

## Antropologicheskyy forum No. 17

### Forum

#### **Archiving the Spoken Text (Folklore, Oral History, Ethnography)**

There are archives (e.g. of folklore and ethnography) where the main corpus of materials is made up of orally transmitted materials (for instance, records of folkloric texts and other material transcribed in the field, interviews, field diaries). Such materials are not primarily records of top-down governance, but of ‘daily life’ and the day-to-day existence of low-status, indeed sometimes socially marginal, individuals. In addition, this material, unlike government documents and so on, were usually not composed for public circulation or presumed in advance to have a social role. Such archives therefore raise a number of specific issues and problems, on which participants of this “Forum” focus.

Keywords: folklore archives, oral history archives, ethnography archives, fieldwork.

### Articles

*Sergey Neklyudov.* God as the Head Authority and the Means to Speak to / with Him

In general, there are two types of pantheon structure that are inherent to religious and mythological systems. In the first case the powers are spread ‘horizontally’ among the various gods or spirits, according to their particular specialization; in the second the organization is ‘vertical’ based on the relations

of dominance and subordination. Then the head of the pantheon is treated as the ruler, and this is something we can clearly observe in the hierarchical mythological systems which reflect the social structures that exist among the representatives of the given tradition. Consequently there are two types of message conveyed by ritual practices that go in opposite communicative directions. Some of them are human texts addressed to gods and spirits and delivered by means of a relevant ritual (we will call them 'ritual' texts). Others are messages from gods or spirits addressed to the human community (let us call them 'sacred' texts) and send through a mediator (i.e. a shaman, magus, oracle or seer). But, as a rule, these ritual and sacred texts cannot be taken as a kind of verbal exchange, their goal is to provoke a nonverbal reaction from the other side (be it a supernatural or human one), and thus to engage in the dialogical relationship.

Keywords: mythological pantheon, religious and social hierarchy, divine ruler, ritual and sacred texts, dialogue.

*Ilya Utekhin.* The Interaction between Humans and Smart Artifacts: Introductory Remarks

Smart artifacts based on computing technology are often perceived in everyday contexts as having their own behaviour and intentionality, particularly because their interfaces provide interactivity. Until recently, intelligence and language communication in dialogue were regarded in our civilization as essentially human attributes, but the fact that these days interactive devices populate the living world of the humans is of special interest to anthropology. So are some of the ideas discussed in the last quarter century in the field of artificial intelligence and human-computer interaction: human cognition is embodied and (socially) distributed, and thus cannot be efficiently modelled as the manipulation of symbols, which requires some form of embodiment and interaction with reality so that sense-able artificial intelligence becomes possible. Interactivity and context sensitivity as features of technical systems have been achieved as a result of the ethnomethodological understanding of action, interaction order and accountability.

Keywords: human-computer interaction, interface, artificial intelligence, context-aware computing, situated meaning.

*Vlada Baranova.* The Language Socialization of Migrant Children

The paper is based on the material of migrants' linguistic biographies and focuses on certain problems: the linguistic fluency in Russian of first- and second-generation migrants; factors in the choice between Russian and a native language and language loyalty; and language shift from native to dominant language among migrants' children.

The study presents some results from a fieldwork project of the Sociology of Education and Science Laboratory at the HSE in St. Petersburg and the Greater Moscow area. The research design combines qualitative (interviews) and quantitative (questionnaires) methods.

Keywords: migrant children, language socialization, Russian language, native language, linguistic biography.

*Elena Berezovich.* “Russian Food” in the Mirror of Foreign Languages (Based on Derivatives of the Words “Russian, Russia”)

The article observes derivatives of the ethnonym “Russian” and “Russia” which designate various types of food and convey external (towards Russia) views on Russian food. The article’s material mainly includes data from European languages – Slavic, Romance and Germanic. The mechanisms enabling a nominator to ascribe (from an external point of view) the property of “Russianness” to the objects are revealed, and the external and internal interpretations of “Russianness” are compared. In particular, the author investigates the motivation of food designations possessing an internal form such as “Russian herring”, “Russian tea”, “Russian eggs”, “Russian sauce”, “Russian salad” and “Russian sandwich”.

Keywords: ethnolinguistics, ethnic stereotypes, lexicology, phraseology, onomastics, ethnonymical derivatives, semantic motivation, culinary code of culture.

*Maria Pirogovskaya.* The Vetlyanka Plague of 1878–1879: Sanitary Discourse, Sanitary Strategy and the (Re-)Making of Sensibility

In the second half of the 19th century olfactory perception and related ideas of sensibility were at the centre of public discussion, together with a broader problem of public health and urban sanitation. The explanatory model of miasmatic theory converted the olfactory dimension of routine into a series of symptoms which should be noticed, interpreted correctly and followed with sanitary measures. At the brink of a new bacteriological era in natural science, the sanitary approach to pathogeny brought about a reconsideration of the idea of sensibility and paved the way for the new sensory regimes which would emerge after Pasteur and Koch’s discoveries had spread in the Western world. Since the cholera years of the 1820s, epidemics had reshaped key concepts of medicine (such as illness, health, contagion etc.) and thus were not only milestones for medical debates and sanitary congresses, but also influenced personal and public practices and perceptions. The paper describes discourses

and practices called into being by the last plague of the pre-bacterial era, and traces the conflicts it provoked.

Keywords: anthropology of senses, hygiene, sensibility, history of medicine, epidemics, sanitary discourse, miasmatic theory, regimes of attention.

*Julia Buchatskaia.* The “Bamberger Sandkerwa” and Human Factors: Some Reflections about Specificity of a German Middletown Using the Example of a Public Festival

The article is devoted to the history of the creation of a new post-war festive tradition – the holiday Sandkerwa in Bamberg (Bavaria, Germany) and to its development into a city and a regional identity symbol. The author analyzes the role of social communications and networks in a middletown such as Bamberg in creating and steadily reproducing this holiday in the town and in the region. The theory is put forward that the specific contrast of lifestyle (urbanity) between a middletown and a city consists of a peculiar “down-to-earthness”, in the creativity which is based on an attachment to a place and society, in this case – to the city and a circle of people living in the neighbourhood. These categories of the middletown enable the realization of mass action demanded by the forces of a narrow group of people on a whole city scale, and even on a regional scale.

Keywords: middletown, invented traditions, public festivals, identity.

### Reviews

The section contains reviews of seven books on religious communities, Indian myth and ritual, the anthropology of sex, Jewish garments, Siberian ethnography, Russian New Year and the Azov Greeks. Reviewers briefly describe the contents of the reviewed books and mention their merits and failings.

Keywords: anthropology, folklore, ethnology, religious communities, India, myth, ritual, anthropology of sex, Jews, clothing, Siberia, ethnography, New Year, Azov Greeks.