

Stories on the Road: Long-Distance Driving in Sakha (Yakutiia)

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Roads have always been a significant element of social life in the North. But issues of movement, navigation, road use, road safety, and speed started receiving careful attention in anthropology recently. This paper highlights the significance of roads and movement in the increasingly mobile and fluid North. Using material from Sakha (Yakutiia) I analyse the transformative effect of roads in the region related to industrial and economic development. I investigate the concept of road through performance of driving, road experience and various practices of long-distance drivers and other road-users. This paper builds the relationship between roads and concepts of perception, time, and narrative and uses the prism of these relationships to address the phenomenon of roads.