
IDENTITY AND HISTORICAL MEMORY

UDC 39

DOI: 10.33876/2311-0546/2024-1/7-20

Original article

© *Sergey Chernyshov*

CONSTITUENT NARRATIVES OF LOCAL HISTORICAL MEMORY OF RESIDENTS OF SIBERIA REGIONS: BETWEEN PERSONAL AND PUBLIC

The article examines the narratives of local historical self-identification of residents of the Siberian regions of Russia. The main objective of the study was to search for specific ideas, not related to the typical historical myths of the Russian periphery, through which Siberians construct their own social identity. The information base for the study was the results of focus groups conducted in 9 cities of Siberia and the Urals: Perm, Tyumen, Omsk, Novosibirsk, Barnaul, Kemerovo, Tomsk, Krasnoyarsk, Irkutsk. It was revealed that the local historical self-identification of Siberians is based on the perceived uncritically typical heroic narrative of the Russian periphery, associated with its development by representatives of the “country,” which is understood as the central government. Among the narratives of local historical memory, narrow local subjects associated with specific territories dominate — from the construction of a bridge across the Ob in Novosibirsk to the development of the coal industry in Kuzbass. Common myths are the narratives of the heroic “development of Siberia” from Ermak to Soviet industrial construction projects. In this form, the identified set of historical myths has a clearly Moscow-centric character and cannot serve as a basis for constructing local identity. However, as soon as the peripheral national narrative comes into conflict with the personal or family experiences of respondents, it corrodes. This leads to a critical understanding of the constitutive narratives of local historical self-identification.

Keywords: regional identity, historical memory, Siberia, Siberians, history of Russia, history of Siberia

Author info: Chernyshov, Sergey A. — Ph.D. in History, Senior Researcher at the Laboratory of Social Anthropological Research, National Research Tomsk State University (Tomsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: 1502911@mail.ru ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3885-7125>

For citation: Chernyshov, S. A. 2024. Constituent Narratives of Local Historical Memory of Residents of Siberia Regions: Between Personal and Public. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 1: 7–20.

Funding: The study was supported by the Russian Science Foundation grant No. 22-78-00150, <https://rscf.ru/project/22-78-00150/>

References

Anderson, B. 2001. *Voobrazhayemyye soobshchestva* [Imagined Communities]. Moscow: Kanon-Press-C; Kuchkovo pole. 286 p.

- Brubaker, R. and F. Cooper. 2002. Za Predelami “Identichnosti” [Beyond “Identity”]. *Ab Imperio* 3: 61–115. <https://doi.org/10.1353/imp.2002.0025>
- Calhoun, K. 2013. *Natsionalizm* [Nationalism]. Moscow: Directmedia. 286 p.
- Golovneva, E. V. 2013. Regional'naya identichnost': teoreticheskiye aspekty izucheniya [Regional Identity: Theoretical Aspects of Study]. *Ural'skiy istoricheskiy vestnik* 2: 81–88.
- Golovneva, E. V. and I. A. Golovnev. 2017. Obraz Sibiri v kinematograficheskom narrative: konstruktivistskiy podkhod [The Image of Siberia in Cinematic Narrative: A Constructivist Approach]. *Izvestiya Ural'skogo federal'nogo universiteta. Seriya 1, Problemy obrazovaniya, nauki i kul'tury* 23(1): 114–123.
- Karbainov, N. I. 2021. Obrazy istorii «tyurkskoy tsivilizatsii» v postsovetском Tatarstane: elitarnyye versii i massovyye predstavleniya [Images of the History of “Turkic Civilization” in Post-Soviet Tatarstan: Elite Versions and Mass Representations]. *Zhurnal sotsiologii i sotsial'noy antropologii* 21(2): 45–74.
- Karpova, G. K. 2021. Vliyaniye kolektivnoy pamyati na potrebitel'skiye praktiki: keys rayona Tushino (Moskva) [The Influence of Collective Memory on Consumer Practices: The Case of the Tushino District (Moscow)]. *Zhurnal sotsiologii i sotsial'noy antropologii* 24(1): 138–167.
- Kasyanov, G. 2019. *Ukraina i sosedi: istoricheskaya politika 1987–2018* [Ukraine and Neighbors: Historical Politics. 1987–2018]. Moscow: NLO. 625 p.
- Kirdina-Chandler, S. G. 2019. K samoopredeleniyu rossiyskogo obshchestva: v poiskakh sistemy koordinat [Towards Self-Determination of Russian Society: in Search of a Coordinate System]. *Mir Rossii* 2: 6–24. <https://doi.org/10.17323/1811-038X-2019-28-2-6-24>
- Levi-Strauss, C. 1964. *Mythologiques Le cru et le cuit*. Paris: Plon. 402 p.
- Martynova, M. Yu., N. A. Belova, O. A. Zykina, and M. P. Klyaus. 2023. Obshchegrazhdanskiye i sotsiokul'turnyye tsennosti v vospriyatii rossiyskoy molodezhi [General Civil and Sociocultural Values in the Perception of Russian Youth]. *Vestnik antropologii* 1: 102–124. <https://doi.org/10.33876/2311-0546/2023-1/102-124>
- Morozov, I. A. and I. S. Sleptsova. 2020. S pristrastiyem vglyadyvayas' v proshloye: «ad» i «ray» sovet'skoy epokhi v sovremennykh muzeynykh narrativakh [Peering into the Past with Passion: “Hell” and “Heaven” of the Soviet Era in Modern Museum Narratives]. *Zhurnal sotsiologii i sotsial'noy antropologii* 23(5): 195–224.
- Petrova, R. I. 2016. Lokal'nyy uroven' v sisteme territorial'nykh identichnostey gorodov Urala [Local Level in the System of Territorial Identities of the Cities of the Urals]. *Vestnik Permskogo nauchnogo tsentra* 5: 46–51.
- Prizyuk, V. Ya. 2022. Istoricheskiye obrazy kak konstrukt identichnosti territorii: aktual'nyye tendentsii Permskogo kraya [Historical Images as a Construct of Territory Identity: Current Trends in the Perm Region]. *Historia provinciae — zhurnal regional'noy istorii* 2: 539–580. <https://doi.org/10.23859/2587-8344-2022-6-2-5>
- Shevtsov, V. V. 2011. Obraz Sibiri na stranitsakh ofitsial'noy i chastnoy dorevolyuetsionnoy pechati [The Image of Siberia on the Pages of Official and Private Pre-Revolutionary Press]. *Izvestiya Ural'skogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta* 3: 92–99.
- Tishkov, V. A. 2003. *Rekvijem po etnosu* [Requiem for Ethnicity]. Moscow: Nauka. 542 p.
- Tulaeva, S. A., E. F. Gladun, and O. V. Zakharova. 2022. Molodezh' korennykh malochislennykh narodov Severa: strategii konstruirovaniya identichnosti [Youth of Indigenous Peoples of the North: Strategies for Constructing Identity]. *Zhurnal sotsiologii i sotsial'noy antropologii* 25(1): 168–189.
- Zimovina, E. P. and K. S. Prodantsov. 2022. Istoricheskaya pamyat' naseleniya Kaliningradskoy oblasti: obshcheye i osobennoye v vospriyatii pokoleniy [Historical Memory of the Population of the Kaliningrad Region: General and Special in the Perception of Generations]. *Vestnik antropologii* 2: 7–27. <https://doi.org/10.33876/2311-0546/2022-2/7-27>