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[www.iisoc.org/iis2009](http://www.iisoc.org/iis2009)

**Title of Session:** Modernity and the Futures of Capitalism in Eurasia: Challenges for Inquiry and Teaching.

**Name of Session Convener(s):** 1) Andrey V. Rezaev; 2) Göran Therborn,

**University/Organization incl. City:** 1) Faculty of Sociology, St. Petersburg State University, Russia

**University/Organization incl. City:** 2) Chair Sociology, Cambridge University, UK;

**Chair:** Andrey V. Rezaev

**I) Title of Selected Paper:** “The Future of Capitalisms in Eurasia: Institutional and Comparative Perspectives”

**Name/s of Author/s:** Andrey V. Rezaev

**University/Organization incl. City:** St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia

**Abstract:** The paper argues that a proper understanding of capitalism is lacking in current sociological production. In order to gain such an understanding, sociologists need not only the theoretical and methodological systems of coordinates but the thoroughly done empirical researches. That would be the only way on the road to recognize what a society we live in.

The Enlightenment upheld three fundamental principles (or ABC of Capitalism):

- a) the rational mind,
- b) the rights of the individual,
- c) the economic and political freedom.

The paper will go for an exploration of the realities in contemporary societies of Eurasia through the lens of institutional settings and comparative perspectives.

The first issue to be examined is the Eurasian societies' attitudes toward Enlightenment principles of respect for rationalization, individual rights and political-economic freedom.

The second is the socio-economic results of the transformation processes that can be measured and reflected upon through empirical data. What follows will be an attempt to look at the possible future scenarios for modernity and institutions of capitalism building in Eurasia.

**II) Title of Selected Paper:** “The Global Factory: Origins, Organizational Forms, Morality and Future”

**Name/s of Author/s:** Maxim Storchevoi

**University/Organization incl. City:** St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia

**Abstract:** The modern capitalism is increasingly governed by global factories - transnational supply chains. What are the fundamental factors of this phenomenon? What organizational forms does it take (outsourcing, OEM, off-shoring, near-shoring etc.)? What moral or economic problems does it rise (inequality, exploitation, dependency)? And what are possible future destinations of this large scale movement? These issues can be effectively analyzed with the help of economic theory, contract theory and modern ethics.

**III) Title of Selected Paper:** “Creating a Common European Higher Education Area: Modernization of Education and Society?”

**Name/s of Author/s:** Jonas Stier

**University/Organization incl. City:** HST, Mälardalens högskola

**Abstract:** Globalisation, the internationalisation of academia as a whole, and the Bologna-process has recently placed European higher education in a state of change. By critically reading the discourse, three intrinsic internationalisation ideologies (idealism, instrumentalism and educationalism) in higher education have been identified. By drawing from the objectives and ideals of these ideologies, and using concrete examples, this article argues for a shift in focus and also identifies desirable outcomes of internationalised education – where special attention is paid to different aspects of intercultural competence. It is concluded that a somewhat new approach to internationalised education will further enrich higher education, contribute to students’ self-development and enable them to acquire adequate intercultural competencies for the future.

**IV) Title of Selected Paper:** “Gender issues in Kyrgyzstan in the light of Modernity Project”

**Name/s of Author/s:** Ibraeva Gulnara

**University/Organization incl. City:** Kyrgyzstan, American University in Central Asia, Bishkek

**Abstract:** The study is based on a detailed theoretical scrutiny of gender problem in contemporary sociology. The author tries to explore into realities of a current Kyrgyz society through observing the role and status of women. The idea of Modernity Project will be discussed with regards to a practice of women's involvement into social and political processes of Kyrgyzstan.

**V) Title of Selected Paper:** “Current Migration Flows in Russia and the Idea of Modernity”

**Name/s of Author/s:** Pavel Lisitsyn

**University/Organization incl. City:** St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg

**Abstract:** The paper to be presented at the Special Session of the 39 IIS Congress deals with the empirical observations and theoretical generalization of the migration flows in contemporary Russian Federation. The author will study models and governmental policies for social inclusion of transnational migrants into daily life of big industrial cities in Russia. Specific data will be taken from a longitudinal comparative research of labor migrants from Vietnam and Uzbekistan in St. Petersburg.

**VI) Title of Selected Paper:** “Public Relations as a Factor of the Small Cities Socio-Economic Development: Case of Volga Region”

**Name/s of Author/s:** Andrei Sivokon

**University/Organization incl. City:** St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg

**Abstract:** The main idea of this study is to look at the contemporary scene of socio-economic development of the small cities in Russian Federation. The specific focus will be to observe the potentials and effects of public relations as a factor for fostering social and political processes in small cities of Volga Region. It will be observed the politics and real practice of public relations organization operating in twelve small cities of the Volga Region in Russia. The social network theory and McDonaldization of society theory will be taken as fundamental theoretical and methodological foundations for the study.