

REVIEW

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The VIth All-Russia Scientific Conference with International Participation “The Role of Social Education in Ensuring National Security”, Irkutsk, March 29-30, 2018

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Irkutsk State University, the Institute of Social Sciences, the Ministry of Education of the Irkutsk Region, and the Commission on Science and Education of the Irkutsk Region Public Chamber held the 6th All-Russia Scientific Conference with international participation *The Role of Social Education in Ensuring National Security* on March 29-30, 2018. The conference marked the 100th anniversary of Irkutsk State University foundation and the 20th anniversary of establishing the Institute of Social Sciences. The conference objective comprised several aspects. The participants aimed at developing scientific communication and professional competencies in order to implement the priorities of socio-economic development in Russia. Moreover, the conference aspired to shaping scientific, educational, and public-professional discourse on key issues concerning higher education. Finally, the point was in determining the place and role of social education as a basic component of university education in the national and global settings, taking into account the application of national security principles in the educational environment.

More than 150 scientists, practitioners, and the general public attended the event; over 70 participants contributed their presentations and video reports. The participants came from the cities of Irkutsk, Moscow, Kaliningrad, Novosibirsk, Yakutsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Smolensk, Krasnoyarsk, Kursk, Khabarovsk, and Stavropol, and such countries as the United States, Serbia, and Kazakhstan, etc.

The following participants attended the conference: A.F. Schmidt (the First Vice-Rector of Irkutsk State University, Dr. Chemistr. Sci., Professor), E.V. Apanovich and M. A. Parfenov (Deputy Ministers of Education of the Irkutsk Region), G. N. Terentyeva (Deputy Chairperson of the Public Chamber of the Irkutsk Region, Chairman of

non-governmental organisation *Irkutsk Regional Council of Women*, Cand. Pedagog. Sci., Associate Professor), O.B. Vlasenko (Head of the Civil Registry Office of the Irkutsk Region), A.V. Dormidontov (Deputy Head of the Governor of the Irkutsk Region and the Government of the Irkutsk Region in Public and National Relations), I. A. Sintsova (Chairperson of the Committee on Socio-cultural Legislation of the Legislative Assembly of the Irkutsk Region), A. P. Kapustensky (Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, Public Control of Law Enforcement and power structures' activity of the Public Chamber of the Irkutsk Region), Leonas Tolvayshis (Cand. Polit. Sci., Professor, the Department of Diplomacy and Security of the *Union – Nikola Tesla* University (Belgrade, Serbia)), B. Batzhargal (Ph.D., Professor, the from D. Jabara Department of Entrepreneurship, Spears School of Business, University of Oklahoma, (USA)), V. V. Krivosheev (Dr. Sociolog. Sci., Professor, the Institute of Humanities, *I. Kant Baltic Federal University* (Kaliningrad)), A. D. Karnyshev (Dr. Psychol. Sci., Professor, Head of Laboratory of psychological, economic, and cross-cultural research, Institute of Humanities, Irkutsk State University (Irkutsk)), I.A. Skalaban (Cand. Histor. Sci., Associate Professor, Novosibirsk State Technical University (Novosibirsk)), T.S. Mostakhova (Dr. Econom. Sci., Senior scientific member, Department of Regional Economic and Social Studies, Yakutsk Scientific Center, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Yakutsk)), A.V. Filinov (Head of security management, Irkutsk State University (Irkutsk)), Ye.V. Basanova (Deputy Director of Regional State Institution *Center for Social and Information Services for Youth* (Irkutsk)) and others.

Yunlun Cao (the Consul General of the PRC in Irkutsk) and Agnesh Kotsab (the Vice-Consul of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Irkutsk) made the greeting speeches.

A. F. Schmidt, the First Vice-Rector of Irkutsk State University, welcoming the participants of the conference, emphasized:

“... The subject matter of the conference is relevant. Although for a wider public, it may still not be entirely obvious that social sciences and humanities are directly linked to the problems of national and global security. Therefore, this conference will certainly become a significant stage in the development of the system of social education, university education, and social policy in Russia...”.

G. N. Terentyeva (Deputy Chairperson of the Public Chamber of the Irkutsk Region) stated:

“Education is one of the most significant factors that ensures economic growth, social stability, and the development of social institutions. These factors, as we know, serve as a premise for national security. As far as the education system is able to form the intellectual, moral, and labor potential of the society, so much will it ensure security. The impending new challenges and threats encourage us to rethink educational policy as a major part of the national security space”.

E. V. Apanovich, a Deputy Minister of Education of the Irkutsk Region, made a report entitled *The Higher Education System of the Irkutsk Region as a Resource for Sustainable Development of the Region*. In her report, the speaker stressed the importance of developing practices for joint participation of higher education organizations in the work of coordination councils under the Governor and the Government of the Irkutsk Region.

The conference had the formats of a plenary session, a panel discussion *Social Sciences and Social Education in the Context of Internal and External Threats and Challenges of the Contemporary World*, and a sub-forum for students, graduates, and young scientists entitled *Social Values of University Education and Methods to Form Safety Culture*.

The conference participants discussed issues on enhancing the role of social education as a basic component of university education in the national and global settings, taking into account the principles of national security in the educational environment. In particular, the participants dealt with such issues as social values and economic efficiency of university education, new problems and tendencies of internationalization of higher education, social education and social interactions in the context of internal and external threats and challenges of the modern world, the role of social education in resolving social contradictions, challenges, threats, and risks to national security.

The report by L. Tolvayshis (Belgrade, Serbia), *The Internationalization of Higher Education in Southern Europe. Practical problems of the Bologna process application (in Italy and Serbia)*, evoked particular interest at the plenary meeting. The main conceptual points of the report caused an active discussion:

“... the Bologna process bases on the purely economic logic of relations both in the sphere of higher education and in the labor market. Competitiveness, being the key goal of the Bologna reform, is in conflict with the social cohesion principle, and does not contribute to the improvement of working conditions. Such a situation can create significant risks to social stability. In this context, one should take into account that the inaccessibility of education for a significant part of the population should be due to the high cost of education in higher education institutions. The transition of social relations among students from solidarity to competition overshadows the tendency to tough international competition in higher education. Eastern European universities run the risk of diverting students to more prosperous countries due to favorable mobility conditions. Moreover, the quantification of knowledge (calculating the load in pages) contradicts the traditional understanding of higher education as erudition, moreover the strength of the protest movement in Europe testifies to the vitality of such traditional understanding” [1].

Another foreign participant, Bat Batjargal (Spears School of Business, University of Oklahoma, USA) focused on the success factors of academic mobility in business schools in English-speaking countries (in the United States and England). The main idea of his video report was that

“there are three major factors for the success of academic mobility in the field of management and entrepreneurship: first, 70% research activity; secondly, 15% teaching activity; thirdly, 15% organizational activity... Other factors that can contribute to the success of academic mobility in the field of management and entrepreneurship include: international experience, knowledge of the English language, as well as personal and social collaboration with significant scholars in these areas...” [2].

The report by A. D. Karnyshev had a positive impact on the participants of the conference. The professor made a presentation on the results of research conducted at the Laboratory of psychological, economic, and cross-cultural studies of the Institute of Social Sciences at Irkutsk State University. In his report “*Son of the Fatherland*” as a *Social Reference Point of Educational Activities in the History of Russia and Siberia*, he focused on the fact that

“modern studies employ the concept of economic patriotism... At the same time, patriotic behavior often differs not only by its enthusiasm, but also by a certain sacrifice, the ability to spare no effort if it is necessary. ... The results of the study ... reveal that representatives of the aboriginal population—both urban and especially rural Buryats—assess their patriotism in relation to their small homeland significantly higher than the Russians and representatives of other nationalities ...” [3].

V. V. Krivosheev, Dr. Sociolog. Sci., delivered a video report focusing on sociological education and digital sociology. The report concerns the analysis of the major problems of the emergence and development of digital society. The speaker highlighted that it is salient to restructure the training system for sociologists in higher educational institutions. In conclusion, the speaker expressed the idea that:

“... working with profiles on social networks, the ability to analyze Big Data is the future of sociology, whether we like it or not. Otherwise, according to some pessimistic colleagues, the need for sociologists, at least those involved in field research, may disappear altogether, since any specialist (a lawyer, an economist, a social worker) will be able to assemble and interpret numerous data” [4].

The report by I. A. Skalaban *Social Mapping as a Method for Diagnosing the State of Inter-ethnic Relations in a Territory in the Context of National Security* concerned some topical issues as well. Observing the prospects for maintaining public security in local urban communities, professor presented the experience of using the spatial method to analyze inter-ethnic situations. Here, she implemented the method of joint social mapping in its outline and scale variants. In her opinion,

“the spatial-graphic mapping in question is a mapping of a real-life object in a spatially defined system, regardless of its scale and quality characteristics. As a research method, joint social mapping provides wide access to information that combines, on the one hand, individual or group ideas of community and space and their images, and objectified information about localized space, objects, and practices, on the other. Therefore, this method can become significant for collecting information about the community and territory, along with individual interviews and surveys ...” [5].

T. S. Mostakhova made a video report *Characteristics of the Main Risks and Threats to Demographic Security in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia)*. The author focused on the fact that identifying the main threats and risks of demographic security contributes to the improvement in regional demographic policy measures. According to the author,

“the persistence of threats, determining demographic security tensions, accompanies the population development in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). High mortality rate (especially for external reasons) is one of the main threats... Regional demographic policy should adequately reflect transformational processes and threats to demographic security...” [6].

The representatives of the Institute of Social Sciences of Irkutsk State University (the conference organizing committee) contributed two reports at the plenary session. The report by V. A. Reshetnikov (Director of the Institute of Social Sciences, Irkutsk State University) concerned the problem of cultural and typological certainty in the educational process. The author surveyed Russian culture dynamics from a cultural-logical standpoint. Basing on the works of R. Benedict, the report revealed the specifics of shame culture in Russia and its transformation into a subject of ideological

speculation, especially in the field of sports. In relation to this, the conference participants discussed one more issue that is the issue of arising conscience culture [7].

T. I. Grabelny (Dr. Sociolog. Sci., Professor, Head of the Laboratory of regional problems and innovations of the Institute of Social Sciences, Irkutsk State University) made a report on the topic *“A Sustainable World” of a University and Its Social Self-determination in the Context of Threats, Challenges, and Risks*. It argued the need to develop a special approach to the problem of universities’ social self-determination in terms of threats, challenges and risks. In analyzing and evaluating the place and role of the university in the system of social connections and interdependencies at different levels, the author focused on the factors of their stability and variability. The conclusion declared that

“the goal of regional cooperation is in facilitating contacts between all the actors of regional development. Only by relying on modern mechanisms of civilized collaboration between the university and the regional government, as well as with other social structures, including business and the public, one can achieve “sustainable peace” not only in the university itself, but also in the region as a whole. Thus, the social self-determination of the university in the internal and external environment in the context of threats, challenges, and risks should stem from sustainability. A university can acquire external sustainability only in case it is internally sustainable” [8].

N. L. Smakotina (Dr. Sociolog. Sci., Professor, Head of the Department of Global Social Processes and Youth Work at the Faculty of Global Processes, Moscow State University) actualized the issues of social education as a strategic goal of ensuring national security and improving social well-being. She examined the processes of globalization, the transformation of education, and the associated problems of national security and national interests. In her report the speaker presented some results of studying social well-being, social consequences, the emergence of new educational opportunities, and new risks. The author substantiates the idea that the education system acts as a resource for the state policy in the sphere of national security [9].

Conference participants from Kazakhstan (Almaty, Institute of Philosophy and Political Science, Committee of Sciences, Ministry of Education and Science, the Republic of Kazakhstan), V. D. Kurganskaya (senior researcher, Dr. Philosoph. Sci., Professor), V. Yu. Dunaev (senior researcher, Dr. Philosoph. Sci., Professor), and M. S. Shaikemelev. (Dr. Philosoph. Sci. head of the Department of Political Science at the Institute of Philosophy and Political Science) drew attention to the cross-ethnic interactions in Kazakhstan in the context of internal and external threats and challenges of the modern world. Among the main threats and challenges to cross-ethnic relations, there is the deterioration of the economic status of citizens, complex linguistic situation, and the intensification of religious radical movements. The authors claim that

“the religious factor takes up more and more space in the public life of the country, and non-traditional religious movements are becoming a very influential social factor. In the fight against radicalism, it is still necessary to build an effective system of counter-propaganda. New methods of working with young people (employment, material assistance, etc.) will play a role in neutralizing and halting the growth of radicalism, but work in this direction should become long-term and systematic...” [10].

Authority representatives delivered three reports. The Ministry of Education of the Irkutsk Region contributed two reports. These presentations touched upon the quality

of school education in the region and the region's higher education system as a resource for its sustainable development. The third report highlighted the priorities of the state youth policy in the region.

Discussion of issues raised at the plenary session continued during the panel session *Social Sciences and Social Education in the Context of Internal and External Threats and Challenges of the Modern World*.

Youth session took place on the second day of the conference. I. A. Sintsova (Chairperson of the Committee on social and cultural legislation of the Legislative Assembly of the Irkutsk Region) as well as the leaders and representatives of Irkutsk universities welcomed the participants of the session.

The youth session participants contributed more than 20 reports. Their reports focused on the following crucial topics: *Developing Effective Instruments to Encourage Young People to Achieve Status Opportunities in order to Ensure National Security* (V. Zagorodniy); *On the Significance of an "Adequate" Self-assessment of Young People in the Context of Internal and External Threats and Challenges to National Security* (A. Kushkova); *Young Families' Crisis as a Challenge to National Security in the Context of Global Transformations* (N. Kozhevnikov); *The Impact of Institutional Transformations in the Field of Education on the Structure of the Social Needs of Russian Population* (E. Nikolaeva); *The Specifics and Main Trends in Shaping Family Values in a Globalized Community* (V. Godvan); *Tools Employed by Oil Companies in the Development of Their Human Capital* (A. Pruzhinin); *A Youth Festival as a Platform for the Development of Creative Thinking Among Progressive Youth in the Context of Civil Education Issues* (J. Radnaev); *The Role of Art in Shaping "a Happy Society"* (O. Tkachenko) and others.

T. I. Grabelny, Dr. Sociolog. Sci., professor, co-chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Commission on Science and Education of the Public Chamber of the Irkutsk Region, stated that:

"The development of university education and higher education in general requires a significant rethinking of collaboration activity between universities, science, business community, public structures, and the regional government. In the context of growing internal and external challenges and threats, there exists an objective need for closer interaction between the university and the region. As we see it, acquiring internal university sustainability as a special scientific, educational, and socio-cultural space is possible largely due to mobilizing the resources inside the university and designing a system of qualitatively new interactions with the external environment. In this regard, the role of social education as a link of social processes in the region, forming the foundations of social stability and national security, is increasing".

The conference committee published a collection of scientific papers. At the end of the conference the participants adopted a resolution.

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