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CHALLENGES IN RESEARCHING TRANSFORMATIONS OF SOCIAL INEQUALITIES: IN SEARCH OF SOLUTIONS

Using the example of three Siberian cities—Novosibirsk, Berdsk, and Minusinsk—our project aims to identify and explore the current configurations of socio-economic inequalities in urban spaces. We would like to test the assumption that present-day globalization, manifesting itself through the compression of time and space, impacts on social stratification [1], in other words, on the system of social differences perceived in terms of social inequalities [2, c. 27]. Changes in social stratification could be expressed not only in the reconfiguration and transformation of already existing differences [3], but also in the emergence of new differences [4].

The process of globalisation does not lead to the same consequences everywhere [5]. In different localities transformations of social stratification may vary. Thus, in our research focused on discovering transformations of social stratification in particular localities, it will be problematic to use deductive methodology. It seems that more suitable for this study will be a "methodology of double reflexivity" (the double hermeneutic), which is proposed by the theory of structuration. This methodology presupposes a dialogue between the empirical data (including respondents' understanding of themselves and the world around them), and conceptualizations in the academic literature on the subject. It is advised that this dialogue should begin from "phrases" created by the empirical material [6, c. 374].

In our research, semi-structured interviews with city dwellers may generate the above-mentioned initial "phrases" in the dialogue on the globalization-locality-stratification nexus. However, we as researchers face the problem of how to formulate questions which will not pre-determine the answers of our respondents. Our vocabulary on social stratification issues is already formed by the literature on the subject, and we are attuned to the aspects of stratification which have been described already by studies in this field. In order to avoid the influence of pre-existing conceptualizations about stratification on our questions, we suggest asking respondents about their images of "other(s)"—who do they perceive as other(s) and why. We can use these images created through the processes of "othering" to discern the criteria employed by our respondents to differentiate people. The next step in our study will be to clarify how these criteria of differentiation are institutionalized and involved in the construction of social stratification. A

mutually enriching dialogue between the empirical data and the literature can be reached at this stage of the research.

References

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TECHNOLOGICAL TRAPS OF RESOURCES MINING IN NEW OIL AREAS

The current stage of oil and gas complex development in Russia is characterized by the decline of the production level in the traditional oil and gas producing areas of Western Siberia and access to new areas, such as Eastern Siberia.

Hydrocarbon fields in such areas are complex and multi-component. That doesn't allow using the experience and approaches of mining projects implementation accumulated in Western Siberia. Complicated geological conditions and lack of infrastructure don't allow companies to mine fields with an acceptable level of profitability without providing benefits. The lack of the necessary technology and equipment lead to a constant increase in costs and decrease of extraction ratio.

Now, when the geological conditions of resources mining become more complicated, the share of Russian intellectual and industrial resources is decreasing [1]. Mining companies, which begin to develop the new fields,