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New Texts

Olga Bessonova
Outcomes of Transformation of the Soviet Housing Model..... 14

Abstract

Despite the 20 years of economic transformation from the redistributive system (*razdatok*) to the market, the Russian modern housing policy has returned to the large-scale introduction of departmental and public housing and municipal mortgage (at reduced rate) for government employees. It resulted from the mechanism of market-*razdatok* equilibrium. In the course of historical changes in Russia it came through three institutional cycles. At structured phases of these cycles the *razdatok* turns out to be in the front while at the transformation stages a quasi market is formed. Both models generate significant outcomes but then face a crisis. This impasse is usually resolved by mutual replacement of these models. The new housing policy should synthesize market and redistributive (*razdatok*) mechanisms as indicated by the experience of welfare states' formation in the developed countries.

Keywords: housing *razdatok*; redistributive economy; housing quasi market; municipal mortgage; market transformation; welfare state.

New Translations

Alya Guseva
Into the Red: The Birth of the Credit Card Market in Postcommunist Russia
(translated by *Yury Kapturevsky*) 30

The book «Into the Red: The Birth of the Credit Card Market in Postcommunist Russia» by *Alya Guseva* explores the emergence of credit card market in Russia and discusses how the demand for absolutely new product is created. The research is based on interviews and archival data collected in two series in Moscow (Russia): from 1998 to 1999 and from 2003 to 2005. The author finds out that the socialist legacies shaped the Russian credit card market development. This path-dependence of the Russian market resulted in non-trivial solutions discovered by the market actors trying to cope with uncertainty and complementarity as two critical factors. Social networks play an important role here as well. The journal «Economic Sociology» publishes the book's first chapter suggesting theoretical foundations for the empirical research.

Keywords: credit card market; banks; uncertainty and complementarity.

Insight from the Regions

Tatyana Zhuravskaya

«Grey» Importation over the Russian-Chinese Border: What's New? 54

Abstract

The research aims at describing mechanisms and practices of «grey» importation of consumer goods over the Russian-Chinese border. It also demonstrates significant changes which happened over the last 10 years. The city of Blagoveshchensk (Amur region) serves as a case studied. Data covers in-depth interviews, observations, information from the website «Amur.info» and relevant legislation. «Grey» importation and shuttle trade are discussed from the standpoint of the new institutional economics and networks perspectives. The comparison of early and late 2000s business practices shows that applied «grey» business schemes are flexible and universal. In addition, there are important shifts in actors' status, role of Customs office and goods quality.

Keywords: «grey» importation; retailing; shuttle traders; formal and informal institutions.

Debate Studies

Natalya Voronina, Irina Zangieva

Attitudes of Employees to Intrafirm Interaction in the Sphere of Social and Labor Relations 72

Abstract

The article is devoted to employees' orientations within the space of «cooperation–conflict». Social attitudes of employees to interactions between main actors of labor relations are empirically studied by instruments of factor analysis.

Keywords: social and labor relations; intrafirm interaction; social attitudes.

Professional Reviews

Anastasiya Dubova

Studies in Social Roots of the Police Informal Economic Activity 91

Abstract

The article describes the academic literature on social roots of police involvement into informal economy. The major issue for investigation is: why do policemen move from law enforcement officers into market actors? Does it result from group norm socialization or their individual characteristics? Three concepts involving individual, group and system factors are introduced. Attempts to adapt approaches applied in sociology of deviant behavior (social criminology) to economic sociological tasks are undertaken. In conclusion, potential trajectories for the future research of these issues are indicated.

Keywords: police; informal economy; corruption; reasons for involvement of policemen into informal economy; social embeddedness; police culture; code of silence.

New Books*Alisa Maksimova*

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