
Introducing the issue

The “Social Innovations and Social Sciences” Journal devoted this issue to the transformation of society that is caused by the explosive spread of digital technologies. For the past three years the Russian-language version of the Journal has repeatedly addressed the discussion around various humanitarian aspects of digitalization: the opportunities and risks for an individual, society and the state; influence on the formation of human capital; potential and techniques that help digitize and modernize the economy, improve the social sphere and public administration.

For our out-of-Russia readers this time we decided to select the most interesting works published in 2020–2022 and combine them in one issue. The editorial board believes that the collected materials reflect diverse views of Russian specialists on the global changes in the modern world and in Russia, in particular, under the influence of digitalization.

The issue opens with the section “**Space of Discourse**”, which presents two different points of view on the global cyberspace. Thus, *D. Efremenko* analyzes the growing relationship between the geopolitical competition of the great powers and the development of digital technologies. The author shows how cyberspace is gradually turning into “cyberbalkans”, where a real proxy war is unfolding. At the same time, he believes that technological leaders, the United States and China, acquire dominant positions in cyberspace and will eventually form a new bipolar world. This means that throughout the 2020s, all the states of the world will have to make their own geopolitical choice as to which of the two ecosystems to join.

In turn, *V. Korovkin* draws attention to the architectural cross-border nature of cyberspace. He also notes the conceptual differences in approaches to the legal status of cyberspace proposed by the United States, on the one hand, and Russia and China, on the other. However, the author sees the future not in the formation of two poles of power, but in the regionalization of cyberspace with the creation of alliances based on the mutual trust of the participants and similar views on the principles of cyber regulation.

The “**Point of View**” section includes articles on trends and opportunities brought by the digital transformation of economy. And it is no coincidence that they largely relate to financial and banking activities, as well as cybersecurity issues. The financial sector is the leader in introducing new digital technologies in Russia, and the security of digital technologies and applications has become one of the most pressing problems for the whole world.

For instance, the article by *I. Lebedeva* analyzes the changes in the banking sector caused by digitalization: the transformation of the market structure, business processes, products and services provided. The author examines the reasons behind digital transformation of financial institutions; describes new

technologies and trends in the banking sector; shows the extent of their penetration into the financial business in Russia. The paper also discusses the opportunities and threats of using modern financial technologies for both credit institutions and their clients.

G. Semeko provides forecast for the development of the financial sector in the context of its accelerated digitalization. The author analyzes the prerequisites for the digitalization of money, as well as the main provisions of the digital currency formulated by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, discusses functions of the digital currency as an efficient tool for payment transactions, ensuring liquidity and financial stability.

A. Petrov reflects on the prospects and risks of automatic collecting and analyzing personal data from various sources (including the Internet and social networks). From this standpoint he analyses digital profiling of individuals and legal entities in Russia. As the author emphasizes, the ways of using the collected data largely depend on those who make decisions and those who operate the system. However, an individual remains the main carrier of personalized information.

The development and implementation of digital technologies lead to the emergence of systemic technological, organizational and economic innovations, and, perhaps even to a greater extent, of innovations in the social sphere. The issues related to social life are discussed in the section “**Man in the Digital World**”.

The section opens with an article by *M. Polozhikhina*. The author shows the contradictory impact of digitalization on the institutions that determine the reproduction and use of human capital. Particular attention is paid to the transformation of family and interpersonal relations, the sphere of culture and the labor market. The author examines the interdependence between the development of digital technologies and social transformations, including the improvement of the quality of human capital and the emergence of new interpersonal models of relationships.

V. Medennikov writes about the educational system as one of the main institutions for the formation of human capital. The creation of a unified information space for scientific and educational institutions based on the use of digital technologies allows, according to the author, to significantly improve the learning process. The author also proposes a methodology for assessing the human capital created at colleges with the help of available scientific and educational resources, as well as a model for assessing the impact of human capital on the social and economic situation of the regions.

The article by *V. Petushkova* describes the experience in digitizing the archive of an outstanding Soviet political statesman, A.N. Kosygin, – and the subsequent use of the digital archive for organizing exhibitions. The author demonstrates the possibilities of digital technologies in terms of preserving and popularizing the historical heritage.

Dear reader! We hope that the materials of the Russian authors brought to your attention will contribute to a constructive discussion about social and economic development in the context of digitaliza-

tion. Modern reality is a complex tangle of old and new problems. The global nature of the unfolding events suggests, moreover, requires a broad discussion and cooperation of social scientists from different countries and with different points of view – in the name of achieving peace and social progress.