

ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MENTORSHIP

UDC: 39+37.035.6

DOI: 10.33876/2311-0546/2024-3/232-246

Original article

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MENTORING IN THE CULTURES OF THE RUSSIAN NORTH: SCIENTIFIC REFLECTIONS AND SOCIAL PRACTICES

This article presents an analytical review of the reports presented at the section «Institute of Mentoring in the Cultures of the Russian North: Scientific Reflections and Social Practices» within the XV Congress of Anthropologists and Ethnologists of Russia (St. Petersburg, 26–30 June 2023). The reports illustrate the diverse manifestations of mentoring and its importance in contemporary context. The «bearers of normative information» acting as mentors are called upon not only to preserve folk knowledge and skills as a historical value, but also to introduce them to them into practice. The article begins with a section on general definitions and approaches to the phenomenon of mentoring. It is shown that mentoring is a «cultural universal», a mechanism of social continuity in all eras and among different peoples. Despite the evident interest on the part of researchers, the institution of mentoring has been studied unevenly. This is a consequence of the multifunctionality of this phenomenon and the diversity of its specific historical forms.

Keywords: mentoring, folk craftsmen, North of Russia, cultural continuity, tradition, socialization, ethnocultural education

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For citation: Pivneva, E. A. and I. A. Razumova. 2024. Mentoring in the Cultures of the Russian North: Scientific Reflections and Social Practices. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 3: 232–246.

Funding: The study was carried out as a part of the research plan of the Russian Academy of Sciences N. N. Miklouho-Maklay Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (Topic No. 1 “Dynamics of Identities and Cultures of the Russian Population: Academic and Applied Social Anthropological Research”) and Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences (the state research assignment FMEZ-2024-0002, “Dynamics of the Sociocultural Appearance of the Kola North in the Context of the History of Development of the Arctic Frontier of Russia”).

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