

Antropologicheskii Forum # 14 Online

Articles

Makka Albogachieva. From the History of Combating Blood Revenge in Ingushetia

The article is devoted to blood revenge in the Republic of Ingushetia, and the forms and methods of attempting to combat this custom in the 20th century made by the authorities, the clergy and the public. The author particularly focuses on the role of the Conciliation Commission in resolving the conflicting parties, the need to create a new concept of extrajudicial, alternative practices to resolve legal conflicts in traditional societies.

Keywords: Ingush, custom of blood revenge, crime, hostility, vigilante killer, elders, truce, forgiveness

Yuri Kvashnin. Tribal Names in Nenets Toponymy

The article deals with the distribution of toponyms originating from the names of Nenets tribes on the territory inhabited by the Nenets people. Information about the settlement of Nenets tribes and related geographical names were extracted from published and unpublished archival materials, ethnographical and toponymic literature, and geographical maps.

The comprehensive analysis of toponyms enabled the author to specify the origin of some Nenets clans, the time of their settlement in a particular locality, as well as the real or imaginary relationship of individual tribes to different geographical features.

Keywords: Nenets, resettlement, toponymy, tribal names, origin, localization

Marina Khakkarainen. On Money in the Jewish Tradition of 19th Century Russia

The article is about exchange relations and the non-economic functions of money in the Jewish tradition of the Pale of Settlement in the 19th century as represented by contemporary ethnographers and memoirists. At that time money played a significant role in life of Jews, especially in rites of passage and calendar festivals. The author answers the question of why money was an important element of Jewish culture at that time.

Keywords: money, life cycle rituals, Jewish community, Jewish tradition, the Pale of Settlement

Yulia Krashinnikova. The Symbolism of Colour in Russian Wedding Ceremonies

The colour palette of wedding ceremonies is varied, including red, dark blue, scarlet, white, light blue, black, green, yellow, crimson (raspberry) colours. The colours fulfil a number of functions in poetic texts: through colour, the idea of wedding ritual is expressed (the passage of the bride and groom to a different social group); it “transmits” information about the participants’ social, physical and material status, and expresses aesthetic emotional indicators (colour as a sign of riches, beauty, superiority, poverty, sickness and so on). *Red* and *dark blue* dominate; other colours are used less regularly and have limited spheres of use.

Keywords: colour code of wedding ceremony, speeches of wedding personages and guests, symbolism of colour

Yuri Kreidun. Field Churches of the Altai Orthodox Mission

The article examines different kinds of field churches used by the Altai Orthodox Mission in the 19th — early 20th centuries. It also describes ways of organizing the space for the service to take place in the open air in case of the absence of necessary constructions. Great attention is paid to the analysis of the first missionary constructions

to house the field churches of the founder of the Altai Mission archimandrite Makariy (Gluharev).

Keywords: field church, architecture of orthodox churches, missionary activity, Altai Orthodox Mission, Orthodox Church

Andrei Toporkov. Two Publications of P.G. Bogatyrev's Book "Magical Acts, Rites and Beliefs of Transcarpathia" (1929/1971): Scholarly and Social Context

The book by Pyotr Bogatyrev (1893–1971) was first published in French in Paris, 1929, in "Works of the Institute of Slavonic Studies", and was included in Russian translation in a book of the scholar's selected works entitled "Issues of the Theory of Folk Art" (1971). In the 1920s–1930s Bogatyrev developed an original structural functional method, which was took into account the achievements of Russian ethnography (D.K. Zelenin), as well as the Paris linguistic circle. In the 1960s Bogatyrev's works turned out to be in harmony with the semiotic and structural approaches of the Tartu-Moscow school. Bogatyrev's works on Slavic rituals and the semiotic functions of objects still retain their relevance today.

Keywords: Russian ethnography, structural functionalism, study of rituals, semiotic functions of objects, history of ideas

Materials from Expeditions

Mikhail Krasikov. "Time Was Killed Here Brutally!" (Modern Students in the Light of Epigraphy)

This work looks at the most distinctive types of inscriptions on the desks, walls, and doors of lecture halls in higher education institutes as a specific discourse of the student's community, giving a multifaceted view of this subculture. The material is taken mostly from Ukrainian records.

Keywords: student subculture, epigraphy, folklore

Interview

Galina Komarova. "The Anthropologist is a Witness"

The article is a dual interview resulting from the project entitled 'The Female Portrait in a Scholarly Context', which consisted of interviewing female anthropologists from different countries, who study the peoples of Russia and the former USSR. The participants in this particular interview were Natalia Novikova, senior researcher in the

Far North and Siberia Department at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (IEA) at the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow), and Emma Wilson, British anthropologist, head of the Energy Team at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED, London). Participants in the interview speak about their personal scientific career, share their experiences and discuss the prospects of their science.

Keywords: Russia, anthropological field studies, ethnicity, gender

Readings in Memory of N.M. Girenko

Victor Bocharov. Society and Culture in Evolutionary Process

In the article N.M. Girenko's theoretical approach to understanding ethnic conflict is analyzed. He considered the latter always to be based on social contradictions, which in reality took the form of ethnic antagonism. Therefore he clearly divided the concepts of Society and Culture, the latter acting as a form in relation to society. This concept has a great methodological importance when analysing the evolutionary process of the states of the East, where, unlike in the West, the borrowed Culture (western economical, political, and legal forms) was called upon to provide social progress. However, such Western innovations transferred to an alien Society are either rejected, playing only decorative role, or they fulfil completely different functions. These functions do not promote attaining "civilized" standards, but on the contrary, they initiate the revival of archaic displays in various areas of public activity.

Keywords: culture, society, cultural distance, interaction of cultures, socio-cultural dynamics, evolution, ethnicity

Alexander Zheltov. African Studies, Humanities, and the Scientific Paradigm of Nikolay Girenko

The article attempts to formulate some elements of the scientific paradigm of Nikolay Girenko, which the author considers to be important for both African Studies and the humanities in general.

Keywords: Nikolay Girenko, African Studies, ethnography, culture, Society, kinship terms, multidimensional analysis

Valentina Uzunova. The "Moral Reality" of Nikolay Girenko

In its title this paper uses M. Bakhtin's notion of "moral reality" in order to connect traditions of the past with their interpretation in the present. The reason for this intellectual connection is to affirm the

topical nature of rethinking our ideas about the social nature of human beings during periods of social crisis. The misanthropic attitude originating from the notion of the “dark nature of human beings” creates the conditions for accepting the repressive role of the State as correct and necessary. Legal rules are accepted as State supervision without which human beings do not have the skills and abilities necessary for co-ordinating their aims and desires with those of other people. The absence of such notions as “the other” and “the others” in Russian culture has become entirely evident now, at a time when Nikolay Girenko is no longer with us.

Keywords: ethnos theory, urgent ethnology, schools of scientific experts, responsibility for kindling inter-ethnic hatred, content analysis of political discourse, nation myths, class myths, democracy myths, regulating inter-ethnic relations

Alexander Vinnikov. The Evolution of the Anti-Fascist Movement in Russia: From Soviet Anti-Fascism to Intellectual and Humanitarian Anti-Fascism

The work describes three concepts of anti-fascism which are topical for modern Russia: Soviet anti-fascism, humanitarian anti-fascism and intellectual anti-fascism. It analyzes the origin and interrelation of these forms of anti-fascism, as well as their influence on the attitude of the ruling elite and the political opposition towards fascism and nationalism.

Keywords: Soviet, nationalism, fascism, authority

David Raskin. Nikolay Mikhailovich Girenko and the St. Petersburg Association of Scientists and Scholars

The article is devoted to the role of N.M. Girenko in forming civil society in Post-Soviet Russia. His role in the creation and the activity of the St. Petersburg Association of Scientists and Scholars (SPASS) (1989–2004) is shown in this article which is based on the personal memoirs of the author.

Keywords: civil society, post-Soviet Russia, St. Petersburg Association of Scientists and Scholars (SPASS)

Discussion on article by Pavel Belkov “On the Use of Geometrical Code in the Classificatory Kinship Systems of Scholarship”

Nikolay Dobronravin. Kinship as a Shell and the Search for Hidden Meanings (From Political Studies to Linguistics and Law).

A new method of kinship system analysis suggested by Pavel Belkov is dealt with in the article. Despite critical remarks, Belkov’s general

approach receives support for necessitating an ethnographical and linguistic approach towards kinship names (“kinship systems” vs. “kinship term systems”), and maintaining kinship terms only in the legal study of kinship.

Keywords: kinship studies, linguistics, law, political studies, kinship terms, kinship names

Alexei Burykin. The Geometry of Kinship: Science or Abstract Art? (On P.L. Belkov’s article “On the use of geometrical code in the classificatory kinship systems of scholarship”)

In the article the author examines correlations between certain modern representations of kinship systems and interpretations of representations going back to the works of scholars in the 19th century. The article also looks at the relationship between social and linguistic components in kinship systems and their nomination, and the reality behind kinship terms in different societies.

Keywords: kinship, kinship systems, kinship term systems, norms of marriage, exogamy

Vladimir Popov. Kinship Geometry, Kinship Algebra, and Kinship Abracadabra, or How Rubik’s Cube can be Constructed from Kinship Systems and Folklore (Notes On the Article by Pavel Belkov “On the Use of Geometrical Code in the Classificatory Kinship Systems of Scholarship”)

The article contains a commentary on the article by Pavel Belkov as well as a number of fundamental objections against the geometrical methods of investigating classificatory kinship systems proposed by Pavel Belkov. First of all the author argues against the identification of graphical modes of describing kinship systems as a method of analysis. Furthermore the author argues against considering kinship systems and kinship term systems as the whole and its part, since he considers a kinship term system to be the plane of expression, whereas a kinship system is the plane of content of the phenomenon of kinship.

Keywords: kinship, kinship systems, kinship terminology, classificatory kinship, kinship studies, kinship algebra, kinship geometry, norms of marriage

Pavel Belkov. The Ethnography of Kinship and the Problem of the Rationality of Scientific Discovery

The main purpose of the paper is to overcome the dilemma experienced by adherents to the “kinship algebra” theory as to whether

their effectively degenerating research program should be refuted. The alternative is a theory based on diagrammatic (“geometric”) representation systems. From the point of view of the contemporary cognitive science approach, it is about adopting kinship diagrams as a rational component of a scientific proof, not merely as a tool to demonstrate proofs that have already been obtained (as a kind of “pretty picture”). A.R. Radcliffe-Brown’s discovery relating to the notion of the ideal types (schemes or compositions) of classificatory kinship systems constitutes the core of the method being considered, supplemented by research about several specific ethnic examples.

Keywords: classificatory kinship systems, types, diagrams

Conferences

Kirill Maslinsky. Conference “The Anthropology of Soviet School: Cultural Universals and Provincial Practices”

The conference “The Anthropology of Soviet School: Cultural Universals and Provincial Practices” which took place in Perm from 1st — 3rd October 2010, was the latest regular meeting organized by the “Anthropology of Soviet School” project (held since 2006). The main issue discussed on this conference was daily life of Soviet school. Among general problems discussed were: conflicts inside of the school community and their emergence outside of the school; the professional identity of a Soviet school teacher; the Soviet school tradition in contact with non-Soviet culture. Some of the conference presentations analysed a number of cultural forms inherent in daily life at a Soviet school, including school New Year carnivals, school greeting cards, written orders of the headmaster, school games and bullying etc.

Keywords: soviet school, daily life, historical anthropology

Natalia Pushkareva. Everyday Life in Russia: An Interdisciplinary Approach. May 13th — 15th 2010, Bloomington, Indiana (USA)

In recent years, the topic of everyday life has been one of the most thoroughly discussed. In May 2010, the seminar “Everyday Life in Russia” was held in Bloomington, Indiana (USA), and attempted to determine how an understanding of “daily routine” has evolved in Russian and American historiographies, while also examining the main conclusions of research surveying everyday practices in pre-Soviet, Soviet and post-Soviet Russia.

Keywords: everyday life, history of everyday life and practices, private life, history of Russian culture, Soviet history, cultural history of totalitarian Russia

Maxim Makartsev, Svetlana Sidneva, Anton Tunin. Round Table “Tsvetnitsa. Duminica floriilor. Βαγιοκυριακή. Diela e lulevet...: The Vegetative Code of Palm Sunday in the Balkan-Baltic-Slavic Area”

The review describes the reports presented at the Round Table “Tsvetnitsa”, organised by the centre for linguo-cultural studies BALCANICA together with the Centre for Balto-Slavic studies at the Institute of Slavonic Studies at the RAS, which was dedicated to the vegetative code of Palm Sunday in the Balkan, Baltic and Slavic area. The subjects of the reports are the different aspects of the Palm Sunday festival in folk traditions in the designated area, its symbolism (primarily vegetative), and the texts and rituals associated with it (in synchrony and diachrony). Some of the reports trace archetypal mythological motives, included those preserved in modern secularised culture, literature and art (“flickering mythology”). The ethnolinguistic analysis of Palm Sunday in Balkan, Baltic and Slavic traditions helps, through the prism of the vegetative code, establish what is universal and unique in each of them.

Keywords: cultural anthropology, folklore, mythology (especially “flickering mythology”), text structure, vegetative code of the archetypical model of the world, Palm Sunday, Balkan, Balto-Slavic

Makka Albogachieva. Muslim Conference of the Republic Ingushetia

The review is devoted to the Muslim conference of the Republic Ingushetia, organized by Muftiyat of the Republic and concerning the vital issues for the Ingush society — blood feuds, bride prices, and bride theft.

Keywords: conference, Islam, Muftiyat, blood feud, bride price, bride theft

Personalia

Elena Revunenkova. Liudmila Alekseevna Ivanova

This article, dedicated to Liudmila Ivanova’s 70th birthday, presents a summary of her scientific activity: her contributions to the archaeology of Siberia, source study, traditional cultures and the beliefs of the peoples of Oceania; cataloguing, the attribution and exhibition of museum collections on Oceania, including MAE materials from James Cook’s third expedition round the world and expeditions of Russian seafarers around the world of the first quarter of the 19th century, and N.N. Miklouho-Maclay’s travels and items from the N. Michoutouchkine — A. Pilioko Fund (Vanuatu).

Keywords: jubilee, L.A. Ivanova, archaeology of Siberia, traditional culture of the peoples of Oceania, source study, cataloguing, exposition of museum collections on Oceania