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City Size, Efficiency and Economic Growth

The paper discusses some basic theoretical and empirical arguments in the favour of developing large urban agglomerations in Russia. The claims of the superiority of large cities in productive efficiency and economic growth are tested on extensive statistical evidence and are not unambiguously confirmed. The author underscores the need to adjust regional policies so that medium and small cities could unleash their growth potential.

Economic growth; agglomeration economies; city size; efficiency

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Urbanization Changes in Siberia: View Satellite

Based on nightlight and Landsat satellite images, we derived the urban built-up lands in Siberia and higher-resolution of urban built up areas for four major Siberian cities: Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, Omsk, and Irkutsk. We found that while the region has experienced significant reductions in population, large administrative centers experienced a first decrease but then increase in population. We also derived urban air quality indicators and identified the major environmental issues facing these Siberia cities through expert interviews Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, and Irkutsk. We also examine the co-evolving relationship between urban built-up area, urban population and economic development in Siberia for the period from 1992 to 2012.

Urbanization, environmental changes; Siberia, satellite images

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"Polar Ruhr": Structural Policy in Monotowns of the Russian Arctic

The article compares the trends in industrial development of single-industry towns of the Russian Arctic and the Ruhr region of Germany. The basis for the comparative analysis of economic development between the two regions acts as an idea of the structural policy stages in the transformation of old industrial single-industry towns. Based on 50 years of economic transformation of the Ruhr area for the first time systematized similar experience of structural policy in the Russian Arctic single-industry towns. Industrial development is organically inherent in the Arctic. The industrial heritage should not be overcome, and the creative use of local projects.

Arctic, Germany, company towns; the Ruhr, structural policy

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Models of Revitalization of Old Industrial Territories: the South of Western Siberia

The article is based on the expeditionary research, carried out in the south parts of Kemerovo region and Altai krai, it considers problems and prospects of structural changes on the old industrial towns of Siberia.On the basis of collected materials models of revitalization of old industrial settlements (Novokuznetsk, Sheregesh, Biysk) are specified. The models reflect features of interaction of government, business and scientific complex in the area. Within the framework of the existing models recommendations for accelerating the revitalization process were formulated and justified.

Revitalization of economy; old industrial town; territory of advanced development; tourism, science town; cluster, South Siberia; Novokuznetsk, Sheregesh, Biysk

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Determinants of the Global Culinary Space

The author looks at the influence determinants of various national cuisines in the global culinary space. They are: the area of the country, its population, natural diversity, long-standing traditions of social inequality, diet taboos (if any) imposed by religion, ethical and moral reasons. A large number of examples illustrate how the specifics of national cuisine are attributable to historical forms of social inequality in different

countries. Some attention is also paid to culinary-class disaggregation, when different classes of the same society focus on different national cuisines.

Global culinary space; determinants of global culinary space; culinary power; environment, social inequality; classes, estates; religious food taboo

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Service Design of Cultural Institutions and Creative Industries - Softcultural Cluster

New forms of regulation of the culture sphere from the standpoint of institutional changes, peculiarities of the formation of budgets of cultural institutions and problems related to social and demand constraints are considered. The results of surveys of the expert community and viewers for a comprehensive assessment of the potential of creative industries in Novosibirsk and the identification of areas for improvement are presented. It is noted, that the modernization of cultural services can be carried out through the mechanisms of cluster technologies. A new form of cluster formation is proposed and described: a softcultural cluster.

Culture economy; culture management; cultural services; creative industries; creative economy; cluster approach; clusters of culture sphere

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On the Asian Vector of Russia's Development

In recent years, due to the shift in the gravity center of the world economy in the Asia-Pacific region, the share of Asian countries in Russia's foreign trade has increased. However, the spatial structure of the Russian economy is not keeping pace with these changes. In order to harmonize the spatial and foreign trade structural changes that contribute to the growth of the efficiency of the Russian economy and its inclusion in the global division of labor, along with efforts to increase the production potential of the Far East, it is necessary to intensify the development of Siberia, using the potential of the Eurasian integration and the Economic belt of the Silk Road.

Russia, Europe, Asia, foreign trade; spatial development; shift to the East; transformation, Central Asia; Eurasian integration; Siberia, China

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From which Country is foreign Direct Investment more Profitable for Russia?

The purpose of the study is to assess the efficiency of companies with direct foreign investments from different investor countries on the basis of calculating profitability indicators and evaluating technical efficiency. Based on an analysis of 4361 companies with FDI the following was revealed. Over the past three years the profitability of companies with FDI (estimated by ROA and ROI) is falling to negative values. The effeciency of these companies depends on the investor country. The profitability of companies with FDI from Germany, the USA, France and other developed countries is much higher than those from China, Hungary, Turkey, and also offshore countries. In addition, investments from countries that imposed sanctions (Germany, the USA, Austria, the United Kingdom, Switzerland) got a higher evaluation of the effeciency of the DEA.

FDI, activity efficiency; spillover effects; countries, ratings

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Resources Against Innovations. On the Limited Effect of the "Resource Multiplier" in Terms of the Innovation Development

The article considers the specificity of innovation process in the resource and non-resource sectors of the economy. We substantiate the thesis about a limitation of

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the "resource multiplier" using logical analysis and results of cognitive modeling. The conclusion is that the reliance on resources is unreliable in the evolutionary perspective in Russian conditions and therefore we should give priority to the development of the manufacturing sector as a foundation of economic growth and of implementation in innovation process.

Minerals, oil and gas; raw commodities; mineral extraction sector; resource sector of the economy; non-resource sector; innovation, innovation process; "resource multiplier"; economic development; evolution

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Again about the Scientific Significance of Russian Economic Journals, or what is Behind the Attempts to Rank them

The article deals with a critical analysis of bibliometric methods for assessing the quality and scientific significance of publications and periodicals of the economic profile. The main flaws of bibliometric estimation methods are considered, and examples of their inability to use them for the purposes of rating and ranking scientific publications and publications on the criteria of quality and scientific significance are demonstrated.

Bibliometric methods; rating, citation index; expert evaluation of scientific significance

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On the Occasion of Centenary of the Decline of the West or the Downfall of the Occident

The paper discusses the key ideas of a well-known work The Decline of the West (German: Der Untergang des Abendlandes) or The Downfall of the Occident written by Oswald Spengler a hundred years ago. A major topic of the work – the decline of culture and degradation of morals, policy, and economic system of the western civilization is widely discussed at present too. Spengler believed that the decline of any great culture is inevitable and manifests itself in its transition to a phase of civilization, i.e., according to his criteria, urbanization, imperialism, and socialism, which he treated rather as spiritual, than material phenomena. Moreover, rationalism, skepticism, and atheism widely spread in spiritual life of the society are also considered as evidences of the decline of traditional culture. The paper made an attempt to analyze a modern situation in the European countries according to the criteria specified.

Philosophy of history; culture, civilization, urbanization, imperialism, socialism, rationalism, skepticism, atheism

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The Role of Trust in Authorities in the Formation of Migration Flows For the Urals in the XVII - First Half of the XVIII Century

The article is devoted to the influence of trust and distrust on the state and regional authorities on the promotion of the Russian population across the Urals, Siberia and the Far East in the 17th - the first half of the 18th centuries. Two components of the migration stream are singled out, the first is the resettlement organized by the authorities. The second part was completely unauthorized and, if possible, avoided the centers of official colonization. The dangers of living in undeveloped regions, the threat of military attacks and economic needs inevitably forced all immigrants to contact the authorities and agree to cooperate with them in exchange for legalization, protection and development of trade relations. In turn, the regional authorities, interested in settling the eastern regions, favorably accepted all the settlers, regardless of their status, seeking from the central government forgiveness for the fugitives and permission to settle them in their new place of residence.

Trust, distrust, factory, peasants, runaway, migration Hows