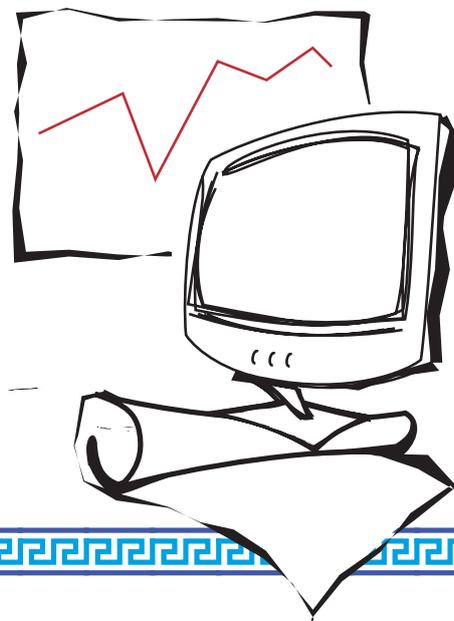


# Sophist



## WORKSHOP

The First methodological seminar «Statistics without Tears: Regressive Modeling in NESSTAR Package» was held from 26 June to 2 July, 2006. The Seminar took place in Snegiri, a settlement in Moscow region. Twenty participants from different regions of Russia and the former USSR countries took part in the seminar. We publish comments of some of them and a photo gallery.

Russian Sociological Data Archive is a dream-come-true of the Russian sociologists. The First methodological seminar proved very successful. Both the arrangers of the educational event and participants were quite satisfied. The warm and friendly atmosphere of the seminar contributed a lot to assimilation of the academic materials.

The activity of the RSDA must become significant for the whole sociological community. Time may come when the practice of turning to the archive will become an every day necessity for students and teachers, and it will be a matter of professional ethics for the researchers to hand over the results of their empiric research to the archive.

**Aigul Mavletova**  
(full text on

<http://www.polit.ru/science/2006/07/19/stat.html>)

The fact that the RSDA was created is important in itself, and not only from the practical point of view. The transfer of the research data into the archive and high standards required, create a new professional culture. I am glad that Armenia has joined this process and handed over a few surveys to the RSDA.

The seminar proved to be highly topical, interesting and useful. I would especially like to mention an excellent combination of theoretical lectures and well-thought-out practicums...

**Bagrat Arutunian**  
Yerevan State University, Armenia

I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to take part in the seminar. It gave me a lot of information and useful contacts, which I will certainly share with my colleagues in September...

**Rimma Akhmetianova**  
Bashkir State Pedagogical University, Ufa

The Seminar was very informative and as to the informal communication with the colleagues was beyond all expectations. I would especially like to point out its high level of organization. All the stages of the seminar,

starting from the choice of format and the place and finishing with the chance to communicate with the representatives of the institute, provided to the participants comfort, effective working atmosphere and, on the whole, pleasant memories of the event.

... I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Independent Institute for Social Policy, its people who are directly engaged in the project «Russian Sociological Data Archive», to all the RSDA depositors and sponsors, to the creators and translators of the NESSTAR packet, to the arrangers and moderators of the seminar for visible practical steps towards providing the Russian sociologists, political analysts, demographers with high quality primary data and analysis tools, towards development of the new teaching technologies and raising of the research culture of social science specialists in Russia.

I sincerely wish that the archive develop forth, preserving its accessibility for the Russian researchers with different interests and opportunities.

**Anton Balabanov**  
Nizhegorodskiy State University  
named after N.I. Lobachevskiy  
translator and editor of [www.spsstools.ru](http://www.spsstools.ru)



(See page 4)

## International Social Survey Programme (ISSP): opportunities for research

We continue to acquaint our readers with the international ISSP project. Below we present the data of the module «National Identity» which was held in 2003 in 31 countries. One of the questions put to the respondents was «Different people identify themselves differently, when they think who they are. For some of them the most important thing is their occupation, for others their status in the society, for still others their nationality, etc. When you personally try to identify who you are, what is the most important to you? The distribution of the received answers is shown in Pic. 1.

As you can see in Pic. 1, according to the number of identification bases, all the countries concerned may be conventionally divided into 4 groups. Those countries, where the identification is built round a single axis will be referred to the first group. These are such countries as Australia, Great Britain, USA, Canada, Norway, Denmark and others. (see the upper part of Pic. 1). In this group the only and most important identification basis is the family. It was chosen by no less than 50 % of the respondents. Denmark is the leader. Here «hearth and home» is an identification basis for 66 % of the respondents. The rating of other values among the people in Denmark is not very high: from 12 % (occupation) to 1 % (political views).

The second group includes the countries with two identification bases. The shares of the respondents who chose this or other base are comparable. These are such countries as Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Russia, Japan and others. For example, in Japan with a comparatively low significance of other values, two stand out: occupation and family. Their rating is the same, about 23 % of all the respondents. These two values become even more significant for the Japanese within the age group of 26 to 55. It is interesting to mention that the value of occupation as an identification basis grows sharply among the Japanese who work in state-owned companies: in this group 49 % of the respondents choose occupation as the principal axis of self-identification.

Russia is referred to the same group. Among the Russians family and occupation are two bases of self-identification: 30 % and 26 % respectively. But, unlike the Japanese, work for the state lowers the significance of occupation as an identification basis: only 20 % of the Russians, who work in state-owned companies, consider their labor activity as a principal factor of self-identification. The significance of occupation grows for those, who work for themselves or in private companies: 34 % and 27 % respectively. With age the Russians give more preference to the family. For example, for the people under 25 the first position in the list of the identification bases with a wide margin is occupation (28 %), for the people of 26—55 years old family comes first (34 %). After 56 the significance of «hearth and home» weakens, but remains strong enough with respect to the other values (25 %).

The third group includes such countries as East Germany, Chile, Finland, and Uruguay, where the respondents name 3 comparatively significant bases. In all these countries they are: occupation (about 23 % on average), family (20 %) and gender. For example, in Germany the gender aspect as an identification basis is chosen by 22 % of women and the same number of men; but in Chile and Uruguay women outvote men by 10 % — 28% and 18 % respectively. Finland is an exception in this group. Here instead of the gender (only 10 %), national identity was named as a basis for self-identification (22 %).

Such countries as France, Israel, Venezuela, and Slovenia may be referred to the fourth group. A wide spectrum of similarly significant identification bases exist here. The percentage ratio of the values do not differ much, there are no domineering preferences. For example in Venezuela they similarly often name such values as occupation (19 %), citizenship (16 %), family (22 %), part of the country the respondent lives in (12 %), religion (11 %).

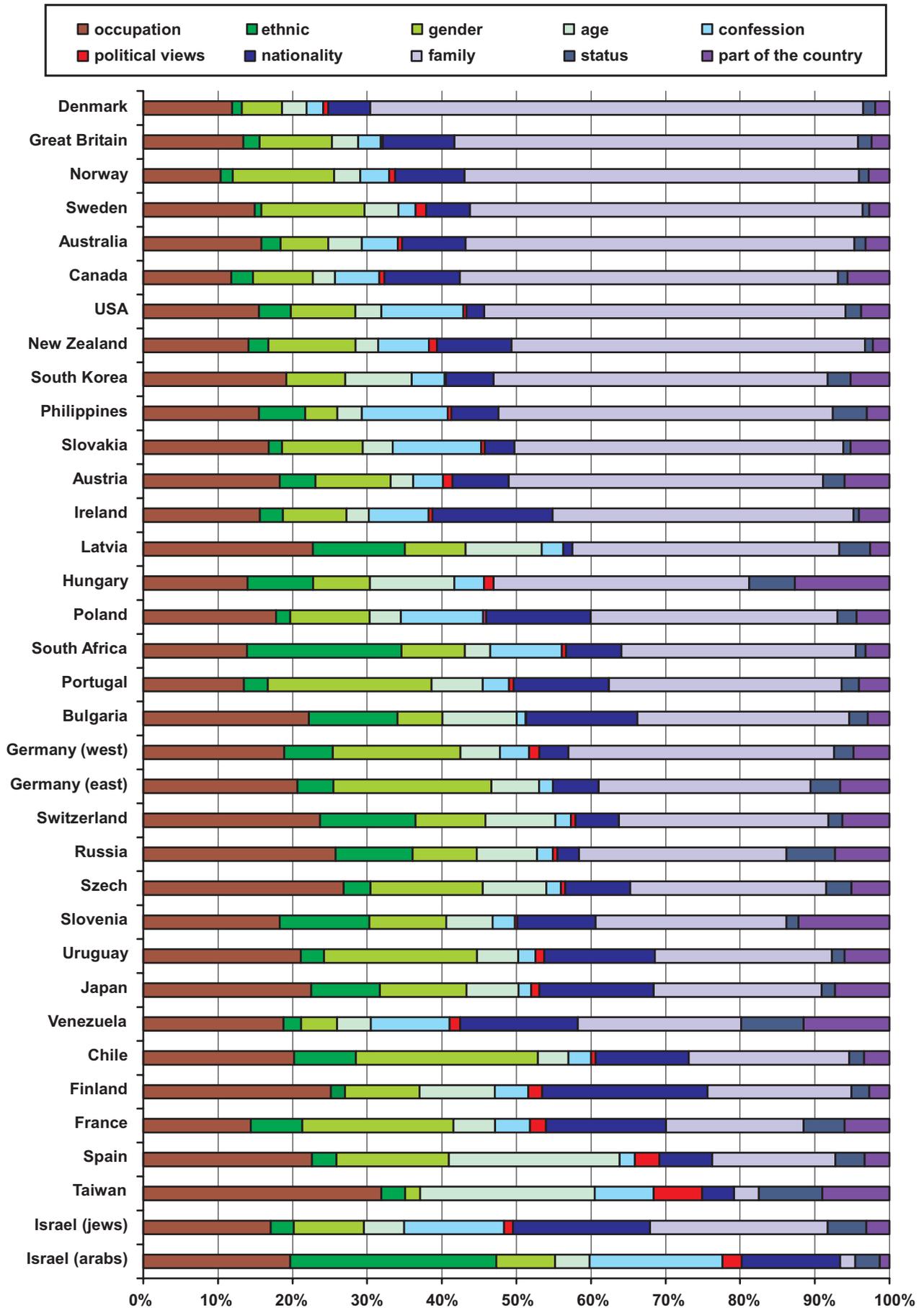
Considering the average tendencies for all the countries, we will come to the following pattern. Firstly, the family value in the majority of the countries, participating in the survey, prevails over the other identification bases. The only exception is the Arabs in Israel and Taiwan. In these countries the family as the basis for self-identification was named by only 2 % and 3 % respectively.

Secondly, such a value as political views has the lowest rating (about 1 %). Only in Taiwan the significance of this parameter is higher: belonging to a definite political party is important for 7 % of the respondents. Among the values, defining identity, this attribute occupies the sixth position, leaving behind such factors as family, citizenship, gender, national roots.

The comparative analysis of the answers, given by the Arabs and Jews showed that their self-identification is based on different factors: what is significant for the ones, is practically not important for the others. For example, if among the Arabs belonging to a definite ethnic groups is the first in significance (28 %), it is the last thing Jews think of (3 %). About the same situation is found with the family factor: It is the main axis of identification for the Jews (24 %), but for the Arab population it is practically irrelevant (2 %).

The significance of religious identification varies from country to country. The highest percentage it has in Israel, both, among Arabs (18 %) and Jews (13 %). In Slovakia and Philippines religion as a defining factor was marked by 12 % of the respondents, in the USA, Poland and Venezuela — 11 %. There are countries where this parameter as the main axis of identification was chosen by less than 2 % of the respondents: Bulgaria, East Germany, Japan, and Spain.

**WHEN YOU PERSONALLY TRY TO IDENTIFY WHO YOU ARE,  
WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?**



## WORKSHOP



I am quite enthused by the First methodological seminar «Statistics without tears: NESSTAR packet regressive modeling». The participants got a rare opportunity to get acquainted with the sociological data which can be used both in scientific and methodological work. The use of the materials of the Russian Sociological Data Archive (RSDA) will help to raise the level of teaching of the subjects requiring use of statistical data, work with secondary materials, study of the information processing methods. Besides, the use of Russian Sociological Data Archive (RSDA) materials will help to improve the students' scientific research work: writing of scientific articles, course papers, graduation papers. I would like to thank the arrangers of the seminar for the wonderful time, attention and care.

**Olga Alexandrovna Volkova**  
Saratov State University named after N.G. Chernyshevskiy Balashovskiy branch

For me, a young scientist, the seminar gave an opportunity to widen my research



horizons. Here I acquired new skills of analytical work with data bases of the Russian Sociological Data Archive. The knowledge received here will help me in my teaching and scientific work. The seminar assembled many interesting scientists not only from Russia, but from other former USSR countries. There was a creative atmosphere of intellectual quest that made work extremely easy and productive.

**Sergei Krasilnikov**  
Ulyanovsk State University

At the beginning of the academic year I plan to acquaint my students with RSDA. It will be more than useful to them. Our bachelors do not undertake a graduation research, only piloting. But a comparative analysis is within their powers. So, once again THANK YOU FOR THE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY!

**Yelena Lobova**  
Uralskiy State Pedagogical University

... It is important to mention that the summer school gave a lot for the Tver re-



gion. Highly skilled teachers, computer support, software and venue demonstrate a high level of organization of the summer school. The atmosphere at the school let us make many friends sociologists from different cities and countries, with whom we are still in contact, share experience, discuss topics of common interest, find like-minded people.

On the basis of the knowledge and skills, received in the summer school we will hold a few seminars and methodological classes for teachers and students of the sociology and social technologies departments at the Tver State Technical University. In the course of the seminars the audience will be acquainted with the presentations which were kindly provided by the arrangers of the RSDA and NESSTAR summer school.

A lot of thanks to the arrangers and participants of the summer school!

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