

© *Elvira Dzhioshvili, Alexander Krivonozhenko, Yulia Litvin and Svetlana Yalovitsyna*

## CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND IDENTITY OF SINGLE INDUSTRY TOWNS' RESIDENTS IN THE "KARELIAN ARCTIC" REGION: SEGEZHA AND KOSTOMUKSHA

*There has been growing attention to social and economic problems of everyday life in the single-industry towns of the Russian Arctic in recent years. Depopulation and reduction in quality of life are underlying topics of every research. In this light, it seems important to study the social well-being and identities of the Arctic single-industry towns' inhabitants. Two single-industry towns are located in the "Karelian Arctic" region — Kostomuksha and Segezha. The paper highlights the social and anthropological dimensions of these towns. The authors investigate the historical and cultural traditions, identified in two spheres of everyday life: the presentation of towns in the public space, including media and social networks, and the opinion of residents reflected through interviews. Kostomuksha and Segezha are similar in their representation as international communities and the Soviet heritage. The international aspect is especially significant for Kostomuksha inhabitants, whose town was a trans-border project in the 1970s. According to the interviews with residents of Kostomuksha, there is a considerable focus on the future in the city. On the contrary, the cultural memory of Segezha inhabitants is more "historical" with an emphasis on the Soviet past and the role of "Komsomol construction" of the local pulp and paper mill. The study demonstrates the importance of Northern identity in the cities. Arctic identity is more clearly seen in Kostomuksha due to realized border projects between Russia and Finland.*

**Authors Info:** **Dzhioshvili, Elvira A.** — Junior Researcher, Institute of Linguistics, Literature and History of the Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences (Petrozavodsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: [elvira-260893@yandex.ru](mailto:elvira-260893@yandex.ru)

**Krivonozhenko, Alexander F.** — Ph. D. in History, Researcher, Institute of Linguistics, Literature and History of the Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences (Petrozavodsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: [krivfed@yandex.ru](mailto:krivfed@yandex.ru)

**Litvin, Yulia V.** — Ph. D. in History, Senior Researcher, Institute of Linguistics, Literature and History of the Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences (Petrozavodsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: [litvinjulia@yandex.ru](mailto:litvinjulia@yandex.ru)

**Yalovitsyna, Svetlana E.** — Ph. D. in History, Deputy Director for Research, Senior Researcher, Institute of Linguistics, Literature and History of the Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences (Petrozavodsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: [jalov@yandex.ru](mailto:jalov@yandex.ru)

**For citation:** Dzhioshvili, E. A., A. F. Krivonozhenko, Y. V. Litvin and S. E. Yalovitsyna. 2023. Cultural Traditions and Identity of Single Industry Towns' Residents in the "Karelian Arctic" Region: Segezha and Kostomuksha. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)*. 3: 7–25.

**Acknowledgments:** The study was supported by the grant of the Russian Science Foundation № 22–28–20318 (<https://rscf.ru/project/22-28-20318/>), conducted jointly with the Government of the Republic of Karelia with funding from the Venture Investment Fund of the Republic of Karelia (VIF RK).

## References

- Drobizheva, L. M. 2020. Rossiiskaia identichnost': poiski opredeleniia i dinamika rasprostraneniia [Russian Identity: Searching for Definition and Distribution Dynamics]. *Sotsiologicheskie issledovaniia* 8: 37–50. <https://doi.org/10.31857/S013216250009460-9>
- Eremina, E. V. 2011. Regional'naia identichnost' v kontekste sotsiologicheskogo analiza [Regional Identity in the Context of Sociological Analysis]. *Regionologiya* 3. <http://regionsar.ru/node/781>
- Golovnev, A. V. 2022. *Severnost' Rossii* [The Northernness of Russia]. St. Petersburg: Muzei antropologii i etnografii Rossiiskoi akademii nauk. 450 p.
- Golovneva, E. V. 2017. "Sboroka regiona": parametry konstruirovaniia regional'nykh obshchestv [“Assembling the Region”: The Parameters of Constructing Regional Communities]. *Sibirskii filosofskii zhurnal* 15(4): 114–125. <https://doi.org/10.25205/2541-7517-2017-15-4-114-125>
- Golovneva, E. V. 2018. *Konstruirovaniie regional'noi identichnosti v sovremennoi kul'ture (na materiale sibirskogo regiona)* [The Construction of Regional Identity in Modern Culture (Based on the Material of the Siberian Region)]. Ph. D. diss. abstract, Omsk State Pedagogical University.
- Iliukha, O. P., A. V. Antoshchenko and M. Yu. Dankov. 1997. *Istoriia Kostomukshi* [The History of Kostomuksha]. Petrozavodsk: Mega-Press. 221 p.
- Kabitskii, M. E., O. Yu. Artemova and M. Yu. Martynova (eds.). 2014. *Malye goroda, bol'shie problemy. Sotsial'naia antropologiya malogo goroda* [Small Towns, Big problems. Social Anthropology of a Small Town]. Moscow: Institut etnologii i antropologii RAN. 357 p.
- Klement'ev, E. I. 2013. *Iazykovye protsessy v Karelii na primere karelov, vepsov, finnov* [Language Processes in Karelia on the Example of Karelians, Veps, Finns]. Petrozavodsk: Karel'skii nauchnyi tsentr RAN. 195 p. <https://www.booksite.ru/fulltext/kliment/text.pdf>
- Nedoseka, E. V. and G. V. Zhigunova. 2019. Osobennosti lokal'noi identichnosti zhitelei monogorodov (na primere Murmanskoi oblasti) [Features of Local Identity of Single-Industry Town Residents (the Case of the Murmansk Oblast)]. *Arktika i Sever* 37: 118–133. <https://doi.org/10.17238/issn2221-2698.2019.37.118>
- Nedoseka, E. V. and N. I. Karbainov. 2020. "Umiranje" ili "novaia zhizn" monogorodov (na primere sotsial'no-ekonomicheskoi adaptatsii zhitelei monoprofil'nykh poselenii Severo-Zapada Rossii) ["Dying" or "New Life" of Single-Industry Towns (The Case Study of Socio-Economic Adaptation of Residents of Single-Industry Settlements in the North-West of Russia)]. *Arktika i Sever* 41: 163–181. <https://doi.org/10.37482/issn2221-2698.2020.41.163>
- Neganova, O. A. 2015. Monogoroda v regional'noi ekonomike RF: poniatie monogorod, gradobrazuiushchee predpriiatie, klassifikatsiia monogorodov [Single-Industry Towns in the Regional Economy of the Russian Federation: The Concept of a Single-Industry Town, a City-Forming Enterprise, Classification of Single-Industry Towns]. *Ekonomika i upravlenie v XXI veke: tendentsii razvitiia* 25: 115–119.
- Pliusnin, Yu. M. 2000. *Malye goroda Rossii. Sotsial'no-ekonomicheskoe povedenie domokhoziaistv, tsennostnye ustanovki i psikhologicheskoe sostoianie naseleniia v 1999 godu* [Small Towns of Russia. Socio-Economic Behavior of Households, Values and Psychological State of the Population in 1999]. Moscow: Moskovskii obshchestvennyi nauchnyi fond. 147 p.
- Podvintsev, O. B. (eds.). 2016. *Rossiiskaia Arktika v poiskakh integral'noi identichnosti* [The Russian Arctic in Search of an Integral Identity]. Moscow: Novyi khronograf. 208 p.
- Russova, O. N., T. S. Smak and I. A. Tarasov. 2020. Otsenka komfortnosti gorodskoi sredy kak faktor sotsial'nogo samochuvstviia gorodskikh zhitelei Arkhangel'skoi oblasti [Assessment of the Comfort of the Urban Environment as a Factor in the Social Well-Being of Citizens]

- of the Arkhangel'sk Oblast]. *Arktika i Sever* 41: 236–247. <https://doi.org/10.37482/issn2221-2698.2020.41.236>
- Timoshenko, A. I. 2020. Gosudarstvennaia politika SSSR v Arktike v 1920–1930-e gg. [USSR State Policy in the Arctic in the 1920–1930s] In *Poliarnye chteniia — 2019* [Polar Readings — 2019], ed. by P. V. Boiarskii, V. I. Boiarskii and A. V. Golovnev. St. Petersburg: Paulsen: 219–236.
- Tishkov, V. A. (ed.). 2013. *“My zdes ’zhivem” : sotsial’naia antropologiia malogo rossiiskogo goroda* [“We Live Here”: Social Anthropology of a Small Russian City]. Moscow: Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi gumanitarnyi universitet. 684 p.
- Tishkov, V. A. (ed.). 2016. *Rossiiskaia Arktika: korennye narody i promyshlennoe osvoenie* [The Russian Arctic: Indigenous Peoples and Industrial Development]. Moscow; St. Petersburg: Nestor-Istoriia. 271 p.
- Vakhtin, N., Sh. Dudek (eds.). 2020. *“Deti devianostykh” v sovremennoi Rossiiskoi Arktike* [“Children of the Nineties” in the Modern Russian Arctic]. St. Petersburg: Izdatel’stvo Evropeiskogo universiteta v Sankt-Peterburge. 432 p.
- Volkov, A. D., S. V. Tishkov and P. V. Druzhinin. 2021. Prirodnye resursy, sistema rasseleniia i rol’ monogorodov v razvitii prostranstvennoi organizatsii regional’nogo khoziaistva Karel’skoi Arktiki [Natural Resources, Settlement System and the Role of Single-Industry Towns in the Spatial Organization Development of the Arctic Karelia Regional Economy]. *Arktika: ekologiya i ekonomika* 11(4): 582–595. <https://doi.org/10.25283/2223-4594-2021-4-582-595>
- Zamiatina, N. Yu. and A. N. Piliarov. 2015. *Innovatsionnyi poisk v monopofil’nykh gorodakh: blokirovki razvitiia, novaia promyshlennaia politika* [Innovative Search in Single-Industry Cities: Blocking Development, New Industrial Policy]. Moscow: URSS. 216 p.