**Symbolic politics and discursive identity construction**

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***Symbolic politics*** is understood as the set of public activities aimed at production and promotion/intrusion of certain modes of interpretation of social reality and the struggle for their domination. In this sense it is tightly related to discursive identity construction and some other aspects of identity politics. However, symbolic politics is not exclusively about identity issues. It includes a broad range of public activity connected with competition of different visions of social reality. As a particular aspect of any political process symbolic politics is a particular perspective for studies of domestic politics, international relations, social movements, political communications etc.

**Perspective aspects and issues for research in the field of symbolic politics:**

* clarification of the concepts for description and analysis of the field
* development of qualitative and mixed methods for studies in the field
* development of visual methods
* comparative studies of the practices of political uses of the past / memory politics
* political construction of temporal models (past – present – future)
* political myths
* political construction of social space

**Research projects:**

«Transformation of narratives about the collective past: Analysis of practices of political uses of the symbol of “The Great Russian Revolution” in the year of the centenary jubilee», in the framework of the Academic Fund Program at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) in 2017- 2018 (grant № 17-01-0034) and by the Russian Academic Excellence Project “5-100”

«Constructing frames of collective memory in political discourse: the "hard 1990s" vs. the "stable 2000s"», supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), grant no. 17-03-00322.

«Comprehensive comparative study of memory politics in Russia and abroad: Strategies, actors,

instruments», the collective research project supported by the Russian Science Foundation, grant no. 17-18-01589, the project supervisor is Prof. Alexey Miller.

**Relevant publications in English:**

Malinova O. Obsession with Status and Ressentiment: Historical Backgrounds of the Russian Discursive Identity Construction // Communist and Post-Communist Studies. 2014. Vol. 47, no. 4. P. 291-303. DOI: 10.1016/j.postcomstud.2014.07.001

Malinova O. Russia and “the West” in the 2000s: Redefining Russian identity in official political discourse // Taras R. (ed.) Russia's identity in international relations: images, perceptions, misperceptions. – London, etc.: Routledge, 2012. – P. 73-90.

Malinova O. Russia and “the West” in the Twentieth Century: A Binary Model of Russian Culture and Transformations of the Discourse on Collective Identity // Constructing Identities in Europe: German and Russian Perspectives / R.Krumm, S.Medvedev, H.-H. Schröder eds. – Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, 2012. – P. 63-79. <http://www.nomos-shop.de/_assets/downloads/9783832972219_lese01.pdf>

Malinova O. Public discourse on the Perspectives of Transition in Post-Soviet Russia: The Pluralism of Ideas in the Transforming Public Sphere // State, Society, and Transformation / ed. by B.A.Mitchneck. – Washington: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2011. – P. 102-125. <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/StateSocietyTransformation_WebFinal.pdf>