THE MEANINGS OF DWELLING FROM A SOCIAL MOBILITY PERSPECTIVE

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Fieldwork in Yekaterinburg city

- Was founded around a **factory** on the Iset’ river in **1723**
- Current population is more than **1 460 000** people (2015)
- Average **income** is **40 000 – 50 000** rub, ~ **700 euro** (2014)

- Info from official portal [екатеринбург.рф](http://екатеринбург.рф) and report of the leader of the city in 2015
### Social status of informants: 6 biographical interviews

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Professional status</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Chief of department in insurance company</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>Higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Chief of department in governmental organization</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>Higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>General manager in chain of restaurants</td>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>Higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Factory worker</td>
<td>Low income</td>
<td>General secondary education (school)</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Owner of small business</td>
<td>Middle+</td>
<td>Higher</td>
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3 groups of life-styles: the linkage between social and physical spaces

- Young and “enlighten” men
- Non-mobile and resourceless women
- Dynamic and mature men

What is the meaning of dwelling from a social mobility perspective?
Chief of department in insurance company, higher education, 25 y. o., has a girlfriend

It is very comfortable that I live here, so I have a lot of friends, everything is on the way and all meet here. Well, I’m the “darling” of the center and “darling” of the fortune. Grateful to my parents this apartment is in the center.
Chief of department in governmental organization, higher education, 28 y. o., has a girlfriend.

In our country, to buy an apartment on their own financial ... is unreal. It is necessary to kill someone or something to steal. In my case 2/3 of money grandmother gave me and 1/3 I saved myself. Grandmother presented me an apartment, which she inherited from her parents. I sold it and it helped me to buy this dwelling.
Young and “enlighten” men: life-style and social position

- **Cultural capital** development: specialized school and educational programs
- Young **parents and friendly relationship**, parents as life providers
- Upgrading professional **mobility and stable income**
- Live in “own” dwelling in city center and use it’s advantages
- Have **hobby** as yoga, travel, car

Dwelling provided by “parents” is consistent to their life-style and give them opportunity for further upward mobility
General manager in chain of restaurants, 26 y. o., higher education, single

I lived in the one grandparents, then the other, then I lived with my dad, when mom left for another town…

The grandfather “received” dwelling from the manufactory. 2 rooms, lives with the elderly in the city center
Factory worker, 45 y. o. “school’s” education (doesn't have higher education), single

I don’t have a plan of my life.... I became a victim of the numerous economical crises: in 1998, 2008 and 2012. How can I plan if I have nothing for planning?

The parents “received” dwelling from the manufactory. 2 rooms, lives with the elderly parents in the city center.
Non-mobile and resourceless women: life-style and social position

• Involved in manual labour and feel income limited
• Parents /grandmother from manual labour and dwellings are provided by manufactory in Soviet time
• Live in limited dwelling space: together with the elderly (couple), feel at home like a “guest”, have negative experience of living with boyfriend (back home)
• Don’t have a plan of life and live “passively” (don’t involved in city-center practices, but live in center, not traveling)
• Close to criminal groups (parents, boyfriend)

Dwellings are received by “parents” from the manufacturing. It is very limited in space and have interior of “elderly”. The women have no familial or own capitals (economical, cultural, social) for further mobility
Owner of small business, higher education, 45 y. o., wife and child

He bought this dwelling for money from own salary. 2 rooms, lives in the city center.

Well, of course we want also another house – suburban home, because my wife wants to go outside the city and to be able to breathe fresh air, have own walls etc.
Deputy head in industrial organization, 45 y.o., higher education, wife and 2 children

We live in a new dwelling complex "Sunny Island" new residential quarter, not far from the city center. New school is close to our home is the with French specialization. My youngest daughter is going to this school.

He bought this dwelling for money from own salary + money from wife’s inheritance. 3 rooms, lives in the city center.
Dynamic and mature men: life-style and social position

• **Moving** to Yekaterinburg from small city (Berezovskiy, Orsk) **for the education**
• Upgrading **professional mobility**, stable high income
• The time of career development **is the nineties**, **successful adaptation to new market economy**
• **Classical own family** (wife and children)
• Rich housing experience and **new “purchased” dwelling which suits for family**
• Regular **travel for work and vacations**

Dwellings are chosen (bought and “new”) based on family needs and life-style. It gives the opportunity for family members and children development
3 life-styles: the meaning of dwelling from a social mobility perspective

### Young and “enlighten” men
- Dwelling provided (bought) by “parents” is consistent to their life style and give them opportunity for further mobility
- The “inheritance” of familial capital (mobility)

### Non-mobile and resourceless women
- Dwellings are received by “parents” from manufacturing. It is very limited in space and have interior of “elderly”. The women have no familial or own capitals (economical, cultural, social) for further mobility
- The “inheritance” of familial capital (immobility)

### Dynamic and mature men
- Dwellings are chosen (bought and “new”) based on family needs and lifestyle. It objectifies the social position and gives the opportunity for family members and children development
- The capital created by dynamic and adaptive person (dwelling objectified the mobility)
Conclusions

- This empirical data confirms P. *Bourdieu theory* [1984] about interactions between social and physical spaces: physical space is projection of social space.
- Dwelling is an indicator of social space, it objectified the social position.
- Habitat (place of living) and habitus (social experience) are interfering and influenced to each other.
- Individuals with capitals / have effort for it creation positively shift positions (mobility) and who are originally limited in capitals reproduced life-style and practices of low class (immobility).

Thank you for attention!

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