Identity crisis in girlhood: Gender-emotional stereotypes and gender equality in transformation times.

Olga Simonova, Associate professor of general sociology department, National research university – Higher school of economics.

The contemporary situation in the teenage environment in Russia, especially the growth of socially dangerous behaviors, demonstrates not only the high vulnerability of adolescent girls, but also new grounds for manipulating the environment on their part. On the basis of the relatively forgotten concept of the "identity crisis" of E.G. Erikson we suggest that the psychological adolescent crisis among girls in Russia is exaggerated by the change in gender stereotypes and the tendency towards gender equality, which itself causes conflicting trends in behavior and perceptions, in particular and paradoxically causes the increase of gender inequality. One of the most interesting aspects of the girlish identity crisis, which allows us to better understand what is happening in their minds, is the socialization of the skills of emotional work (in terms of A.R. Hochschild). We assume that the capacity for emotional work is still strongly influenced by gender stereotypes, but we can see the significant changes in feeling rules that are contradictory in the context of social transformations.