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Revista de Antropología, Ciencias de la Comunicación y de la Información, Filosofía,
Lingüística y Semiótica, Problemas del Desarrollo, la Ciencia y la Tecnología

Año 35, 2019, Especial N°

20

Revista de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales

ISSN 1012-1587/ ISSNe: 2477-9385

Depósito Legal pp 198402ZU45



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Research methodology of the city's history of everyday life

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Abstract

Analysis of the works of Russian and Western authors gave an opportunity to identify the authors' opinions on the methodology of the history of everyday life. Authors study the application of an interdisciplinary approach in studying the history of everyday life, the advantages and minuses of other approaches. As a result, the history of everyday life cannot be structured without the use of problem-chronological, historical and typological methods. The authors came to the conclusion that the history of everyday life is not an independent scientific field with its own methodological apparatus.

Keywords: History, Life, Routine, Human, Mundanity.

Metodología de investigación de la historia de la vida cotidiana de la ciudad

Resumen

El análisis de las obras de autores rusos y occidentales brindó la oportunidad de identificar sus opiniones sobre la metodología de la

historia de la vida cotidiana. Los autores estudian la aplicación de un enfoque interdisciplinario en el estudio de la historia de la vida cotidiana, las ventajas y desventajas de otros enfoques. Como resultado, la historia de la vida cotidiana no se puede estructurar sin el uso de métodos cronológicos, históricos y tipológicos de problemas. Los autores llegaron a la conclusión de que la historia de la vida cotidiana no es un campo científico independiente con su propio aparato metodológico.

Palabras clave: Historia, Vida, Rutina, Humano, Mundanidad.

1. INTRODUCTION

The study of everyday life today is one of the most popular problems in modern humanities. In historical science, within the framework of various periods and localities. Various aspects of everyday life were also investigated, due to which the formation of a whole scientific field - the history of everyday life - has taken place. The history of everyday life is a branch of historical knowledge, which focuses on a comprehensive study of lifestyle and its changes among representatives of different social strata, their behavior and emotional reactions to life events, possible when using interdisciplinary links with ethnology, sociology, psychology.

In the XX century, world-historical science was undergoing a profound transformation. This is reflected in the emergence of alternative concepts of historical development, in the revision of approaches to the study of history in general. In particular, the concept of the so-called social history (history of people's life) and the history

of everyday life appears, where the life of an ordinary person is at the center of the historical process, as a component of global world history (Braudel, 1986).

The great merit of Braudel (1986) lies in the development of a universal methodology for studying the history of everyday life, which has not lost its relevance for more than half a century. The historiography of everyday life is very extensive. The study of everyday life is devoted to a large number of works, which, within the framework of this article, can be divided into Western and Russian. Among them, along with the historical, there is a large number of socio-philosophical and cultural studies. The phenomenon of everyday life is equally of interest to many humanities. Due to the comprehensive studies, the essence and content of everyday life were revealed, its structure was developed and important components were identified. In particular, in Western science, the theory of everyday life and its methodological issues were considered in the works of (Husserl, 1992; Rosenberg, 2010).

In historical science, the tendency towards anthropologization is becoming increasingly noticeable, which is associated with a growing interest in the individual as the main component of the social organism. The daily life of people is not only a reflection of social, economic, political, cultural processes, but also has a reverse impact on society. Studying and analyzing this interaction will reflect the diversity of the historical process, change the focus of assessment of past events said (Saktaganova and Abdrakhmanova, 2010). In the Russian language,

the synonyms of the word everyday life - everydayness, daily life, routine - indicate that everything that relates to everyday life is habitual, nothing is remarkable, it happens day to day.

Gataeva (2004) considers the history of everyday life as a system of practical knowledge, including a certain knowledge of the norms of etiquette, generally accepted in a given social environment, and aimed at achieving a particular goal. Narsky (2001) believes that the methodological approach to the history of everyday life justifies the need to study both social structures and their perceptions by contemporaries in interaction and mutual influence, it presupposes both complex historical argumentation and compatibility of the description with a high level of theoreticality. In this case, everyday life itself is viewed as the intersection of the objective and subjective and is defined as a culturally shaped interaction of actions and interpretations of reality specific to different strata, on which material conditions and their changes still have a decisive influence.

The heuristic value of the history of everyday life is that it provides an opportunity to study society without isolation from the individual, since these objects of study are interrelated. Methodological guidelines of everyday history help to view the world around us as an interweaving of different practices - labor and knowledge, upbringing and morality, etc. One of the foundations of the history of everyday life is ethnomethodology, i.e. sociology of everyday life, aimed at studying human behavior in society and the analysis of social rules and taboos,

the process of their formation, people's interpretation of each other's behavior (Kozina, 2015).

The microhistory is important for the history of everyday life in that it gives an opportunity to test various methods of studying failed opportunities. The microhistorical approach assigned a special place to sources of personal origin, thereby helping to understand the degree of freedom of the individual in given historical circumstances. One of the important tasks of microhistory is to study the question of the ways of life and survival of people in extreme conditions. Microhistorics pay attention to the analysis of transitional periods, rather than periods of stagnation and stability, since it is during these periods that a person reveals his essence. Russian authors believe that there is a problem in developing a unified methodological and source study base in the history of everyday life. Senyavsky proposes to take into account micro and macro approaches, as well as strive to make matrices superimposed on each other - these are socio-economic relations, various values, structural elements of the material world, social differentiation, cultural patterns, etc.

2. METHODOLOGY

The choice of methodology is determined by the essential content, which is embedded in everyday life as a definition. On the basis of the definition, a stencil of the study of everyday life is formed,

according to which the authors give their own vision and interpretation of the daily life of people. Daily life is a difficult definition. There are a large number of its interpretations, since everyday life as a phenomenon is viewed from various humanitarian angles. According to Lefevre (2007), everyday life is “the most universal and at the same time the only condition of its kind, the most social and at the same time the most individualized, the most obvious and best hidden” (Lefevre, 2007: 20).

Rosenberg (2010), considering the philosophical aspect of the definition, writes that everyday life is an association with something ordinary, customary, non-eventual, trivial, unobtrusive, or even completely invisible (Rosenberg, 2010). According to sociologists, everyday life is the realities of modern material life, the emotional life of people, social life and "daily behavior" (Skulmovskaya, 2014: 11). Some authors place emphasis on the semantic meaning of the term everyday life, which means every day, carried out day-to-day or “everyday life, everyday aspect of life” (Nikolaeva, 2017: 10).

Historians also have their own vision of everyday life. For example, Polyakov (2000) believes that the story, in essence, is the daily life of a person in its historical development, the manifestation of stable, permanent, immutable properties and qualities in accordance with geographical and temporal conditions, the birth and consolidation of new forms of housing, food, displacement, work, leisure (Polyakov, 2000). According to Startsev, the world of everyday life - "phenomena, events, processes, repeated day after day, which are caused by the daily

cycle and the biological needs of the human body" (Startsev, 2004: 10). As if summing up all the views on everyday life, Akoeva writes that this is "a reality significant to people and subjectively interpreted by them" (Akoeva, 2002: 20).

The difference and the similarity of definitions once again confirm the comprehensive nature of the definition, therefore, to limit the range of issues included in the concept, it is necessary to determine the structure of everyday life. For the first time, the general structure of everyday life, equally characteristic of all societies living in any part of the world, was determined by (Braudel, 1986). The structure of nutrition, material values, non-material life and daily practices is the matrix of the history of Braudel's (1986) daily life. His universal pattern of structuring everyday life is the generally accepted basis for most scientific research in this area. Only in the 90s of the XX century with the expansion of the areas of everyday problems of everyday life has become more complicated.

But Belovinskiy believes that the simplest structuring is the most acceptable - work, life and rest, since the whole daily life of a person consists of these three basic activities (Belovinskiy, 2012). The expansion of the range of problems covered daily, indicates the mobility of this phenomenon. With the onset of each stage in the historical development of society, the content of everyday life changes and becomes more complex. The continuous process of scientific and technical achievements of mankind, simplifying the lives of people,

enriches their daily life, filling the resulting voids with new elements in the structure of everyday life.

This process is most transparent in the study of the everyday life of cities, from the new time to the present. When studying urban everyday life, the researcher is given the opportunity to cover a wider range of issues than in the study of the daily life of the village. For example, Dolgikh, on the example of the city of the turn of the XIX-XX centuries, as the most important components of the urban daily life highlighted the organization of urban space and time, urban topography and socio-cultural geography, welfare, the leisure of citizens (Dolgikh, 2010).

In this case, in spite of the seemingly limited nature, covered by the author of the facets of everyday life, in fact, the dynamic development of the city in the subsequent time expanded the circle of everyday practices of citizens. Whereas in the countryside, mundanity and routine everyday life, for the most part, is long-term. It is advisable to outline the general range of problems raised in the study of the history of the everyday life of the city. Given the comprehensive nature of the definition, it is necessary to create a typology of urban everyday life. In its most general form, it can be represented as follows:

- 1) Natural and topographical conditions of the city.
 - Natural and geographical conditions;
 - Urban topography (localization of cultural and other objects of urban communication).

- 2) Social environment and demographic conditions.
 - Demographic composition of the population. Factors affecting the change in the demographic situation (state of health, medicine, social and living standards, migration);
 - Social structure of the population.
- 3) Housing and living conditions of citizens.
- 4) Power structure.
- 5) Subject-property environment.
 - Household items, interior;
 - Clothing;
 - Ultramodern household items (digital equipment, computers, smartphones, and etc. gadgets).
- 6) Labor activity.
- 7) Interpersonal communication system.
 - Family relations;
 - Communication in the workplace, other associations (school, extra classes activity, educational courses, etc.);
 - Virtual communication.
- 8) Lifestyle (daily routine, distribution of time)
- 9) Leisure, recreation.
 - Weekday (watching TV, the Internet, social networks); (shop, supermarket, shopping center, bath, sauna, spa salons, beauty salons, gym, swimming pool, skating rink, stadium, concerts, cinema, theater, exhibition, cafe, restaurants, leisure parks, religious, etc.); introduction to media culture (participation in various shows, talk shows, reality shows, TV contests, web-blogging, etc.).
 - Holiday;

- Tourism (domestic, foreign).

The proposed typology does not claim exclusivity. Depending on the object, the subject of study can be specified and detailed. For example, Nikolayeva, considers as the indispensable and important elements of modern urban daily life such points as advertising, holidays and art (Nikolaeva, 2017). The source base used in historical research is one of the main ones in the methodology of studying the problem. Everyday life is multifaceted, so the reconstruction of its history and objective reconstruction is possible subject to the use of a wide range of sources.

In addition to the above, not less important sources that are dumb witnesses of the past life include housing (general plans, layouts), household items (sales statistics), clothes (sales statistics indicating fashion trends, preferences), food, language (slang, jargons, foreign languages entering into everyday life), folklore, money (currency), etc. Polyakov proposes to expand the range of everyday sources and use data on housing construction, medical care - the state of hospitals, clinics, diseases, wealth or lack of medicines, etc., departmental reports (hospitals, health departments), price certificates medicines, as well as materials from related disciplines such as economics, law, etc. He attaches great importance to all sources of statistical data, especially concerning marriages and divorces, the family budget, ty food, shelter, clothing, shoes, etc. (Polyakov, 2000; Pushkareva, 2004).

Given the variability of everyday life, under the influence of political and economic factors, the development of culture and technology, as well as a change in historical time, the list of components of the structure of everyday life, as well as sources, can be constantly replenished. Dolgikh rightly notes that in the study of such a mobile everyday life, classical methods and sources turn out to be unproductive (Dolgikh, 2010). Emerging elements or spheres of urban everyday life, accompanied by new, non-traditional sources that are not yet included in the existing source typology, require other methods of study, and also determine the need to develop their own methodology for the study of urban everyday life.

The choice of the necessary methodological tools is determined by the subject of the study. If we proceed from the above range of problems of urban everyday life, then the subject of the research is the living conditions of citizens, food culture, family and interpersonal relations, leisure, and everything that falls into the category of everyday and daily, typical of urban life. The basis of any research is concrete-scientific, or, more precisely, concrete-problem methods, writes (Kovalchenko, 1987). According to her authoritative opinion, “concretely problematic methods are based on methods of special scientific (i.e. methods used in a particular science), as well as general scientific and philosophical ones” (Kovalchenko, 1987: 138). In particular, on the typology proposed above, it is noticeable that each element of the structure of everyday life is a subject field of a separate scientific discipline. The study of everyday life in the complex of

selected problematic issues inevitably leads to the intersection of these disciplines.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a rule, the study of any city begins with the study of its natural geographic location. Geographical location, climatic conditions are important factors affecting the daily practices of citizens. Depending on these factors, the duration of daylight, typical seasonal weather is determined. Weather conditions, their variability, in the case of a city located in a geographical belt with a sharply continental climate, affects the quality of life of people. For example, if in the northern cities, where the main part of the year is cold, you need to constantly update your wardrobe with warm clothes, then there is no such problem in the cities located in the south. Climate and meteorological conditions also depend on the expenditure of time, the structure of food, the distribution of funds, types of work and much more. That is, the analysis of natural and geographical conditions in the study of the daily life of the city is due to - geo-data of the city may be the cause of the characteristics of the daily practices of citizens.

Natural and geographical factors in the history of everyday life are the subject field of one of the branches of historical science - historical geography. The methods of historical geography allow us to determine the cause-and-effect relationships of certain phenomena characteristic of urban everyday life. Especially great help in the study

is the use of the latest information method - GIS software (geographic information systems). GIS as modern historical geography, coupled with historical computer science, provides ample opportunities for studying various historical processes, identifying certain trends. According to Vladimirov, GIS can serve as a historian's tool to identify patterns associated with population movements, infrastructure history, dynamic changes, etc. (Vladimirov, 2006). And it is hard not to agree.

In a word, the range of knowledge obtained as a result of applying the methods of historical geography in the study of the history of everyday life is quite extensive, from the causes of the city, socio-demographic changes and to trends in everyday practices. Questions of the demographic state and social structure of the urban population are the primary conditions that must be determined in the study of the history of everyday life. Polyakov believes that "fertility and mortality problems are doomed to be in first place" (Polyakov, 2000:128).

And it is indisputable. Demographic statistics creates a social picture of the population of the studied space. The movement in statistics reflects the many hidden socio-economic problems that exist in urban society. The method of demographic analysis allows us to trace changes in the age and sex, social, the ethnic composition of the population, which may indicate the state of health of the population, the level of development of medicine, social conditions, internal migrations and other factors determining positive or negative trends.

The obtained data will clarify the causes and cyclical nature of transformations in the structure of everyday life. The study of the history of the city as micro-history is closely connected with local history. Local history is a complex of scientific disciplines, aimed at studying culture, history, geography and economy of the region, and urban everyday life, being an integral part of the history and culture of the region, is one of the subjects of study of local history. Since a local history should be interpreted depending on the specific socio-economic and cultural conditions of the region, when studying urban everyday life, it is necessary to take into account the conditions in which everyday life proceeds. The daily life of citizens mostly takes place in the cycle between their permanent locations - home-work.

However, the surrounding space is filled with historical and cultural objects and monuments that are not perceived as such in a normal weekday due to the constant habitual presence. They acquire another symbolic meaning in their free time, when citizens, tired of everyday fuss, draw on spiritual energy, being in a cultural environment, or in the contemplation of its subjects. In this case, the surrounding cultural and historical environment takes on a different meaning.

The historical landscape, urban architecture, exhibitions of artworks and art objects, museums, theaters, cultural parks become symbols of the day off. For example, Dolgikh, considering the urban daily life of the turn of the XIX-XX centuries, notes that the city center

was associated with the location of the “nobility and social gatherings, the city theater, and often the museum” (Dolgikh, 2010: 50).

Pushkareva notes that “in the domestic science there is a conviction that the history of everyday life is almost ethnology, and therefore many questions of its history are often automatically transmitted for study by ethnological methods” (Pushkareva, 2004: 10). Undoubtedly, many elements of the structure of everyday life are subjects of ethnographic research. The dwelling, life, food and nutritional structure, the subject-real environment of people are traditional components of ethnographic descriptions.

However, the history of everyday life cannot be reflected without a description of the material world, since the daily life of a person flows in this environment. For example, clothing is a source of diverse and important information about a person's life. Its style, quality, compliance with fashion or vice versa, cost, etc., can talk about the lifestyle, taste, earnings of a person. And in the conditions of life in the city is important. In addition to the everyday-life public-public spheres, the urban lifestyle implies a change of images, the most important components of which are clothes. An analysis of a person's wardrobe makes it possible to identify priorities in the everyday life of a city dweller.

Leisure takes a certain part of the daily life of citizens. In the proposed typology, leisure, weekday and holiday, includes various forms, both related and non-leisure. The way of life of a modern urban

person is very diverse and meaningful, qualitatively superior to the life of citizens of previous historical eras. For most of the current citizens, especially young and Middle Ages, the maximum filling of free time is typical. In addition to traditional ways of spending time in places of cultural recreation, passive leisure activities such as watching TV, the Internet, social networks, attending concerts, a cinema, and more active ones like visiting gymnasiums, recreation parks, etc.

New phenomena in the modern everyday life of citizens became their introduction to media culture, which is expressed in participation in various shows - talk shows, reality shows, television competitions and projects, etc. For the younger generation, Internet blogs on the pages of their social networks, creating virtual communities, etc., have become newfangled. The female half of the urban population fills their leisure time with purely female occupations, visiting supermarkets, shopping centers, spas, beauty salons, etc. Even cafes and restaurants from the category of catering facilities have moved into the category of recreational facilities, which are given the time of evening entertainment.

Longer free time, characteristic of the vacation period, citizens tend to spend outside the city. At the previous time, this time was devoted to rest at dachas or domestic tourism, which consisted of trips to lakes, mountains, or to medical sanatoriums. At the present time, people have more choices and opportunities. Thanks to the development of overseas tourism, it is possible to relax in foreign resorts in any part of the world. Life in the post-industrial time greatly

expanded the possibilities of people in organizing their free time. Therefore, leisure is one of the important places in the history of everyday life. Leisure as a sphere of human activity is a sociological category. Many trends in the development of leisure are determined by the methods of sociology (Kovalchenko, 1987: 10).

The conducted analytical generalization showed that each section of the history of the urban daily life is in itself a task, the solution of which requires proper scientific methods. For a complete reconstruction of historical reality, in addition to the methods of special sciences, it is necessary to apply general scientific research methods, among which the most common are empirical, comparative, statistical or mathematical, analysis and synthesis, description, classification and typology, induction and deduction. In the conditions of large-scale globalization in the modern world, the expansion of the information space, information and communication technologies are widely used in research, with the help of which the everyday researcher solves many problematic issues.

A wide variety of methods of scientific research does not preclude the use of historical methods proper. The history of everyday life cannot be structured without the use of problem-chronological, historical and typological methods. It becomes clear that the history of everyday life is not an independent scientific field with its own methodological apparatus. Paradoxically, her research is possible only with the use of methodological tools of related historical and human sciences, the totality of which is the expression of an interdisciplinary

approach. According to Polyakov, "the study of the history of human existence does not simply imply, but requires an interdisciplinary approach" (Polyakov, 2000:128). In this case, the main role, of course, belongs to history and its research methods. Research and recreation of the history of urban everyday life also inevitably requires the use of this approach.

4. CONCLUSION

At the moment, the history of everyday life is becoming an integral part of the world-historical science in general and the Russian one in particular. And the awareness of the scientific community of the need to study the processes of the past from a micro-historical point of view makes everyday history one of the main directions in modern historical knowledge. Thus, the study of the history of everyday life as a typical historical study involves the application of its inherent traditional scientific methods.

However, the history of everyday life, being a specific scientific problem, is in close connection with a large number of social sciences and humanities such as social history, cultural history, economic history, ethnography, historical demography, local history, historical geography, philosophy, sociology, cultural science, each of which has its own methodological tools. The intertwining of scientific disciplines is due to general subjects of research, which naturally determines the use of an interdisciplinary approach in the study of the history of

everyday life. When applying an interdisciplinary approach, causal relationships of phenomena and transformations occurring in people's lives are identified.

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Revista de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales

Año 35, Especial N° 20, (2019)

Esta revista fue editada en formato digital por el personal de la Oficina de Publicaciones Científicas de la Facultad Experimental de Ciencias, Universidad del Zulia.
Maracaibo - Venezuela

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