Social Institutions, Groups, Relations within the Globalization Context and Society Virtualization

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Editorial

The research of social institutions, groups and relations in globalized world and virtual environments was undertaken in an effort to bring a better understanding and appreciation of modern opportunities to people from around the world. This issue is important because misconceptions and stereotypes about globalized society and virtualization still exist. Like scholars have always done, the authors of the current issue do research that reflect the contemporary human condition.

We asked researchers from around the world to respond to themes such as, violence in families as a result of society virtualization, ethnic minorities, national independence and its manifestation in modern arts, media texts and virtual galaxies. These themes provide us with a conceptual glimpse into the condition of modern society. The articles of the issue are ideal for the analysis of societies in transition, they are especially suitable for studying postmodern social relations. The material of the issue can also be used as reference points, describing various ethnicities, ranging from people in modern India and Kazakhstan to Russia and the USA. The issue is designed to synchronize the watches on concepts related to human-beings' integration into the realms of virtual spaces.

The articles of the issue introduce readers to the concepts and terms about social interactions that are central to modern virtual networking, and give them opportunities to reflect on the emerging practices of media connections. We have the aim to share with readers details of some of the many resources, such as websites, discussion lists, on-line social networking services, course modules and supplementary materials, available to researchers throughout the world. We suggest that readers using our materials by themselves choose new directions for research and think of a specific social group to work with for discovery and reflection, as part of their general professional development.

Each article comprises a number of critical stages, the most important of which is reflection. Reflection on social interaction is a core component of the research cycle: we start by looking at what happens in modern societies and by collecting data, then we try to understand the data and decide what we can do to improve the situation, and finally, we try out our plans in experimental groups. We have also succeeded in giving voice to diasporas with their claims against an oppressive global hegemony. They speak of the diverse array of changing conditions of mass communication, globalization, and post- and neocolonialism that have had a detrimental effect on minorities' ability to remain rooted to their homelands at all times.

Each of our authors contributed to their charge as researchers to inform the larger world about their individual experiences. They have succeeded. Over 20 articles were created and submitted to this insightful issue. In tone, the articles vary from serene to caustic, from sentimental to futuristic. Some scholars reflect on the past, particularly the history of their own community, while others move in new directions, creating a new language of ideas. Getting the opportunity to learn the ideas from around the world, to discuss new challenges and chances, and to think about the social science in general and the studying of virtual interactions in particular, in new ways has taught us so much and given us a much deeper appreciation for knowledge and discovery.

Modern societies and relations within the globalization context and society virtualization offer us a fruitful topic for further analysis. The articles in the issue give a personal impression of current life in overlapping worlds of off-line and on-line realities, combining the past and present while suggesting potential for a new future.