

REVIEW

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**A few words about Yuriy Efimovich Rastov,
an outstanding Siberian sociologist and teacher**

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On 18-19 May 2018, the Altai State University hosted a timely and very long-awaited event—the International scientific-practical conference I Rastov readings [Rastovskie chteniya] *Modern Challenges to Regional Society: Conflict and Potential for Stability*. It was organized by the Faculty of Sociology of the Altai State University with the support of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (as part of the project no 18-411-221002). The conference was dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the birth of Professor Yuriy Rastov, an outstanding Russian social scientist, sociologist, and conflictologist. Over a hundred of people attended the event—famous social scientists of Russia, researchers and teachers of sociology, conflictology and other social and humanitarian disciplines, representatives of the government, regional public organizations, practitioners in the social sphere, postgraduate students, master students, and undergraduate students. As follows from the title of the conference, a whole series of speeches of its participants (O. N. Kolesnikova, V. V. Nagaitsev, A. M. Sergienko, T. F. Kryaklina, A. A. Udodenko, T. A. Semilet, R. A. Trofimova, E. A. Popov, O. T. Korosteleva, O. L. Sytykh, and others) was devoted to reviewing of the scientific heritage of Professor Yu. E. Rastov. In general, the event was remembered for the warm friendly atmosphere and an open communication of participants. In the resolution of the conference adopted by the participants, its organizing committee was recommended to hold the *Second Rastov Readings* next year.

Yuriy Efimovich Rastov was born on 9 March 1938 in Barnaul (the Altai Territory) in the family of teachers. In 1960, he graduated with honors from the Barnaul State Pedagogical Institute with the degree in History and Literature. All working career of Yuriy Rastov is connected with the education and upbringing of students. He is working at the socio-humanitarian departments of universities in Barnaul. The teachers of Yu. E. Rastov, who formed his scientific views in the 1960s, were the founders of the Altai sociology—V. S. Barulin and N. A. Vorobev. Vladimir Semenovich Barulin, who was the Head of the Department of Philosophy at the Altai Polytechnic Institute, opened doors to a large group of future Altai sociologists, among them Yu. E. Rastov, M. Ya. Bobrov, A. A. Udodenko, P. N. Guivan, V. N. Filippov, A. P. Sukhanov, A. I. Orekhovskiy, V. D. Borovikov, V. P. Gusev, V. P. Rodionov, R. S. Kim, and others.

Yuriy Efimovich Rastov has been engaged in sociological research in the Altai Territory since 1965. He is known as a researcher of the social problems of labor collectives, actual problems of public opinion, the electoral behavior, the conflict of local societies and the monitoring of social tensions in the Altai Territory. Highly developed intellect, versatile and deep knowledge, an impeccable logic of thinking, emotional sensitivity, a sincere desire to help his students, delicacy in communication, decency in everything — these and many other human qualities of Yuriy Rastov captivated many people who knew him. Yu. E. Rastov initiated in our region not only the first empirical sociological research but also the first scientific-practical conferences on the subject of these studies. Being a gifted scientist in the field of social philosophy and a supporter of the revival of Russian sociology, Yu. E. Rastov suggested to all his associates the idea of the perspective of an empirical study of social problems and the need for its natural fusion with the theoretical analysis. In 1969, Yu. E. Rastov defended his thesis for the degree of Candidate of Philosophy on the topic *Work on a Voluntary Basis as a Social Phenomenon*. Yu. E. Rastov initiated at the turn of the 60-70s of the 20th century the creation of the first sociological services at the plants and enterprises of the Altai Territory. The Department of Sociology was opened on the basis of the Regional University of Marxism-Leninism, which began to produce specialists with specialized sociological training. Yu. E. Rastov is one of the founders of the Faculty of Sociology at the Altai State University, where he has been working since its foundation, first as a professor of the Department of Sociology, and since 1992, as a Head of the Department of Empirical Sociology and Conflictology created by him. The department was one of the first in Russia to implement the training of students in the specialty “Sociology”. In 1996, Yu. E. Rastov defended his doctoral thesis themed *The Conflict of the Population of the Provincial Region of Russia: the Processes of the Development, Study and Regulation*.

Yu. E. Rastov is the author of over 200 publications, including a dozen monographs and textbooks. He worked in the editorial board of the journals *Education and Social Development of the Region* and *Siberian Sociological Bulletin*. Yuriy Rastov worked for a long time as a deputy chairman at the specialized Council for the Defense of Doctoral and Candidate Theses. Under his guidance, dozens of Ph.D., doctoral and master's theses have been defended. Yu. E. Rastov is the author of a number of methods and techniques of empirical sociology, a theoretician of Russian conflictology, an authoritative specialist in the field of sociology of public opinion, social structure and social processes, the author of the concept of conflict of local societies, research methods for social processes mapping and passportization of social conflicts. Yu. E. Rastov took the most active part in the opening of a new and one of the latest for ASU programme of study “Conflictology”, developed the State Educational Standard for “Conflictology”, which was launched in ASU in 2009.

During his scientific career, Yu. E. Rastov prepared a whole galaxy of students and followers who recall him with gratitude as a wise, responsive, and cheerful person and who continue the work he began. The efficiency, demandingness, and responsiveness of Yu. E. Rastov found a lively response and deserved respect from the postgraduate, and undergraduate students, and colleagues.