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# **ON THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDER OF THE ODESSA SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT A. K. POKRYTAN**

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**Abstract:** The partnership between the Odessa National University of Economics and "D. A. Tsenov" Academy of Economics is an example of a successful model for adding value in the field of scientific research. With its annual scientific conferences, the Odessa National University of Economics has provided dozens of scientists from the Svishtov Academy and other foreign researchers with the opportunity to publish their papers abroad. Prof. Mihail Zveryakov himself is a Doctor Honoris Causa (Zastrahovatel.com, 2010) of D. A. Tsenov Academy and a prominent co-author in collaborative research publications indexed in SCOPUS Q1/WoS (Zahariev, et al., 2020). The paper commemorates and pays due respect to Prof. Anatoly Karpovich Pokrytan - one of the most prominent scientists in the field of economics whose centenary provided his scientific followers with the opportunity to reflect on his scientific legacy. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Odessa National Economic University in Ukraine (founded under the

name Odessa Institute of National Economy) on 16 May 1921 is another evidence for our Ukrainian partner's tenacity during the decades of intense socio-economic and ideological changes of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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Assoc. Prof. Agop Sarkisyan, PhD

**Key words:** economic studies, economic schools.

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**T**he XVI All-Ukrainian Scientific and Practical Conference "POKRYTAN READINGS" on the topic "Actual problems of the development of economic theory in the context of globalization", held on December 2-3, 2020 at the Odessa National University of Economics, was dedicated to the centenary of the birth of the outstanding Soviet economist Anatoly Karpovich Pokrytan. Anatoly Karpovich, the founder and inspirer of the Odessa Scientific School of Economic Thought, worked at ONEU for more than fifty years as the head of the Department of Political Economy. Author of more than two hundred scientific and methodological works, including a dozen and a half monographs and textbooks on economic theory. The peculiarities of the reproduction of the social product, the issues of the methodology of the analysis of production relations, market transformation and the problem of priorities in the economic mechanism were in the sphere of scientific interests of A. K. Pokrytan.

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The thematic areas of the conference are related to the scientific activities of the Doctor of Science (in Economics), Professor, Honored Scientist, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Higher School of Ukraine, Honored Worker of the Higher School of Ukraine Pokrytan Anatoly Karpovich. Priority directions of development and issues of methodology of modern economic theory; problems of transitive economic systems in the context of globalization; research of property relations in various schools of

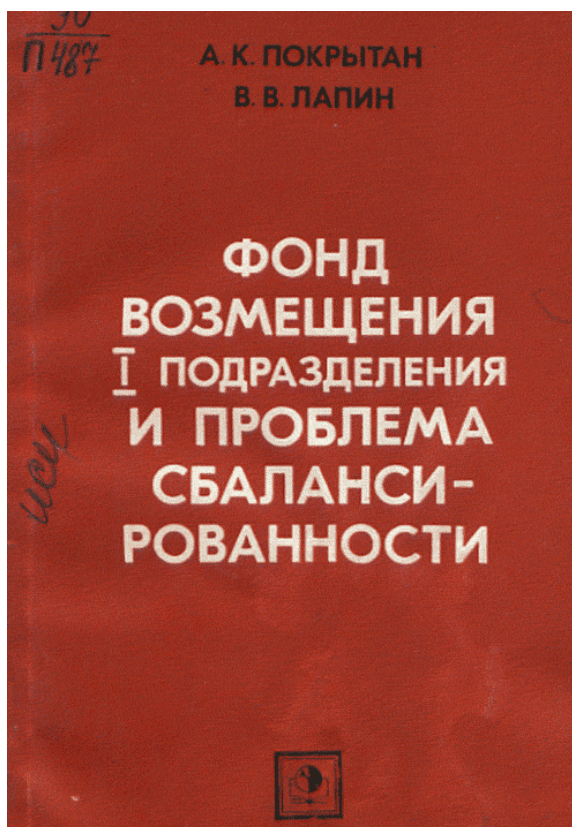
economic thought; the evolution of capital and the specifics of its formation in the context of globalization, such is the topic of the conference sections.



The plenary session of the conference was opened by a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Doctor of Science (in Economics) with an introductory speech and a report "The theoretical heritage of A. K. Pokrytan: content and relevance in modern conditions". Professor, Honored Worker of Science and Technology of Ukraine, Acting Rector of the Odessa National Economic University **M. I. Zveryakov**. The report presented a detailed description of the theoretical heritage of the outstanding scientist in the field of social sciences and, above all, political economy. The formation of A. K. Pokrytan as a scientist occurred during the famous economic discussion of 1951, devoted to the nature of the Soviet economic system, the characteristics of which were set out in the work of I. V. Stalin "Economic problems of socialism in the USSR" and the first textbook "Political Economy" in 1954. At this time, Pokrytan is studying at the graduate school of the Kiev State University, justifying in his PhD thesis the thesis that the objective development of capitalism is carried out not in the form of abstract-universal, but concrete forms. The researcher of the emerging capitalism faces a task: on the one hand, it is necessary to show the formation or genesis of the establishing elements of the new economic system, and on the other hand, their structure or reproduction itself. It is in this way that we can understand the genesis and reproduce the logic of the development of socio-economic processes. Another merit of the scientist, according to the speaker, is the development of methodological problems of theoretical analysis of the existing

economic system. In the early 60s of the twentieth century, in a joint monograph with V. I. Kasatkina and V. I. Mazur, the scientist presented views on the nature of property in the Soviet economic system, which allowed a new look at its role.

The speaker highlighted a special place in the scientific developments of A. K. Pokrytan: works devoted to the theory of social reproduction. At the same time, the reproduction process was presented as a concrete form of implementation of the internal laws of the development and functioning of social production. Exploring the methodological problems of economic science, Pokrytan revealed the dual nature of production relations: reflecting the objective conditionality of economic processes, people with will and consciousness act in them. This should be reflected in the subject of economic theory. However, the indistinct expression of the objective and subjective led to the well-established position in theory about the possibility of improving industrial relations, which A. K. Pokrytan opposed since the early 70s. Zveryakov M. I. emphasized that the duality of production relations was the point of division of a single science into two incompatible directions: political economy and neoclassical science in the form of "economics".



Also to the special merits of A. K. Pokrytan, the speaker attributed the development of the unity of the historical and logical in the process of cognition of the production relations of a particular society. A monograph devoted to these studies was published not only in the USSR, but also in a number of European countries.

Methodological issues were raised in the report of the Doctor of Science (in Economics), Professor, corresponding member of NAS of Ukraine, Deputy Director for scientific work of the Institute of Economics and forecasting of NAS of Ukraine **Gritsenko A. A.** (Kyiv). In the report "Logical-historical methodology of research on the development of

economic systems", the author showed the importance of the works of A. K. Pokrytan for understanding transition processes, concluded that the main content of modern socio-economic transformations is the transition from an industrial-market to an information-network system of management and proposed a logical-historical classification of economic systems.

The author argues that from a methodological point of view, the diversity of theories of the history of society can be reduced to two main approaches: civilizational (D. Bell, O. Toffler et al.) and formational (K. Marx). Between these extreme positions lies a number of interpretations, concepts, and theories that combine uniqueness and typology of development. Development, in its essence, assumes that previous achievements are preserved in the subsequent movement, and each subsequent form is more developed than the previous one. However, the speaker stressed, we cannot say that, for example, feudalism is a more developed form of slavery, and capitalism is a developed form of feudalism. On the contrary, it is argued that slavery dies with the transition to feudalism, and feudalism disappears with the establishment of capitalism. If we take into account only these statements, the difference between the civilizational and formational approaches is only that the former is based on socio - cultural factors, while the latter is based on economic factors. And this is not so.

According to the speaker, development assumes that the essence of the phenomenon is preserved (otherwise it would turn into another), and only its forms change. At the same time, each subsequent form is more adequate to the essence and expresses it more fully. We can say that the essence itself develops through the forms of its manifestation. Theoretically, to reflect this movement means to find such characteristics of the stages of development of society that would go back from the abstract to the concrete, and, accordingly, each subsequent characteristic was a development of the previous one. At the same time, they should relate to essential features, reflect the social form of reproduction of the main resource as a product of the functioning of the system. According to this criterion, the speaker proposed to distinguish: 1) natural-economic 2) industrial-market and 3) information and network systems. Each of them has its own internal gradation.

An essential feature of this classification, according to the author, is that it is based on the method of ascent from the abstract to the concrete, which is adequate to the knowledge of logical-historical development. Each historical stage does not disappear without a trace, but is removed, that is, it disappears as an independent one, but remains as a moment of the subsequent stage of development. Thus, natural-economic systems have historically been replaced by industrial-market ones, but the natural-economic relations of the producer and the consumer have not disappeared, they have only become

mediated commodity-money relations. The transition from industrial-market systems to information-network systems also does not destroy the previous relationships, but turns them into an information-network moment. In this system, market relations are transferred to the virtual space. When, for example, a person receives a salary on an electronic bank card, is calculated with its help for all goods and services, then the real commodity-money relations disappear, they are transferred to the virtual space, and in reality there are natural-economic relations (the manufacturer created a useful thing, and the consumer uses it, everything else happens in the virtual space). We are returning to natural-economic relations, but on the basis of all the previous achievements of historical development. This methodology focuses economic theory and practice on evolutionary transformations, in which a complementary unity of continuity and innovation is achieved.

The development of the method of ascent from the abstract to the concrete was the central topic of the speech of **V. N. Tarasevich**, Doctor of Science (in Economics), Professor, Head of the Department of International Economics, Political Economy and Management of the National Metallurgical Academy of Ukraine (Dnipro). He expressed his firm belief that it was the masterful and creative application of this method that allowed Anatoly Karpovich Pokrytan to obtain unsurpassed fundamental and practically significant results in the field of the theory of social reproduction, the economic structure of society, the transition economy, etc.

According to the speaker, the method of ascent from the abstract to the universal concrete (MVAK) is deep, multi-faceted and dynamic, and one of its modern concretisations is related to the level structure of economic knowledge (EZ). If the latter identifies five interrelated levels (sensory-emotional, empirical, theoretical, applied and practical), then scientific EZ in the broad sense (NEZ) embraces three levels – empirical, theoretical and applied, and scientific EZ in the narrow sense or economic-theoretical knowledge (ETS) – theoretical. In this context, the method of ascent from the sensory-concrete to the abstract (MVKA) has a certain meaning, since it reflects the transition from the sensory-emotional to the empirical and further to the theoretical level, and, accordingly, from the sensory – emotional objects (concepts) and schemes to the empirical - abstract and further to the theoretical.

Describing this transition, Tarasevich V. N. pointed out that it can be both formal-superficial, phenomenal, and noumenal, substantial-essential. It becomes formally superficial in the case of underestimation of the fundamental theoretical processing of sensory-emotional and empirical objects and the formation of undeveloped theoretical objects (concepts), which are not able to adequately reflect the substantial-essential level of the process or

phenomenon under study and provide the formation of practically significant applied knowledge.

The speaker emphasized that the mentioned theoretical processing presupposes the presence of corresponding complex, grounded theoretical-abstract objects, particular and fundamental schemes or models (in the categories of V. S. Stepin's philosophy of science), and such can be obtained only in the process and as a result of the application of the MVAK either in previous research cycles that ended with practical success, or when constructing corresponding complex hypothetical-theoretical objects and schemes in the current cycle. In any case, the MVAC is an imperative prerequisite for the MVAC and the achievement of scientific truth.

Evaluation of modern economic theory was devoted to the report of the Doctor of Science (in Economics), Professor of the Moscow state University named after M. V. Lomonosov **Pokrytan P. A.** The Author noted that, if we apply the scientific definition of "theory", as strictly organized system of knowledge, each element of which is organically linked with other elements of the system and directly follows from them to courses in Economics, the lack of internal logic in them makes it impossible to characterize them as "economic theory". According to the passport of VAC specialties, the speaker stressed, the structure of modern economic theory consists of political economy, economics (micro~, macro~, world economy), the history of economic studies, specific economic disciplines (finance, accounting, labor economics, etc.). In other words, economic theory is studied at all departments of economic universities and faculties.

At the Faculty of Economics of Moscow State University, there are about 22 departments (about 600 courses have been developed, about 180 are taught), each specializing in the study of a specific, mostly applied field of knowledge. "The department is a place where there is a specialist in this field of knowledge," Anatoly Karpovich Pokrytan pointed out. The entire Faculty of Economics grew out of the Department of Political Economy. It was founded on November 5, 1804. The Faculty of Economics was founded in November 1941.

Thus, the Department of Political Economy is 137 years older than the Faculty of Economics of Moscow State University.<sup>1</sup> According to the logic of the VAC, the speaker noted, a person needs to master 600 courses of both fundamental and applied nature in order to know economic theory. The

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<sup>1</sup> It often happens that the political economy is associated exclusively with the Marx. But Marx was born 14 years after the foundation of the first Department of Political Economy in Russia.

absurdity of this conclusion is obvious. You can't know everything. This is, first of all.

Secondly, Vakov's understanding of the structure of economic theory brings together completely heterogeneous economic views of both scientific and non-scientific formats. Not every theory can be scientific. Knowledge about the economy has been accumulated since ancient times. But not every amount of knowledge characterizes the scientific level. "Science is such a volume of knowledge in which patterns are revealed," A. K. Pokrytan said at lectures. From these positions, it is necessary to evaluate modern economic theory.

The Mont Blanc of literature is dedicated to the criticism of the mainstream. If there is at least one fact that conflicts with the theory itself or with any consequence arising from it, it is necessary to change the theory. The theory must correspond to objective reality. At the same time, the mainstream is alive and well. Only the class character of the theory keeps it as the "main current" of economic thought. The search for economic science in these conditions becomes much more complicated. Marxism as a critique of the mainstream must be destroyed. And it is destroyed. Attempts to remove scientific political economy from the system of economic knowledge have been successfully conducted for more than thirty years. The chronology is as follows: a) the widespread introduction of the economics course parallel to political economy into the educational process, b) the renaming of the departments of political economy, c) the removal of political economy from educational standards, d) the transfer of the course of political economy to a discipline of choice. But "without political economy, there is no economic theory," A. K. Pokrytan pointed out.

Questions of the current structure and dynamics of aggregate demand in Ukraine were the topic of the report of Doctor of Science (in Economics), Professor of the Department of General Economic Theory and Economic Policy of the Odessa National Economic University **Zhdanova L. L.** In the report, it was noted that the problem of measurement is one of the most difficult in any science, including economics. Although measurement of the annual product of society in the abstract-theoretical plane was delivered to representatives of the classical school of political economy by W. Petty and G. King in XVII century, in practice the methodology of calculations he was transferred only in the early 20-ies of XX century Soviet school of political economy. A. K. Pokrytan made a significant contribution to the problem of measuring the annual product of the company, which has not lost its heuristic potential until now.

Theoretical discussions on the measurement problem have not been completed to this day, but the statistical practice of different countries uses a



single system of national accounts, which allows comparing the volume and structure of their economies. According to the speaker, the theoretical and methodological disadvantage of the system of national accounts is the limitation of national calculations to the national currency of each country. For an adequate understanding of the volume of national production and its structure, calculations must be made not only in the national currency, but also according to the purchasing power parity (PPP) of the currency. This approach reveals a discrepancy between the volumes of national production calculated in the national currency and in PPP terms. This discrepancy depends on the deviation of the official exchange rate of the currency from parity and on the share of imports in GDP. In terms of openness of national economies, the share of imports for the last years of the XXI century ranges from an average GDP of the world at the level 25,0-30,0%, and the economy of Ukraine at the level of 49.0-57.0% of the marked divergence in the world economy in 2017 is 50%, and in the economy of Ukraine – 450%.<sup>2</sup>

The speaker further noted that the differences between the structural parts of aggregate demand are very noticeable when calculated in the national currency and in PPP terms. The indicator of the share of gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) in GDP is of significant importance for understanding the level and trends of development. Thus, according to the calculations in hryvnia, in the studied years (2005, 2011, 2017), the GDP in the Ukrainian economy was 22.0%, 17.6%, and 15.8%, respectively, while in PPP terms– 13.1%, 9.3%, 10.4%. Equally significant is the share of the cost of machinery and equipment in GDP. According to calculations in the hryvnia in these years, it was 10.2%, 7.1%, and 8.0%, respectively, while according to PPP– 3.4%, 2.6%, 2.0%.

The speech of the Doctor of Science (in Philosophy), Professor of the National Transport University **Sinyakov S. V.** (Kiev) was devoted to the study of the positive influence of economic theory on the formation of historical science. The status of any modern science presupposes the presence in the structure of knowledge of open and formulated laws that describe the essential and repeated connections between the phenomena of reality. Historical knowledge for a long time could not convincingly justify the existence of such laws in the field of social development and used the scientific laws of natural science and economics. As an illustration of the fruitful impact of economic theory on history, we should cite the concept of historical determinism, the political economy of Karl Marx, and the technological concepts of the historical process of W. Rostow, D. Bell, Z. Brzezinski, G. Kahn, J. Furastier, J. Galbraith, R. Tibold. The speaker drew attention to a

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<sup>2</sup> The limitation of calculations for 2017 is due to the fact that the statistics on international comparisons are published by the World Bank only for 2017.

new generation of researchers in the second half of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, specialists in social structure and cultural anthropology (J. Goldstone, W. Hardy, McNeil, J. P. Murdoch), who formulated the structural and demographic concept of historical development cycles and the theory of diffusion waves as the laws of the movement of society. The theory of modernization, according to which the social structure and functioning of society depend on technology and technology, has played a significant role in understanding the laws of social evolution.

Thus, the speaker concluded, the mutually beneficial interaction of historical and economic science allowed us to reach new ideas about the laws of history and create a theoretical and methodological basis for the interpretation and explanation of social development.

In the report "Methodological foundations of the analysis of the structure and dynamics of the economic system" PhD in economics, Associate Professor of the Department of General Economic Theory and Economic Policy of the Odessa National Economic University **Grimalyuk A.V.** he noted that A. K. Pokrytan started with a consistent distinction between the legal form and the economic content of property. At the same time, he proceeded from the fact that the legal form is formed by volitional relations. This, on the one hand. On the other hand, he considered the economic content of property as a system of objective industrial relations. Anatoly Karpovich did not have time to complete the synthesis that logically should follow such a distinction between objective and volitional factors, but he developed the basis of such a synthesis - the methodology of categorical differentiation of the structure and genesis of the economic system.

The speaker paid much attention to the internal structure of the economic system, which, as is well known, determines the dependence of production relations on productive forces. People cannot arbitrarily choose their relations of production at will, because they are determined by the level and nature of the development of the productive forces achieved at the moment. Therefore, the structural dependence of the economic system is directed from the productive forces to the relations of production and from them to state administration and other volitional relations. Such a structural analysis provides a snapshot, or rather an X-ray, of the economic system.

At the same time, the speaker pointed out, the dynamic dependence of the economic system unfolds in the opposite direction - from volitional relations to objective economic laws and through them to the development of productive forces. Its essence lies in the conscious use by society of objective economic laws for the development of its productive forces. Just as people make reasonable use of the objective laws of nature in the process of labour, society is able to consciously use the objective economic laws for the development of its productive forces. According to A. V. Grimalyuk, this

dynamic dependence is most fully realized in the model of managed development, the most extensive embodiment of which is modern China. Thus, the methodology of A. K. Pokrytan's differentiation of the structure and genesis of the economic system makes it possible to consistently integrate the volitional factor into the subject of economic theory and, on this basis, categorically develop a theoretical model of controlled market transformation, the speaker stressed. Of course, the distinction between structure and genesis is only a small part of the scientific heritage of A. K. Pokrytan. But even this small part shows that without A. K. Pokrytan and his scientific heritage, it is difficult, in the words of Hegel, to grasp the modern era in thought.

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Analysing current economic processes, the conference participants proved that the methodological developments of the Odessa Scientific School of Economic Thought and A. K. Pokrytan personally remain relevant and help to form a deeper understanding of modern challenges for economic science and practice.

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