

CONFERENCE REPORT

**ANTHROPOLOGY OF PROFESSIONS IN RUSSIA: NEW AND TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS
IN CHANGING RUSSIA: SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH**

SARATOV, RUSSIA

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The conference “Anthropology of professions in Russia: New and traditional occupations in changing Russia: social anthropological approach” has taken place on the 29-30 September 2005 in Saratov, Russia. The conference was supported by the Russian Foundation for Humanities and organized by the Center of social policy and gender studies in collaboration with the Research of Professions Network of ESA, the Department of social anthropology and social work at the Saratov State Technical University and Russian Sociological Society. This event was a second forum on anthropology of professions, the first one has taken place a year ago in Moscow, at the Institute of Sociology. The conference programme was consisted of as five sessions: “The main approaches in anthropology of professions”, “Business and the local economies”, “Medical systems and healing practices in contemporary society”, “Anthropology of professions”, “Professionalization of control and care”. Thirty participants have discussed such issues as politics of professional identity, professionalization of work, institutionalization of new professions, power of professionals, everyday life of working place, rites and traditions, folklore, inside life of the communities of the professionals. President of Russian Sociological Society and Member of Executive Committee of ESA Dr.Valery Mansurov (Institute of Sociology, Moscow) has

greeted participants and talked about the contemporary trends in sociology of professions, he also presented a paper on medical professionals in today’s Russia. Dr.Pavel Romanov from the organizers of the conference presented a paper on the main principles and challenges of anthropological and ethnographical studies of professions, application of ethnographical methods in studying of contemporary Russia’ society, labor relations in the working place, power and communication in everyday life practices of occupational groups. Irina Nazarova from European University at StPetersburg reported on superstitious rules in modern professions. Several papers were devoted to healing practices in urban and rural contexts of contemporary Russia. Rural economies were discussed in the presentations by Dr.Aimar Ventsel (Estonian Literature Museum, Tartu, Estonia), Dr.Ilya Shteinberg (Centre “Socium”, Saratov, Russia) and Alexander Manuilov (Center for Anthropological Research, Krasnodar, Russia). Dr.Natalia Pushkareva (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Moscow) raised an issue of women’s career in academy. A special attention was paid to the issues of professionalization of social work and foster parenting, development of regional scientific communities. The papers based on ethnographical research were especially on interest of conference participants.