

“RASKOSETS”: FROM HOBBY TO COMMUNITY

Along with national projects to popularize traditional Russian culture, spontaneous independent communities arise around this interest. This article is based on two years of observations (2022–2024) of an amateur urban folklore ensemble in Moscow. Included observations and a series of in-depth interviews made it possible to trace the group’s development, to answer the question of what this association means to the group, and to analyze folklore’s real role within the group. The analysis identified signs of various community categories, such as an interest group or subculture, but none were confirmed as the main category. Performing folklore fosters communication within the group, and forming the community fulfills the city dwellers’ need for security and acceptance more than maintaining their ethnicity.

Keywords: *community, urban community, interest group, folklore, cultural practices, leisure, local communities, group identity, subculture*

Author Info: **Andriushchenko, Ekaterina Y.** — Master Student, University of Bologna. East European Studies (Bologna, Italy). E-mail: zapall@mail.ru

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