

Antropologicheskii Forum # 15 Online

Articles

Sergey Alymov. “Perestroika” in the Russian Provinces

The article is an anthropological and historical study of the cultural, social and ideological transformations that took place in the southern agrarian area of Central Russia — the Sosnovskii district of the Tambov region. It is based on interviews with the inhabitants of the urban-type community Sosnovka and publications in the local newspaper. The author reconstructs the most important events of the region’s history in the last thirty years and analyses their interpretation by the Sosnovka inhabitants. He focuses on their conceptions of the late-Soviet lifestyle and values, and how they have changed in subsequent years. Drawing on this material, he makes conclusions about the importance of such categories as social justice, envy, and personal contact in the culture of the Russian provinces in recent decades.

Keywords: Soviet everyday life, post-socialism, anthropology of post-soviet transformations, perestroika, post-Soviet subjectivity, ethnography of Russian provinces.

Elena Osetrova. Rumours in Modern Socio-Cultural Environment: A Historiographical Review

The paper highlights the problems in the theory of rumours in the various human sciences: psychology, history, linguistics, literature and so on. Particular attention is paid to the topics of 'Rumours and government institutions', 'The Russian practice of using rumours', 'Uncontrollable rumours and their prevention', and 'Converting the natural scheme of rumour circulation'.

Keywords: gossip, rumour, information channels, oral history.

Zhang Xun. Trends in the Research of Chinese Popular Religion: After the "Imperial Metaphor"

The paper by the Taiwanese ethnographer Dr. Zhang Xun focuses on trends in the research of popular religion in Taiwan and China in both traditional and modern society. The author comments on a wide array of theories and opinions by Western and Taiwanese scholars which display a shift from interest in the "imperial metaphor" theory to the discussion about the standardization of gods from the popular pantheon by the authorities.

Keywords: popular religion, China, Taiwan, anthropology, "imperial metaphor", standardization.

Fedor Savikhin, Aarne Kasikov, Eugeny Vasilchenko. The Evolution of Opinions on the Russian Settlement of the Western Coast of Lake Chudskoe (Estonia) and the Emergence of Old Believer *Bespopovtsy* in Prichudye

On the western coast of Lake Chudskoe, Estonia, there are 14 villages with a mostly Russian population. In the middle of the 19th century around 7 300 Russians lived there, half of whom (3 800) were Old Believers professing priestless worship (*Bespopovtsy*). The most rapid increase in the village populations occurred within the last 30 years of the 18th century. For many years this increase has been explained by the mass migration of Old Believers from Russia. However, there is no documented evidence of the migration of any groups of a considerable size from Russia. The detection of Old Believer family names in the middle of the 19th century in earlier records of Lutheran parishes shows that before settling on the western coast of the lake, the majority of Old Believers' ancestors lived in the continental countries of modern-day Estonia, mainly in North and Western Prichudye. Census data shows that a considerable number of Russian inhabitants lived there already, before the split of the Orthodox church in Russia, which is affirmed by the church records of Lutheran

parishes. This also explains the presence of archaisms in the local dialect and the preservation of local old Russian toponymy. The migration of Russians as well as Estonians to poor coastal regions of Chudskoe at the end of the 17th and 18th centuries was caused by a rapid increase in the continental population and the resulting shortage of fertile land. All the data coincides with the Reports to the Governor General from 1811–1861 about the Old Believers of Tartu County and their spread across Prichudye due to the eager activity of *Bespopovtsy* preachers among the Russian population there, and not as a result of the resettlement of a considerable number of Old Believers from Russia, as was previously supposed. For the first time a conclusion is drawn on the basis of documentary data and a complex approach to the problem rather than on speculative suggestions and the preconceived ideas of the late 19th century.

Keywords: western coast of Lake Chudskoe, Western and North Prichudye of Estonia, Old Believers, *Bespopovtsy*, Old Believers of Russia (*raskolniki*), Dual Believers (*poluvertsy*), local dialect, toponymy.

Denis Yermolin. Present-Day Death Rituals among Azov Albanians: Structure and Nature

The article is devoted to the description of present-day death rituals among the Albanian population in the North Azov Region (Ukraine), defining their nature and providing analysis of some of their components in the Balkan context. In the work the author also gives a brief ethnical history of this Albanian diaspora.

Keywords: Albanians, Balkan colonists, Azov Region, the Ukraine, death rituals, ethnographic fieldwork.

Andrey Stepanov. Essay on the Pragmatic Interpretation of the North-Russian House Locus: *Sholnysha*

In the following report we consider the insufficiently explored topos of the peasant house, the so-called *sholnysha*. Our research is focused on the reproduced cooperation between the subject and the topos in daily practices and interaction. The vital activity of the subject within the space of the house is considered a persistent process of constructing meanings. It is caused by the reciprocal influence of habitually reserved skills (joint or individual), which form a system of typical “expectations” in each situation and interpretations of the situational strategies proposed by them. The report pays special attention to the analysis of how the mechanism of cultural tradition functions and its adaptive properties.

Keywords: *sholnysha*, *topos*, meaning, pragmatic, daily, *habitus*, tradition, system, social environment.

Julia Marinicheva. Russian Animal Tales: The System of Characters

The subject of our research is the Russian animal tale. We consider that the basis of all interaction between characters consists of a deception and the reaction to it. That is why all characters can be divided into deceivers and their victims. However, each deceiver uses different behavioural strategies. Furthermore, the animal tale has a system for naming (common nouns and proper names) and addressing. Characters are described through dialogue and direct speech. This approach requires an appropriate method of analysis. The article suggests a method of describing the character system in the form of a special database.

Keywords: folklore, animal tale, naming, database.

Urban Space as the Focus of Anthropological Research

Alexandra Piir. Improvements and “Exemplary Life” in Leningrad Courtyards: Dialogue between the Authorities and Tenants

Since the mid-19th century, tenement housing courtyards were considered a sore point of urban life and sanitation. In Soviet times the Leningrad authorities made tenacious efforts to equip courtyards with modern utilities and organize children’s activities using the tenants as a workforce. Improvements, deliverance from utility structures and organizing places for leisure were the main signs of Soviet residential areas; indeed the *old* courtyards had to be made *new* owing to this arrangement. Sanitary and aesthetic requirements were accompanied by an ideological context: a well-equipped courtyard had to satisfy *the new life* and *the new Soviet man*. Courtyard space had to become ‘transparent’, uniform and devoid of the informal stratification that emerged while tenants were adapting to it. In this respect, the proclaimed concern for children was *a tool for the clarification of courtyards* in different senses.

Keywords: Leningrad courtyard, Soviet everyday life, urban space, municipal improvements.

Maria Litovskaya. Initiation and Punishment: A Monument to Writers in Provincial Cities

The article considers a form of expressing social deference, the installation of monuments to classic art. In analyzing the urban environment of a major provincial centre, the author focuses on

the informational and normalizing functions of commemorative signs and shows how the location of the monument depends on ideas about the social functions of literature and the reputation of the writer in the urban community. Descriptions are given for the examples of the D.N. Mamin-Sibiriak, P.P. Bazhov, A.S. Pushkin, and A.P. Chekhov monuments in Ekaterinburg.

Keywords: Ekaterinburg, urban environment, Russian literary classics, literary monuments, A.S. Pushkin, A.P. Chekhov, P.P. Bazhov, D.N. Mamin-Sibiriak.

Mikhail Alekseevsky. The Music of Our Town. Version 2.0

The article is devoted to the process of constructing the images of small Russian towns through music on the Internet. The author particularly focuses on the role of social networking in development of local patriotism among Internet users. In the most popular Russian social network, vkontakte.ru, users create Internet groups devoted to their home towns and upload music recordings that are connected with these places in some way. Analysis of the music enabled the author to discover some basic ways of affirming local identity through the selection and composition of songs about home towns.

Keywords: music, local identity, soundscape, songs, urban studies, urban landscape, social network, Internet.

Maria Akhmetova. City Spaces and Cities in Space [within a country] (“You know you live in N when...”)

The paper deals with humorous lists of the characteristics of citizens living in different cities and towns. Such lists are widespread in Russian on the Internet. The paper concentrates particularly on one aspect of these lists – constructing the notion of city space. The authors of the lists often mention informal names for different city objects (especially monuments), streets, the landscape, the condition of roads, entertainment places and so on. The texts often play with the paradoxes of the city space. On the whole, the lists reflect fragments of the common knowledge that is characteristic of the inhabitants or natives of these cities and towns and is usually unknown to outsiders.

Keywords: city space, identity, internet-lore.

Andrey Vozyanov. Tramway Fans and Provincial Urbanicity

Public transport is firmly built into the routine of urban inhabitants and often serves as a ‘non-place’ which is only used in transit.

Sometimes, however, background practices and details which usually go unnoticed become the object of concentrated attention. For example, in the case of tramway fans it is in fact the tram which has defined tourist and walking routes as well as locations of interest in a city. This kind of transport is involved in the perception and understanding of urbanicity — a city and its shape are thought of in terms of its relation to trams. The urban landscape is constructed around the tram network and its components in various ways. This article is about how tramway fans reconstruct the spaces and marks of provincial towns with trams via narrative, photography and diagrams.

Keywords: public transport, tramways, urban cartography, anthropology of senses, affective urbanism, urban studies, mobility, media studies.

Materials from Expeditions and Archives

Evgeniy Safronov. The Graveyard from a Personal Perspective (field notes)

The article contains field investigations that specify the meaning and role of graveyards in the context of traditional culture. The author aims to present a personal interpretation of the symbolic area of the rural graveyard based upon records obtained from one tradition ‘bearer’.

Keywords: graveyard, traditional culture, communication between the dead and the living.

Mariam Kerimova. On the creation of the Creation of the Journal “Ethnographic Review” (1889–1916) (based on the archive material of Vladimir Bogdanov)

The subject of this article is the initial stage of forming the first specialized journal, “Ethnographic Review” (1889–1916). The research was carried out using archive documents (V.V. Bogdanov fund, OPI GIM). The journal was published because of the initiative of N.N. Kharuzin and V.F. Miller. In the journal provided a platform for the publication of articles on the ethnography of the peoples of Russia and other Slavic countries, reviews of works written by Western scientists and bibliographic articles. Miller and Kharuzin also organized the teaching of ethnography as a separate academic subject in Russian universities. N.N. Kharuzin was the first in Russia to read a systematic course of lectures on ethnography in Moscow University and Lazarev University of Oriental Languages, and was the author of the four-volume edition of the “Ethnography” tutorial (1901–1905).

Keywords: history of Russian ethnography, “Ethnographic Review”, N.N. Kharuzin, V.F. Miller.

Marianna Smirnova-Seslavinskaya. The Ballad of the Romani Lovari people “Mashkar le strijna” — “Among foreigners”

This publication includes a record and literal translation of the ballad “Mashkar le strijna” — “Among foreigners” (the title is conditional). The ballad has been preserved in the folk traditions of the Russian Lovari people. The text is provided with a commentary. The author demonstrates the place of the ballad among other examples of Romani folklore in Russia, as well as information about the tradition of its performance and translation among Lovari people.

Keywords: Romani Lovari people, oral tradition, ballad, comments.

Tatyana Troshina. The collection of ego-documents (personal memoirs), gathered by the Commissions on the History of the Communist Party and the Revolution (Istpart) in the 1920s and 1930s, as a source of ethnographic, historical and cultural information (on material from the Vologda and Arkhangelsk archives)

The article reveals the representational possibilities of memoirs written by mass participants in revolutionary events. These memoirs were collected in archives between 1920 and 1970. This work was carried out using a special questionnaire that not only involved personal reminiscences and biographical information, but also included questions intended to obtain information about the economy and consumer culture of settlements where memoirists were born. Some memoirs include ancient legends and folklore. Historians use this source (memoirs) as “oral history”, but it contains a significant amount of ethnographic information recorded by the representatives of the culture themselves.

Keywords: ethnographic sources, consumer culture and economic activity abroad and the early 20th century, mass memoirs, oral history, history of everyday life, narrative source, source of folklore.

Tatiana Chudova. The Tale of Three Pots in the Context of Komi Ethnography

The subject of the tale of the three pots demonstrates the life credo of women where household sketches, with a real ethnographic basis, correspond to a mythopoetic picture of the Komi world.

Keywords: fairytale, pottery, mythopoetic picture of the world, Komi.

Interview

Galina Komarova. On the Best 'Award' for Anthropological Studies (An Interview with Jeanne Kormina and Kaarina Aitamurto)

The interview presented in this section is part of the author's larger project, "Female Portrait in the Scholarly Interior", which, the author suggests, may be seen in a certain sense as a continuation of intellectual discussions in the journal *Ethnographic Review* under the rubric "Thinking over the Discipline's Destinies" during the early 1990s. The author's interlocutors in the interview are Jeanne Kormina, PhD, Chair of the Department in the Higher School of Economics (St. Petersburg) and Kaarina Aitamurto, PhD, senior researcher at the Aleksanteri Institute University of Helsinki, both of them scholars with substantial experience of ethnographic and anthropological fieldwork. Their reflections on the trajectories of their respective professional communities provide much food for thought.

Keywords: Russia, anthropological field studies, ethnicity, gender.

Conferences

9th Congress of Ethnographers and Anthropologists: Impressions from Participants

This publication presents material from surveys taken by Antropologicheskii Forum of some participants of the 9th Congress of Ethnographers and Anthropologists which took place on 4th–8th July 2011 in Petrozavodsk, organised by The Association of Russian Ethnographers and Anthropologists in collaboration with The Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (Moscow) and Karelian Research Centre at the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Keywords: 9th Congress of Ethnographers and Anthropologists, modern studies in anthropology and ethnography.

Denis Yermolin, Alexandra Dugushina. Conference "Balkan Spectrum: from Light to Color / Balkanskij spektr: ot sveta k tsvetu" (Balkan Readings — 11 / Balkanskije chtenija — 11)

This article aims to present a review of the conference "Balkan Spectrum: from Light to Color / Balkanskij spektr: ot sveta k tsvetu" (Balkan Readings — 11 / Balkanskije chtenija — 11), which took place in The Institute of Slavic Studies at the RAS in March 2011. The review provides short summaries of all the reports presented.

Keywords: Balkan readings, Institute of Slavic Studies RAS, Balkan studies, concepts of light and colour, worldview, Homo Balcanicus, language, culture.

Personalia

Valeria Prischepova. The 100th Anniversary of the Birth of S.M. Dudin — Artist and Ethnographer (based on data from Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography)

The article deals with the scientific and collection activity of Samuel M. Dudin — photographer, artist, ethnographer — who for many years worked at the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography. Museum and archive material was used in the article.

Keywords: Samuel M. Dudin, Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology, collections, Middle Asia, Kazakhstan, photos.

In Memoriam

Daniel Tumarkin. Igor Semenovich Kon (1928–2011)

This paper is dedicated to the memory of Professor Igor Kon — an outstanding Russian scholar and public figure who deeply influenced the development of cultural anthropology, sociology, psychology, sexuality research and gender studies. He defended the rights of homosexuals and their organizations, and advocated early sexual education for adolescents. The author, an ethnologist, is an old friend of Kon and lived in the same town.

Keywords: Igor Semenovich Kon, cultural anthropology, sociology, psychology, sexology, gender studies.