

## Antropologichesky Forum No. 15

### Forum

#### Studying Kinship

This Forum is dedicated to the issues relating to studying kinship. Anthropologists engaged in kinship studies and linguists who study kinship terminology discuss the situation that has arisen in the field of studying kinship relations.

Keywords: kinship studies, kinship terminology.

### Articles

#### *Ekaterina Fen.* City on the Move: Considering Everyday Mobility

The paper offers an analysis of everyday trips. It uses the conceptual framework of the sociology of mobility and focuses on the concept of 'mobility culture'. This incorporates studying the social issues relating to everyday journeys. The central issue of our research is everyday car trips: their spatial and temporal aspects, navigation, and interaction during the journey.

Keywords: mobility, culture of mobility, everyday life, city, interaction.

#### *Maria Akhmetova.* "Own" Grammar vs. "Alien" Grammar: the Case of Bologoe

The paper is based on material from an expedition to the town of Bologoe and from local newspapers; it deals with the peculiar features of local speech, such as using the toponym 'Bologoe' as an indeclinable noun (contrary to Russian grammar). This phenomenon became part of the local identity of the citizens of Bologoe, and led to an attempt to correct this language norm by the local newspaper in the 1960s.

Keywords: toponymy, language norm, usage, local identity, standard of speech, declension.

*Valeria Kolosova.* Notes on Ethnobotany VI: Pizhma

The article analyses the notions which in traditional Slavonic culture are linked to the costmary plant *Tanacetum vulgare* L. belonging to the Compositae family. The text traces the ties between Slavonic folk phytonyms, folklore texts about them, and uses of the plant in rites, folk magic, and folk medicine. Dialectal phytonyms, interpreted in the spirit of folk etymology, are especially interesting. The perception of costmary in Slavonic traditional culture is analysed in close connection to its features and characteristics. In different areas where Slavic languages are spoken, the semiotics of different plants' features is discussed, which allows some geographic and linguistic observations to be made.

Keywords: ethnobotany, ethnolinguistics, Slavonic studies, costmary, phytonyms, dialectology, folklore, ethnology, folk medicine, folk magic, traditional culture.

*Anna Sokolova.* Funeral without a Corpse: Transformations of the Traditional Funeral Ritual

The Soviet regime changed Russian culture in a profound way, and ceremonial rites were no exception. Revolutionaries felt the need to celebrate important moments in their lives in a new way. Thus they created new rites such as "Red Baptizing", "Red Wedding" and "Red Funeral". This new wave of civil rites appeared at the end of the 1950s, and the creation of the new Soviet rites became a government program. Thus unlike other rites of passage and funeral rites in urban society, ceremonial funeral rites in rural Russia remained almost intact until the beginning of the 21st century. Although slightly simplified, the overall structure of the long-lasting funeral rite was preserved. In the mid-2000s some new transformations took place when the centralization of the system of civil status registration began. The centralization process made the undertaker's offices' business economically viable in rural areas. Undertaker's offices provide a wide range of services that were traditionally the duty of the family of the deceased. As a result the main part of the traditional preparation of the deceased for his/her afterlife is the responsibility of the undertaker and the family is left "without a deceased".

Keywords: family rites, funerals, rites of passage, soviet civil ceremonial rites, Vladimir region.

### **Seminar "Soviet Traditions"**

*Sergey Sokolovskiy.* The Burden of Tradition: the Past in the Present of Russian Anthropology

The paper deals with the contemporary understanding of tradition in anthropology and continuity fissures in the case of the Russian anthropological tradition. A periodization of the recent history of the discipline is suggested; the problem of ideological legacy in the social sciences is dealt with through analysing the current Russian anthropology's topoi preventing its successful integration and dialogue with other national traditions of anthropological research.

Keywords: tradition, Russian anthropology, social evolutionism, exoticism, naturalization, ethnicization.

*Boris Firsov. The Two Lives of One Discipline: Traditions and Roles of Sociology in Russia and the USSR*

The paper deals with traditions of the discipline of sociology in Russia and the USSR such as political engagement, the uncritical reception of Marxism, literary centeredness, and self-made sociologists. Among other sources, the paper is based on memoirs and the author's own experience. The author proves that only literary centeredness aids the development of the discipline, continually enriching and stimulating the sociological imagination as well as the search for truth.

Keywords: political engagement, doctrinal Marxism, literary centeredness of social science development, self-made sociologists.

*Catriona Kelly. Leningrad Cooking / La cuisine leningradaise: a Contradiction in Terms?*

The preparation and cooking of food, like other areas of daily life, underwent an important process of transformation in the Soviet era. The conditions of the planned economy affected the availability of ingredients, and by extension, the advice set out in cookbooks and other normative sources, since these might, for example, recommend foodstuffs that were being promoted by the state-operated food industries at a given time (a case in point being 'crab sticks' in the 1970s). Governing ideologies of hygiene and 'culturedness' were also important. In the circumstances, regional variations became insignificant, and the canonical Book of Tasty and Nutritious Food (1939 and many later editions) recognised only a few locally specific dishes, mostly from the non-Russian republics, alongside stolichnaya, or 'from the capital', as a catch-all term for something sophisticated and of high quality. In the circumstances, the extent to which one can talk about a specifically 'Leningrad' cuisine is limited. This article suggests, however, that some foodstuffs and dishes became associated with local identity (whether accurately or not), and also that some classic Soviet dishes represented reworkings of Petersburg traditions (a fact that was never alluded to directly), both in their

transregional and transnational style and in terms of the details of techniques and ingredients. It also looks at the ‘Soviet salad’ as an example of a tradition invented in the Soviet period that has become firmly entrenched and is now perceived as a completely authentic expression of national and local identity.

Keywords: food, cuisine / cooking, local identity, Soviet traditions, history of cultural transmission.

*Katharina Uhl. A Generation between the “Heroic Past” and the “Bright Future”: The Role of Youth in the Thaw Period*

The paper focuses on the role that official discourse ascribed to the young Soviet generation in the 1950s and 1960s. Through the analysis of the youth newspaper “Komsomol’skaia Pravda” and official documents of the Central Committee of the Komsomol it shows to what extent the present generation received its significance only from the heroic past and the communist future. Heroes of the past were presented as role models whom contemporary youth had to imitate if they were determined to build a classless communist society within the near future. This idea was outlined in the Third Party Programme of 1961 and found its vivid expression in the discourse on the cosmos. In order to build communism young people were called to overcome the undesired pre-revolutionary as well as Stalinist past and to obtain the moral outlook of the new Soviet person that was indispensable for the achievement of the communist future.

Keywords: Soviet history, official Soviet discourse.

### Reviews

The section contains reviews of seven books on anthropology, folklore, history of ethnology, and visual culture. Reviewers briefly describe the contents of the reviewed books and mention their merits and failings.

Keywords: anthropology, folklore, history of ethnology, visual culture.

### Letters to the Editor

The section contains the author’s response to the review of the book: O. Uliashov, I. Ilyina. *Muzhchina I zhenshchina v traditsionnoi culture komi* [Man and Woman in Traditional Komi culture] Syktyvkar, 2009, which was published in issue 13.

Keywords: Komi, gender studies.