

SECTION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES

EMPIRICAL STUDIES OF BORDERS AND CROSS-BORDER INTERACTIONS: SOCIOLOGICAL DISCOURSE OVERVIEW

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Abstract

The paper analyzes the experience of Ukrainian and foreign empirical sociological studies of cross-border mobility and cooperation as the main forms of cross-border interactions and to outline the subject field and methodological principles of research. The periodization of the development of theoretical sociology was used to organize the discourse of theoretical sociology on cross-border interactions. Methodological principles of sociological research of cross-border interactions are formulated. The consideration of cross-border interactions at four levels is substantiated: micro, meso, macro and inter-level. The micro level of cross-border processes is related to the experience of crossing the state border by specific entities, or trade at the local level. The mezo level relates to cross-border phenomena that extends to regions such as regional cross-border cooperation. The macro level corresponds to cross-border processes that cover the entire territory of the state (interstate relations, international relations of national actors, interstate trade). The inter-level of cross-border phenomena is related to the crossing of the borders of several or even many states.

Keywords: borders, cross-border interactions, Ukrainian-Slovak cross-border relations, cross-border processes, cross-border cooperation, functioning, development.

Politicians, managers and scientists today face the task of managing cross-border interaction processes, which are becoming more and more intensive. Acquisition of unprecedented dynamics of cross-border migrations, liberalization of migration regimes, formation of new phenomena related to cross-border interactions (such as circular mobility, transnational families, emergence and spread of "flexible" forms of citizenship, aggravation of related problems and security, social and economic threats) etc.) actualizes the problem of studying cross-border interactions and their social management.

The phenomenon of state-spatial demarcations and related phenomena has long been the subject of scientific and sociological, in particular, reflection and is reflected in two basic, dichotomous concepts: "borders" and "cross-border interactions". Border - a relatively static phenomenon, and a dynamic form of its existence is cross-border interactions. Despite the barrier function of the border, the latter is not able to completely stop the exchange of various resources, information, people between adjacent territories. The border regulates the socio-spatial relations of states, establishing their delimitation and regulating cross-border interactions. Usually the border is understood as real or imaginary lines that define the boundaries of the state. From a sociological point of view, the phenomenon of borders and cross-border interactions can be considered with an emphasis on the institutional or subjective dimension of these phenomena. The first case refers to state borders as an institution in the sociological sense, the second case emphasizes the interactions and practices of numerous individuals and their groups, mediated by the status of "citizens", "tourists", "illegals", "asylum seekers", "stateless" etc. The analysis of cross-border interactions plays an important role in the methodological renewal required by sociology in today's dynamic conditions, when categories of ethnicity, nation

and state are too "tight" and can no longer provide researchers with adequate explanatory models.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the experience of Ukrainian and foreign empirical sociological studies of cross-border mobility and cooperation as the main forms of cross-border interactions and to outline the subject field and methodological foundations of these studies.

To organize the scientific discourse on transboundary phenomena, we use the periodization of the genesis of theoretical areas of sociology according to G. Zborovsky. The periodization proposed by the researcher considers the historical conditions and preconditions for the emergence of areas of theoretical sociology in five periods: classical, neoclassical, postclassical, nonclassical, post-classical (Zborovsky, 2008, pp. 3 - 15). The first, classical, period is represented by positivism, Marxism, evolutionism, Weberianism. Sociology in this period focuses exclusively on the intra-social level. In general, the unity of mankind is postulated (in the studies of primitive communities, sociologists along with anthropologists find the key to understanding modern societies), but no attention is paid to cross-border phenomena. International comparative studies are just emerging. At the same time, space itself and its delimitation are not the object of sociological reflection.

The neoclassical period is represented by neo-positivism, neo-Marxism, neo-evolutionism, neo-Weberianism, structural functionalism, neo-functionalism, radical-critical theories and theories of conflict. During this period there is a so-called "spatial turn" (English - spatial turn) - in a number of sociological areas the problem of the relationship between spatial and social (in particular, the theory of social ecology of the Chicago school). In addition, there is a sociological reflection on the processes and structures of the supranational level. Within the framework of ethnosociology, the

topic of formation of state sovereignty, national identities and stereotypes, state borders is studied, and issues previously analyzed only by political science, philosophy, law, and ethics are sociologically studied. In the field of sociology, the problem of migrant communities in host societies (in particular, in the studies of W. Thomas, F. Znanetsky, J. Lindbergh, W. White, etc.).

The postclassical period is represented by postpositivism, post-Marxism, the theory of systems analysis, the theory of modernization, the theory of post-industrial society, the theory of globalization, and others. Sociological theorizations that focus on the supranational level of analysis have a significant impact on the general sociological discourse at this stage. In particular, the theory of world-system analysis (I. Wallerstein, G. Frank) is becoming widespread, the concept of "world labor market" is entering scientific circulation, and intensive study of migration processes is beginning, with attention not only to host countries but also to migrants' countries of origin. Researchers focus on the asymmetry of migration flows, their relationship to inequality and discrimination.

The non-classical period is represented by symbolic interactionism, phenomenology, ethnomethodology, and the theory of exchange. At this stage, there is a turn to subjectivism, the spread of quality methods of data collection and interpretation. The study of cross-border interactions is enriched in this period, attention to the daily experience of migrants (in particular, the so-called border crossing studies - the study of border crossing as a special social practice). In 1992, L. Malkki initiated the formation of a new sociological subdiscipline: the sociology of cross-border movements, which covers the issues of legal and illegal, voluntary and forced border crossings in their sociological aspect (Malkki, 1992. Pp. 24 -38). Literature from border crossing studies has focused on cross-border interactions as mobility practices and relevant control tools. Some researchers record a "cultural turn" in studies of migration and transboundary phenomena during this period (King, Skeldon, 2012, 243).

The post-classical period, according to G. Zborovsky, is represented by integrative concepts, the theory of communicative action, postmodernism, and feminist sociology. At this stage, theoretical constructions appear, which put the spatial aspect and issues of borders and transboundary phenomena in the center of the researcher's attention. For example, J. Urry considers mobility a key characteristic of modern society, which determines the existence of communities and blurs the boundaries of territorial sovereignty [Urry, 2012. 336 p.]. In the key of postmodernism, a number of researchers have worked out the methodology of "imagined geography" - discursive formations that simultaneously reflect the socio-political divisions and construct them (Wolf, 2009, 592 p.). During this period, such integrative disciplines as limology were constituted.

The study of borders moves from concerns about the formal borders of the state to the study of borders of various socio-spatial and geographical scales, ranging from local and municipal, to global, regional and supranational levels. Such processes, in particular, are

reflected in a number of concepts, in particular - the concepts of "self-elimination of the state", "subsidiarity" and "Europe of the regions". The concept of state disengagement stipulates that states gradually transfer authority and responsibility for social governance in various areas, including cross-border interactions and cooperation, to private national and international organizations (Security through social cohesion: proposals for a new socio-economic governance. Trends in social cohesion. 2004. No. 10. Pp. 81-92.). The concept of subsidiarity provides for the introduction of the political-managerial principle, according to which services to citizens should be provided at the administrative-territorial level, which is closest to them, and this involves the decentralization of power and maximum authority to local governments [5]. The concept of Europe of the regions is the "overflow" of state competencies in favor of the regions, the spread of interregional and cross-border cooperation, management of the regional economy, etc. (Kurylyak, 2018, pp. 60-67.). Border at this stage is not considered a void and a transit zone, but as a place of creation of social reality of a new quality. At the same time, borders not only perform integration functions, but also "produce" cross-border phenomena - social groups, practices and identities.

Today, scientific discourse examines not only the most important political boundaries that divide sovereign states, but a single system of boundaries in society, including "visible" dividing lines in the landscape and invisible, social, cultural, linguistic, and religious boundaries of all sizes. between different local neighborhood communities to global macro-regions. Secondly, the production and modification of these lines of demarcation is seen as a basic social need - the need for integration and differentiation, in distinguishing "us" from "them", preserving identity and relative social order. Third, borders are a dynamic phenomenon that is constantly reproduced in almost all forms of human activity. The constant process of (re-bordering) borders is the object of sociology in the modern methodological understanding of this phenomenon.

Due to the diversity and complexity of cross-border interactions, the analysis of modern state-spatial demarcations should be interdisciplinary and performed on the basis of a systematic methodology. This methodology is able to ensure the formation of information fragments provided by various socio-humanitarian sciences, a single holistic cognitive image of modern borders and cross-border processes. The concept of "cross-border interactions" emphasizes the interactive nature of the phenomena studied by sociology and allows us to single out the sociological subject of such research.

In Ukrainian sociology, cross-border interactions are considered mainly as a phenomenon accompanying migration processes. Migration flow from Ukraine abroad, in particular in the western direction, is one of the largest and most important socio-economic processes in the recent history of our country, therefore, it is not surprising that the issue of migration of Ukrainians to EU countries is thoroughly studied. At the same time, this significant volume of scientific works has thematic directions (these are: economic, demographic

and social preconditions and consequences of migration of Ukrainians abroad; socio-demographic portrait of Ukrainian migrants; negative social phenomena associated with external migration - victimization, disqualification, violations labor rights, social orphanhood, etc.).

In Ukraine, there are significant factual, conceptual and organizational achievements in the study of cross-border phenomena. Well-known experts in this field are V. Prykhodko, O. Peredriy, I. Artyomov, E. Kish, M. Lendiel, V. Kravtsiv, S. Ustych, N. Varga, N. Ignatol, and others. Some regional schools have significant experience in institutionalizing this sociological subdiscipline. In particular, a detailed sociological interpretation of borders and cross-border processes was given by S. Ustych - a specialist who developed theoretical problems and solved practical problems to optimize cross-border interactions (Ustych S, 2013, pp. 592-596.). The system theory of borders and cross-border processes proposed by S. Ustych consists in taking into account the complex interaction of heterogeneous factors related to the crossing of the state border line. This approach makes it possible to clearly distinguish the concepts of transboundary processes (transboundary flows) with other established categories that characterize borders and related phenomena (Hicks J, 1939, pp. 696-712).

Sociological analysis shows that the transformation of the nature of the latest transboundary processes under the influence of modern communication and technological innovations has led to a tendency to "blur" or even completely level the barrier function of borders. This led to the emergence of new social threats and challenges, such as "hybrid wars", the deployment of information wars, cyberattacks and others.

The peculiarities of the systematic approach in the study of cross-border cooperation are the observance of two cognitive principles: 1) the principle of genetic-functional analysis of the object; 2) the principle of unity of theoretical and methodological and empirical levels of research.

According to S. Ustych, the system methodology, in particular the level understanding of the social system, also allows for a clear gradation, typology of cross-border processes. In the system of transboundary phenomena, according to the criteria of depth of coverage of the territory by transboundary action and its spatial volumes (scales), four levels should be distinguished: micro, meso, macro and interlevel. The micro level of cross-border processes is related to the crossing of the state border (organized or spontaneously, legally or illegally) by specific entities (representatives of authorities, public organizations, groups or individuals), or trade, natural phenomena at the local level. The meso-level consists of cross-border phenomena that extend to the regions (for example, cooperation of regional government agencies and territorial communities, trade, natural processes, etc.). The macro level corresponds to cross-border processes that cover the entire territory of the state (for example, interstate relations, international relations of national actors, interstate trade, etc.). The inter-level of cross-border phenomena is related to the crossing of the borders of several or

even many states. In general, in the opinion of S. Ustych, the volume of cross-border phenomena at the level can be considered identical to transnational, globalization processes (Ustych, 2014. 352 p.).

In general, the author shares the outlined research approach. However, the analysis of the latest transboundary phenomena shows that his systematic understanding of borders and transboundary processes in the current conditions needs to be deepened and modified. Below we will name the ways of such modification of the system methodology of studying transboundary phenomena proposed by S. Ustych.

From among all set of various cross-border phenomena it is expedient to allocate those which are a subject of sociological research and therefore to speak exclusively about cross-border interactions. At one time there was a spatial turn in the social sciences, which was a progressive achievement, but today there is a need to reconsider the topic of spatial rootedness of social phenomena. Cross-border (those that go beyond nation-states) interactions can bring together geographically distant individuals, groups, and communities and generally take place in a virtual space of communications. The study of cross-border interactions should be practically aimed, in particular, at optimizing the management of the border institution (it is necessary to focus on the organizational and managerial dimension of cross-border interactions, on the one hand, and on the social context in which organizations operate and managerial innovations). This practical orientation involves outlining the range of relevant social actors, organizations, groups and communities and achieving a certain common good for all parties involved. The study of cross-border interactions should be based on a wide range of research methods, primarily sociological, including quantitative and qualitative methods, include analysis of both expert and mass perception of cross-border interactions and cover the social experience of different actors. In the study of cross-border interactions, it is advisable to take into account two types of consequences - changes in the living standards of the local population (recorded through the state of social well-being) and socio-economic integration of the border. An unconditional advantage of this type of research should be their monitoring nature, measuring both the state and dynamics of the studied transboundary phenomena.

These requirements were tested in an empirical study conducted with the participation of the author - a survey of residents of the Ukrainian and Slovak border "Information support and implementation of innovative approaches in cross-border cooperation between Slovakia and Ukraine." It should be noted that at the time of writing this survey, with very few exceptions, there are no sociological works and, moreover, empirical studies of cross-border interactions on the Ukrainian-Slovak border.

It should be noted that the lack of research on this issue is inherent not only in Ukrainian but also in Slovak sociology. Yes, we found only a few sociological studies of Slovak scholars on the Ukrainian-Slovak border. Their results mainly concern the institutional and organizational aspects of cross-border processes,

are descriptive, focus on the social portrait of Ukrainian migrant workers in Slovakia and on the peculiarities of the perception of Ukrainian migrants in Slovak society and the media (Strusova, 2012, pp. 160-165). Madlenak, Chovancova 2019).

In this sense, the study of the state and dynamics of cross-border interactions can be based on the theoretical foundations of the so-called Pareto principle and its detailed interpretation within neo-institutional theory. The Pareto principle was formulated by JM Juran and named after the Italian sociologist Wilfredo Pareto (Juran, 1995, 268). The principle is to observe that the growth of the common good will occur every time a citizen or group as a result of certain changes (including the establishment of certain legal institutions) increases their personal well-being, provided that no one else does not suffer losses. It is clear that the Pareto principle describes an ideal state, which can hardly take place in reality. Neo-institutionalists Nicholas Kaldor and John Hicks proposed a theoretical simplification of this principle in order to translate it from the status of an ideal model into an operational concept (Hicks, 1939, pp. 696–712). The Caldor-Hicks method is typically used to monitor potential improvements rather than achieving declared management objectives in an area. They are used to determine whether the situation is changing towards compliance with the Pareto principle. In accordance with the Pareto principle, it is appropriate to define positive changes in the management of

cross-border interactions as an increase in the level of satisfaction of border residents with the consequences of the policy, which are compared with residents' dissatisfaction with this policy and interpreted by experts.

The toolkit of sociological research of cross-border interactions on the Ukrainian-Slovak border was constructed on the basis of expert interviews with researchers in the field of public administration, sociology, social work, representatives of public organizations and local communities of the Ukrainian-Slovak border. The trajectory of individual border cases (such as the Ukrainian-Slovak or, for example, the Ukrainian-Russian border) in the space of the main aggregated variables that determine the nature of mobility and cooperation will indicate more or less successful policy and management measures and programs.

Conclusions. The aggregation of indicators of the development of cross-border phenomena can be done in different ways, in particular with the use of statistical procedures to identify the latent structure of variables, which in turn can be done using exploratory or confirmatory factor analysis.

Having developed the database of the empirical study "Information support and implementation of innovative approaches in cross-border cooperation between Slovakia and Ukraine", we, using confirmatory factor analysis, created a three-factor model for measuring the development of cross-border mobility and cooperation.

Table 1

Tools used in the construction of a three-factor model for measuring the deployment of cross-border mobility and cooperation

Aggregated variables included in the model	Factor loads of indicators for Ukraine	Alpha-Cronbach's indicators for Ukraine	Factor load indicators for Slovakia	Alpha-Cronbach's indicator for Slovakia
socio-economic dimension	0,863	0,735	0,890	0,804
ethno-cultural dimension	0,849	0,615	0,856	0,704
Institutional and organizational dimension.	0,755	0,687	0,794	0,735

Statistical tests on the internal consistency of the aggregated indicators were conducted for two samples - Ukrainian and Slovak (n = 498 and 448, respectively).

The construction of this tool allows, subject to periodic monitoring studies, to identify the nature of the dynamics of cross-border interactions, to record positive changes or disturbing and negative phenomena in three dimensions: socio-economic, ethnocultural and institutional-organizational.

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COMPREHENSION OF THE ECONOMICS' INTERDISCIPLINARY LINKAGES BY STUDENTS OF NON-ECONOMIC SPECIALTIES: CASE OF UKRAINE

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Abstract

The rapid development of market relations and a liberally oriented economy requires that Ukrainian youth acquire economic knowledge and competences. Understanding of the economics' place among other disciplines in a curriculum will allow students to appreciate the complex reality and develop innovative thinking related to their specialties.

The main purpose of our research is to analyze the understanding of the economics' interdisciplinary component among students of non-economic specialties in Vinnytsia. Within the article, we investigated the students' perceptions of the interdisciplinary connections that exist between economics and formal, natural, life, social and technical sciences. A lot of attention has been paid to the students' understanding of the interdisciplinarity concept and its relation to economic knowledge.

The methodology of our work is based on the questionnaire (field research) method and a set of statistical methods. We interviewed more than 670 students among 30 different non-economic specialties from 4 target universities in Vinnytsia (Ukraine). Statistical analysis of the obtained data showed that there are common trends in economics interdisciplinary futures understanding within technical, pedagogical, medical and other non-economic specialties.

The main conclusion of our study is that students have a good understanding of the interdisciplinary linkages importance that exist between economics and formal, social, technical sciences. At the same time, the understanding of the links between economics and social or life sciences is rather mediocre. Students' understanding of the interdisciplinarity concept is rather superficial. Nevertheless, the vast majority of the surveyed students are interested in studying contemporary interdisciplinary courses such as globalization, sustainable development, innovation or futures studies.

Keywords: economics, interdisciplinarity, non-economic specialties, university, Ukraine.

Introduction. The modern world is becoming increasingly complex. In the sphere of economy, this is reflected in the development of the global economy, the efficiency increase of national households and the overall entrepreneurship development. Generally, the organization of economic and business activities is a rather complex process that involves different economic knowledge and numerous other scientific fields: international relations, jurisprudence, mathematics, statistics, sociology, demography, geography, cultural studies, etc. At a practical level, interdisciplinary fields that address various aspects of business organization in a particular industry have taken shape in a new academic discipline of "complexity economics" (Arthur, 2014). Currently, the world developed countries are paying greater attention to the interdisciplinary linkages be-

tween economics and other scientific fields. Their consideration allows us to improve our understanding of economics and the economic sphere of being. A few years ago, we started a study aimed at analyzing the features of the interdisciplinary approach application in the field of economics.

This paper is an integral part of our aggregate research concerning the pupils' and students' understanding of the economic knowledge place in the system of Ukrainian education and science. Specifically, this article is about exploring the economics' interdisciplinary linkages comprehension by students of Ukrainian non-economic universities. Along with this, we have already explored such phenomena as the schoolchildren's understanding of the economics place in the school curriculum and its relation to other school subjects. In addition, we have explored the desire to study economics