Laboratory for Studies in Economic Sociology (LSES) was established at the Department of Sociology of the Higher School of Economics in 2006. The key objective of the Laboratory is the stimulation of economic and sociological research; a more active implementation of their results in the educational process; helping the integration of the professional community of economic sociologists as well as reinforcing it among young researchers and teachers; involving the high achieving students in research and teaching.

Laboratory is headed by Prof. Vadim Radaev (First Vice-Rector of the HSE).

Nowadays LSES team is involved in the following activities:

- Sociological research on consumer markets and popular finance, freelance and informal economy;
- Policy oriented research in cooperation with the leading business associations;
- Educational programs and summer schools for the Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral students;
- E-journal "Economic sociology" and newsletter "ESForum";
- Translations of major works on economic sociology into Russian.

The LSES is governed by the principles of academic freedom, importance of empirical studies, combination of academic and policy oriented research, combination of research and teaching.
LSES invites professors, senior and junior research fellows, doctoral and Master’s students, as well as some undergraduates taking majors in economic sociology. Laboratory is organized to spur up efficient sharing of academic knowledge and research experience.

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**Dilyara Ibragimova** is Associate Professor in economic sociology and Senior Research Fellow at the LSES. She holds a candidate of History from the Moscow State University (1995). Her professional interests include economic sociology, sociology of financial behaviour of households, consumer finance, consumer expectations. She is an author of *Financial Practices of Russian Population* (2008) (in Russian), *Do People Trust Financial Institutions?* (2010); *Money Management in Russian Families* (2012). E-mail: dibragimova@hse.ru

**Tatiana Karabchuk** is Associate Professor in economic sociology and Senior Research Fellow at the LSES. Her research interests include labour market studies atypical work and employment, job stability and fertility, female labour participation, employment and happiness. Tatiana defended her Russian PhD in 2008 at the HSE, the thesis was devoted to non-permanent employment in Russia. The last international peer-reviewed publications are focused on the wage differences of part-time and full time workers and fixed-term and unlimited contractors as well as to the gender issues of temporary work in Russia. She is an author of *Determinants of Temporary Employment for Men and Women in Russia* (2009); *Standard and Non-standard Employment in Russia: How Large is the Wage Gap* (2011); *Informal Employment in Russia: Why is it so Sustainable?* (2012); *Part-time and Temporary Workers in Russia: Winners or Losers?* (2012).

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Leon Kosals is Professor in economic sociology and Senior Research Fellow at the LSES. His research interests include clan capitalism in Russia and other countries, shadow economy, organized crime, corruption at law enforcement agencies, Socioeconomic issues of post-Soviet military-industrial complex. She is the author of: The Clan Capitalism and its Long Run Future in Russia (2008), Russian Defense Industry Confronts the Market: Finding of a Longitudinal Survey (2011), Commercialization of Police and Shadow Economy: The Russian Case (with A.Dubova) (2012).

Olga Kuzina is Professor in economic sociology, Lecturer at the International College of Economics and Finance at the HSE, and Senior Research Fellow at the LSES. She holds a candidate of Economics (1997) from the Institute of Economics of Russian Academy of Science and PhD in Sociology (2007) from the University of Essex, United Kingdom. Her professional interests include economic sociology, economics and sociology of financial behaviour of households, consumer finance, financial literacy, social assessment of economic projects, public private partnership, and corporate social responsibility. She is an author of Puzzles of Saving Behaviour of Russian Households (2007); The Level of Financial Literacy of Russians: Before and During the Crisis of 2008–2009 (2011); Individual Financial Strategies – How to Define and to Operationalize (2012).
Elena Nazarbaeva is Junior Research Fellow at the LSES. She received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Department of Sociology (HSE). Her research activities include studies of retail trade and stratification issues. Her research interests cover economic sociology, sociology of market, and sociology of youth. She is an author of *What Is More Important for Early Stage Entrepreneurs in Russia and Belgium: Human Capital vs. Social Capital* (with M. Markin) (2010); *Competition and "Coopetition" in Russian Internet Retailing: New Forms of Corporate Social Responsibility* (with E. Nazarbaeva, S. Borisova) (2011); *Exploring the Digital Divide: a Case of Russia and Turkey* (with A. Acilar, E. Nazarbaeva) (2012).

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Ivan Pavlyutkin is Senior Lecturer in economic sociology and Senior Research Fellow at the LSES. His research interests include organization studies, economics and sociology of higher education, ethnographic studies of markets, and methodology of sociological research. His Russian PhD thesis was defended in 2010 at the HSE and devoted to the relationship between organizational structure and identity of Technical Universities through the process of organizational change. He is author of *Organizational Change in Russian Universities: Institutionalization of Quality Assurance* (2010, in Russian), *Universities, Ratings, and Market: Institutional Effects of Ranking in Higher Education* (2010, in Russian), *Constructing University as an Organization* (2011, in Russian).

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**Natalia Firsova** is a Ph.D. student in economic sociology, visiting postgraduate student at the University of Essex, a Junior Research Fellow at the LSES and an Associate Researcher at the Laboratory for Comparative Social Research. Her current research interests include sociology of consumption and lifestyle, diffusion of innovations, subjective freedom and well-being, and methods for comparative research. Homepage: [http://www.hse.ru/en/org/persons/25928070](http://www.hse.ru/en/org/persons/25928070) E-mail: nfirsova@hse.ru
Junior research assistants

The LSES invites junior research assistants recruited from the best undergraduate students of the Department of Sociology. They take part in all seminars and conduct their own research projects.

**Dana Assalauova**: "I've been working at the LSES for one year. Here I am busy in translating academic papers into Russian for the 'Economic Sociology' journal. My main research interest today is to study the market of art from the economic sociological perspective."

**Konstantin Glazkov**: "I describe my current position at the LSES as 'junior associate'. 'Junior' since I am still searching for my own place and a most interesting field. And an 'associate' because I feel myself a part of a team of bright and strong persons and I am looking forward to enforcing these connections. Now I am mostly interested in street economy, sociology of space, and urban studies. Currently I take part in several projects on street economy and elections studying them from the perspective of sociology of space."

**Alena Gryaznova**: "I am a newcomer at the LSES and my goal is to join academic community to study informal economy and forms of employment using qualitative methods. At present I am studying coworking spaces."

**Alexander Kostyukov**: "My research interests include both theoretical sociology and methodology of sociological research. At present I work on issues of performativity of economic knowledge."
Petr Martynenko: "Training at the LSES provides a great opportunity to find answers to most important questions. I am taking part in the research on the history of economics now. And I am planning to study changes in the Russian higher education in the future."

Regina Resheteeva: "I am interested in sociology of professions and occupations, commodification of life, and use of qualitative methods. The LSES provides an opportunity to participate in research projects and implement my own ideas. At the moment I am studying the behavior of professional poker players in Russia."

Ivan Tereshchenko: "I am mostly interested in studying global issues, such as the effects of energy crisis on divergent aspects of our life and dynamics of the modern world system. This interest in energy saving technologies is also connected with the issues of sustainable development of the environment that is vital for preserving the mankind in the future."

Marat Totrov: "For me working at the LSES gives an opportunity to learn more and to do research on my own. Here experienced researchers share their knowledge, and I can receive all necessary support. I am especially interested in the status market approach and sociology of education."
Laboratory supports individual and collective research projects on various issues that contribute with the new ideas to the theoretical and empirical debates on economy and society. Research is funded by the HSE, academic foundations, and business associations. Research projects at the LSES covers several major fields: sociology of market exchange and retail trade, informal economy and illegal markets, popular finance and household behavior, new forms of employment (freelance, casual work, fixed-term contracts), historical sociology of economic knowledge.

**Sociology of Market Exchange**  
Research team: V. Radaev (head), Z. Kotelnikova.

The study investigates market exchange as infused with social ties with a special focus upon contractual and non-contractual arrangements, power imbalances, and relational conflicts between exchange partners on interfirm level. Transactional and relational forms of market exchange along with their compositions and hybrid forms of governance are scrutinized. Datasets are collected from two standardized surveys of 512 managers (buyers and suppliers) in groceries and home electronic appliances sectors. Surveys were conducted in 2007 and 2010 in five Russian cities (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, and Tyumen).

**Transformation of the Rules of Exchange in Russian Retail Trade as a Result of the New Federal Regulatory Policy**  
Research team: V. Radaev (head), Z. Kotelnikova, M. Markin, and E. Nazarbaeva.

The study reveals controversial effects of the government intervention into a liberalized and competitive industry. Russian retailing is taken as a special case for investigation. Specifically, the study focuses upon changes in institutional arrangements after the adoption of the new Federal trade legislation that imposed administrative restrictions on contract relationships between chain stores and their suppliers in 2009. Datasets are collected from two standardized surveys of 512 managers (buyers and suppliers) in groceries and home electronic appliances sectors. Surveys were conducted in 2007 and 2010 in five Russian cities (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, and Tyumen). In-depth interviews with retailers and suppliers are also used.

**Examining the Informal Alcohol Market in Russia**  

The purpose of the study is to examine the structure and dynamic of illegal markets taking as a case of illicit and unrecorded alcohol markets in Russia. It focuses upon the relationship between policy measures, production and consumption of commercial and noncommercial alcohol, and indicators of alcohol-related harm. In particular, the research is proposed to emphasize the impact of external factors on the size of the illicit and unrecorded markets in
Data are collected from a pilot nationwide survey conducted in May–June 2012 with 2191 individuals and extended RLMS-HSE nationwide panel survey (Round 21) conducted in October–November 2012 with 7 thousand households and 16 thousand individuals in urban and rural areas.

To Drink or not to Drink: The Microeconomic Analysis of Alcohol Consumption in Russia at the Beginning of XXI Century
Dates: 2012–2013
Researcher: Ya. Roshchina

The goal of this project is to find out the influence of some economic and social factors on the demand for alcohol in modern Russia. The number of regression models is estimated on the base of "The Russia Longitudinal Monitoring Survey (RLMS-HSE)" 1994–2011. There are classic models of demand for alcohol of Becker and Murphy (1988): static, myopic and rational addiction models. We use two-step way of estimation because of two-step consumer decision ("to drink or not to drink" and how much to drink). This way let it possible to find out the factors of every decision separately. The new idea of this research is to use as independent variables not only economic parameters (as prices and incomes of respondent and his/her family members) but some social characteristics such as educational level, gender, age, nationality, optimism level, alcohol use by other family members, and other. The first results have demonstrated some that social factors (education, marital status, alcohol use by other family members) are more important that the economic ones (as price for alcohol).

Research on Household Financial Behaviour in Russia
Dates: 2009–2012
Research team: D. Ibragimova, O. Kuzina

Trust in financial institutions, family finance management, retirement strategies, attitudes, perception and access to financial services such as credit, savings, investments, insurance and electronic money are the main focus of the research. The research is based on the all-Russian surveys which we have been conducting for the last four years (1600 people sampled in each year), and on the 22 focus group discussions held in different cities of Russia.

Social Determinants of Innovative Consumption Practices: Computer and Internet Utilization in Russian Households
Dates: 2011–2013
Researcher: N. Firsova

Consumption has been an object of study both in economics and sociology. In sociology dominant theories of consumption had a tendency to focus either on symbolic meaning of goods, or on the moral judgments of consumerism. Consumption in economics is mostly viewed through the lenses of price, disposable income and (ir)rationality. An alternative view on emerging consumption practices as a part of everyday social life from the perspective of economic sociology is proposed in this study. The contribution of this research is intended to add to two distinct fields. First, to the diffusion of innovations literature by emphasizing the importance of life history perspective. Second, to the body of economic sociology studies by focusing on consumption, neglected for a long time in favor of production and distribution. Theories of practice offers the appropriate framework for such purpose, avoiding both extremes of undersocialized and oversocialized individual, allowing for analysis of emerging practices, and shifting attention from symbolic communication to actions.
Self-Employment in the Global Digital Age: Remote Work Patterns and E-Markets  
Dates: 2007–2013  
Research team: A. Shevchuk, D. Strebkov.

Millions of self-employed professionals all over the world offer their services online in the rapidly growing global e-markets. These "electronic freelancers" are the primary subjects of the study. The research agenda covers three main areas. The first objective is to approach e-lancers as a new category of workers, to reveal their demographic, social and professional profiles; employment strategies and work-life balance; work values and motivation; organization of work; income and well-being. The next objective is to explore the development of online infrastructure and institutions; freelancer-client relationship; role of social ties and formal associations. The final step is to make international comparisons and finally answer the question whether e-lance economy constitutes the uniform global model. Quantitative data have been collected through standardized online surveys.

Female Labor Market Participation after Childbirth in Russia  
Dates: 2011–2013  
Research team: T. Karabchuk (head), M. Nagernyak, A. Suhova, M. Pankratova, V. Pankratova.

The project aimed at the labor market participation of women who gave birth to a child in Russia. The main questions that the research is addressing are: how fast are women to return to labor market? To they change their jobs, professions and what type of employment to they get, are they fairly paid and how satisfied are young mothers with their jobs and lives, what affects the decision of having the second or the third baby? The authors use the Russian longitudinal Monitoring Survey (annual household representative survey) for 2000-2009 to answer all the questions mentioned above.

Economic Activities of the Police in Transformation and Developing Countries  
Dates: 2008–2013  
Research team: L. Kosals (head), D. Strebkov, E. Berdysheva, T. Karabchuk, A. Dubova, M. Kravtsova.

The research projects in this area explore the engagement of policemen into private business. These activities include services on the private security market, the take-over of companies, bribery, and similar practices that can be classified as abuse of official duties by police officials. In fact, police can be considered as a big and complex corporation that consists of formal and informal organizations and maximizes profits while keeping other goals (services for population and politicians) at certain level. The aim of the research is to reveal forms and causes of police business activities in various transformation countries (Russia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan), as well as their consequences for economy and society.

Dates: 2012–2014  
Research team: S. Barsukova (head), M. Markin, O. Kirchik, O. Karpenko, V. Zvyagintsev.

The research concerns the results of some reforms made in Russia at the 2000th. Most of the transformations were aimed at the modernization of the Russian economy but their real conse-
sequences are incomprehensible. The research bases on the various empirical data (first of all, on the interviews with key market actors and state representatives) and covers different fields of the Russian economy such as agricultural policy, retailing, land management, migration policy, etc. Its main aim is to analyze the consequences of the reforms as a transformation of business practices.

**Higher Learning, Better Goods? In Search for Public and Social Effects of Higher Education**  
Dates: 2012–2013  
Researcher: I. Pavlyutkin.

There is a long tradition in economics of conceptualizing higher education as a good, engaged in the production of private, social and public benefits. It is hard even to question such positive effects as it is taken for granted and supported by results of research that access to higher education stimulates economic growth, reduces crime, and increases the level of social capital and safety and etc. In comparison with many developed and developing countries, Russia can be considered a specific case, where two contradictory trends could be observed during 1990th and 2000 - increasing number of students and population with higher education and decreasing level of social welfare. The aim of this project is to bring new theoretical and empirical insights in the conceptualization of higher education and the public good reflecting on economic and sociological perspective.

**The Role of Kolkhoz' Directors during "Perestroika"**  
Dates: 2012–2013  
Researcher: A. Kurakin

The research project deals with the perception and the reaction of kolkhozes to Gorbachev's efforts to revive Soviet agriculture. These efforts along with other economic decisions started "Perestroika". How were Gorbachev's innovations executed on the farm's level? What was the role of the kolkhoz' directors as key decision makers? How did "Perestroika" influence the different types of kolkhozes and different types of their directors? How did the post-Soviet status of a kolkhoz depend on the actions made during "Perestroika" by the major decision makers and kolkhoz' directors in particular? The empirical data will be the semi-structured interviews in 8 regions with the former kolkhoz' directors who held an office during "Perestroika".

**"Economic" and "Social": Problem of Drawing Disciplinary Boundaries in Economic Sociology**  
Dates: 2011–2012  
Researcher: G. Yudin

The relationship between "economic" and "social" in economic sociology is analyzed. Mainstream economic sociology used to define economic as a form of social, thus leading to a theoretical crisis of the discipline. The author looks for the theoretical causes of this crisis, undertakes a historical analysis of several basic concepts in economic sociology and suggests some reconceptualizations. The main theoretical resources are Karl Polanyi's anthropology, performativity studies and Michel Foucault's archeology. The project aims at developing an analytical framework for analyzing economic phenomena, based on an alternative vision of boundaries between economic and social.
The LSES conducts applied policy oriented research funded by the leading business associations of global and domestic companies operating at the Russian consumer markets. The list of research projects includes:

- The retail companies' costs of cash and non-cash payments transactions (The Retail Companies Association, 2012).
- Impact of parallel import legalization on consumer markets (funded by RATEK and RusBrand, 2011).
- Specific features and development trends of the out-of-store trade in Russia: current statues, potential development, and regulation (funded by the Russian Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 2011).
- Major trends in the markets for counterfeited goods and an impact of the new Custom Union (funded by RusBrand, 2010).
- System of monitoring for status and trends in trade activity (funded by the Russian Federation Ministry for Industrial Production and Trade, 2010).
- Online trade market: supply chains and tax optimization schemes (funded by RATEK, 2010).
- Analytical review of current status and major development prospects of the Russian retail trade (funded by Sberbank of Russia, 2009).
- Major trends in the market for counterfeited goods (funded by RusBrand, 2008).
- Corporate Governance in Contemporary Russia: Experience and Prospects (funded by National Council for Corporate Governance, 2007).
- Economic Impact of the New Law on Advertising (funded by RusBrand, 2006).

The outcomes of policy oriented research are published in a special series "Analytics of the LSES" available on the web http://www.hse.ru/mag/analytics/archive.html
The LSES runs regular research workshops aimed at discussing theory, methodology, and empirical findings in economic sociology and related fields. During the last three years summer sociological field trips to small Russian towns were arranged by the LSES with a support of Department of Sociology and student Sociological Club "Gorod". These trips were inspired by the idea that students should get their own fieldwork experience and develop their skills in ethnographic research. They learn to observe urban environment, open-air markets, exchange relationships, and everyday life of a small town; build up an effectively working research team and develop communicative skills.
Bachelor program in economic sociology

Bachelor program in economic sociology was launched at the Department of sociology in 1999. At present it offers the following teaching courses:

- Comparative Analysis of Economic Systems (Andrey Shevchuk)
- Economic Sociology (Maxim Markin, Elena Nazarbaeva, Alexander Kurakin)
- Economic Sociology (advanced level) (Vadim Radaev, Zoya Kotelnikova)
- Economic Sociology of Popular Finance (Olga Kuzina)
- Informal Economy (Svetlana Barsukova, Elena Berdysheva)
- Sociological Approaches to Organization Studies (Ivan Pavlyutkin, Igor Chirikov)
- Retail Chains’ Strategies in Russia (Zoya Kotelnikova)
- Social and Economic Anthropology (Nikolai Ssorin-Chaikov, Gregory Yudin, Ivan Pavlyutkin, Natalia Bogatyr)
- Social and Historical Analysis of Economic Knowledge (Olessia Kirchik, Gregory Yudin)
- Social and Economic Behavior of the Households (Yana Roshchina)
- Sociology of Financial Behavior (Olga Kuzina, Dilyara Ibragimova)
- Sociology of Consumption (Yana Roshchina)
- Sociology of Entrepreneurship (Alexander Chepurenko)

Master’s Program in sociology of markets

The Master’s program ‘Applied Methods of Social Analysis of Markets’ (Sociology of markets) was established at the Department of Sociology in 2005. It is headed by Professor Vadim Radaev and Professor Yulianna Tolstova.

The LSES contributes to the Master’s programme with the following teaching courses:

- Applied Analysis of Consumer Markets (Vadim Radaev, Zoya Kotelnikova)
- Analysis of Consumer Expectations (Dilyara Ibragimova)
- Consumer Behavior (Yana Roshchina)
- Comparing Societies in Transformation: Trajectories and Systems (Leonid Kosals)
- History and Methodology of Economic Sociology (Maxim Markin)
- Marketing in Financial Organizations (Denis Strebkov)
- Popular Finance (Olga Kuzina)
- Sociology of Markets (Vadim Radaev, Zoya Kotelnikova)

Graduates of Master’s Program are mostly employed in areas of consumer market research and consulting, public relations and human resource. Some of them work at international companies: Boston Consulting Group, Procter & Gamble, Metro Cash & Carry, Nielsen, Vodafone Group plc., etc. Those who are interested in academic career enter doctoral program in economic sociology (Aspirantura).
The journal is on the web since fall 2000 and is headed by the chief editor Prof. Vadim Radaev. "Economic Sociology" is a peer-reviewed journal issued bi-monthly (five issues annually). The main objective of the journal is to introduce the results of the most recent studies in economic sociology and relevant fields as well as information on conferences, publications, etc. to scholars engaged in the enterprise of economic sociology.

In 2006 LSES initiated the publication of the Newsletter "ESForum" (in Russian). The key goal of the newsletter is to promote economic sociology as a rapidly developing and excitingly interesting research area. Five issues of the Newsletter per year are available both in paper and on-line. Newsletter editors are Elena Berdysheva and Zoya Kotelnikova.


Working papers series is edited by Vadim Radaev since 2002. It was designed to make recent results of research in sociology of markets available to a wider readership. The papers are based on drafts discussed at the LSES regular workshops. Most of the working papers are published in Russian.

It contains information on research fellows, their projects, main publications, workshops, news, and announcements.
The Laboratory runs a program of translations of contemporary classics in economic sociology and sociology of markets. Since the start of this program more than 60 papers of international scholars were translated into Russian. Most of them are regularly published in E-journal "Economic sociology". Translations project is coordinated by prof. Vadim Radaev and Gregory Yudin.

The project is resulted in Russian translations of the following books and readers in economic sociology:

- Dobbin, F. Forging Industrial Policy (forthcoming)
- Fligstein, N. Architecture of Markets: An Economic Sociology of Twenty-First-Century Capitalist Societies (forthcoming)
- Classics of New Economic Sociology (forthcoming).