

June workshops of PhD program "Searching Identity. Global challenges local traditions"

'Identity on Borderland' 16-18. 06. 2014

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June workshops for PhD candidates of the scholarly program "Searching Identity. Global challenges local traditions" were the logical end of the working academic year.

I appreciated that workshops were interactive and cooperative. I cannot say that all panel discussions or rings were interesting for me. The reason is not that they were boring but some topics like different aspects of Siberian problems or problems of migrants in Russia are not my sphere of interest and I'm not familiar with it. But still I could discover interesting sides of identity problems even in the new and not well known for me things.

It was very interesting to participate in the discussion after the presentations of professors and my colleagues PhD candidates. Our all research topics are completely different but during this workshops we could cooperate with each other and learn many new things during our communication.

The special thing - I want to thank for involving into workshop program some aspects of Ukrainian problems. Especially I liked the idea of a kind of "practical assignment" when students were divided in two groups and working over the problem of solving the conflict on the borderland on eastern Ukraine. It was really good experience for me in team-working and using my theoretical knowledge on modeling some practical situation. Another very valuable thing that our groups consisted on international participants.

I want to admit that I discovered something new for me in each ring. But especially I want to thank to professor Tatyana Berniukevich, the coordinator of ring I have been participated in. This ring named 'Cultural Identity - between Construct and Reality' gave me the opportunity to present and share my scholarly interests. I liked to hold my presentation and after that to discuss it. That's very useful practice to deliver some speech on public. I think that we, new and young scholars, need such things. For me that's a pleasure to deliver the presentation because I have a chance to be estimated not only by myself and my academic supervisor, but to see the reaction on my interests, to have/not have a feedback from the others. That's great experience I think.

Now I'd like to say a few words about general topic of the workshops 'Identity on Borderland'. I should emphasize exactly this topic is extremely important nowadays. The questions of identity always were among interests of humanities and social science. And the connection establishing or searching identity in conditions of borderland is twice important! Besides, this topic is directly related with the problems of Ukrainian identity I am researching. It was very helpful for my research to listen to the lectures of professor U. Vinokurova in cases of practice of diminishing national identity and substituting it by another, imposed, non-inherent; the lecture of professor J. Kieniewicz gives new directions of the borderland problematic and the problematic of CEE; the lecture of T. Finikov was very interesting in presenting the key problems of Ukrainian situation; the lectured delivered by professor T. Zarycki also was very interesting for me in the questions of Periphery and Borderland problems.

As the conclusion I want to say that workshops were multidisciplinary, extremely important and useful at least for me.