

## **II Tomsk Anthropological Forum “Anthropology of Interdisciplinarity”**

**(11–13 October 2018)**

### **Symposium 1. Migrations, Diaspora, and Transnationalism**

The Symposium named “Migrations, Diaspora, Transnationalism” where leading researchers from Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Estonia, Austria, France, Portugal, and the UK took part continued to work throughout the II Tomsk Anthropological Forum “Anthropology of Interdisciplinarity”.

While opening the Anthropological Forum Professor Ayse Caglar (University of Vienna, Austria) presented her plenary speech **Transnational Migration Paradigm: Challenges, Blind Spots and Opportunities for a Global Perspective** as part of the Symposium. She told about the development of the transnational paradigm in migration studies, and what opportunities, advantages, and limitations in its application this theory possess to research global migration processes.

The Symposium started with the plenary session where Russian scholars from the leading research institutes and centers discussed the development of migration studies in Russia and abroad including anthropological approaches to research migration and issues, and perspectives in the Russian migration policy.

Sergey N. Abashin, Professor of the European University (St. Petersburg), in his report **Anthropology of Migration: Russian Perspectives** pointed out that Migration Studies is a new research area that has just started to develop in the Russian Federation since the 1990s within the demographic and sociological framework. Professor Abashin said that academic society in migration studies did not pay enough attention to many issues. In addition, he also emphasized a necessity to improve and use anthropological approaches that allow expanding the boundaries of research fields and providing a “focused-on-human” viewpoint, and a comprehensive vision of migration as a phenomenon.

The second plenary report, **International Migrations at the Beginning of the XXI Century in Europe: New Plots, New Approaches, and New Language**, presented by Elena I. Filippova, Leading Researcher (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences), was dedicated to the analysis of the migration studies evolution abroad. Elena Filippova showed how migration studies developed in Europe and the USA. She suggested that this situation caused fragmentation of the contemporary research, deficiency of historical retrospective and methodological nationalism that define both the research results and policy decisions in the migration field.

Professor Sergey V. Ryazantsev, Director of Institute of Social and Political Research of Russian Academy of Sciences and the head of Department of Demographic and Migration Policy (Moscow State Institute of International Relations, MGIMO), in his report, **Does Russia's Migration Policy See a Human Being?**, told about the Russian migration policy. He gave a detailed analysis of demographic processes in Russia the main conclusion of which is a high significance of the migration gain, and therefore, the attraction of migrants.

However, according to Professor Ryazantsev, the Russian migration policy does not meet any social, economic and demographic needs of the country. At the same time, he proposed opportunities and alternatives to develop migration policy towards labor, and educational migration, in particular, not only within Russia but also in cooperation with other states.

**Dr. Vladimir S. Malakhov, Visiting Research Fellow (Institute of Philosophy of Russian Academy of Sciences), Director of the Centre for Political Theory and Applied Political Sciences (Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration), presented the report Political Dimension of Cultural Diversity. His work was devoted to the role of cultural differences in social and political spheres. He paid his special attention to the construction of the symbolic borders between migrants and a host society.**

**Vladimir Malakhov argued that these borders had a different background from country to country. For instance, the symbolic frontier is religion in the European countries while it is a language in the USA. A number of factors such as institutional design, political processes, and historical features of the states define different criteria that divide people into groups. The researcher stressed that the frontier between people was formed because of the ethnic identification in some countries. According to his opinion, the actualization of ethnicity depends on migration policy of a receiving country, a departure country behavior and the citizenship regime.**

**The Symposium included eight panels and a roundtable:**

**Panel 1. Migration and Time: Past, Present, and Future in the Migration Experience (Moderator Sergey. N. Abashin)**

**Panel 2. Anthropological and Sociological Dimension of Migration Policy (Moderator Sergey V. Ryazantsev)**

**Panel 3. Migration to/in Europe: Seen from Within and from the Outside (Moderator Larisa V. Deriglazova)**

**Panel 4. Migration Processes in Russia: a Historical Tradition (Moderator Viktor I. Dyatlov)**

**Panel 5. Anthropology of Global Migration Governance (Moderator Oleg V. Korneev, Karolina Kluczevska)**

**Panel 6. (Round Table) Migration and Development: Ongoing Field Contestations and Anthropological Critique (Moderator Oleg V. Korneev)**

**Panel 7. City and Migrants: Spaces of Contact and Conflict (Moderator Saodat K. Olimova)**

**Panel 8. Migrations, Memory, and Identity (Moderator Elena I. Filippova)**

**Panel 9. Educational Migration in Russia (Moderator Elena Yu. Kosheleva)**

**The Symposium demonstrated a wide spectrum of research issues, approaches, and methods for studying different aspects of migration. The Forum's participants focused on a human dimension in migration studies, including investigation of both migrants and host communities.**

**The researchers discussed goals and motivation that influence migrants' behavior and their social position; the forms of interaction between migrants and a receiving society within leisure, tourism, labor activity, and education; and the migrant's perception of their country of origin, destination country and their social status.**

**The issues of migration policy and governance being discussed as part of some panels became significant topics as well. The experts analyzed the Russian situation and the experience of other states, issues of global migration governance, and the role of international organizations in this field.**

**Young researchers, master, and Ph.D. students from Tomsk, St. Petersburg, Omsk, Novokuznetsk and Irkutsk participated in the work of the Symposium.**

**In general, the II Tomsk Anthropological Forum became the platform to discuss existing and appearing trends of migration studies and exchange experience in the sphere. Despite the migration studies in Russia, as noted above, have not been formed yet as an independent sub-discipline, the Symposium's results showed a big progress in this direction.**