how new religions, blended with a national idea, are used by the tourist industry in Russia, as well as the ambivalent role of archaeology in a contemporary setting and the responsibility of archaeologists.

Keywords: archaeology, Arkaim, new religions, tourism, nationalism.

Natalia Pushkareva. Libido Academica (The Gender Aspect of Academic Prosopography)

This publication — part of a huge long-term study of the Russian scientific community (looking at gender aspect) conducted by the author of this article — presents the results of a prosopographical investigation of the academic community in Russia today. The empirical basis for this study is a database of autobiographical texts, memoirs and transcripts from interviews of three generations of female scientists which relate to their everyday life, and especially to their childhood and socialization.

Keywords: female scientists, anthropology at home, history of everyday life, gender asymmetry, gender discrimination, feminist methods of scientific analysis.

Pavel Varnavsky. 'National' Religion in the Context of Globalization: Traditional Buddhism in Contemporary Buryatia

At the beginning of the twenty-first century the traditional Buryat Sangha faces a new challenge relating to the increasing process of globalization into which all the greater territories of Russia are being drawn. The aim of this paper is to examine Buryat Buddhism in the light of a variety of global tendencies which are characteristic of contemporary religious processes. How does Buddhism in the form of the traditional Buryat Sangha react to its entry into the 'condition of globality'? The paper argues that as a reaction to globalization Buddhism supports the formation of a 'glocal' religious and cultural meta-narrative which is easily understandable and transparent for the whole populace of the republic and thus provides a structure for the boundaries of its polyethnic community. At the same time, the logical development of Buryat Buddhism suggests that its embedding in the global trends of religiousness probably occurs out of necessity and is characterized as protective adaptation, rather than an element of the Buddhist faith's forward development strategy in modern circumstances.

Keywords: traditional Buddhism, Buryat Sangha, global trends of religiousness, global religiosity, conversion of the symbolic capital.

Tatiana Lastovka. Refusal to Work ('Sponging') in the Soviet Union 1961–1991: Legal Codification and Social Practice

Compared with previous phases, the reign of Nikita Khrushchev was for obvious reasons interpreted as a period of the relative liberalization of Soviet society and was later given the poetic name of the 'Thaw'. As part of the intensive process of "De-Stalinization", a decree was

introduced in 1961 — “On strengthening the struggle against persons evading socially useful work and leading a parasitic life” — and Paragraph 209 of the Soviet Criminal Code was adopted on the basis of this decree, but they were paradoxical. On the basis of this Paragraph, persons who for any reason were declared parasites (*spongers*) were equated with criminals. The article deals with the legal issues and specific application of this law based on the judgments of the Court of the city of Tomsk. The journalistic and propaganda pathos of the legal documents include cultural and anthropological components relevant to the economic, social and psychological elements of Soviet ideology between 1960 and 1990. In this regard, we would like to highlight several factors that explain the adoption of this law and its application, which was difficult and inconsistent even in the opinion of Soviet jurists.

Keywords: Refusal to work, sponging.

Tsy pylma Darieva. Homecoming? New Practices of Diasporic Movement

In spite of its crucial place in the formation of diasporic identity, the real or symbolic homecoming among diaspora members is under-researched in anthropology. The term ‘homecoming’, recently referred to as ‘silent’ and ‘hidden’ migration, has become an increasingly significant metaphor and a motive for contemporary forms of transnational mobility in Eurasia. This paper discusses some of these forms (mass repatriation and individual homecoming) by the juxtaposition of two different groups — Russian Germans and American Armenians — and shows the various, changing meanings of diasporic homecoming practices as well as a new type of relations between the diaspora and their ethnic homeland based on emerging diasporic cosmopolitanism.

Keywords: diaspora, homecoming, repatriation, transnational ties, Germany, Armenia, nationalism, cosmopolitanism.

Maria Akhmetova. ‘Parent-Cities’ in Folklore

The paper presents proverbs based on formulas which use terms of kinship relating to cities. These formulas are: Mother of Russian cities (Kiev), Mother-Moscow, Mummy-Odessa and Daddy-Rostov. These proverbs declare the ‘kinship’ between another city with one of the aforementioned cities, which can serve either to elevate or disparage it.

Keywords: terms of kinship, proverbs, toponyms, folklore.

Varvara Dobrovolskaya. Tickling: Cultural Meanings and Rules (Based on Data from Central Russia).

The paper deals with the traditional attitude to tickling which is a physiological process which in traditional culture is treated as a significant phenomenon of considerable functional importance. Tickling is thought to be a way to cause certain negative events, such as illnesses and deaths of people and livestock. On the other hand tickling is also regarded as a sign foretelling some threat to the members of a rural community. Tickling can attract some mythological creatures and cause them to intervene in life of those who tickle or are tickled or even are just neighbours of the latters. The negative semantics of tickling is the *raison d'être* of a great number of prescriptions and norms of behaviour which also have protective and socio-communicative functions.

Keywords: folklore studies, cultural anthropology, prescriptions and instructions, superstitions.

Tatiana Emelyanenko. On the Peculiarities of the Traditional Costume of Bukharan Jews: Women's Dresses

There is a conventional opinion in ethnographic literature that the traditional costume of Bukharian Jews is no different to the clothing of the valley Tadjiks and settled Uzbeks, among whom they lived in Central Asia for many centuries. This article considers only one type of clothing — women's dresses — but it shows explicitly that this opinion is wrong. In spite of their apparent similarity to the dresses of the neighbouring population, the garments of Bukharan Jewish women differed in colour, material, and the ways in which they were worn and ornamented, as well as their use among groups of various ages and social status. These and other features reflected the cultural traditions and worldview specific to this ethno-confessional group of Central Asia.

Keywords: Bukharan Jews, traditional costume, Jewish clothing.

Reviews

The section contains reviews of nine books on cultural studies, ethnology, history and sociolinguistics. Among other publications, three collections of articles on the Russian Internet are reviewed, which refer to the topic of the Forum. Reviewers briefly describe the contents of the reviewed books and mention their merits and failings.

Keywords: cultural studies, ethnology, history, sociolinguistics, Russian Internet.