

Academic Field: Sociology

“Theory, Methodology and History of Sociology” Specialization

About Specialization

This specialization aims to carry out fundamental analysis in the field of sociological theory, including classic and contemporary methodological approaches to the study of social systems, structures and processes.

The applied aspect of this specialization concerns the development of methodology, methods and techniques for the collection and analysis of empirical data within quantitative and qualitative paradigms, including methods and techniques for the collection and analysis of empirical data with the application of contemporary information technologies and use of various types of sources and resources.

Research Areas:

Theory, methodology and history:

1. Prehistory of theoretical sociology in socio-philosophical concepts;
2. History of classic foreign sociology;
3. History of contemporary foreign sociology;
4. History of Russian sociology in the 19th and 20th centuries;
5. History of Soviet and post-Soviet sociology;
6. Key ideas and concepts in contemporary sociological theory;
7. Contemporary methodology in sociological theory;
8. Conceptualization of new phenomena, processes and trends in society;
9. Forecasting sociological processes and phenomena in a Russian and global context;
10. Theoretical/methodological analysis of global, societal, environmental and other risks;
11. Conceptualization of social tension and conflict in society;
12. Sociology of science and technology;
13. Environmental sociology;
14. Social comparative analysis;

15. Clinical sociology.

Methodology and methods for the collection, processing, analysis and interpretation of data:

1. Developing new methodological approaches to the collection, registration and summarization of empirical data;
2. Methodologies for analyzing Big Data in sociology;
3. Validation of interdisciplinary approaches while combining methodological techniques of various social disciplines;
4. Methodological foundations for improving and developing various (quantitate and qualitative) methods and techniques for the collection and analysis data, combination and blending of methods;
5. Online research;
6. Longitudinal and panel analysis; data monitoring;
7. Methodology and methods for qualitative analysis;
8. Ethnographic analysis;
9. Biographic analysis;
10. Visual analysis;
11. Technologies in the survey industry;
12. Methodologies in comparative analysis;
13. Organization of sociological data archives;
14. Visualization of data in sociology.

“Social Structures, Social Institutions, Socio-economic, Political and Cultural Processes” Specialization

About Specialization

This specialization analyzes how society functions as a complex system in the context of globalization, anti-globalization, localization and regionalization.

This specialization covers analysis of functionality and changes of social institutions, social structures, social mobility, interplay between institutions of education, job market and economics, trends for social differentiation, social values at the level of society and its groups and social actors.

This area covers analysis of the interrelation of social, economic and political processes and phenomena, socio-political stratification of society, social condition

of political consciousness, values and motivations for economic-political actors, as well as characteristics of socio-political culture.

Research Areas:

1. Key criteria for stratification;
2. Correlation between structures, consciousness and action;
3. Differentiation and integration of society;
4. Marxist, functionalist and Weberian approaches to class analysis;
5. Dilution of traditional class boundaries;
6. Contemporary approaches to stratification analysis;
7. Gender, ethnic and age inequality;
8. Consumer inequality;
9. Digital inequality;
10. Theory of elites;
11. Recruitment of the current economic and political elite;
12. Theories of the middle class;
13. Theories of lower social classes and strata (working classes, peasantry, common folk, etc.);
14. Approaches to defining poverty;
15. Concept of the underclass;
16. Social objective and subjective mobility; their core forms;
17. Individualization of social trajectories;
18. Social foundations of power and authority;
19. Interrelation of state and society;
20. Civil society in Russia, its structure and key social actors;
21. New social movements;
22. Socio-economic assessments of political regimes;
23. Social conflicts;
24. Dynamics of contemporary political processes in various institutional contexts;
25. Social factors and approaches to spatial transformation; territorial communities in social structures;
26. Key procedures in the analysis of socio-stratification structures:
 - analyzing state statistics;
 - historiography methods;
 - secondary analysis of sociological analytical materials;
 - surveying population;
 - surveying experts;
 - multifaceted analysis of sociological information;

- theoretical analysis of empirical information.
- 27. Processes of digitalization, virtualization, network development in contemporary society;
- 28. Social contexts of secularization and de-secularization;
- 29. Modernization of the institution of the church;
- 30. Social phenomenon of unemployment;
- 31. Precarious labour and its socio-economic features;
- 32. Socio-professional status and professional careers;
- 33. Formal and informal social ties;
- 34. Social capital and trust;
- 35. Social analysis of generational differences;
- 36. Social phenomena of health, self-preservation and self-destructive behaviours;
- 37. Social adaption of migrants;
- 38. Families and partnerships as social institutions;
- 39. Socialization and youth subcultures;
- 40. Social experience of childhood;
- 41. Social aspects of territorial mobility and urbanism;
- 42. Virtual and real communities;
- 43. Analysis of racism and xenophobia;
- 44. Constructing ethnicity;
- 45. Sociology of life trajectories;
- 46. Aging and mental health;
- 47. Social aspects of law;
- 48. Models of social policy;
- 49. Social problems of urbanization/de-urbanization and regional development;
- 50. Social consequences of catastrophes;
- 51. Sociology of tourism;
- 52. Sociology of sport;
- 53. Sociology of medicine.

“Political Sociology” Specialization

About Specialization:

This field aims to analyze the political sphere of public life, socio-economic foundations of politics, the socio-political stratification of public systems, levels and structures of political consciousness, interrelation between politics and

society, mutual influence of social relations (social sphere) and political institutions (relations). Political sociology includes: power and its domination in social relations; political processes and phenomena in various social spheres; interrelation of political phenomena and social structures in various space-time historical continuums.

Research Areas:

1. Political power as a key subject of political sociology. Methods, functions and forms of political power in systems of public relations. Political consciousness and behaviour of social groups, communities, classes, organizations and individuals. Interrelation and influence of political and social spheres of public activities. Correlation and intersection of academic interests and conceptual frameworks of political sociology, sociology and political science.
2. Elements necessary for problem-solving in political sociology: correlation of the legality and legitimacy of power; analysis of electoral orientations and behaviour of citizens, monitoring political views of the population.
3. The development of political sociology as a separate field of knowledge. Key stages of its development. Important features of each stage. Contemporary situation in various countries. Schools of political sociology in foreign countries: the USA, Germany, the UK, France, etc.
4. Theoretical foundations of Max Weber's concept of political sociology, for the purpose of understanding and interpreting social activities, coupled with explanations of his approach and its consequences. Three approaches to political sociology: Max Weber, Seymour Lipset and Stein Rokkan, and contemporary Western Marxism.
5. Structure of political sociology. Politics and social sphere of life in society. Political interests of social subjects. Civil society as an object of political sociology. Participation of students in political activities. Reasons and various aspects of political behaviours. Public organizations as an indicator of diversity of political behaviour. Structure of public organizations at present. Socialization as a process for involving an individual in the social sphere. Essence and stages of political socialization. Electoral behaviour as an object of analysis in political sociology. Bureaucracy and bureaucratic systems. Essence, structure and dynamics of public opinion. Functionality of public opinion in systems of power relations. Sociological approaches to analysis of interest groups, pressure groups and lobbies. Manipulation of public opinion during pre-election campaigns.

6. Key features and core stages of development of political sociology in Russia. Character and variation of interrelation of power and society in Russia. Key characteristics of these relations and its effect on political and public life. Development of public organizations in Russia. Nature of bureaucracy in Russia. Public opinion and its role in Russia.

“Economic Sociology” Specialization

About Specialization:

The “Economic Sociology” specialization considers the development of the social foundations of economic activity, its roots in social networks, institutions, cultural and power relations, economic motivation structures, market and non-market forms of economy, state regulation of economy and informal economics, labour, consumer and financial relations, types of economic organizations and development models.

Research Areas:

1. Subjects of economic sociology;
2. History of economic sociology;
3. Social foundations of economic activities;
4. Structure of labour and economic motivation. Rational and irrational action;
5. Economic institutions;
6. Social networks;
7. Economic power;
8. Economic culture;
9. Socio-economic groups and classes;
10. The market as a type of economics;
11. Professional, sector-based, and regional particularities of employment. New forms of labour and employment in contemporary conditions. Informal employment. Precarious work.
12. Position of social groups in the field of labour. Problems of marginalization, discrimination, alienation, and social exclusion in contemporary society.
13. Problems of unemployment and joblessness;
14. Barter and other non-market forms of economics;
15. State regulation of the economy;
16. Informal and illegal economics;
17. Social factors and conditions for entrepreneurship;

18. Economic organizations;
19. Labour relations and workplace oversight;
20. Social foundations of labour relations;
21. Household economics;
22. Moral economics;
23. Consumer behaviour;
24. Financial and monetary behaviour;
25. Models for economic development;
26. Economic ideologies.

“Management Sociology” Specialization

About Specialization

Management Sociology is the study of social nature, social conditions, factors and mechanisms of social management, along with its respective spheres (economic, social, political, and spiritual), social groups and organizations, administrative impact on consciousness and behaviour. Sociological analysis of administrative activities includes study of value orientations and motivations of subjects of administration, consumer research and study of the interests of objects of administration, the effectiveness of the outcomes and forms of managerial activities, mechanism and performance of individuals involved in managerial efforts.

The key element of management sociology is analysis of the social contents of managerial practices and technologies, their design, forecasting, and assessment of the impact of such activities.

Research Areas:

1. History of the development of domestic and foreign sociological concepts for management;
2. Conceptual/categorical methods in management sociology as a result of interdisciplinary development;
3. Analysis of contemporary concepts in management sociology;
4. Empirical analytical methods and procedures in management sociology;
5. Management as institutionalized field of activity: key social aspects and performance criteria;

6. Social factors impacting on managerial behaviour;
7. Values, motives and behaviours of individuals in management systems;
8. Formal and informal relations in managerial processes;
9. Managerial culture, its content, functions and factors of development;
10. Typological models for management processes: signs, types of management relations, and styles of leadership;
11. Principles, structures, functions and methods of management in foundational institutions engaged in political administration;
12. Managerial activities in structures of public power: key features of organization, principles of rationality, problems of intra-organizational democracies.
13. Sociology of organization, its theoretical role in academic administrative systems;
14. Organization and its social nature: key types. Internal and external environs of organizations;
15. Social essence and functions of organizational management;
16. Structure of organization: its main types and forms. Vertical and horizontal communication in organization;
17. Problems of social order and power in organizations;
Sociological aspects of leadership problems;
18. Organizational practices, organizational culture, organizational change as objects of management sociology;
19. Administration of social conditions and organizational development factors;
20. Social effectiveness in management activities and strategic significance.
Problems in the correlation of social and economic and political efficiency;
21. Social technologies in managerial systems: essence, forms and key features;
22. Essence, levels and types of social forecasting;
23. Social programming and planning as a type of integrated problem solving for social development;
24. Social forecasting: essence, methods and practices;
25. Innovation in management systems: reasons, methods and social outcomes;
26. Social experimentation in management;
27. Crisis management and conflict troubleshooting;
28. Deviations in social management systems;
29. Sociological information/analytical support for administrative processes;

“Cultural Sociology” Specialization

About Specialization:

As a field, Cultural Sociology is the analysis of social interrelations in the sphere of culture and spiritual life, social conditions for creating, translation and reproducing cultural norms and values, knowledge, ideas, and concepts, forms of behaviour, symbols, etc. The core areas of analysis include culture, the sciences, education, the arts, religion, mass media, leisure activities and prospective trends for development.

Research Areas:

1. Sociocultural processes, structure and key features;
2. Culture and social interaction. Social functions of culture;
3. Social structures in society and cultural differentiation;
4. Cultural norms and deviations in social development. Variation in cultural norms. Subcultures and cultural marginality;
5. Social morphology of culture: structures, forms and levels of cultural activities;
6. Social dynamics of culture. Social instruments for profitability and innovation in culture;
7. Problems of subjects of cultural change;
8. Social regulation of cultural activities. Power and culture. Culture and social control;
9. Phenomenon of mass society and its sociocultural parameters. Mass and elite culture;
10. Civilization and culture. Global and local trends in cultural development;
11. Communications cultures. Contemporary communication technologies and their influence on the spiritual life of society;
12. Global communication systems (e.g., TV, Internet) and the spiritual life of society;
13. Subjective structures of culture and society;
14. Cultural socialization and self-identification of individuals;
15. Regulation as a socio-cultural phenomenon. Social functions of religion;
16. Religious organizations and movements in today's world;
17. Education and cultural reproduction;
18. Socio-cultural technologies for transmission of knowledge;
19. Social policy in education;
20. Science as a socio-cultural institution;
21. Content and trends towards reproduction of academic experts in today's society;

22. Contemporary cultural policy: content, levels, and instruments;
23. Corporate culture;
24. Legal culture and socio-normative systems for social regulation;
25. Language and society; analysis of discourse;
26. Social, collective, cultural and group memory;
27. Museum research;
28. Art markets;
29. Social media;
30. Cultural research (cultural sociology).

“Demography” Specialization

About Specialization

The field of Demography includes analysis of the patterns and social drives of changes in the population numbers and composition, demographic processes and behaviour, their interrelation, reasons and outcomes of their changes. In turn, the specialization includes development of methods for the collection and analysis of demographic data, methods for the modeling and forecasting of demographic processes and structures, fields and objectives of population policy, as well as the development of methods for the application of demographic knowledge in various spheres of academic application.

Research Areas:

1. History of demography;
2. Theory of population;
3. Demographics history;
4. Sources of data on populations;
5. Demographic dynamics and age/gender structure;
6. Age and demographic aging;
7. Methods of demographic analysis;
8. Fertility and reproductive behaviour;
9. Reproductive health and family planning;
10. Marriage and divorce;
11. Demographic analysis of mortality;
12. Demographic analysis of health and illness;
13. Demography of family and households;
14. Models for population reproduction;
15. Indirect methods of demographic assessment;

16. Demographic forecasts;
17. Demographic analysis of inter-generational differences;
18. Reflection of demographic and migration problems in social opinion;
19. Spatial mobility and internal migration;
20. Territorial organization of populations;
21. International migration;
22. Economic demography;
23. Social demography;
24. Regional demography;
25. Ethno-demography;
26. Bio-demography;
27. Political demography;
28. Applied demographics;
29. Populations and the environment;
30. Populations and development;
31. Population politics.
32. Global demographic problems.