

# Understanding of Values by Art Students and Political Science Students for Personal Development in the Context of Sustainable Education

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**Abstract:** The essence of the research is a comparative analysis of the value-semantic sphere of young politicians and artists as representatives of two different professional groups and leadership trends. The empirical part of the study involved 165 respondents, including 81 students of the 2, 3, 4 courses of the Academy of Watercolors and Fine Arts of Sergei Andriyaki and 84 students of political science of 2, 3 courses of the RUDN University of Russia (Moscow, Russia). To study the value orientations of the individual, the method "Value Questionnaire" (Sh. Schwartz) was used. The comparative analysis of the obtained results was carried out using the Mann-Whitney U criterion in the IBM SPSS Statistics 22 program. The specific characteristics determined by the social and professional activities of young politicians and artists, the nature of the representatives of the two samples are revealed. Conformism, kindness, universalism, independence and traditionalism are more characteristic to young artists, while hedonism, power and security distinguish politically active young people. The results of the research can be used in the development of recommendations for psychological support of youth political leadership and artistic creativity; in the creation of training courses for the effective communication skills development, taking into account the of young politicians and artists value representation.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the study of the youth leadership representatives value-semantic personality sphere is determined by the need for organizational efforts to create socially active groups of young men and women focused on their own development in the field of political, socially-oriented influence on peers during socialization. For the youth leadership representatives in the political and creative environment, the question of their value orientations, the ability to realize his own individuality in the self-development field, creativity in the moral choices implementation, and the ability to take responsibility becomes fundamental (Petrie, 2014). Modern youth leaders work in a constantly changing socio-political environment, and tasks high-quality performance in

this mode implies the individual and flexible behavioral strategies development. The leader needs to take into account the opinions of various segments of the population and interest groups. (Sims, Gong, and Hughes, 2017). The leadership value-semantic component contributes to the fact that a young leader learns to correctly position himself in the world. A deep understanding of the world order allows a young manager to concentrate around himself unique followers with similar values, due to which not vertical, but network leadership is carried out, while all participants maintain their authentic "I" (Song, Fang, Wang and Shi, 2020). The individual political socialization process today takes place in a stable environment without drastic changes in value orientations. Modern youth leaders make a significant contribution to our society political culture, for

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example, active participation in voluntary organizations (Andersson, 2020).

A young leader acts as a source of universal values, which in modern conditions is associated with his ability to lead various groups of people (Scherbakova, Misirov, Akopyan and Ogannisyan, 2020). Youth leadership today is constantly searching for a unique relationships style within and outside of socio-political movements, the main actors regulating these relationships will be activists who are able to offer people global supra-group life meanings, while taking into account the benefits of the entire world community (Turska-Kawa, 2011). Today, voluntary youth meetings should take into account the high level of the individual self-organization, moreover, it is important to control the social constructive activity of the target audience internal motivation level (Panarin and Nazarova, 2018).

The individual sphere of personality values and senses is structured by two elements, i.e. the value orientations system and the individual life meanings, and in generally accepted concepts it is the core of the individual, which determines the nature and content of a person life. Various psychological schools have been studying the value orientations and life meanings problems, in particular, A. Adler spoke about the relationship between behavioral and life meanings that come from the goal set by the subject and the nature of its implementation (Adler, 1956). Representative of another scientific school, K. G. Jung believed that the existence of a meaning in life is associated with the setting of a certain goal by a person. Mental health, according to the scientist, directly depends on the aspirations of a person to establish spiritual or cultural goals for oneself (Jung, 1978). According to the logotherapy creator V. Frankl the main engine of the individual behavioral development is the search and realization of the meaning of life, this is an innate motivational tendency. Logoterpy assumes that the meaning of life is always outside of a person, which allows a person to conduct a continuous search and implementation. S. Muddy attributed meaning to the role of the personality highest integrative principle. A mature person clearly divides the types of activities and selects those that contribute to the realization of the meaning of his or her life (Maddi, 1999).

In Russian psychological thought, the development of life-meaning concepts took place within the framework of the subject-activity approach. S.L. Rebinstein described meaning as a product of the self-consciousness development, which is expressed in the everyday achievements of the individual. A person is often inclined to rethink

his or her life principles, due to the age-specific nature of the process, which greatly affects his or her relationship with himself or herself and the surrounding reality. Meaning is objective in nature, so any action always reflects a certain motive, it is embodied in objective meanings, as A.N. Leontiev wrote in his works. The meaning of life as a concentrated descriptive characteristic of the core and most generalized dynamic semantic system responsible for the general direction of the subject life as a whole, considers D.A. Leontiev (Leontiev, 2005).

B.S. Bratus' defines values as the fundamental meanings of a person's life realized and accepted by him or her (Bratus', 2005). In his writings, M. Rokich divides values into two classes: instrumental and terminal, in the general category of stable beliefs. Instrumental values are a belief that justifies the choice of the most preferable way for a person to implement a task. Terminal values are the belief that the ultimate goal of individual existence is worth all the effort to achieve (Rokeach, 1973). A.V. Seriy and M.S. Yanitsky describe the formation of value-semantic orientations in the format of 3 psychological processes. The first process of interiorization involves testing social experience through culture, everyday life, and traditions that characterize the social structure of society. The second process is the process of identification. A person begins to relate himself or herself to other individuals or groups of people on the basis of an emotional connection, which subsequently allows this person to adopt and master the norms and values of others. The third and final stage is the internalization process. Conscious and active perception of the surrounding world by the individual allows to transform the accepted and realized values into stable internal qualities. According to the authors, these processes are conditions for the individual socialization (Yanitskij, Seryj, Braun, Pelekh, Maslova, Sokolskaya, Sanzhayeva, Monsonova, Dagbaeva, Neyaskina, Kadyrov, and Kapustina, T.V., 2019).

During study of youth political leadership representatives, significant values were identified for the selected category of people, such as interesting work, respect for people, active life, self-confidence, financially secure life, purposefulness. Thus, the data obtained on the priorities of modern young leaders show that the future Russian politicians sphere of activity is externally aimed at society, while internally it involves maintaining social status and position in society (Popova and Riabushko, 2017). The creative leadership representatives on the example of artists are more introverted, working with

images, but it is through symbolic images that the influence on the masses occurs, and therefore their value content becomes no less important than the political speech of the leader.

Modern research in the field of studying the psychological characteristics of the individual involves the identification of patterns and diverse aspects in the value-semantic sphere of the individual in adolescence (Arendachuk, 2018). Nevertheless, the comparative characteristics of this sphere among people who make important socially significant decisions in political and socially significant activities in comparison with artists as representatives of creative youth remain insufficiently studied. The hypothesis of this study was the possibility of identifying the specific features in the value-semantic sphere of personality among the representatives of modern youth political leadership and students of a leading art university as leaders in the creative sphere. The practical significance of the research results lies in the possibility of applying the obtained data in the development of psychological support programs for young leaders and creative youth in order to increase the meaningfulness and humanitarian orientation of their activities, increase awareness and responsibility with the resources available to them.

## 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

The empirical part of the study involved 165 respondents, including 81 students of the 2, 3, 4 courses of the Academy of Watercolors and Fine Arts of Sergei Andriyaki and 84 students of political science of 2, 3 courses of the RUDN University of Russia (Moscow, Russia). To study the value orientations of the individual, the method "Value Questionnaire" (Sh. Schwartz) was used. The comparative analysis of the obtained results was carried out using the Mann-Whitney U criterion in the IBM SPSS Statistics 22 program.

## 3 RESULTS

The results of the comparative analysis using the Mann-Whitney U criterion showed significant differences in most scales of the methodology. Moreover, both at the level of nominal ideals and individual priorities, the same trend can be traced. The mentality of the Russian political elite is determined by its characteristic features, i.e. personal loyalty, general idea consecution and efficiency. This

is due to the need to maintain power and achieve a strategic goal. However, the results of the comparative analysis on the "Conformity" scale ( $U = 2,889$  at  $p = 0.043$ ) specify a different reality. Young political activists ( $C_p = 77.21$ ), unlike art students ( $C_p = 92.33$ ), are not inclined to follow the majority opinion, to accept the prevailing social and political order. This is the category of active, energetic people who have their own opinion and life position, who want to bring new ideas and views to the social order. Young artists are ready to follow the authority, to adhere to the positions of the school in which their talent develops. Becoming a human creator is a long and complex process. Therefore, at the first stage, the artist must master the craft, at the second the he or she must become a master, a professional, and at the third he or she must become a creator. Students are at the first stage of their development, following the tradition set by the art school.

According to the "Kindness" scale ( $U = 2,547$  at  $p = 0.002$ ), there are also differences between the samples. The value of human kindness is recognized by students of art universities more ( $C_p = 96.56$ ). The artistic view involves penetration into the inner world of another person, a willingness to understand their feelings and experiences, so kindness in relationships is more appreciated. Art students are somewhat closed and vulnerable, immersed in their own reality, that is filled with images, colors, and forms. They see individuality and uniqueness in everything, e.g. in a person, in nature, in the urban world, conveying their attitude and emotions through paintings, sculptures, miniatures. Politically active young people value "kindness" to a lesser extent ( $C_p = 73.28$ ), which is due to high social activity, focused not on a single individual, but on communities, large groups and the population segments. The ambitions of young managers to make changes in society, in the political and economic system can distance them from the difficulties and problems that a particular person faces. Consequently, the value of personal qualities aimed at relationships is reduced.

Also, art students ( $C_p = 95.89$ ) are more committed to traditions than young politicians ( $C_p = 73.90$ ). According to the scale of "Traditions" ( $U = 2,601$  at  $p = 0.003$ ), statistically significant differences were revealed, indicating the tendency of a creative person to follow the norms and traditions that have developed in society, to adhere to the established canons of the artistic tradition in which their talent matures. Politically active students are focused on transformations, both socio-political and economic-technological. Sometimes they become the initiators of reforms and changes themselves.

Undoubtedly, the political activity involves the development, without which it is impossible to adequately position an individual state on the world stage. Undoubtedly, political activities involve the development, without which it is impossible to adequately position an individual state on the world stage. All innovations should be based on collective memory, only then they will be relevant to the time and place.

At a statistically significant level, there were differences on the "Universalism" scale ( $U = 2,452$  at  $p = 0.001$ ). The attention of creative youth ( $C_p = 97.72$ ) is directed to understanding the surrounding world, to determining their place in it, to specific details that reflect the state of nature and a man. The receptivity to everything external makes art students more caring and tolerant. They readily oppose the environmental pollution and support the ecological balance preservation. Politically active youth ( $C_p = 72.19$ ) are less care-oriented. The ecological aspect takes a back seat, as the urban space urbanization, the production facilities deployment, the use of land resources, so necessary for the life of the country, become of primary importance for the politician. And although the trend for a green economy is beginning to gain momentum in the world, the Russian establishment is not yet ready for such changes.

The "Independence" value ( $U = 2,677$  at  $p = 0.007$ ) also indicates differences between the samples. Art students ( $C_p = 94.94$ ) are more likely to express an independent opinion and to behave independently. Perhaps they are not always ready to present their view of the world with ease, but at the same time they appreciate the freedom of self-expression. For the creative nature, the spirit of rebellion and the originality of the ideas expressed in the period of professional maturity are quite appropriate and characteristic. In the process of becoming a political figure, on the contrary, independence values less and less. This trend begins to be traced at the student age ( $C_p = 74.78$ ). The ability to restrain themselves, to control thoughts and actions, to follow a certain general idea to achieve a certain goal allow young activists to work more effectively in a team.

Hedonistic values are more important for young politicians ( $C_p = 95.31$ ) than for artists ( $C_p = 72.89$ ). This scale indicates the statistically significant differences ( $U = 4,464$  at  $p = 0.003$ ) between the samples. Thus, artistic natures do not seek sensual pleasure and enjoyment, while students and political activists are not alien to hedonistic needs. Presumably, this fact is due not only to the specifics of the respondents future activities, but also to the

specifics of the sample. Among artists, there are more women, and among politicians there are more men.

The intention to achieve a high social status and gain power is undoubtedly more significant for politically active young people. The "Power" scale ( $U = 4,482$  at  $p = 0.002$ ) also indicates the statistically significant differences between the samples. Art students ( $C_p = 72.67$ ) think differently. Many of them are well aware that, most likely, their financial life will not be provided at the proper level, that the results of their work will not be in demand en masse, that only a few can achieve fame. In a conversation with young artists, it turned out that they are attracted to the very process of creativity. They find recognition and understanding in narrow circles of like-minded people. The well expressed introverted orientation of some respondents indicates an inner stiffness and tightness, about not wanting to let anyone into their own world. Many people are repelled by publicity, and the fear of performing in front of an audience is present. According to the classification of E.A. Klimov this professional activity belongs to the type of "person-artistic image". It is the images creation, the transmission of emotional experiences through a creative product that become the basis for the artist interaction with the surrounding world. Consequently, power and domination over other people do not attract them, and influence through the education of aesthetic feelings is the goal of creative personalities. Young politicians ( $C_p = 95.52$ ), on the contrary, are focused on the creation of public associations, surround themselves with followers. Power is expressed in organizational activity, in the ability to influence the minds of supporters, in the willingness to transform and innovate for them. In the professions of the "Man - man" type, the managerial function is particularly expressed, but the nature of its manifestation is different. For professions such as psychologist, teacher, doctor, etc. it has a connotation of support and help, and in management and politics it has a connotation of influence and leadership.

Thus, the differences in the scales of "Conformity", "Tradition", "Kindness", "Universalism", "Power" in nominal and personal values are equally strong. Hedonistic orientations appeared only in the general profile, at the individual level no differences were found, and the picture is also observed with a careful study of the "Independence" scale. But on the "Safety" scale ( $U = 4,149$  at  $p = 0.047$ ), statistically significant differences between the samples were found in the individual profile. Due to the high level of public activity, publicity, and representation in various

social networks, young politicians ( $C_p = 91.69$ ) pay more attention to their own security. A certain degree of art students closeness ( $C_p = 76.78$ ), individualism and restrained contact reduces the importance of the value of security.

## 4 DISCUSSION

It should be noted that the value orientations of art students differ significantly from the life-sense orientations of novice politicians. On the one hand, this happens due to the specifics of their social and professional activities. On the other hand, with the characteristics of the two samples representatives. Conformism, kindness, universalism, independence and adherence to traditions are characteristic of creative natures, while hedonism, power and security are characteristic of politically active youth. This fact indicates that the significance degree of a particular value for respondents depends on the individual ideological position, on the acceptance of their place in society, on the importance of the activity that a person performs, on the awareness of their vocation and readiness for creation.

## 5 CONCLUSION

Summarizing the results of the study, it is possible to identify the specific features of students of artistic and political education profiles.

So, young politicians are more active, building their own development strategy. Even at a small stage of development, future managers are aware of the effectiveness of their own activities, which inevitably leads to a decrease in the value of personal qualities aimed at relationships. For young politicians, it becomes important to acquire power resources, due to which they see the possibility of their own influence on their circle.

Young artists tend to allocate their time and effort to develop the skills that are characteristic to the masters, following a certain tradition. They are characterized by kindness as a value, which allows them to penetrate into the inner world of another person, to empathize with him or her. They are less satisfied with their life activities results over the past period of life than future politicians, so they are not alien to new sensory experiences. At the same time, young artists strive to realize themselves within the framework of existing traditions. The value of "universalism" is expressed more among young

artists. The representatives of this group are distinguished by greater independence, asceticism, the ability to accept other people, the willingness to protect nature and the world around them, and the desire to come to the aid to a stranger.

The prospects of the research consist in further comparative study of the value-semantic aspects of political leadership and creative activity of young artists when comparing different groups, taking into account their professional activities.

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