

---

UDC 314+36+39

DOI: 10.33876/2311-0546/2023-4/37-50

Original article

© *Alyona Tomaska*

## THE REPUBLIC OF SAKHA (YAKUTIA) POPULATION IDENTITIES

*In the context of an overview analysis of population dynamics, migration processes, ethnic composition and historical consequences of the social and economic development of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), the paper presents the results of a survey on two projects: «Ethno-demographic processes in Asian Russia: current situation, forecasts and risks» and «The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and big challenges: social well-being, mobility, adaptation strategies». Based on these results, integration factors and the formation of civil, regional and ethnic identities are analyzed. The main integration factors in the formation of national identity in Yakutia mentioned were such standardized attributes as «state», «Russian language», «culture, customs», etc. The identifying signs and principles of the Russian national community are important for the population of the region and testify to the full inclusion in the system of values of Russian society. As for regional identity, almost every second respondent mentioned «proximity» to «their region (republic)». Compared with the results for 12 surveyed regions of Asian Russia, the republic is characterized by a high level of regional identity, which we assess as a positive factor. 56.8% of respondents consider it necessary to feel part of their ethnic group. If in 2002 “about 80% of the Yakuts... and about half of the Russians” in Yakutia chose the answer “One needs to feel themselves a part of their people”, then we can assume that ethnic identity is undergoing transformation, its role in the social space is reducing, it is becoming more complicate and transiting to multicomponent identities.*

**Keywords:** national identity, territorial identity, ethnic identity, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), population, migration

**Author Info:** Tomaska, Alyona Georgievna — Researcher, Department of Ethno-sociology, Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Yakutsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: [algepo@mail.ru](mailto:algepo@mail.ru) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8445-1225> Web of Science ID: I-3778-2017.

**For citation:** Tomaska, A. G. 2023. The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Population Identities. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 4: 37–50.

**Funding:** The study was financially supported by the project «Asian Russia: demography, ethnic composition of the population and interethnic relations in the new conditions of turning to the East» (supervisor T. B. Smirnova) within the framework of the Program of Scientific Research Related to the Study of Ethnocultural Diversity Russian society and aimed at strengthening the all-Russian identity in 2023–2025 (headed by V. A. Tishkov) and the state task of the Federal Research Center «YSC SB RAS» project «The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and big challenges: social well-being, mobility and adaptation strategies» 0297-2021-0029, registration number: 121031300008-7 (supervisor E. G. Maklashova).

### References

- Drobizheva, L. M. 2002. Rossiiskaya i etnicheskaia identichnost': protivostoianie ili sovместimost' [Russian and Ethnic Identity: Confrontation or Compatibility]. In *Rossiiia reformiruushchaisia*.

- Ezhegodnik — 2002* [Russia in Reform. Yearbook-2022], ed. by L. M. Drobizheva. Moscow: Academia. 213–244.
- Eremina, E. V. 2012. Poniatie regional'noj identichnosti i spetsifika ee formirovaniia v sovremennoi Rossii [The Concept of Regional Identity and the Specifics of its Formation in Modern Russia]. *Sotsial'no-gumanitarnie znaniia* [Social and Humanitarian Knowledge] 5: 276–287.
- Ermolaev, T. S. 2018. *Yuzhnaia Yakutiia: promyshlennoe osvoenie i dinamika sovremennykh etnosotsial'nykh protsessov* [South Yakutia: Industrial Development and Dynamics of Modern Ethno-Social Processes]. Yakutsk: Izdatel'stvo Instituta gumanitarnykh issledovaniia i problem malochislennykh narodov Severa Sibirskogo otdeleniia Rossiiskoi akademii nauk. 167 p.
- Ignatyeva, V. B. 2010. Gendernaia konstrukttsiia sovremennykh demograficheskikh problem [Gender Construction of Modern Demographic Problems]. In *Zhenskii mir v nauchnom diskurse: issledovatel'skie strategii: materialy regional'noi nauchno-prakticheskoi konferentsii* [Women's World in Scientific Discourse: Research Strategies: Proceedings of the Regional Scientific and Practical Conference], ed. by S. I. Boiakova. Novosibirsk: Nauka. 18–27.
- Kharlamenkova, N. E. 2019. Poniatie psikhologicheskoi bezopasnosti i ego nauchnye definitsii [The Concept of Psychological Security and its Scientific Definitions]. In *Razrabotka poniatii v sovremennoi psikhologii* [Development of Concepts in Modern Psychology]. Vol. 2, ed. by A. L. Zhuravlev, E. A. Sergienko and G. A. Vilenskaya. Moscow: Izdatel'stvo Instituta psikhologii Rossiiskoi akademii nauk. 309–330.
- Luman, N. 1994. Poniatie riska [The Concept of Risk]. *Thesis* 5: 135–160.
- Magun, V. S. and A. V. Magun. 2009. Sviaz' so stranoi i gordost' za ee dostizheniia: Rossiiskie dannye v kontekste mezhdunarodnykh sravnenii [Connections with the Motherland and the Pride for its Achievements: Russian Data in the Context of International Comparisons]. *Obshchestvennye nauki i sovremennost* 3: 32–44.
- Smirnova, T. B. 2021. Ob aktual'nosti etnodemograficheskikh issledovaniia v regionakh Aziatskoi Rossii [On the Relevance of Ethnodemographic Research in the Regions of Asian Russia]. In *Etnodemograficheskie protsessy i migratsii v regionakh Aziatskoi Rossii: sovremennaia situatsiia, prognozy i riski* [Ethnodemographic Processes and Migration in the Regions of Asian Russia: Current Situation, Forecasts and Risks], ed. by T. B. Smirnova. Omsk: Izdatel'skii centr KAN. 6–16.
- Sukneva, S. A. 2008. Migratsionnye protsessy v Respublike Sakha (Yakutiia) [Migration Processes in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)]. *Prostranstvennaya Ekonomika* 1: 62–77.
- Tomaska, A. G. 2022. Trudovaia migratsiia i integratsionnyi potentsial prinimayushchego soobshchestva [Labour Migration and Integration Potential of the Host Community]. In *Etnosotsial'nye protsessy v Yakutii: sovremennyi rakurs i perspektivy razvitiia* [Ethnosocial Processes in Yakutia: Modern Perspective and Development Prospects], ed. by V. B. Ignat'eva. Novosibirsk: Nauka. 202–220.
- Tumakova, K. E. 2010. Regional'naia identichnost' i brending kak sotsial'no-upravlencheskii resurs [Regional Identity and Branding as a Socio-Governmental Resource]. *Vlast'* 3: 70–72.
- Vasilyeva, O. V. 2022. Etnicheskii kontekst sotsial'nogo neravenstva: sovremennyi sotsiologicheskii narrativ [Ethnic Context of Social Inequality: a Modern Sociological Narrative]. In *Etnosotsial'nye protsessy v Yakutii: sovremennyi rakurs i perspektivy razvitiia* [Ethnosocial Processes in Yakutia: Modern Perspective and Development Prospects], ed. by V. B. Ignat'eva. Novosibirsk: Nauka. 183–201.
- Vinokurova, L. I. 2004. Yakutyanki v novykh usloviyakh: shtrikhi k portretu [Yakut Women in New Conditions: Touches to the Portrait]. In *Poisk novoi sotsial'noi identichnosti* [Northern Woman in the Search of a New Social Identity], ed. by I. I. Podoinitsyna. Novosibirsk: Nauka. 71–122.
- Vinokurova, L. I., Ya. M. Sannikova and V. V. Filippova. 2023. Antropologiiia traditsionnogo obraza zhizni: k strategiiam issledovaniia koren'nogo naseleniia sel'skoi Yakutii [Anthropology of the Traditional Lifestyle: Strategies for Researching the Indigenous Population of Rural Yakutia]. *Severo-Vostochnyi gumanitarnyj vestnik* 2(43): 10–23. <https://doi.org/10.25693/SVGV.2023.43.2.001>