

8-25-2000

Trends. Politics and Psychology: The Effect of Political Transition on Russian Families

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Recommended Citation

Editor (2000) "Trends. Politics and Psychology: The Effect of Political Transition on Russian Families," *International Bulletin of Political Psychology*: Vol. 9 : Iss. 7 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://commons.erau.edu/ibpp/vol9/iss7/4>

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International Bulletin of Political Psychology

Title: Trends. Politics and Psychology: The Effect of Political Transition on Russian Families

Author: Editor

Volume: 9

Issue: 7

Date: 2000-08-25

Keywords: Alexander Shapiro, Family Structure, Political Transition, Russia

Most social scientists would agree that political phenomena affect psychological phenomena--if not that all political phenomena are psychological or all of the latter are the former. But turning from abstract contentions to day-to-day life, what can one say about the nexus of politics and psychology? At the recent 108th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association in Washington, DC, USA, Alexander Shapiro of Moscow, the Russian Federation, presented a paper on the effects of political transition on Russian family life.

Shapiro's anecdotal study cites current psychological struggles related to political identity, the integration of East and West, rising nationalism, and xenophobia--among other factors--that could be considered consequences of "the incrustation of totalitarianism [within] [family members'] souls." He concludes that "[w]e also need an image of a positive family, protecting the individual at all stages of his/her life from the manipulative action of any particular social group of which he is a part, and from a struggle for resources which often seem more important than human life itself."

IBPP hopes that Dr. Shapiro will explore effects of family structure, function, and process on macropolitical phenomena and their intervening variables, the converse, and continuous and asynchronous interactive effects. Readers should also note that Dr. Shapiro is affiliated with the Russian Academy of Education and can be reached at fa@shapalex.msk.ru or at +7-095-939-09-35. (See Bacigalupe, G. (2000). Family violence in Chile: Political and legal dimensions in a period of democratic transition. *Violence Against Women*, 6, 427-448; Goodwin, R., & Tang, C. (1998). The transition to uncertainty?: The impacts of Hong Kong 1997 on personal relationships. *Personal Relationships*, 5, 183-190; Khamis, V. (1998). Psychological distress and well-being among traumatized Palestinian women during the intifada. *Social Science and Medicine*, 46, 1033-1041; McEvoy, K., O'Mahony, D., Horner, C., & Lyner, O. (1999). The home front: The families of politically motivated prisoners in Northern Ireland. *British Journal of Criminology*, 39, 175-197; Stevenson, T. B. (1997). Migration, family, and household in highland Yemen: The impact of socio-economic and political change and cultural ideals on domestic organization. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 28, 14-53.) (Keywords: Alexander Shapiro, Family Structure, Political Transition, Russia.)