

THE MEANINGS OF DWELLING FROM A SOCIAL MOBILITY PERSPECTIVE



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Project “Intergenerational social mobility of the XX century to the XXI –
four generations of Russian history”, www.smxxi.ru

Fieldwork in Yekaterinburg city

- Was founded around a **factory** on the Iset' river in **1723**
- Current population is more than **1 460 000** people (2015)
- Average **income** is **40 000 – 50 000** rub , ~ **700 euro** (2014)



- Info from official portal ekaterinburg.ru and report of the leader of the city in 2015



Social status of informants: 6 biographical interviews

Age	Gender	Professional status	Income	Education
25	M	Chief of department in insurance company	Middle	Higher
28	M	Chief of department in governmental organization	Middle	Higher
26	F	General manager in chain of restaurants	Middle	Higher
45	F	Factory worker	Low income	General secondary education (school)
45	M	Owner of small business	Middle+	Higher
45	M	Deputy head in industrial organization	Middle+	Higher

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3 groups of life-styles: the linkage between social and physical spaces

Young and “enlighten” men

Non-mobile and resourceless women

Dynamic and mature men

What is the meaning of dwelling from a social mobility perspective?

Chief of department in insurance company, higher education, 25 y. o., has a girlfriend



It is very comfortable that I live here, so I have a lot of friends , everything is on the way and all meet here. Well , I'm the "darling" of the center and "darling" of the fortune. Grateful to my parents this apartment is in the center.



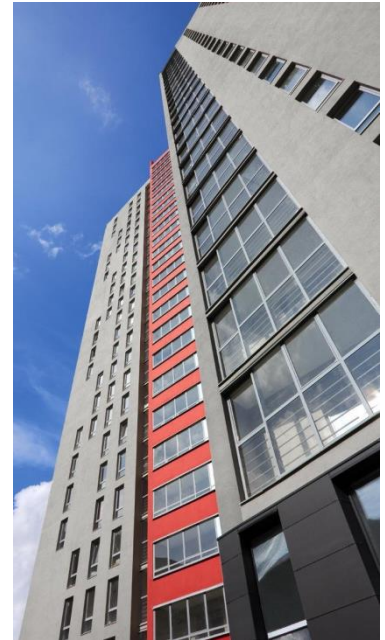


Chief of department in governmental organization, higher education, 28 y. o., has a girlfriend

The grandmother helped to buy dwelling in center. 2 rooms, lives alone



In our country, to buy an apartment on their own financial ... is unreal. It is necessary to kill someone or something to steal . In my case 2/3 of money grandmother gave me and 1/3 I saved myself. Grandmother presented me an apartment , which she inherited from her parents. I sold it and it helped me to buy this dwelling



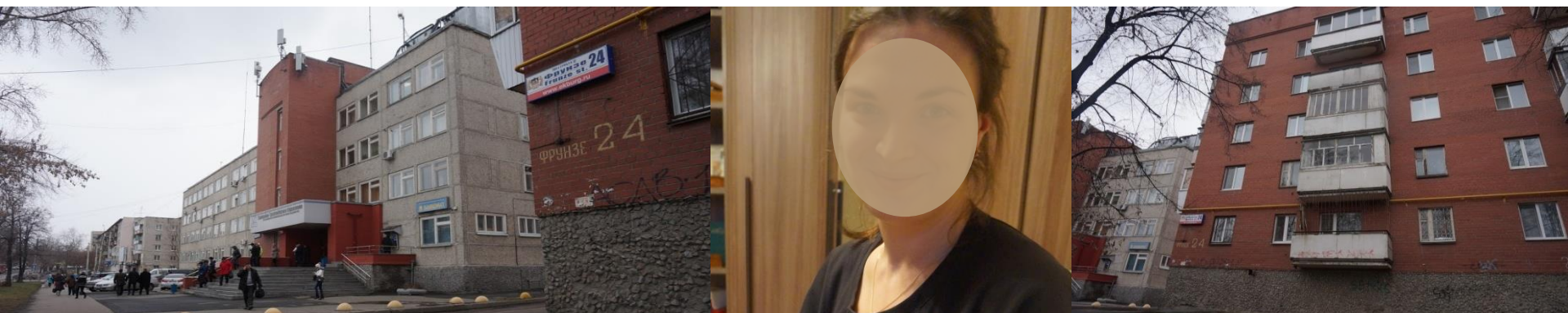


Young and “enlighten” men: life-style and social position

- **Cultural capital** development: specialized school and educational programs
- Young **parents and friendly relationship**, parents as life providers
- Upgrading professional **mobility and stable income**
- Live in “**own**” dwelling in city center and use it’s **advantages**
- Have **hobby** as yoga, travel, car

Dwelling provided by “parents” is consistent to their life-style and give them opportunity for further upward mobility

General manager in chain of restaurants, 26 y. o., higher education, single



*I lived in the one
grandparents ,
then the other, then I lived
with my dad, when mom
left for another town...*



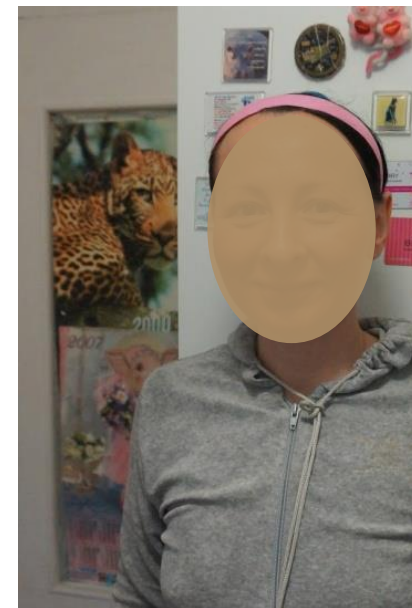
The grandfather “received”
dwelling from the
manufactory. 2 rooms, lives
with the elderly in the city
center

Factory worker, 45 y. o. “school’s” education (doesn't have higher education), single



I don't have a plan of my life.... I became a victim of the numerous economical crises : in 1998 , 2008 and 2012 .

How can I plan if I have nothing for planning?



The parents “received” dwelling from the manufactory. 2 rooms, lives with the elderly parents in the city center



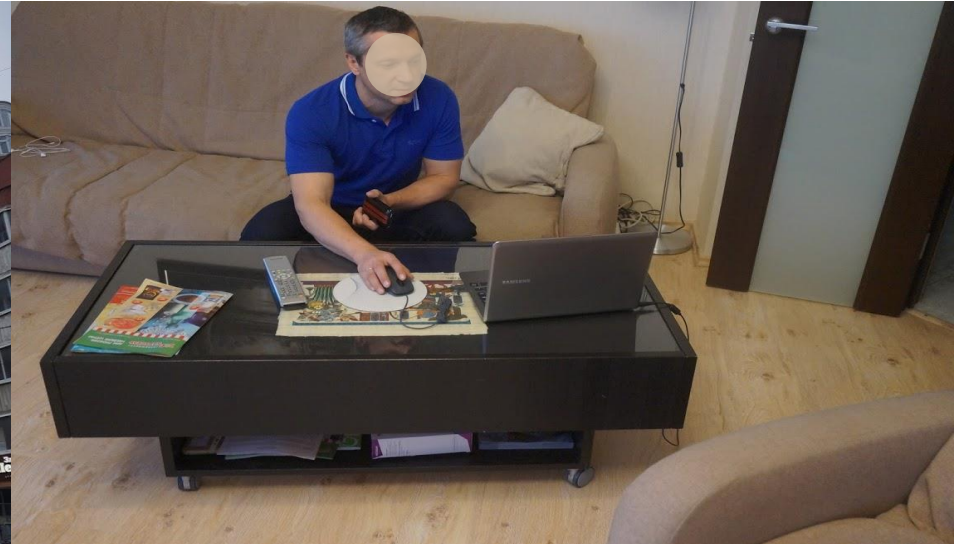
Non-mobile and resourceless women: life-style and social position

- Involved in **manual labour** and **feel income limited**
- Parents /grandmother from manual labour and **dwellings are provided by manufactory in Soviet time**
- Live in **limited dwelling space**: together with the elderly (couple), feel at home like a “guest”, have negative experience of living with boyfriend (back home)
- **Don't have a plan of life** and live “passively” (don't involved in city-center practices, but live in center, not traveling)
- **Close to criminal groups** (parents, boyfriend)

Dwellings are received by “parents” from the manufacturing. It is very limited in space and have interior of “elderly”. The women have no familial or own capitals (economical, cultural, social) for further mobility



Owner of small business, higher education, 45 y. o., wife and child



Well, of course we want also another house – suburban home , because my wife wants to go outside the city and to be able to breathe fresh air, have own walls etc



He bought this dwelling for money from own salary. 2 rooms, lives in the city center



Deputy head in industrial organization, 45 y.o., higher education, wife and 2 children

We live in a new dwelling complex "Sunny Island" new residential quarter , not far from the city center. New school is close to our home is the with French specialization. My youngest daughter is going to this school.



He bought this dwelling for money from own salary + money form wife's inheritance. 3 rooms, lives in the city center



Dynamic and mature men: life-style and social position

- **Moving** to Yekaterinburg from small city (Berezovskiy, Orsk) **for the education**
- Upgrading **professional mobility**, stable high income
- The time of career development **is the nineties, successful adaptation to new market economy**
- **Classical own family** (wife and children)
- Rich housing experience and **new “purchased” dwelling** which **suits for family**
- Regular **travel for work and vacations**

Dwellings are chosen (bought and “new”) based on family needs and life-style. It gives the opportunity for family members and children development



3 life-styles: the meaning of dwelling from a social mobility perspective

+
Young
and “enlighten”
men

- Dwelling provided (bought) by “parents” is consistent to their life style and give them opportunity for further mobility
- The “inheritance” of familial capital (mobility)

-
Non-mobile and
resourceless
women

- Dwellings are received by “parents” from manufacturing. It is very limited in space and have interior of “elderly”. The women have no familial or own capitals (economical, cultural, social) for further mobility
- The “inheritance” of familial capital (immobility)

+
Dynamic and
mature men

Dwellings are chosen (bought and “new”) based on family needs and lifestyle. It objectifies the social position and gives the opportunity for family members and children development
The capital created by dynamic and adaptive person (dwelling objectified the mobility)



Conclusions

- This empirical data confirms P. **Bourdieu theory** [1984] about interactions between social and physical spaces: physical space is projection of social space
- Dwelling is an indicator of **social space**, it objectified the social position
- **Habitat** (place of living) and **habitus** (social experience) are interfering and influenced to each other
- **Individuals with capitals** / have effort for it creation positively shift positions (**mobility**) and who are originally **limited in capitals reproduced** life-style and practices of low class (**immobility**)

Bourdieu P. Distinction. A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste.
Translated by Richard Nice. Harvard University Press. 1984. P. 605.



Thank you for attention!

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