

Antropologicheskyy Forum No. 17 Online

Articles

Anna Klepikova, Ilya Utekhin. Disabled People in Russian Residential Institutions: When They Are Treated as Adults

Based on fieldwork conducted in a large residential institution for adults with developmental disabilities and compared to data from an institution for developmentally disabled children, a range of contexts are quoted in which volunteers from non-governmental organizations promoting the ideology of normalization refer to residents' "adulthood", in order to provide accountability for their actions and attitudes towards the residents who have attained the age of majority, but are not necessarily considered mentally and physically mature. Treating them as adults turns out to be a rationale for practices related to a social model of disability and an integrative approach, opposed to established practices of the institution's personnel supposing that disabled residents are like children enclosed in unhealthy ill-formed bodies. The folk conception of adulthood, which lies behind references to residents' adulthood, includes the ability to control one's own behaviour and a range of needs and rights typical of normal adults. It becomes relevant while discussing and making decisions concerning residents'

personal schedule, personal space and personal belongings, cleanliness and the danger of unprotected bodily contact, gender displays and expressions of sexuality, and other topics.

Keywords: disability, residential institutions, adulthood, social work, volunteers

Ekaterina Melnikova. Footnotes on the Fields of the Ethnography of Elections

The paper is concerned with ethnographic interpretations of the voting procedure at the Federal elections. The first part of the article addresses two ways of analyzing E-day proposed by (1) V. Vakhshain as an example of frame analysis, and (2) K. Coles who treats the voting procedure as a scientific laboratory. The second part of the paper draws upon material collected by the author while working as an observer at the election of the President of Russian Federation on 4th March 2012. The symbolic meanings of the voting space and the interaction of the voters are part of the core focus. The paper concludes with an assertion about E-day, which acts as a ritual converting the formal tick into a socially meaningful vote. This is why polling stations are a symbolic space which significantly affects the behaviour of voters. It is stated in the paper that the polling station is an example of a strongly organized disciplinary field with substantial signs of the presence of power. The central point of the ritual which, in the opinion of voters, requires secrecy is not the filling in of the ballot but rather the act of dropping of the ballot into the ballot-box, which appears at the centre of the observed space owing to the way the polling station is laid out.

Keywords: ethnography of elections, ritual, interpretative anthropology, symbolic space

The experience of self-government in Russia

Julia Andreeva. Power and Self-Government Issues in the “Anastasia” Religious Movement: Ideal Images of Family Communities and “Dreams Come True”

This paper deals with the power relations projects which are popular among “Anastasia” followers. They suggest a popular assembly (“veche”) as an ideal form of self-government in Family Communities where all decisions are passed by a solid vote. The popular assembly is associated with the distant and prosperous Golden Age, and would-be constructors of a new society try to restore it. Based on Vladimir Megre’s books “The Ringing Cedars of Russia”, Anastasians interpret the Family Communities and forms of control in their own

way. However the practical realization of these projects often does not tally with the information in these books.

Keywords: new religious movement, self-government, communitarianism

Alexandra Kasatkina. *Dacha Life and ‘Political War’. Concerning the Issue of Power in Contemporary Garden Cooperatives*

The article focuses on the attitudes of contemporary garden cooperatives members’ towards this institutional form and its mechanisms of control. By analyzing data collected in several garden cooperatives around St. Petersburg between 2007 and 2011, the author comes to the conclusion that many difficulties of administration within these communities are caused by certain peculiarities of the perception of garden cooperatives as, firstly, dacha space and, secondly, an institutional form inherited from the Soviet past. Nowadays garden cooperatives still retain certain features of state socialism, while gradually turning into groups of smallholders typical of the market economy. This process is echoed within garden cooperatives as an intensive search for new forms of collectivity instead of the Soviet ones, which are seen as outdated.

Keywords: self-administration, dacha, post-Soviet

Dmitry Mukhin. *The Practice of Holding Peasant Assemblies in the Vologda Province at the End of the 19th — Beginning of the 20th Century*

The article considers the ratio of legislation and the real practice of carrying out peasant assemblies in the Vologda province at the end of 19th — beginning of the 20th century, and the attitude of peasants to assemblies and sentencing. The author describes the influence of local conditions and traditions on aspects of functioning systems of assemblies such as the range of assembly types, limits of their competence and legitimacy conditions.

Keywords: peasantry, public management, peasant assemblies, Vologda province

Alexandra Piir. *(Self-)Government in Petrograd/Leningrad Dwelling Houses. 1. House Committees (1917–1921)*

During 1917–1937 there was self-government in urban tenement-houses in Russia: the organization of housekeeping, the distribution of resources and duties as well as contact on these occasions with authorities and different organizations were arranged by tenants themselves. For the Provisional Government and for the Soviet

Government later on, as well as for tenants, self-government became a facility for overcoming the social and economic crisis. Revolutionary upheavals and living conditions in the early Soviet epoch promoted the formation of house communities and the development of a communal way of life. Throughout these years, permanent groups of active tenants were formed in urban houses. By fulfilling numerous administrative and household functions they had gained experience of house management and rational interaction with district officials, as well as authority over the house community (or, at the least, the recognition their rights to administer and keep house).

Among other sources, archive materials of two house managements during 1917–1929 provided information on which the article is based. The work serves as a case study against a background of the urban situation – directives, models and practices of self-government in Petrograd/Leningrad dwelling houses. The first part of the article is devoted to the house committees (1917–1921).

Keywords: self-government, soviet everyday life, house community, house committees

Materials from Expeditions

Kirill Babaev. Witches and Sorcerers of West Africa in the 21st Century (Field Data from an Expedition to Ghana, Togo and Benin)

The paper presents selected field narrative data collected during an ethnographic expedition to West Africa in early 2012. The stories are supplemented by the author's comments and unify two topics: first, the interaction between Christian and traditional priests in modern African cities, and second, the life of women accused of witchcraft and displaced into specially created settlements, known as "witch camps".

Keywords: West African religions, wizards, witches, Voodoo

Museum

Sergey Dmitriev. V.V. Stasov and the Ethnographic Museums of St. Petersburg in the Late 19th — Early 20th Centuries

The Orient and Oriental ethnography were of great importance in the work of V. Stasov, the famous Russian cultural and scientific worker. The paper presents the material that characterizes him as a scholar of great erudition and profound authority on the traditional culture of both Russia and the peoples of the Orient. V. Stasov made a great contribution to Russian museology, particularly in the formation of funds for the ethnography of the Oriental peoples at St. Petersburg museums.

Keywords: V. Stasov, ethnographic museums of St. Petersburg and its collection on the ethnography of the Oriental peoples

Valeria Prischepova. Painter A. Pomerantsev's Ethnographic Album

The article deals with the publication of a pictorial collection from the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography of the Russian Academy of Sciences – an album of watercolours dated 1851 by the painter A. Pomerantsev. It emerged from source studies that the author of the drawings had been the art teacher of the Kazakh humanistic scientist Chokan Valikhanov. Comparing the drawings of Pomerantsev and his famous pupil's works of art it was possible to suppose that they had created them at the same time. Thus an additional source appeared, revealing a new page in the history of Kazakh culture and museum collections.

Keywords: A. Pomerantsev, Ch. Valikhanov, watercolour, drawings, Kazakhs, Kirghizes, museum, pictorial holding

Interview

Galina Komarova. “The Power of Anthropology”

The formation of new academic approaches and fields based on multi-disciplinary integration was a distinguishing characteristic of Soviet ethnography in the 1960s–1980s. Fundamental studies within multi-disciplinary fields provided a chance to improve knowledge concerning the development of various ethnic groups in the Soviet Union, despite ideological restrictions and pressures. Ethnic sociology occupies a special place among those approaches. The development of an original methodology, the organization of wide-scale complex studies, and the production of important books are among their significant achievements. The progressive impact of ethnic sociology on ethnography has been especially important. Founders of the Soviet ethnic sociology, Yuri Arutiunian, Leokadia Drobizheva and Mikhail Guboglo talk about history and the current state of ethnic sociology in Russia in their interview devoted to the 45th anniversary of the establishment of this scholarly field.

Keywords: multi-disciplinary studies, ethnography, sociology, ethnosociology, ethnicity

Conferences

Andrey Vozyanov. Impressions on the 1st International Conference “Universal Design”

In the Handbook for 1st International Conference “Universal Design. Public space: Inspire, Challenge, and Empower” (Lillestrøm, June

2012) universal design (UD) was defined as “a strategy which aims to make the design and composition of different environments, products, communication, information technology and services accessible and understandable to everyone, to the greatest extent in the most independent and natural manner possible, preferably without the need for adaptation or specialised solutions”. The review puts together some impressions on how participants developed this new concept and integrated it into present context of social care and research on designing urban space for various people with different levels of ability. The user perspective was considered in relation to various infrastructures of common use, including residential outdoor areas, public transport and information and communication technologies.

Keywords: universal design, disability studies, social care, corporeality, humanistic approach, technology studies

Irina Sedakova, Svetlana Sidneva. Rituals and Customs as Cultural Heritage through the Eyes of Researchers and Tradition Bearers

The review gives an insight into the papers and discussions during the Seventh International Conference of the SIEF Working Group on the Ritual Year “Researchers and Performers Co-Designing Heritage” (Ljubljana, 11th–13th November 2011).

Keywords: ritual, calendar rites, performer, cultural heritage

Irina Sedakova. “Migrations” in the Context of Ritual Studies. The Eighth International Conference of the SIEF Working Group on the Ritual Year

The review sheds light on the themes and problems analyzed during the International conference “The Ritual Year and Migrations” held in Plovdiv (Bulgaria), 26th–29th June 2012.

Keywords: migration, calendar rites, diaspora, identity, folk religion

Denis Ermolin. The 18th Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature and Folklore (University of Washington, Seattle, 29th–31st March 2012)

The review covers the papers delivered at the 18th Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature and Folklore. The event included 24 papers on different issues and problems of contemporary Balkan studies. The participants represented different scientific and teaching centres in Albania, Canada, F.Y.R. Macedonia, Germany, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, and the USA. The most

popular topics discussed were the following: national, cultural and ethnic identity; standardization of Balkan languages and patois; border studies; language contacts; analysis of modern Balkan literature. The papers were able to demonstrate a wide variety of common as well as unique traits in the Balkan languages and cultures, to unveil and explain the mechanism of their development, whether it be in coexisting contact or in isolation.

Keywords: Balkans, Balkan studies, linguistics, cultural anthropology, folklore, mythology, dialectology, literature, political anthropology

Denis Ermolin, Alexander Novik. The Round Table “Troitsa. Rusalii. Πεντηκοστή. Rrëshajët... Green and Its Motifs in the Balkan Spectrum”

The review dwells upon the reports presented at the Round Table “Troitsa”, which was organized by the centre for linguo-cultural studies BALCANICA at the Institute of Slavonic Studies, RAS. The event was aimed at considering and discussing the celebration of Pentecost in the Balkan cultural area. The papers presented focused on an analysis of Pentecost traditions, structural elements, festival events, folklore and their symbolic meanings. Special attention was paid to the symbolism of green in all areas (especially in language, culture and art). The papers were able to demonstrate a wide variety of common as well as unique traits in the Balkan local cultures, to unveil and explain the mechanism of their development, whether it be in coexisting contact or in isolation.

Keywords: Balkan studies, ethnolinguistics, cultural anthropology, folklore, mythology, Trinity, Pentecost, festival rites, traditional culture, language, art

Natalia Kazurova. “Samruk-Ethno-Fest – 2012”: The First International Film Festival of Ethnographic Movies of the CIS Countries (Art and Anthropology Review)

This paper provides an overview of The First International Film Festival of Ethnographic Movies of the CIS Countries “Samruk-Ethno-Fest”, which took place in Astana, Kazakhstan on 18th–22nd May 2012. The review provides short summaries of the ethnographic and anthropological films presented at the festival, and notes current trends in the production of documentary films within the genre of ethnography. It also includes a survey on the possibility of including feature films in the discourse of visual anthropology and it points out the means for a potential dialogue between anthropology and art.

Keywords: documentary and feature cinema, ethnographic films, film festival, visual anthropology

Personalia

Sergey Aleksandrovich Arutyunov is 80 (*Elena Revunenkov*, *Yuri Karpov*)

These two papers are dedicated to the 80-year jubilee of Sergey Alexandrovich Arutyunov. The authors depict the main scientific directions taken by the work of this outstanding scholar. A lot of attention is paid to his personal qualities – he is indeed rich in talents and scholarly insights in many realms.

Keywords: Arutyunov, ethnography, anthropology, archaeology, Japan, Arctic, Caucasus