



Открытый междисциплинарный семинар
«Научная среда»

Заключительная встреча весенней сессии 2015

‘Soil’ of the Social: Enframing Space, Place and Materiality in Social Research

(«Почва» социальных отношений: анализ пространства, места и материального контекста в социологическом исследовании)

27 мая, среда

Факультет социологии СПбГУ, ауд. 229

19.00

Рабочий язык семинара – английский

Ignacio Farias

Munich Center of Technology and Society, Technische Universität München

Studio studies: engaging with material in creative processes

My presentation approaches the ‘studio’ as a key site for the production of cultural artefacts, and in doing so it aims at decentring the study of creativity and creative practices from a focus on mental and social processes to an engagement with the properties, tendencies and capacities of materials, artefacts and bodies. Zooming in on an artist studio, I reconstruct the process of making an art film from the perspective of a stop-motion camera system. Following how the camera system grows in complexity, transforming the artistic concept of the film, and how it enables collaboration among team members, I provide an agnostic and ‘realistic’ account of artistic studio processes. Following Dewey’s early insights into art production, I describe the camera system as an expression device exerting precise pressure upon materials and bodies in view of shaping expressive and affective objects. But I also demonstrate that engaging with materials renders expression into a highly distributed and slightly uncontrollable process. Consequently, the talk explores how studio processes are to be understood as a meshwork of forces differently affecting the form artworks take.

Anisya Khokhlova and Nikita Basov

Center for German and European Studies, St. Petersburg State University

**Relating Materiality to Communication and Meaning:
A Combination of Ethnography and Network Analysis**

This paper focuses on techniques to grasp material context in its relation to symbolic and social orders by combining qualitative and quantitative methods of social research. Departing from Latour's ANT and Knorr Cetina's object-centered sociality, we seek to relate social and meaning structures to everyday material context. In doing so, we study artistic collectives, for which the role of space and materiality has been widely recognized (Carlozzi et al. 1995; Meusburger 2009; Griswold et al. 2013), as artists are particularly responsive to stimuli from material environment. Few studies that aimed to empirically tackle the relations between the symbolic world of artistic creation and the material world of objects normally use ethnographic observations and interviews. Supplementing those with quantitative methods, such as formal textual analysis and sociometric surveys, we map and triangulate relations between objects, individuals and meanings and attempt to trace patterns in how objects are used, narrated and linked to relations between individuals and meanings. The paper discusses some of the findings and methodological challenges put by such a research design experienced throughout the study of six European artistic collectives: operationalizing network links with and between objects; tracing relations of objects with individuals and meanings; providing the analytical balance of material order with its symbolic expressions and social functions.