

Youth's Perspectives on Gender Differences in Sexual Relations (the case of Russia)

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Each historical epoch is characterized by its specific social and cultural features of humans' lives that determine individuals' beliefs and practices in all spheres of life. The first decade of the 21st century is the time of pluralism, turbulence and ideological competition. Thus, gender and sexuality remain or become one of the crucial discursive battleground in different societies, regions and on the global arena. The transformations of economic, political and cultural life of Russian society during the last two decades led to uprising of new sexual and gender discourses supported and promoted by different social agents. But despite the fact of declared weakening of gender double standards, democratization of sexual convictions and diversification of lifestyles more traditional scripts of gendered erotic behavior are still widely spread and shared by different social groups. That brings into focus the need to explore the social structure of society as a condition of differentiation of sexual practices of the citizens. There were conducted in-depths interviews with young people aged 18-25 years old from different social strata (based on their education, place of residence and income) in order to make a try on the example of Russian youth to consider the influence of a position in social space on their views on sexual behavior, particularly their attitudes towards gender differences and roles in erotic relations.