Session: State, Society and Economic Development in Modern Asia

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Abstract title: "Performance as the phenomenon of contemporary art of mainland China"

This research touches upon the art of performance which emerged as an independent form of contemporary art in mainland China in the late 1970s when the new generation of Chinese leaders including Deng Xiaoping started the process of political, economical and social transformation in the country. Since then, performance has been considered one of the most radical forms of Chinese avant-garde as it has reflected artists' critical attitude toward the regime that suppressed artistic creativity and restrained the freedom of expression. Comparing to other forms of contemporary Chinese art, performance possesses an exceptional visual power as its provocative or sometimes even shocking content is intended to make the audience to reassess the conventional view on particular concept. The aim of this research is to analyze the phenomenon of performance on the different stages of development of contemporary art in mainland China and outline its main characteristic features.

To reveal characteristic features of Chinese performance since the time of its emergence up to nowadays we applied the method of historical-cultural analysis. The choice of the method was predisposed by the complexity of the phenomenon of performance. As performance has always incorporated an actual idea it is impossible to attain the full comprehension of this form of art outside the historical context and general tendencies in the process of development of contemporary art. Hence, to achieve the objectives of research it is essential to consider the historical background and cultural environment which gave birth to contemporary art, in general, and the art of performance, in particular. In addition to scientific literature dedicated to contemporary Chinese art and the art of performance, the list of data sources for the research included photo and video documentation of performances which can be found on the websites of performance artists.

Having examined the key factors that affected development of contemporary art of the Chinese mainland and determined the content of performances that have been staged since 1979 it can be concluded that the history of Chinese performance can be divided in two periods: before 1989 and after 1989. Pre-1989 performances were more artistic and philosophical than later ones as many artists of the post-Mao China were inspired by the Utopian and humanists ideas which they tried to deliver through their creative activities. Artists of that period mainly focused on the art environment and they had an ability to stage their performance relatively freely even though the authorities often canceled their requests for the exhibitions. Tiananmen Incident of June 4, 1989 became a turning point for Chinese contemporary art as the government tighten its control over the domain of culture. Post-1989 performances were organized privately. Performance practice turned from the emphasis on public engagement to a concern with a more individual form of experimentation. Human body became a main instrument in performance, which became a way to rebel against collectively acceptable patterns of behavior. Self-torture and body mutilation became the main significance of performances of post-1989 period.

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Abstract title: "Comparative Study of Chinese and Western websites in Tourism Industry

There were two revolutionary technologies that have profoundly changed the tourism industry: civil aviation and the Internet. While the effect and methods of the former has a long history and has been researched by scholars and professionals, the latter is constantly developing in front our eyes, which makes the topic of this paper interesting in itself. But even more importantly, the talk about best internet projects in tourism industry could have further implications in business. The most successful and profitable projects in tourism nowadays are those somehow connected with the web or fully based on it. Being regions with the most advanced economies, China and Western countries (that is Western Europe and the US) have gained the biggest success on this direction. In the same time Russia is claiming an aim to get a piece of growing market and cannot afford being left behind in modern technology. Studying of the most effective projects in China and the West could help to understand the opportunities provided by the Web. Furthermore by making a comparison between them we could find business models that are most suitable for Russia, as a country that bears features of both Western and Orient Civilizations.

The first thing to be mentioned here is the problem, that challenges virtually every researcher trying to make a paper about the Internet. The Web is constantly developing and it quickly makes any research outdated. So the main source of data for my work are not papers by other researches, but articles in the special magazines. So the first step is analysing this data in order to

find the reasons of success of one or another web project. The second one is to actually analyse the project itself: to understand its business model, working principle, target audience and so forth. After this step we already can make some conclusions and achieve the first aim, claimed in the paper: to find out and describe the possibilities for tourism business provided with the Web. To achieve the second aim (that is to find the business models most appropriate for Russian environment) there is a couple more steps to make. After analysing the web projects we can make a comparison between features of Western and Chinese leading websites, and also try to identify the reasons that have led to these differences. Basing on conclusions we will find out approaches to building the web project that better fit Russian market.

I personally believe that science (except only fundamental science) should serve real business. So I always try to make my own papers to be applicable to real life. And in spite of the fact that I am basically studying foreign developments in the area of my research, the main goal of the work is to understand how to make life of my countryman better, how to create new opportunities here. So the best outcome I could imagine would be to find business model of the internet project that can be used and realised in Russia. I would also be delighted if somebody will find the materials and analyses provided in this work usefull for their own start-ups or researches.

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Abstract title: "The use of Ancient Chinese Treatise "The thirty-six stratagems" in modern diplomacy and military affairs"

Throughout the history, China has been actively interacting with neighboring countries. Its international relations are one of the most interesting aspects to research as Chinese sages skillfully used military tricks. Approximately in V – VI B.C. Chinese sages created a system of stratagems that is the short formulations of strategic plans, cunning maneuvers inclined to help the subject to achieve desirable results that would help it to overcome its enemies. . Later the art of stratagems has spread all over the East Asia and other countries. Although the art of creating military strategies was mastered pretty much in every country, in the East it was arranged in the treatise "The thirty-six stratagems' (sān shì liù jì, 三十六计) (Southern Qi 489-537).

In these days stratagems are one of the most important issues as through them we can look at various Chinese and Far East historical events, and it is exactly this aspect that has been «the most shielded feature of Chinese civilization from foreigners» . That is the one of the main reasons why stratagems are being studied in many diplomatic schools and universities in the world. Nowadays, different historical events are being analyzed with the help of historic books, treatises and etc.
To conclude, stratagems drastically raising efficiency of different strategically important moves. Particular historical examples show the features of the mentality, logic and motives of Far-Eastern politicians as stratagems are being used not only for achieving hidden goals which are invisible for strangers' intellectual key but also as a tool for the analysis of strategic actions.

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Evgenia Knyazeva
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Abstract title: "INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS IN MODERN ASIA"

World trade has changed. International economic understanding and the diplomacy based on it have not kept pace. The Research work consists of research number of organizations and their influence on the economy of Asia.

Also will be note about the theories of the economic integration and problems of the Modern Asia, which creates obstacles for economic integration in the region in this research.

The collection of data is an important part of any research activity. This is because; the conclusions of the study are based on what the data reveals. Basically, data can be obtained from two major sources; primary and secondary sources. Primary data represents the information gathered by the researcher through the use of questionnaire or personal interview or observation method; while in secondary data, the researcher collects information that has already been obtained and processed by government departments or various agencies before it is made available for other interested users. These are published and unpublished sources e.g. journals, textbooks, newspapers, magazines. For collection of primary data for this research work such methods have been used: study monographs, number of organizations and their structure, their role in the economic sphere of society.

It has been studied various economic integration organizations and their impact on the economic and political development of society. Also I learned the theory of the emergence of these organizations, their creators and the approximate number of participants.

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Abstract title: "Ethnic and confessional picture of the modern Syrian society"

The subject of study is a modern Syrian society with its ethnic and religious diversity.

The main objective of this research: Using the specific example of the Syrian society, I want to prove that the cultural, ethnic and religious diversity is not a source of conflicts. Always the main causes of the war are in the economic and political spheres.

In this study, I plan to use natural historical methods to critical approach to the sources, using both inductive and deductive approaches.

Sociological method of research: I will hold opinion polls Syrian students from different cities. The polls are very popular nowadays throughout the country. In general, they are directed to assess current social and political situa-tion, political figures, the most important events, economic perspec-tives, our losses and gains and so on. All data are given in percentages.

This study will build on the comparative logical method, namely, I will compare the values and opinions of different ethnic, cultural and religious groups that exist at this time in Syria.

In terms of ethnic composition of the population, the majority - Syrian Arabs, and the largest ethnic minority are the Kurds. Followed by this ethnic groups - the Syrian Turkmen, Circassians, Kazakhs, Armenians, Assyrians.

Regarding the confessional aspect, about 76% of the population of Syria - Muslims, 20% - Christians.Of the 72% of Muslims - Sunnis, and the rest - the Alawites and Ismailis, and Shias. Among Christians also make up half of the Syrian Orthodox.

The reasons for this diversity are interesting. Peaceful cooperation is a cultural phenomenon of Syrian society. It is also necessary to analyze the causes of great influence in the Syrian society Druze, who make up only 3% of the population.

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Abstract title: "Armenia-Iran relationship analysis"

Bilateral relations between Armenia and modern Iran, despite religious and ideological differences, are cordial and both countries are strategic partners in the region. This research focuses on both economic ties that two countries had before and are having right now (including recent agreements) and political approach and hidden agendas two countries have. Having clearly defined objectives is extremely important for the research since it is relatively easy to wander off to abstract political ideas. Hence objectives are:
• Introduction to history of relations between Armenia and Iran (Persia) as a foreword

• Trade relations between modern Armenia and Iran and possible suggestions and recommendations
• Shared geopolitical interest in Nagorny Karabakh region and countries' ulterior motives
Theoretical framework consists of common base knowledge of Armenian and Persian history and economy, however the obvious connotation will be given to conceptual framework since this research gives possible outcomes of bilateral relations between Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Methodology of the research uses both present and historical information; also quantitative and qualitative methods are used for defining trade relations and describing hidden agendas. Data sources include Armenian and Persian encyclopedias, Armenia trade diagnostic studies, World Bank open data and WTO Statistics database.

Possible conclusions take into account strategic positioning of Tehran and Yerevan and long-term consequences of two countries' strengthening axis both for Armenia and Iran themselves and the entire region. For example, Russian-Armenian researchers believe in the opposition of Armenia and Iran to the westward strategy drawn up by Baku, US and Israel, which is why the countries side by Moscow in this question. There are indeed historical and practical reasons for such an approach which mostly sides with European researchers' main idea of Iran's will to use the South Caucasus region as a battlefield in the upcoming proxy war with the West.

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Abstract title: "EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION IN CHINA"

The article deals with problems of implementation of the equality principles in Chinese labor market. Labor inequality is a common problem, but one that is poorly understood by most people. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China underlines that all citizens are equal. China has, in addition, numerous laws and government policies designed to promote employment equality, but the Chinese legal institutions remain ineffective in dealing with discrimination. Furthermore, Chinese people have difficulties in perceiving discrimination as wrongful and remediable. Research was performed to determine most common types of employment discrimination and find possible ways of overcoming its negative consequences. The paper uses case-studies, relevant legislation, and annual data from National Bureau of Statistics of China to analyse the effectiveness of the measures taken to address China's employment discrimination problem. The study reports on data from the research made by Zhang Shifei and Tang Jun from Institute of Sociology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The main types of employment discrimination are classified according to their

seriousness and prevalence. We revealed the most "dangerous" types of employment discrimination and suggested possible ways of solving this problem.

Inequality in the Chinese labor market is still widespread and the enforcement of antidiscrimination policies remains wanting, despite some progress. The result of the study is identification of suitable approaches to address challenges and bring the fight against discrimination to the next level. The implementation of these measures would demonstrate to employers and civil society that the Chinese government is serious about equality in the workplace and is willing to provide the necessary resources to local government departments, the courts and labour arbitration committees to combat employment discrimination.

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