

LCSR ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 2012

Summaries of guest lectures

It is traditional for the LCSR to invite famous social scientists to schools, workshops and conferences of the Lab for giving lectures on substantive topics of contemporary social research.

By tradition, eight plenary lectures were scheduled in the program of the LCSR Summer School 2012. The reporters were [Ronald Inglehart](#), [Christian Welzel](#), [Eduard Ponarin](#), [Joshua Dubrow](#), [Jon Miller](#), [Roberto Foa](#) and [Anna Nemirovskaya](#), Anna Andreenkova, [Igor Zadorin](#) and [Viktor Moisov](#).

A group of research assistants of the Lab summarized those lectures and now we are publishing a collection of brief reviews of them at our website for all interested in.

1. Ronald Inglehart. *Evolutionary Modernization and Cultural Change*

[Ronald Inglehart](#) is an established American political scientist, President of [World Value Survey Association](#), [Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science](#) 2011 winner. Now he is Amy and Alan Lowenstein Professor in Democracy, Democratization and Human Rights at the University of Michigan and Professor at the Higher School of Economics, and also the Scientific Supervisor of the LCSR.

At the second Plenary Session of the 2nd International Annual Research Conference of the LCSR, Professor Ronald Inglehart presented his report on the link between evolutionary modernization and cultural change.

Arguably, modernization theory traces its origins to the economic determinism of Karl Marx. Although some of its aspects - such as inevitable revolution of the proletariat or the need for the abolition of private property - have been widely criticized since, and abandoned, Marx's main thesis - that economic development transforms a society's culture, politics, and social norms in coherent and roughly predictable ways - is indisputable.

The key idea behind evolutionary modernization is that economic development brings with it increased economic and physical security, and a reduced vulnerability to disease. This leads to

enhanced cultural openness, which makes a society more democratic, and thus increased existential security results in changing values.

Societies where survival itself is insecure because people have to cope with starvation and various diseases are characterized by xenophobia and cultural stagnation. When survival is under threat, democratic values are unlikely to gain acceptance. On the contrary, in societies where survival is guaranteed and taken for granted, such values as tolerance, gender equality, freedom of choice and self-expression can become widespread.

A number of studies based on data from the World Values Survey, which covers almost 90% of world population, demonstrate that a society's prevailing values have a strong correlation with its level of economic development. In developing societies in which individuals have no need to fight famine and epidemics, survival values are replaced by democratic ones. Moreover, these societies provide widespread opportunities for education and access to information. This also fosters emancipative values based on self-expression. As a result, post-materialist values become a priority and this creates a cultural basis for the flourishing of new democratic institutions, while boosting the level of tolerance in a society.

However, it is crucial to keep in mind that although economic development plays the key role in cultural change, this process greatly depends on cultural, religious, and the historical heritage of the society.

by Victoria Remezko

2. Christian Welzel. *Human Empowerment and the Sustainability Challenge*

Christian Welzel is a leading professor of LCSR. He is also the Vice President of the World Values Survey Association in Stockholm, Sweden, and the Chair for Political Culture Research at the Leuphana University in Germany, as well as Adjunct Professor at Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany

Christian Welzel presented the twelfth chapter of his new book *Freedom Rising: Human Empowerment and the Quest for Emancipation*. The chapter focuses on the effect of human empowerment on ecological sustainability.

Human empowerment enables people to exercise freedom on three levels. Technological advancement provides material and intellectual resources. The institutional component refers to democratic achievements and the development of citizen rights. The psychological component consists of emancipative values, which motivate people to exercise universal freedom. All three components form a single syndrome and shift together.

Human empowerment emerges in civilizational history relatively late, but successfully furthers the evolution process. Empowered societies generate higher levels of satisfaction with life, higher system capacities and a higher quality of institutional components. However, they also consume a lot of material resources. Since there are natural limits to growth, human empowerment brings a challenge for ecological sustainability.

Indeed, technological advancement is positively related to the ecological footprint and therefore shows a negative environmental impact. However, emancipative values have positive effect on environmental quality (measured by the [Yale Environmental Performance Index](#)). The overall effect of human empowerment on global ecological sustainability is neutral. The positive net effect of emancipative values neutralizes the negative net effect of technological advancement, while civic entitlements have no net effect in either direction.

Dr. Welzel tries to explain the positive effect of emancipative values on a society's environmental quality. It is not the mechanism of environmental concern itself, because people may express environmental concern irrespective of whether they prefer emancipative values or not, but the translation of this concern into environmental activism. So in societies with prevalent emancipative values, people's concern about ecological problems has more room for translation into concrete action.

by Irina Vartanova

3. Eduard Ponarin. *Institutionalization of official nationalisms in the Volga-Urals Region*

[Eduard Ponarin](#) is the director of the LCSR. He is also a Professor at HSE in Saint-Petersburg at the Department of Sociology. Professor Ponarin holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan, USA. The key topics of his research are nationalism, ethnicity and religiosity.

Eduard Ponarin, the director of the Laboratory for Comparative Social Research, delivered a lecture on “Institutionalization of official nationalisms in the Volga-Urals

Region” during the 2nd LCSR Annual Conference “Social Change in Cross-National Perspective”.

Prof. Ponarin presented results of his long-term research, conducted in Tatarstan and Bashkortostan in association with Kirill Zhirkov, a research fellow of the LCSR, which is one of a series of projects on nationalism and religiosity.

Nationalism in Muslim societies has been steadily declining since the 1950s because of two crucial reasons: Islam failed to achieve an ideological victory over the West, and the existing ideology couldn't provide people in Muslim countries with better life conditions. Under the circumstances, secularized post-soviet republics of the Volga-Ural Region were replaced by so-called post-nationalist Islamism.

The study suggests that the titular ethnic groups of the two republics express greater support for their republic's autonomy. Factors which are expected to influence both titular and non-titular groups are the following: socioeconomic status (SES), education, and religiosity. Ethnic self-identification in the region was assumed to be stronger among males, people with lower levels of education, those of lower income, and rural residents.

For hypothesis testing, both confirmatory factor analysis and multivariate regression were used. The database consisted of two surveys in Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, with 1196 respondents in 2005, and 1612 respondents in 2011. The collected data was used for structural equation modeling.

The results of the two surveys show that in 2005 both ethnic identification and support for an independent republic were stronger in Tatarstan than in Bashkortostan, but support for a republic has grown in Bashkortostan to such the extent that today it no longer differs greatly from Tatarstan. According to results of the research in 2011, support for an independent republic both in Tatarstan and Bashkortostan is spread equally among all groups of the population. Ethnic identification in Tatarstan was stronger among religious Tatars, without university education, living in rural areas, while ethnic identification amongst the youth was weaker than among other age groups.

by Ekaterina Turanova

4. Joshua Dubrow. *Intersectionality and Socioeconomic Status: Analysis of Cross-national Survey Data*

Joshua Dubrow is an associate professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences. He holds a PhD in Sociology from the Ohio State University and now Dr. Dubrow is also a lecturer at the University of Warsaw and Graduate School for Social Research (IFiS-PAN).

At the third Plenary Session, Professor Joshua Dubrow (Polish Academy of Sciences) presented his report titled “Intersectionality and Socioeconomic Status: Analysis of Cross-national Survey Data”.

In Dubrow’s opinion, ‘intersectionality’ is highly widespread among sociologists. The essence of the theory of intersectionality is that individuals simultaneously belong to multiple demographic categories (e.g. gender, age, ethnicity, social class, or language). An individual’s position in society is determined not by belonging to one category but by the definite combination of these various categories. Some combinations bring with them privileges while others might be the reason for discrimination. The theory of intersectionality helps to understand how different sets of individual characteristics affect their life chances.

While the theory of intersectionality is widely used in qualitative studies, it is rarely used in quantitative ones. Consequently, the main research question is whether it is worth accounting for the intersectionality in the model while conducting the quantitative study.

In order to answer this question, we need to see if adding intersectionality effects in the model improves its quality. The study uses cross-national data obtained from the European Social Survey. Such characteristics as gender, ethnicity, and social class position were chosen as independent variables. Then two regression models – with and without intersectionality effects - were created. Nevertheless, adding these effects did not enhance the model’s quality as was expected, as R^2 stayed unchanged.

In conclusion, professor Dubrow stressed that the use of theory of intersectionality remains important and should be employed in quantitative research due to the fact that accounting for the intersectionality helps to obtain more accurate results. In reality, individuals are not advantaged or penalized because of belonging to one specific group. Therefore, it is worth considering intersectionality while conducting research.

5. Jon Miller. *The Deep Structure of Ideological Partisanship in the United States*

Jon D. Miller is Research Scientist and Director of the International Center for the Advancement of Scientific Literacy, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan. He is also a Visiting Professor at Graduate University of the China Academy of Sciences

Professor [Jon D. Miller](#) gave a key lecture on “The Deep Structure of Ideological Partisanship in the United States” at the 2nd International Annual Research Conference of the LCSR “Social Change in Cross-National Perspective”.

Over the last half of the 20th century, the political system of the United States has been changing. The main content of this process was the transition from a two-party system that was largely devoid of ideology to an ideologically polarized political system. This study asks: “Does this growth in ideological partisanship reflect an increase in attitude constraint among adult partisans?”

The research consists of two stages:

1. A series of cross-sectional data sets was analyzed to examine their transformation and demonstrate significant growth of attitude constraint along with the polarization of the political system;
2. Current World Values Survey data was analyzed to examine whether the growth of ideological politics is rooted in personal, social, and religious values.

One of the methodological results of the research was an improved measure of attitude constraint. [Ronald Inglehart](#) and Jon Miller constructed an index of issue attitudes which varied in the scale from -10 to +10.

Factor analysis showed that political issues around the economy, health insurance, and environment became more significant through the period 2004-2008. The importance of issues surrounding education, abortion, and religious fundamentalism decreased. The research proves that the growth of ideological conservatism is responsible for the growth of the current Republican Party in the contemporary United States.

Examination of economic and related issues and social and morality issues based on the WVS data was conducted for the USA, and expanded to another six countries, including Russia.

Research showed that there is little or no relationship between a commitment to market economic systems and emancipative values.

by Stanislav Moiseev

6. Roberto Foa, Anna Nemirovskaya. *Internal Empires: Politics and Society on the Frontier*

[Roberto Foa](#) is a LCSR research fellow. He is also a PhD candidate at the Department of Government at Harvard University.

[Anna Nemirovskaya](#) is a LCSR senior research fellow and professor at the HSE.

[Roberto Foa](#) ([Harvard University](#)) and [Anna Nemirovskaya](#) (HSE, St Petersburg) presented their ongoing research on the frontier thesis. Anna and Roberto have already published two papers on this subject in international journals, and during the plenary session, presented their latest findings in this area.

The key question that this research raises is how long-term historical processes of settlement affect social values and political institutions. In the early twentieth century, American historian [Frederick Jackson Turner](#) put forth the [Frontier Thesis](#), which argued that the existence of a frontier defined American culture and values. Roberto and Anna extend and test this thesis beyond the United States, examining whether there is also a similar effect in frontier regions of Russia, Brazil, and Canada.

Using data from the latest round of the [World Values Surveys](#), the study reveals that frontier zones demonstrate a very high level of individualism, as well as stronger voluntary social ties, than regions that were settled early in a country's history. In addition, in frontier zones civic activism and protest are higher than in the core, and also exhibit greater social tolerance and trust.

The research demonstrates that frontier zones are indeed different from core regions, and that this is not simply a feature of the American historical experience, but rather a generalized attribute of frontier countries which have been colonized by European settlers.

by Olga Basmanova

7. Anna Andreenkova. *Political Change in Russia and Post-Soviet Countries: Unique Paths and Common European Trends in Political Attitudes and Behaviour*

[Anna Andreenkova](#) (PhD in Political Science) is a deputy director of the Institute for Comparative Social Research (CESSI). She is also the Coordinator of the [European Social Survey](#) in Russia.

The plenary session of the LCSR conference was opened with the report by Anna Andreenkova (deputy director of [CESSI](#) Institute for Comparative Social Research, [European Social Survey](#)). In her presentation Anna Andreenkova focused on political change and attitudes in Russia in the post-Soviet era as compared to broader European political trends.

The key question of the current presentation was whether post-Soviet countries are converging with Europe with respect to their political values, attitudes, and behavior.

The analysis showed that the Russian Federation is converging with general European trends in political life, but the absolute differences remain substantial. One of the major differences is the level of non-electoral political participation in the post Soviet region, which remains much lower than in other parts of Europe. Another trend, according to ESS data, is that this gap has not become smaller in the last 10 years. Moreover, in Russia one can observe a high level of satisfaction with the political output.

Analysis of ESS data shows that there are more similarities in the political values and attitudes between post-Soviet countries and other parts of Europe than are usually expected. And what is more important is that this tendency has tended to increase over time. More similarities between countries can be found in the 'input' part of the political system (political interest, consumption of political media, and some basic political attitudes), than in the participation and 'output' part (evaluation of the effectiveness of political system in general and of the current government). In Europe 'input' indicators are positively related to political involvement and satisfaction with democracy, while in Russia the inverse relationship holds.

by Olga Basmanova

8. Igor Zadorin, Victor Moisev. *Integration Attitudes in CIS Countries: First Wave of Extended Eurasian Barometer*

Igor Zadorin is the Director of the ZIRKON Research group. He is also the Director of the "[Eurasian Monitor](#)" project.

Victor Moisev is a researcher at the ZIRKON Research group.

Eurasian Monitor,² an international research consortium with the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB),⁴ has conducted an investigation into the integration attitudes amongst citizens in post-Soviet places during April-May of 2012. The project, called “the Integration Barometer EDB” includes representative national surveys in 10 countries of the CIS and also Georgia. More than 13,000 people (from 950 to 2000 in each country) have been interviewed.

Questions for the respondents could be classified into three groups, namely political (“which countries do you characterize as friendly/hostile?”), economic (“where do you prefer to live/study/work?”) and covering social and cultural concerns (“where have you been?”, “where do you want to travel?”). Thus, depending on the countries chosen by the respondents, all the answers were classified into categories, such as the integration preferences inside the post-Soviet space, the integration attraction directed outside of this space, and the degree of autonomy of public opinion.

After carrying out analysis of the data, the researchers came to the following conclusions. With respect to economic integration, countries of Central Asia are found to be more committed to the post-Soviet space; Azerbaijan and Tajikistan were more attached to “other regions”; whereas Russia, Georgia, and Armenia prefer the European Union. The same could be said concerning social and cultural interests. As for the political sphere, most answers show the evidence of integration attraction inside Post-soviet space. This study demonstrates that economic preferences often do not match with political preferences of citizens.

Secondly, the study emphasizes the fact that citizens of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine are relative isolationists, as expressed by their lack of interest towards other CIS countries.

² <http://www.eurasiamonitor.org/eng/>

⁴ <http://eabr.org/e/>

Thirdly, the researchers have explored factors influencing answers of the respondents. Having negative predictions about country's future increases isolationism while (and specially) young people with high level of education prefer European Union countries.

In summary, this is the first time that a study of public opinion amongst citizens of the post-Soviet space on such a large scale has been conducted. The results have provided the opportunity to reveal the social basis of integration attitudes, enabling both scientists and practitioners to continue work in this field.

by Olga Sedova