

Center for Social Policy Studies

Newsletter

Issue 6 | February 2021



Special materials:

Results of two-year study “Dividing Elements of Culture As a Factor of Hidden Conflict Potential in the Interaction of Non-Ethnic Migrants and Russians”

Comparative research of the government systems of Russia and China

Research paper in «Sustainability» on volunteer participation in managing public affairs

The Newsletter is published 4 times a year by the **Center for Social Policy Studies** at the School of Public Administration and Entrepreneurship of the Graduate School of Economics and Management of the Ural Federal University named after the first President of Russia B. N. Yeltsin. **The mission of the Center is to create advanced scientific and applied research in the field of social policy and facilitate international scientific cooperation.**

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We are glad to present you the results of two years study “Dividing Elements of Culture As a Factor of Hidden Conflict Potential in the Interaction of Non-Ethnic Migrants and Russians”

Theoretical and methodological basis of the study

The study aims at identifying cultural elements that separate non-ethnic migrants and representatives of the local community, in particular migrants from Central Asian countries and Russians. The study of the elements of cultural incompatibility as a factor of increasing conflict potential in the sphere of interaction between migrants and members of the host community is designed to form an understanding of how to minimize the problems of integration.

Theoretical analysis and collection of empirical information on the issue under research were carried out by using combination of sociological, cultural, psychological approaches and an anthropological concept. The authors implemented the methodology of value, conflict, communication and comparative analysis of empirical information. The collection and analysis of information was based, if speaking more specifically, on the theories and approaches of the following authors: the theory of cultural universals by G. Murdoch, the approach of C. Kluckhohn it consists in adding values and ways of thinking to the list of cultural universals, the theory of acculturation by J.W. Berry, the theory of terminal and instrumental values by M. Rokeach, the theory of dispositional regulation of social behavior by V. A. Yadov, the implicit contract theory (approach by T. J. Watson), the social exchange theory by P. Blau, the theory of phases of conflict development by R. Darendorf, the approach of B. Blagojevic to the identification of stages of ethnic conflict, perceptual analysis of relations by G. M. Andreeva.

The novelty and originality of the methods and approaches used

- ✓ The unifying and dividing elements of culture in the interactions of Russians and non-ethnic migrants from Central Asian countries as the basis of hidden conflict potential were identified.
- ✓ In the study of the cultural aspect of the interactions between migrants and the local community, the identification of positive and negative attitudes as indicators of rapproaching and dividing elements of culture was used.
- ✓ Cultural elements were identified by measuring the personal qualities and behavior of migrants and Russians, which were considered by the opposite side as attractive or repulsive.

***Project duration –
2 years (2019-2021)***

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***Acknowledgments
– The research was
carried out with the
financial support of
the Russian
Foundation for
Basic Research***

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***For two years, the
members of the
research team have
published and
prepared for
publication 23
scientific articles,
of which 5 were
published in WoS (4
more articles are
expected to be
published in WoS),
participated in 16
scientific and
practical
conferences with
reports on the
subject of the
research project***

- ✓ The cultural attitudes of groups of migrant from Central Asia and the local population were correlated with their conflict potential.
- ✓ The influence of the sphere of social interaction on latent conflict in the relations between migrants and the local community was revealed.
- ✓ A differentiating approach to the analysis of conflicts and conflict potential on the basis of dividing elements of culture was implemented: in the host community and the community of migrants, subgroups are identified whose orientations towards integration with each other differ significantly.
- ✓ The research used similar indicators of latent conflict in the study of the local population and migrants. This allowed authors to identify the common and special features of these two groups as parties to social interaction.
- ✓ In order to identify the cultural basis of conflict interactions between migrants and the local population, the authors developed common blocks of indicators for these groups: the attitude block, the value-orientation block, and the communication block.

Methods of collecting and analyzing information

1. The survey method. A questionnaire survey of Yekaterinburg residents (N 476), a survey of migrants using the standardized interview method (N 200), an in-depth interview with Yekaterinburg residents (N 33), and an in-depth interview with experts in the field of interaction with migrants (N 22) were conducted.

2. Content analysis of text statements. The authors analyzed the statements of the discussion participants from all regions of Russia on their attitude towards migrants, which was initiated by the authors of the project based on the results of the study (group “Science in the Urals” in the online aggregator “Yandex.Zen”, 11 000 views, 675 comments). Units of context – statements of specific participants in the discussion; unit of account – mention of subcategories in a specific statement of the participants in the discussion.

Additionally, the analysis of Internet comments to the news article under the heading “Migrants rioted in Koltsovo: Special Forces are on duty at the building of the special reception center for foreigners” (24.04.2020) on the information portal of Yekaterinburg “E1.ru”, affiliated with the City Administration, was carried out. The whole set of comments was analyzed as a single text. The content analysis of comments was carried out using the Jaccard coefficient, clustering and calculating the quantitative frequency of words.

3. Test of aggressiveness by L. Potchebut (indicators of verbal aggression). The test was used for the assessment of interactions of a conflict nature and personal qualities of the conflict nature of the local population and migrants.

Results of the study

- ✓ From the authors' point of view, the formation of dividing elements of culture in the local population affects all three main causes of communicative conflicts with migrants and is associated with the personal characteristics of communicants, such as readiness for open confrontation with migrants (based on aggressiveness in some men) or fear of sexual harassment (based on anxiety in some women); with social relations: the assignment of migrants to a specific place in the social hierarchy, due to the performance of many of them as service personnel; with organizational relations: lack of understanding of the state policy in the field of migration and disagreement with it.
- ✓ The analysis of empirical data showed that the most common are the interactions of migrants with the local population in the field of professional relations, followed by neighborly and friendly relations. The interaction of the local population with migrants is most common in the service sector and only then – in professional and neighborhood relations. Concerning migrants and the local population, the researchers identified the socio-demographic characteristics of those who communicate in certain areas. Among those who interact in medical institutions there are more women, in the field of education and friendly relations there are more young people. It was revealed that in social interactions of a conflict nature, typical conflicts appear primarily in the sphere of everyday relationships and to a lesser extent – in the sphere of labor.

« Hidden conflicts can manifest themselves in two forms:

- conflicts related to the rejection of the norms of social interaction of migrants (or local population) in specific areas;**
- conflicts related to the rejection of specific behaviors, personal qualities of migrants (or local population)**





- ✓ Conflicts between migrants and locals are primarily related to the rejection of the norms of relations in the family. Conflicts between migrants and local populations are affected by cultural factors, the nature of which may vary within the two categories mentioned above. The rejection of the cultural habits of the local population by migrants and migrants – by the local population is an indicator of value conflicts. These conflicts can either go into an open form, or remain at a latent level. The most typical conflicts of this kind are those that relate to the sphere of gender and age relations. Both the local population and migrants do not accept each other's cultural habits in the sphere of relations between men and women in 34-39% of cases. In Yekaterinburg, this area ranks first in terms of unacceptability. Among migrants, the first place is occupied by the norms of relations between younger and older people.
- ✓ As the result of the study the authors have obtained an empirical justification for the hypothesis that the presence of dividing elements of culture when there are reasons for conflict can contribute to the fact that the interaction between migrants and the host community can turn into a conflict. Conflicts of a cultural nature are latent and are often not recognized or their awareness is suppressed by the bearers themselves in the context of social and legislative requirements for the manifestation of a tolerant attitude towards other ethnic groups.
- ✓ It worth special mentioning that the average aggressiveness score (according to the verbal scale by L. Potchebut) of the local population and migrants is approximately the same (1.775 and 1.733). That indicator shows a low degree of aggressiveness and a sufficient degree of adaptation of both migrants and local residents. There is no psychological basis for the emergence of interethnic conflicts. The attitude of locals to visitors is formed depending on the cultural and evaluative characteristics of both sides. Both latent and open tensions in the relations of Russians with non-ethnic migrants are culturally determined.
- ✓ The factors that strengthen the rejection of the cultural habits of the host party or visitors were identified: in addition to socio-demographic characteristics, these are primarily communicative factors. Correlation analysis of the results of the survey of migrants showed that conflict with the local population is primarily affected by a lack of understanding of how to behave in a particular situation while in Yekaterinburg. This indicates the presence of a failure in communication. The presence of a communication failure is also indicated by the analysis of an expert survey of employers. It was detected not only that employers indicate that the employee's behavior deviates from labor standards, but also that the employer does not understand the reasons for these deviations.
- ✓ Communication barriers are obstacles to obtaining information, as well as for comfortable communication in a new social environment. National and cultural barriers are values and attitudes that hinder the process of integration of migrants into Russian society. We can say that the internal obstacle to the formation of the desire to stay in Russia among highly educated migrants is a developed orientation towards the autonomy of the national culture, and the

external one is an insufficiently favorable communication environment. Based on this, the authors conclude that an increase in the level of education of potential and real migrants can have a positive impact on integration only in combination with a favorable communication environment.

« ***Summing up, we can say that the attitude of Russians towards non-ethnic migrants is of a stable negative-indifferent nature, which can be a latent basis for conflicts. Russians, on the one hand, problematize the sphere of everyday interpersonal contacts with non-ethnic migrants, avoiding constant interaction with them. On the other hand, Russian residents do not reject the possibility of contacts with newcomers due to the fact that migrants are objectively integrated both in the sphere of professional relations and in interaction at the domestic level. Migrants are significantly differentiated on a number of grounds and, above all, on their orientation towards obtaining Russian citizenship, which significantly determines their motivation to integrate with the host community. The presence of dividing elements of culture when there are reasons for communication conflicts can contribute to the fact that the interaction between migrants and the host community can turn into a conflict.*** »

You will be able to find more detailed results of the study by the [link](#)



International collaboration & research

The journal “Sustainability” (SCOPUS) published a joint research paper by CSPS scientists and a researcher from Romania on volunteer participation in managing public affairs



Mariana Cernicova-Buca



Maria Pevnaya



Anna Drozdova

CSPS researchers Maria Pevnaya and Anna Drozdova together with a researcher from Romania Mariana Cernicova-Buca wrote a research paper on “Making room for volunteer participation in managing public affairs: A Russian experience”. The paper was published in Issue 12 (24) of the journal “Sustainability” (Switzerland), indexed in the SCOPUS database, in December 2020.

According to the authors of the research paper, in 2018, the United Nations Volunteers Organization recognized that the governmental support for volunteering is a superior public management practice, offering the much-needed fuel for the integration of volunteering in politics, law-making, and social planning at the government level. The article analyzes the current situation of governmental support for volunteering at federal, regional, and local levels of public administration in the Russian Federation as a precondition for making coproduction of public services possible. The analysis is based on the scrutiny of documents, a questionnaire survey of Russian volunteers, and an expert poll of public servants and nonprofit organizations (NPO) leaders. The analysis of the state policy of support for volunteering is carried out with respect to the following parameters: the awareness and evaluation of national measures of the governmental support for volunteering, as well as the evaluation of informational, financial, consulting, and organizational measures to support volunteer organizations by regional and municipal civil servants. In a country such as the Russian Federation, where volunteering is a relatively young social phenomenon, public administration needs not only to provide support, but also to administer transformation processes toward sustainable development, relying on the partnership and resources volunteers bring for effectively managing public life.

The full text of the paper can be found by the [link](#)

CSPS scientists together with colleagues from China are developing a new method for comparing the systems of government



A team of CSPS researchers led by Nina Simanyuk, PhD in Law, together with colleagues from China are implementing a project to develop a new methodology for comparing the systems of government of Russia and China. The study got the support of the Presidential Grant Fund of the Russian Federation for a period of two years.

The main fundamental problem that the project aims to solve is the lack of a methodology for comparative legal studies of the systems of government of various countries, which would allow, in particular, comparing Russia and China.

“Through the formation of a new methodology, we come to the formulation of new forms of government. This is a fairly new idea in legal science, since it strictly distinguishes federal and unitary government systems. In my opinion, Russia and China cannot be definitely classified as one of these types” – said Nina Simanyuk, head of the project, Associate Professor of the Department of Theory, Methodology and Legal Support of State and Municipal Administration.

According to the scientist, despite the fact that according to the constitution, China is a unitary state, and Russia is a federal state, China has a large number of similarities with Russia, which is not a classical federation. An in-depth study shows that in China there are legal relations enshrined in regulatory acts that correspond to a purely federal structure. Analogically, in Russia, there are features inherent in Unitarianism.

There are few available materials on this topic, since China is rather closed country. Most of such materials are only available in Chinese. For this reason, the project team carries out research in collaboration with a Chinese co-executor, who will be able to present ideas from Chinese materials in English.

Based on the results of the study, it is planned to expand the typology of state government systems, develop and justify scenarios for borrowing positive Chinese experience in order to improve the system of state government in Russia. A new methodology for conducting a comparative legal study of the forms or systems of government will also be developed, which can be extrapolated to other countries.

The interim results of the study can be found in future issues of the Newsletter.

Researchers from CSPS published a study on entrepreneurial education in collaboration with a colleague from the University of Peloponnese (Greece)



CSPS scientists Sergey Polbitsyn, Alexey Klyuev, Anna Bagirova and Alexander Yashin wrote the Chapter “Entrepreneurial education in Russian universities: Achievements, reflections and milestones” as part of the collective monograph “Universities and Entrepreneurship: Meeting the Educational and Social Challenges. Vol: 11”. The paper was created in collaboration with Alexander Kakouris, a Professor at the University of Peloponnese. The planned date of publication of the monograph is 15 February 2021. The publisher will be publishing house “Emerald” (UK).

The Chapter wrote by Russian scientists and Mr. Kokuris presents the results of three years of research of the processes of development of entrepreneurial education in Russian universities.

This novel volume as a whole attempts to answer the following timely questions:

1. What are intrinsic demands for entrepreneurship rooted to universities in the 21st century?
2. What are conducive environments for entrepreneurial learning in both academic and non-academic settings?
3. Do these attempts demonstrate differential impact across students from different disciplines, and more generally amongst the youth population?

This eleventh volume of Contemporary Issues in Entrepreneurship Research is a valuable contribution to the intersection of research into entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial universities. In acknowledging the varied and somewhat piecemeal approach taken to address these issues to date, this edited volume provides a more systematic and integrated perspective with relevance for students of entrepreneurship as well as for educators and policymakers.

The complete information on the new Volume can be found at the website of “Emerald” publishing house by the [link](#)

Science in action: the Center's practical input to social policy



CSPS representatives and students facilitate the social adaptation of juvenile convicts: continuation of the story

The project "Vector doveriya" ("Vector of Trust"), implemented by the Public Chamber of the Sverdlovsk Region together with the Head Department of the Federal Penitentiary Service for the Sverdlovsk Region and the School of Public Administration and Entrepreneurship of the Ural Federal University, which we introduced you to in the latest issue, is gaining momentum. Over the past month, with the active participation of students and teachers of the School of Public Administration and Entrepreneurship of GSEM UrFU, various projects to implement on the Kirovgrad colony for minors were developed and launched.

On November 20, 2020, World Children's Day, the first online event within the project was held. The head of the educational program "Legal Support of National Security" Evgenia Kuznetsova told the inmates of the Kirovgrad colony about the history of the World Children's Day, as well as the mechanisms for protecting children's rights at the national and international level. The students of the program told the minors from the colony about their rights in the field of education, as well as about the features of employment of convicted citizens.

On December 5, 2020, at the next meeting with the colony inmates the career guidance project was implemented: Evgenia Kuznetsova together with the students told residents of the colony about the different types of professions, outdated professions and the professions of the future, and held a career guidance test.

On December 12, 2020, the Day of the Constitution of Russia, the participants of the project "Vector of Trust" held an interactive game for the inmates of the colony, dedicated to the history and content of Russian Constitution.





CSPS representatives help the authorities develop new mechanisms to support projects of socially oriented NGOs in municipalities

This work will be carried out taking into account the data of the study conducted by scientists of the SPAE GSEM UrFU under the guidance of Doctor of Sociological Sciences Maria Pevnaya, Head of the Department of Sociology and Technology of the State and Municipal Administration.

The study provides an overview of the current state of the non-profit sector in the Sverdlovsk region; data on projects supported by the Presidential Grants Fund, students being involved in it, fields and territories of the projects implementation; and demonstrates the results of a comparative analysis with other regions. It is important to note that the analysis of applications to the Presidential Grant Fund is only one of several aspects of the study. The authors also analyzed information openness, municipal support programs, and much more.

The above-mentioned study was initiated by the Department of Internal Policy of the Sverdlovsk Region in order to develop optimal solutions and effective options for implementing the main directions of internal state policy in the field of support for socially oriented non-profit organizations in the Sverdlovsk region on the basis of the obtained data.

The results of the study of the activity of regional socially oriented NGOs were presented on December 14, 2020 at the seminar organized by the Department of Internal Policy of the Sverdlovsk Region “Experience in implementing projects of socially oriented non-profit organizations in the Sverdlovsk Region that received support from the Presidential Grants Fund in 2019 and in 2020”.

At the moment, the Seminar is conducted in each administrative district, the program is formed in such a way that participants can not only analyze the current situation, but also get familiar with successful projects, discuss possible solutions and effective options for implementing the main directions of internal state policy in the field of support for socially oriented non-profit organizations in the Sverdlovsk region.



News & Events

Anna Bagirova presented a report on the demographic situation and demographic behavior of the population of the Sverdlovsk region at the All-Russian Demographic Forum



On December 4-5, 2020, the II All-Russian Demographic Forum with international participation was held in the building of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. It was organized by the new Institute for demographic research and the Institute of social-political researches of Federal sociological scientific-research center of Russian Academy of Science supported by the Russian Academy of Sciences and the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

The Forum platform brought together scientists, politicians and representatives of civil society to discuss the problems of implementing the national project “Demography”, as well as to develop a strategy for national demographic policy and family support policy.

At the plenary session of the Forum, Anna Bagirova, Deputy Director for Science and Innovation at GSEM UrFU, presented a report on the demographic situation and demographic behavior of the population of the Sverdlovsk region. Her report was based on official statistics for the Sverdlovsk region and information collected during the regional stage of the All-Russian sociological study “Demographic Well-being of the Population”, conducted by employees and undergraduates of the School of Public Administration and Entrepreneurship of GSEM UrFU in January-March 2020 with the support of the Ministry of Social Policy of the Sverdlovsk Region.

Prof. Bagirova presented the results of a study of the dynamics of the demographic situation in the Sverdlovsk region over the past 10 years, which revealed the key demographic problems of the region:

- ✓ the steady excess of the number of deaths over the number of births, the increase in the natural decline of the population;
- ✓ reduction of the share of women of reproductive age in the population – both in the whole region, and separately in urban and rural areas;
- ✓ negative dynamics of the total fertility rate;
- ✓ the increase in the number of divorces and the decline in the number of marriages;
- ✓ postponing first births;
- ✓ a sharp change in the structure of the migration flow to the region;
- ✓ reduction of the share of the rural population in the total population of the Sverdlovsk region.

The results of a sociological study of the demographic well-being of the population demonstrated the specifics of the perception of a number of problems by residents of the Urals. For example, the Ural

woman becomes a mother a little later than the Russians in general, while the Uralians have slightly higher reproductive attitudes. The assessment by the residents of the Sverdlovsk region of their health status is slightly lower than that of the Russians as a whole, and their migration behavior can rather be assessed as passive.

The cooperation agreement between GSEM UrFU and the Research University Higher School of Economics – Saint Petersburg has been extended for three years



The parties plan to continue cooperation in the implementation of applied research projects in the field of strategic planning of socio-economic development of regions, cities and other administrative-territorial units, as well as industries and sectors of the economy. The agreement also provides cooperation in the implementation of research projects in the field of scientific and technological development, big data, and

business analytics.

« ***Three years ago, we signed the first agreement on the creation of a consortium of the Higher School of Economics – St. Petersburg and GSEM UrFU, and we consider it effective: we have implemented a number of projects not only in our “home” regions, but also throughout Russia. This synergy allowed us to achieve success in the field of personnel development and the formation of new competencies in the applied research, – commented Dmitry Tolmachev, Director of GSEM UrFU.*** »

***Our researchers are looking forward cooperation
with you in the following fields:***

Higher education research, universities as drivers of social and economic development of territories:

Alexey Kluev (a.k.kluev@urfu.ru), assoc.prof., PhD in philosophy, head of SPAE UrFU; Alexander Yashin (a.a.yashin@urfu.ru), assoc.prof., PhD in economics; Sergey Polbitsin (s.n.polbitsyn@urfu.ru), prof., dr. of economics; Ludmila Bannikova (l.n.bannikova@urfu.ru), assoc.prof., dr. of social sciences; Ludmila Boronina (l.n.boronina@urfu.ru), assoc.prof., leading specialist in analytical work.

Demographic problems:

Fertility, parenting, reproduction of human capital: Anna Bagirova (a.p.bagirova@urfu.ru), prof., dr. of economics; Angelica Voroshilova (A.I.Voroshilova@urfu.ru), PhD in social sciences.

Large family problems: Svetlana Kostina (s.n.kostina@urfu.ru), assoc.prof., PhD in social sciences.

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Agriculture: Sergey Polbitsin (s.n.polbitsyn@urfu.ru), prof., dr. of economics.

Reforming in the field of state and municipal administration in Russia:

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Youth research:

Civic engagement and innovation potential: Yana Didkovskaya (i.v.didkovskaia@urfu.ru), prof., dr. of social sciences.

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Well-being of students, problems of modern youth: Yuriy Vishnivsky (j.r.vishnevsky@urfu.ru), prof., dr. of philosophy; Alina Kulminskaya (a.v.kulminskaia@urfu.ru), assoc.prof., PhD in social sciences.

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Evgenia Kuznetsova (ev.kuznetsova@urfu.ru), assoc.prof., PhD in legal sciences; Nina Symaniuk (n.v.symaniuk@urfu.ru), assoc.prof., PhD in legal sciences.



Please if you have any questions contact with Anna Bagirova

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