



RUDN
university



FACULTY
OF HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES



THEORY AND METHODOLOGY OF SOCIOLOGY: PAST AND PRESENT

MASTER'S PROGRAMME DEGREE



PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

- ✔ Optimal combination of theoretical and applied research.
- ✔ Highly professional teaching staff: Department of Sociology is one of the pioneers of sociological education in contemporary Russia.
- ✔ Participation in research work: Laboratory for Sociological and Focus-Group Research conducts studies of a wide range of pressing social problems.
- ✔ Opportunities for continuing education and academic career: Master's graduates interested in scientific work can apply for the RUDN Sociology PhD Program.
- ✔ RUDN Journal of Sociology is indexed in Scopus, WoS, RCSI and Russian Higher Attestation Commission databases.
- ✔ Regular collections of undergraduate and postgraduate students' works.
- ✔ International cooperation and internships: international contacts of the Department of Sociology allow students to participate in numerous projects in cooperation with many scientific and education centers.
- ✔ Regular visiting courses and master classes by outstanding professors.
- ✔ Opportunities for internships and cooperation with future employers in the leading sociological and marketing research companies.
- ✔ Career opportunities: Master's graduates are successful professionals both in Russia and abroad.
- ✔ All necessary information-technical equipment: multimedia and statistical data processing software.
- ✔ Master's Program was approved by the European Certification Agency DEVA AAC (AGAE).



STUDYING PROCCESS

120 credits.

Lectures, practical classes and students' independent work, research seminars, professional and pedagogical practice



CONTEMPORARY METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

- Repertory grids technique.
- Features of semantic differential.
- Procedures and tools for content analysis.
- Challenges of 'insincere answers'.
- The choice of questions and answers wording and forms in the studies of sensitive issues.
- Projective techniques.
- Features and types of expert surveys.



ANALYSIS OF SOCIOLOGICAL DATA

- 'Language' of sociological research; meta-method of data analysis.
- Indexes.
- Ranking.
- Ways to summarize expert assessments.
- Analysis of variables relationship.
- Contingency tables.
- Types of coupling coefficients.
- Analysis of non-structured data.
- Typological, causal and factor analysis.
- Linguistic and logical structure of meta-method.
- Categorical apparatus of factorization.



MEASUREMENT IN SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

- Approaches to measurement in social sciences.
- Requirements and types of scales.
- One-dimensional and multidimensional scaling.
- Indexes.
- Ranking as a measurement technique and a method of data analysis.
- Averages.
- Projective methods.
- Unfinished-sentences technique.
- Principles of comparing self-definitions to formalize data.



PHILOSOPHY AND METHODOLOGY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

- The concept of science in classical philosophy.
- Object, subject and textual nature of humanities.
- Extra-linguistic context.
- Neopositivist ideal of scientific knowledge.
- Logic of scientific knowledge (K. Popper).
- Hermeneutic tradition in humanities and social sciences.
- 'Research programs'.
- 'Paradigm' and 'scientific revolution'.
- 'Methodological anarchism' and social sciences.



QUALITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY: HISTORY AND METHODOLOGY

- Theoretical-methodological foundations of the qualitative approach in sociology.
- History of the qualitative research in sociology.
- Differences between qualitative and quantitative research strategies.
- Types of qualitative research and methods.
- Ethnography.
- Case study.
- Biographical method.
- 'Grounded theory'.



APPLICATION OF FOCUS GROUPS IN SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

- Heuristic potential and methodological limitations of focus groups.
- Types of group discussions.
- Samples and sub-samples in focus groups.
- Screening and recruitment of participants.
- Scenario and field stage of the study based on focus groups.
- Moderation of focus groups.
- Types of 'difficult' respondents and strategies for communicating with them.
- Group dynamics;
- Analysis of results.



ANALYSIS OF NON-VERBAL RESPONSES IN SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH: THEORY AND PRACTICE

- Psychophysical basis of non-verbal reactions.
- Mimic and plastic non-verbal manifestations.
- Sociology of emotions.
- 'I-concept' in the sociological study of human emotions.
- Basic human emotions and their indicators.
- Emotional intellect.
- Possibilities of recording and analyzing non-verbal behavior.
- 'Insincerity' of respondents.
- Analysis of non-verbal responses in the interview.



IMAGE OF SOCIETY IN CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

- The concept of 'society' in theoretical sociology.
- Sociological realism and sociological nominalism; antinomy 'subject-structure'.
- Concepts of 'traditional' and 'modern' society.
- The 'Hobbes Problem' and the sociological theory of conflict.
- Contemporary theories of social dynamics and social development.
- Eclecticism of the latest theories and the legacy of the classics of sociology.



STUDENTS FEEDBACK



 **VICTORIA ILYINA**

“ I am a very satisfied student of the Master’s Program ‘Theory and Methodology of Sociology: Past and Present’. I really enjoyed the great theoretical classes with highly professional professors but appreciated the most the practical research experience both at the university and sociological centers. This program allows the students to take an active part in different studies and, thus, to develop their professional skills. In a rather short time, one can learn all secrets of the sociological ‘kitchen’ and try oneself in all stages of the sociological research – from its very idea to the presentation of results. Most of the courses focus on the latest approaches to the data analysis, which makes the program demanded in the labor market. Besides the valuable skills, the program helped me to get my dream job, where I use all my knowledge and skills. The professional practice, which is a part of the program, provides many employment opportunities in the most successful organizations. ”



STUDENTS FEEDBACK



VICTORIA PENKOVA

“ I am a graduate of the Bachelor’s Program of Sociology of the RUDN University. After graduation, I did not doubt the necessity to continue education, and the only question was what university to choose since there are many programs for further studies in sociology. However, despite the variety of options, I chose the RUDN University, and I have never been disappointed. As a student of the Master’s Program ‘Theory and Methodology of Sociology: Past and Present’, I am certain that this is a great program consisting mainly of practical courses and providing primarily applied knowledge, which significantly increases one’s competence and competitiveness in the labor market and at the same time develops one’s creativity. The program completely changes your worldview, and you see sociology in everything – it is everywhere, and you are a part of sociology yourself. And the most important part of the program is that your professors acquire a new status – they become your colleagues. I want to assure all young sociologists who still doubt the necessity to enter this Master’s program: be brave, it’s exciting, entertaining, but not easy. Enter the program, if you are used to going all the way to end! And remember that sociologist is a scientist who brings practical benefits to society, and nothing can be better. ”



HEAD OF THE PROGRAMME

ZHANNA V. PUZANOVA



DSc (Sociology), Professor, Head of the Laboratory for Sociological and Focus Group Research

DSc thesis – ‘Sociological Dimension of Loneliness’.

SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS:

methodology of sociological research, theory of measurement and data analysis in sociological research, contemporary methods of sociological research, sociology of management, sociology of personality.

Author of many scientific articles in the peer-reviewed Russian and international journals, monographs and tutorials; regular presenter at international and all-Russian scientific forums.

Member of the RUDN Sociological Dissertation Council, Dissertation Council of the Institute of Sociology of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Expert Council of the Higher Attestation Commission on Philosophy, Sociology and Cultural Studies.

Supervisor of the 16 defended PhD theses.

Head of numerous research projects supported by international and Russian scientific foundations and the Russian Ministry of Education and Science.