



SWEDISH
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for ADVANCED STUDY

REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Session: Ecosociology and Social Ecology after Soviet Hegemony in Post-Soviet Area

Session Convener(s): Irina A. Sosunova, International Independent University of Environmental and Political Sciences, Moscow; Larissa G. Titarenko, Belarusian State University, Minsk

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Comments: -

I) *Ecological Ethics of Social-demographic Groups in Post-Soviet Area*

Irina A. Sosunova, International Independent University of Environmental and Political Sciences, Moscow

Larissa G. Titarenko, Belarusian State University, Minsk

II) *Environment for Disabled People: Example of Russia and Armenia*

Irina V. Mkrtumova, International Independent University of Environmental and Political Sciences, Moscow

III) *Competency Approach in Formation of Social-professional Groups of Ecologists in Russia and Ukraine: Comparative Research*

Olga N. Mamonova, Moscow Institute of Socio-Cultural Programs

Svetlana P. Barmatova, International Solomon University, Kiev

IV) *Environment and Sustainable Development: Critical Issues for Future Sociology*

Asghar Mirfardi, Yasouj University

ABSTRACTS

Session description

The session will highlight the brand new scientific direction – social ecology as the sphere of sociological knowledge, which study the issues of development and functioning of social communities, social structures and institutes in conditions of remarkable influence to its vital functions by ecological factors of anthropogenic character, which define the life quality. The most important issues in the study are social interests, dominants, images and simulacra. The aims of the discussion will be focused on the creation of theoretical foundations of analysis of socio-ecological dominants of integrative and adaptive processes in European part after Soviet hegemony, the discussion of methodic of comparative sociological research.

The main scientific and practical results consider being relevant will be presented by international sociologists:

- The categorical apparatus for description of socio-ecological phenomena in the context of transforming societies in frameworks of comparative research;
- The conceptualization of development of integrative and adaptive processes in European part of Post-Soviet area (CIS countries) which are influenced by socio-ecological dominants in the context of globalization;
- The conceptualization of influencing processes of specifics of nature resources usage to social-ecological situation on different levels;
- The specification of the existed definitions, introduction of new concepts and categories and the operationalisation of those characterizing interference of socio-ecological phenomena and processes of transformation and globalization;
- The conceptualization of interference of socio-ecological phenomena and integrative and adaptive processes;
- The conceptualization of influence of globalization process to social-ecological situation;
- The conception of reflection of ecological environment to social behavior and orientations of different social-demographic groups of population as well as conception of socio-ecological monitoring and conceptual scheme of origin and development of social-ecological tension (conflict);
- The socio-ecological risks after natural and technogenic catastrophes.

Papers

1) *Ecological Ethics of Social-demographic Groups in Post-Soviet Area*

Irina A. Sosunova, International Independent University of Environmental and Political Sciences, Moscow

Larissa G. Titarenko, Belarusian State University, Minsk

During the ecological crisis and change of paradigm of society and nature relations the relevant aspects become very important; we are talking about the social consciousness and ecological ethics. The present study is examined the phenomenon of ecological ethics and ecological morality in contemporary Russia, and Belarus on its way from totalitarian society to democracy.

The main hypothesis of research is that in Post-Soviet countries the ecological ethics and morality are still latent and only a part of bigger system of values. In 2010 the in-depth formal interviews were used, more than 240 experts participated.

Ecological ethics is developed in the conditions of social-ecological tension or conflict and can be presented by the relation to environment. Ecological ethics and morality are the historical phenomenon; they evolve and exist as developing and interchanging moral systems which consist of:

1. Moral norms and estimations – views about what is good and what is bad, about dignity, conscience, which allows people to make suggestions about others and to make choice regarding to environment.
2. Behavior as situational realization of ecological morality in outward activity of people which can lead into anthropogenic pressure to environment.
3. Moral characteristics of person.
4. Moral feelings, emotions, experiences as perception of moral part of life which differs from rational reaction.

According to the economic science while economics sounds during the globalization process, the ecological moral often keeps silent. In other words modern ecological ethics and morality are degraded, its regulating influence is evident in emergency situations only. Furthermore, it is the author's opinion that prominent social orders and levels (including socially-professional groups) have their own specific “ecological moralities”. It is essential during the globalization process to achieve the “awakening” of cryptic ecological morality peculiar to the modern society. From this point of view the social reality should be fully brought into the line with the standards of ecological morality.

II) *Environment for Disabled People: Example of Russia and Armenia*

Irina V. Mkrtumova, International Independent University of Environmental and Political Sciences, Moscow

The analysis of announced problem was founded on the database of several scaled sociological researches of environment for disabled people – both in Russia and Armenia. These researches were carried out in 2006-2008 years. The results of researches are submitted for discussion to academic community. For the analysis of phenomenon of environment for disabled people as well as getting the professional education for them is very important to take into account the conception of “the role of diseased” by T. Parsons.

The right for special demands and privileges of the patient is acknowledged. In social plan “role of diseased” comes to four main positions:

- 1) abstention from normal social activity;
- 2) patient is considered to be unable “to get a grip on himself”;
- 3) they wait from patient to treat his statement as not desirable for himself and not giving special advantages;
- 4) cooperation with doctor in treatment is needed.

Parson’s “role of diseased” is characterizing modern archetype of health, to which the man would come with his energies, his free personal action. On this way he must destroy behavior stereotypes imposed on him and must build his own model of health.

Author’s research of positive deviation was done in 2006-2008 years after the example of professional rehabilitation of disabled people in getting by them high professional education in distance learning form in MNEPU was carried out on the basis of two large projects. Within the scope of mutual project of the Ministry of Social Protection of

population of Moscow Region and MNEPU, which has started in 2005, the author has created regional wide area network of distance learning of invalids on the basis of Internet-classes in Rehabilitation centers of Moscow Region. In the network of this project there study 284 invalid students, in the network of another shared project with Department of Family and Youth politics of Government of Moscow city and MNEPU there study 75 young invalids of Moscow city in MNEPU. In the stuff of investigation of positive deviation in example of including of invalids into the process of getting them high professional education is clearly seen output of invalid-students from traditional social role of sick, changing of their behavioral repertoire to designing by them the social role of healthy man.

III) *Competency Approach in Formation of Social-professional Groups of Ecologists in Russia and Ukraine: Comparative Research*

Olga N. Mamonova, Moscow Institute of Socio-Cultural Programs

Svetlana P. Barmatova, International Solomon University, Kiev

The present study is devoted to the phenomenon of institutionalization of new social-professional group in contemporary Russia and Ukraine. The competency approach is used. The findings of the expert survey present the social attitudes and system of values of these professionals and the views of the lay public about their role in the society. The data selected in the article is the result of comparative sociological research, conducted in Post-Soviet area since 2006 till the present under the sponsorship of Russian Foundation for Basic Research. The main hypothesis of research is that in contemporary Russia and Ukraine the new social-professional group is institutionalised, which features are: adequate axiological and emotional relation to society and nature, the availability of specific knowledge, capacities to creative action and thinking, which help them to analyze the real socio-ecological problems and to make the balanced optimal decisions in the sphere of nature protection. The institutionalization of the ecologists is influenced by its special characteristics: firstly, the special role of ecological ethics and morality in activity of the professional and secondly, the importance of professional activity of ecologists in conditions of local ecological crisis which leads to development of professional self-identity and appearing of professional pathos. We consider that the new profession of ecologists differs a lot from the traditional specialists of ecology as a part of biology and “improvising” specialists of other specialties, who is occupied by socio-ecological problems of necessity because of the absence of true professionals. Nowadays the “ecologist” is characterized by unique specific – its sphere of activity for mass consciousness is quite uncertain and vague, even inside of scientific community there is the free interpretation of this definition. The modern practice gives the evidence that the disadvantage of professional ecologists leads to social, economic, political and other expenses which are predominant to the costs for their training and education.

IV) *Environment and Sustainable Development: Critical Issues for Future Sociology*

Asghar Mirfardi, Yasouj University

Sociology as the science of social life has various dimensions. These dimensions are as great as human beings' dimensions. This paper illustrates the importance of environment and sustainable development as critical issues for future sociology. This study is done via documental method and existing resource (including archive and official reports about environmental condition in the world). Sustainable development is one of the most popular debates of sociology and development policies. This new scientific area is corresponding with environmental dimension of development. In other word, this area is looking for permanent and inclusive development by considering the necessity of applying the natural and environmental protection programs in developmental programs. This study, indicate that intensive changes in population rates, transforming the traditional modes of production to modern ones, excessive urbanization, some new-coming natural disasters, such as eastern tsunami, increasing pollutants,

especially industrial pollutants have been yield some deep concerns for the future of human beings, so that we can entitled this era as Risk and Uncertainty Era(RUE). It can be concluded that this RUE is the result of lack of comprehensiveness and sustainable view in developmental policies. All of these conditions, demand new contexts in social sciences; by which the new and forthcoming challenges for human life will be considered. Considering the needs and challenges of future generations of human beings is a basic theme for sociology. Sustainable development, which concentrates on the environment in the economic and developmental policies, can be the basic field for future sociologists and sociology. This new field will lead sociology to participate in the interdisciplinary researches and works which aim to do comprehensive studies on sustainable development and to decreasing the RUE.