

## FRONTIER ANTRAILPOLOGY: ON THE TRAILS AND ROADS IN THE LIVES OF AMUR EVENKS

*Based on a comparison of the two Evenk settlements in Russia's Khabarovsk Krai and Amurskaya Oblast, this paper argues that preservation of traditional culture by an ethnic minority group depends on how well it preserves its own systems of axes. It shows also that while trails that are capable of keeping national heritage alive and preventing minorities from assimilation, modern highways cause traditional culture to decline as they destroy their ties with the environment that may eventually lead to its extinction. It states that while both economists and governmental agencies view road construction as an "inevitable good", anthropologists shall pay attention to the study of trails as repositories of traditional culture and to their preservation. To achieve this goal, this paper suggests developing Antrailpology as a subdiscipline within social anthropology that would elaborate on the role of trails and other "folk infrastructure" in the life of minority ethnic groups.*

**Keywords:** *Evenk, trails, infrastructure, frontiers, assimilation.*

**Author Info:** Mikhalev, Maxim S. — Doctor of History, Full Professor, Russian State University for the Humanities (125047 House 6. b.1, Miusskaya sq., Moscow, Russia). E-mail: [maxmikhalev@yahoo.com](mailto:maxmikhalev@yahoo.com) ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5695-6915>

**For citation:** Mikhalev, M. S. 2022. Frontier Antrailpology: on the Trails and Roads in the Lives of Amur Evenks. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)*. 3: 221–232.

**Funding:** The research was carried out within the framework of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research. Project No. 21–18–00495.

### References

- Davydov, V. N. 2013. Vlast' provodnika: kaiury-evenki i ispol'zovanie olenogo transporta na Severnom Baikale [The Power of the Guide: Evenk-guides and the Usage of Reindeer Transportation in the Northern Baikal]. In *Rannie formy potestarnykh system* [The Early Political Systems], Ed. by V. A. Popov, 267–280. Saint-Petersburg: Kunstkamera.
- Fedoseev, G. A. 2017. *V tiskakh Dzhugdyra* [Djugdyr Grip]. Moscow: Veche.
- KMPG. 2017. *Foresight. A Global Infrastructure Perspective*. Special Edition. URL: <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/ie/pdf/2017/01/ie-foresight-global-infrastructure-perspective-2.pdf>
- Lavrilie, A. 2010. Orientatsiia po rekam u evenkov iugo-vostoka Sibiri. Sistema prostranstvennoi, sotsial'noi i ritual'noi orientatsii [Orientation by Rivers among the Evenk of South-Eastern Siberia. The System of Spatial, Social and Ritual Orientation]. *Etnograficheskoe obozrenie*, 6: 115–132.
- Mikhalev, M. S. 2018. "Osevshie vdol' dorog". Sistema koordinat kak instrument assimilatsii evenkov i orochonov ["Settled along the Roads": Frame of Axis as an Assimilation Tool for

- Nomadic Evenk and Oroqen]. *Omsk University Bulletin. Series: Historical Sciences*, 4(20): 251–260.
- Mikhalev, M. S. 2018. Soprotivlenie v Ivanovskom (Amurskaia oblast'). Nekotorye uroki bor'by evenkov za svoi prava [Resistance in Ivanovskoe. Some Lessons from the Struggle of Evenk for their Rights]. *Irkutsk State University Herald. Series: Geoarchaeology. Ethnology. Anthropology*, 24: 118–132.
- Moore, R. 2021. *On Trails*. Moscow: Ripol-klassik.
- Osipov, G. V., Karepova, S. G., Nekrasov, S. V. 2019. Infrastrukturnye transportnye proekty: rossiiskii i mezhdunarodnyi opyt [Infrastructure Transport Projects: Russian and International Experience]. *Modern Science*, 9–1: 240–246.
- Pikalov, Yu. V. Aseev, A. A. 2013. *Sotsial'nye posledstviia pereseleniia na Dal'nii Vostok RSFSR (noiabr' 1922 — ijun' 1941 gg.)* [Social Consequences of the Migration to Russian Far East (November 1922 — June 1941)]. Khabarovsk: Khabarovsk Publishing House.
- Serebrennikov, V. I., Sukhomirov, G. I. 2003. Problemy sokhraneniia traditsionnykh form prirodopol'zovaniia korennoho malochislennogo naroda Priamur'ia v novykh sotsial'no-ekonomicheskikh usloviiax [The Problem of Preservation of Traditional Nature Management Practices of Priamurie Indigenous Population in the Contemporary Socioeconomic Conditions]. In *Amurskie evenki. Bol'shie problemy malogo etnosa* [The Evenk of Amur. Great Problems of Small Ethnos], Ed. by G. V. Bykova, 3–57. Blagoveshchensk: Blagoveshenskij Gosudarstvennij Pedagogicheskij Universitet Publishers.
- V debriakh Severa: Russkie pisateli XVIII–XIX vekov o zemle Komi* [Depths of the North: Russian Writers of XVIII–XIX Century about Komi Land]. 1999. Syktyvkar: Komi Publishing House.