

Review of the PhD Submission
by

VOLODIN Damir Zul'karyamovitch

"Ecological consciousness evolution: From utopia to science"

by Prof. Dr. Uwe Hoßfeld

- The dissertation was written in the social philosophy but crosslinked with the global issues posed by environmentalism such as biodiversity, climate change etc. The author wrote in the introduction: "Modern global processes and problems that have developed in the field of ecology, a variety of methods and approaches to their comprehension, which include scientific, mythological, religious, ethical, social and philosophical contexts, etc., lead to the constitution of a relatively new, little-studied phenomenon of ecological consciousness ... The theoretical and methodological basis of the thesis is the work of Russian and foreign researchers devoted to the problem of genesis and analysis of the structural content of the phenomenon of ecological consciousness" (p. 215, 221). The scope of the dissertation corresponds to the requirements for the design of a PhD-thesis.
- The work is divided into five parts: Introduction, Chapter I Ecological consciousness in the historical-philosophical and modern context, Chapter II. Structure and typology of ecological consciousness, Chapter III. The current context of environmental discourse, and Conclusion. A Bibliography with 214 items (I would like to point out though that there are too many URL-sources at the expenses of printed media) finished the analyses, so the reference list is extensive however.
- Overall, the structure of the thesis is more or less logically sound, the objectives are clearly formulated. A significant structural shortcoming though is the absence of subchapters instead of a long continuous text in many places, where they are urgently needed. This makes it difficult to follow the major line of the thesis. If the thesis will be prepared for publication this issue should be addressed.
- Another deficiency of the dissertation is the astonishing absence of references to the works of colleagues from the Department of Philosophy at SPBU and the neighboring institutions such as the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, which is only 500 meters away from the Department. For example, Dmitrii Prokudin published intensively on Georgy Gauze, Jasha Gall is a pioneer of Gauze-studies in Russian, Eduard I. Kolchinsky published the whole book on the biosphere concept, Georgy S. Levit published on utopian elements in Vernadsky's thinking early on in both Russian and English. From my viewpoint this is a significant failure in terms of presentation of the current state of research.

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- In addition, some further paragraphs at the end of chapters summarizing major argument would ease grasping the main line. The definition of basic concepts would also contribute to the depth of the thesis. For example, dissertation having the notion of evolution in its title does not explain this term in the text although it would probably lead to a deepening of the argument. Despite, dealing with ecology should presuppose the knowledge of novel integrative sciences appearing in this area and their impact on society. For example, the most influential journal of the field "Trends in Ecology and Evolution (CellPress)" includes the section "Science & Society" reflecting on issue similar to those of the thesis. I also find that the visualization tools must have been applied much more strongly as well as the methods of digital humanities.
- Overall, the dissertation completed by Volodin Damir Zul'karyamovitch on "Ecological consciousness evolution: From utopia to science" could be potentially a valuable study in the philosophical of ecology and society in the light of the overall idea of evolution.
- The research carried out by the candidate has identified several gaps in the academic literature, here with the special focus on the Russian perspective: The materials of this study contain recommendations for the formation of environmental consciousness, which could be addressed to governmental bodies, environmental organizations and educational and educational institutions ... The materials of the thesis could be also used for educational purposes at the university level and can serve as a basis for the developing new curricula in such disciplines as social philosophy, social anthropology, religious studies, history of ecology, the theory of mass culture, a complex of ecological disciplines" (p. 224).
- From my viewpoint, the PhD-thesis completed by Volodin Damir Zul'karyamovitch on "Ecological consciousness evolution: From utopia to science" and presented for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, barely meets the requirements for candidates with a specialty in the following area: 09.00.11 – social philosophy. I would be happy to review the revised version.

Minor Errors in the thesis:

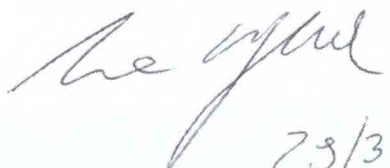
p. 219 Haeckel coined the term "ecology" in 1866 in his "General Morphology of organism" - not in 1886

p. 219, 324 not G.F. Gouse – Gau(s)ze

p- 238 not R. Schleiermacher – F. Schleiermacher

p. 242 not G.G. Gadamer - H.G. Gadamer

p. 276 not K. Leibnitz on monads – G. W. Leibniz etc.


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