

Profile of Academic Field: Sociology

“Theory, Methodology and History of Sociology”

Formula of the field of study

This field of study covers fundamental research in sociological theory, including classic and contemporary methodological approaches to the analysis of social systems, structures and processes.

The applied dimension of this field of study includes the development of methodologies, methods and techniques to collect and analyze empirical data in quantitative and qualitative paradigms, including methods and techniques for the collection and analysis of empirical data through the use of modern information technologies, along with the use of various types of sources and resources.

Areas of Research:

Theory, Methodology and History

1. History of Theoretical Sociology in Socio-philosophical Concepts
2. History of Classical 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 Concepts in Contemporary Sociological Theory
7. Contemporary Methodologies in Sociological Theory
8. Conceptualization of New Phenomena, Processes and Trends in Society
9. Forecasting Social Processes and Phenomena in the Russian and Global Context
10. Theoretical/Methodological Research into Global, Societal, Environmental, and Other Risks
11. Conceptualization of Social Tension, Conflicts in Society

12. Sociology of Sciences and Technologies
13. Environmental Sociology
14. Social Comparative Studies
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 Summation of Empirical Data
2. Methods for Big Data Analysis in Sociology
3. Undertaking Interdisciplinary Approaches when Combining Methodologies for Various Social Disciplines
4. Methodological Grounds for Improving and Developing (quantitatively and qualitatively) Methods, Methodologies and Techniques for the Collection and Analysis of Data, Combining and Mixing of Methods
5. Online Research
6. Longitudinal, Panel Studies and Data Monitoring
7. Methodology and Approaches to Qualitative Research
8. Ethnographic Research
9. Biographical Research
10. Visual Research
11. Technologies in the Survey Industry
12. Methodologies for Comparative Research
13. Organizing Sociological Data Archives
14. Visualization of Data in Sociology

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

Formula of the field of study

This field of study focuses on the analysis of the functions of society as a complex system within the context of globalization, anti-globalization, localization and regionalization.

This field of study foresees research into functionalities and changes in social institutions, societal structures, social mobility, and links between educational institutions, the labour market and economic processes, trends in social stratification, social values at the meta- and group level, as well as at that of social actors.

This field of study also foresees analysis of interrelations in social, economic and political processes and phenomena, socio-political stratification, social drivers of political consciousness, values and motivations of economic and political actors, as well as features of socio-political culture.

Areas of Research:

1. Key Criteria of Stratification
2. Correlation between Structure, Consciousness and Action
3. Differentiation and Integration of Society
4. Marxist, Functionalist and Weberian Approaches to Class Analysis
5. Blurring 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. Recruiting of Today's Economy and Political Elite
12. Theory of Middle Classes
13. Theory of Lowest Social Classes and Layers (Working Classes, Peasantry, Common Clerks)
14. Approaches to Determining Poverty
15. The Underclass as a Concept
16. Social Objective and Subjective Mobility: Key Types
17. Individualization of Social Trajectories
18. Social Foundations of Authority and Power
19. Relations of State and Society
20. Civil Society in Russia, its Structure and Key Social Actors
21. New Social Movements
22. Socio-Economic Measurements of Political Regimes
23. Social Conflicts
24. Dynamics of Current Political Processes in Various Institutional Settings
25. Social Context of Secularization and Desecularization
26. Modernization of Church Institutions

27. Unemployment as a Social Phenomenon
28. Precarious Work and its Socio-Economic Features
29. Socio-Professional Status and Professional Careers
30. Formal and Informal Social Connections
31. Social Capital and Trust
32. Social Analysis of Generational Differences
33. Social Phenomenon of Health, Self-care and Self-neglect Behaviours
34. Social Adaptation and Migrants
35. Families and Cohabiting Partners as Social Institutions
36. Socialization Practices and Youth Subcultures
37. Social Experience of Childhood
38. Social Aspects of Territorial Mobility and Urbanism
39. Virtual and Real-life Communities
40. Research into Racism and Xenophobia
41. Construction of Ethnicity
42. Sociology of Life Paths
43. Aging and Mental Health
44. Social Aspects of Law
45. Models for Social Policy
46. Social Problems of Urbanization/De-urbanization and Regional Development
47. Social Consequences of Catastrophes
48. Sociology of Tourism
49. Sociology of Sport
50. Sociology Medicine

“Political Sociology”

Formula of the Field of Study

This field of study considers the political spheres of public life, socio-economic foundations of politics, socio-political stratification of social systems, levels and structures of political consciousness, relations between politics and society, mutual influence of social relations (social milieu) and political institutions (relations). Political Sociology delves into: power/authority and its domination in social relations; political processes and developments in various social milieus; relations between political phenomena and public structures in various spatial/time/historical continuums.

Areas of Research

1. Political power as a core subject of political sociology. Methods, functions and formats of manifestations of political authority in systems of social relations. Political consciousness and behaviours of social groups, communities, classes, organizations and individuals. Interrelation and mutual effects among political and social spheres in public life. Correlation and intersection of academic interests and conceptual frameworks in political sociology, sociology and political science.
2. Components, necessary for finding solutions to problems in political sociology: correlations between legality and the legitimacy of authority; analysis of electoral preferences and behaviours of citizens; monitoring political orientations among citizens;
3. Development of political sociology as a separate field of study; key stages of its development and main characteristics of such stages. Contemporary developments in various countries. Schools of Political Sociology outside of Russia: USA, Germany, UK, France, etc.
4. Max Weber's theoretical definition of the subject of Political Sociology as the study focused on understanding and interpreting social action and elaborating on reasons for its progress and consequences. Three approaches to Political Sociology: Weber's, Stein Rokkan's and Seymour Lipset's, and contemporary Western Marxism.
5. Structure of Political Sociology. Politics and the social sphere of life of society. Political interests of social actors. Civil society as an object for study in Political Sociology. Citizen involvement in political activities. Reasons and various features of political activities. Citizen associations as an indicator of a variety of political behaviours. Structure of today's public coalitions. Socialization as a process to integrate individuals into society. Essence and stages of political socialization. Electoral behaviour as a focus of analysis in Political Sociology. Bureaucracy and bureaucratic systems. Definition, structure and dynamics relating to public opinion. The functioning of public opinion in the system of power relations. Sociological approaches to studying interest groups, pressure groups and lobbies. Manipulation of public opinion during election campaigns.
6. Key features and stages in the development of Political Sociology in Russia. Character and variations in interactions between power and society in Russia. Characteristics of these relations and their impact on political and social life. Development of public organizations and associations in Russia. Origins of the Russian bureaucracy. Public opinion and its role in Russia.

“Economics Sociology”

Formula of the field of study

“Economic Sociology” focuses on the study of social foundations of economic action, its roots in social connections, institutions, cultural and power relations, as well as structure of economic drivers, market and non-market forms of economic activities, state regulation of economy and informal economy, labour, consumer and financial relations, types of economic organizations and models for economic development.

Areas of Research

1. Subject of Economic Sociology
2. History of Economic Sociology
3. Social Foundations of Economic Activities
4. Structure of Labour and Economic Motivations
5. Rational and Irrational Action
6. Economic Institutions
7. Social Networks
8. Economic Power
9. Economic Culture
10. Socio-Economic Groups and Classes
11. Market as a Form of Economy
12. Gift-giving and Other Off-market Forms of Economy
13. State Regulation of Economy
14. Informal and Illegal Economy
15. Social Factors and Conditions for Entrepreneurial Activities
16. Economic Organizations
17. Labour Relations and Oversight of Labor Processes
18. Social Foundations for Employment Relations
19. Household Economies
20. Moral Economy
21. Consumer Behaviour
22. Financial and Monetary Behaviour
23. Models for Business Development
24. Economic Discourses

‘Sociology of Management’

Formula of the field of study

“Sociology of Management” focuses on the study of the social aspects, conditions, factors and mechanisms of administration/management of society, respective spheres of society (economic, social, political, and spiritual), social groups and organizations, administrative effects on people’s mind and behaviour. Sociological analysis of administrative activities shall include a study of the values and motives on the part of administrated subjects, research into the needs and interests of objects under management, their satisfaction of administrative activities’ results and forms, mechanisms for involving persons in administrative processes and their effectiveness. The research into the social content of managerial practices and technologies, their design, forecasting and assessing the consequences of their introduction are among the key elements in this particular field of study.

Areas of Research:

1. History of the Development of Russian and Foreign Sociological Concepts of Administration and Management
2. Conceptual Framework and Classifications in Sociology of Management as the Outcome of its Interdisciplinary Evolution
3. Analysis of Contemporary Concepts in Sociology of Management
4. Theoretical and Empirical Research Methods and Procedures in Sociology of Management
5. Management/Administration as Institutionalized and Goal-oriented Activities: Key Social Parameters and Performance Criteria
6. Social Factors Impacting Managerial Behaviour
7. Values, Motives, and Personal Behaviour in Administration Systems
8. Formal and Informal Relations in Administration Processes
9. Management Culture, its Content, function and Developmental Factors
10. Typological Models for Administrative Processes: Signs, Character of Administrative Relations; Management Styles
11. Principles, Structures, Functions and Methods of Management/Administration in Key Institutions of Governance/Political Activity

12. Administrative Activities in Public Authority Organizations/Institutions: Key Organizational Features, Principles of Rationality, Problems of Inter-organizational Democracy
13. Sociology of Organizations, Their Theoretical Methodological Role in Systems of Management Sciences
14. The Organization, Analysis of its Social Origins, and Main Types. External and Internal Environment of Organizations
15. Social Essence and Functions of Organization Administration
16. Organizational Structures: Types and Forms. Vertical and Horizontal Relations in Organizations
17. The Problem of Social Order and Power in Organizations. Social Aspects Underlying the Problem of Leadership
18. Organizational Practice and Culture, Organizational Changes as an Object of Sociology of Management
19. Administration of Social Conditions and Factors in Organizational Development
20. Social Efficiency of Administrative Activities and their Strategic Significance. The Problem of the Correlation between Social, Economic and Political Effectiveness
21. Social Technologies in Administration Systems: Formats, Features and Foundations
22. Essence, Levels and Types of Social Forecasting
23. Social Programming and Planning as Mechanisms for Integrated Solving of Problems in Social Development
24. Social Engineering: Essence, Methods and Practice
25. Innovation in Managerial Systems: Principles, Methods, and Social Outcomes
26. Social Experiments in Management
27. Crisis Management and Managerial Conflicts
28. Deviations in Social Administration Systems
29. Sociological Informational/Analytical Support for
Administrative/Managerial Processes

“Sociology of Culture”

Formula of the field of study

“Cultural Sociology” focuses on the study of social relations in the sphere of culture and spiritual life, social conditions for the creation, transfer and reproduction of cultural norms and values, knowledge, ideas and images, as well as role models, customs, symbols, etc. The key objects of research may include culture, sciences, education, the arts, religion, mass media, contemporary leisure activities and current trends.

Areas of Research

1. Socio-Cultural Processes: Structure and Characteristics
2. Culture and Social Relations. Social Functions of Culture
3. Social Structure of Society and Cultural Differences
4. Cultural Norms and Deviations from the Perspective of Societal Development. Variety of Cultural Norms. Subcultures and Cultural Marginality
5. Social Morphology of Culture: Structure, Forms and Levels of Cultural Activities
6. Social Dynamics in Culture. Social Mechanisms for Continuity and Innovation in Culture
7. Problems of Subjects of Cultural Change
8. Social Regulation of Cultural Activities. Authority and Culture. Culture and Social Control
9. Phenomenon of Mass Society and its Socio-Cultural Parameters. Mass and Elite Culture
10. Civilization and Culture. Global and Local Trends in Cultural Development
11. Cultural Communication. Contemporary Communications Technologies and Their Impact on the Spiritual Life of Society
12. Global Communications Systems (TV, Internet) and the Spiritual Life of Society
13. Subject Structures of Culture in Society
14. Cultural Socialization and Self-identification of an Individual
15. Religion as a Socio-Cultural Phenomenon. Social Functions of Religions
16. Religious Organizations and Movements in Today's World
17. Education and Cultural Reproduction Processes
18. Socio-cultural Technologies for Knowledge Transmission
19. Social Policy in Education
20. Science as a Socio-Cultural Institution
21. Condition and Trends in the Generation of Academic Personnel in Contemporary Society

22. Contemporary Cultural Policy: Content, Levels, and Mechanisms for Implementation
23. Corporate Culture
24. Legal Culture and Socio-normative Systems for Societal Regulation
25. Language and Society. Analysis of Discourses
26. Social, Collective, Cultural and Group Memory
27. Museum Research
28. Art Artifacts Market
29. Social Media
30. Cultural Research (Cultural Studies)

“Demography”

Formula of the field of study

“Demography” focuses on the study of patterns and social basis for changes in the number and make-up of the population, demographic processes, and demographic behaviour, their respective links, as well as their reasons and consequences for such changes. This field of study also covers the development of methods for the collection and analysis of demographic data, modelling and forecasting of demographic processes and structures, substantiation of purpose and objectives in population policies, as well as fostering approaches for the application of demographic knowledge in various spheres of applied academic activities.

Areas of Research

1. History of Demography
2. Theory of Population
3. Demographic History
4. Sources of Information about Population
5. Demographic Dynamics and Age/Gender Patterns
6. Age and Demographic Aging
7. Methods for Demographic Analysis
8. Birth Rate and Reproductive Behaviours
9. Reproductive Health and Family Planning
10. Marriage and Divorce
11. Demographic Analysis of Death Rate
12. Demographic Analysis of Illnesses and Health
13. Demography of Families and Households
14. Models for Reproduction of Population
15. Indirect Methods for Demographic Assessments

16. Demographic Forecasts
17. Demographic Analysis of Intergenerational Differences
18. Spatial Mobility and Internal Migration
19. Territorial Organization of Population
20. International Migration
21. Economic Demography
22. Social Demography
23. Regional Demography
24. Ethno-Demography
25. Bio-Demography
26. Political Demography
27. Applied Demography
28. Population and Environment
29. Population and Development
30. Population Policy
31. Global Demographic Issues