

The Biography of Natalia Panina

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**In Remembrance of NATALIJA PANINA,
Doctor of Sciences in Sociology, Principal
Research Fellow of the Institute of Sociology,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine**



The Biography of Natalia Panina

Natalia Panina was born on December 10, 1949 in Sochi. Her father, Victor Ivanovich Panin, was a professional engineer, born in Leningrad in 1930. During the repressions of the Kirov affair, his parents were arrested as representatives of the nobility and later executed. Her mother, Ada Mikhaylovna Panina, was a physical therapist, born in Sochi in

1930. Her father was a red commander during the revolution and later worked in the office of the Sochi public prosecutor. At one point, he broke the official locks on a granary and passed out the bread to starving villagers, among whom were his wife's relatives. Soon afterward he was struck and killed by the car of his own office. Ada Mikhaylovna Panina died in 2003 in Sochi.

Natalia Panina graduated from Sochi's High School 22 in 1967 as an honor student. During her school years she was the winner of the local and regional mathematics, physics and biology Olympics and was very active in sports (she played tennis, volleyball and was a tourist instructor).

In 1967 she entered the Department of Psychology at Moscow State University. In 1969 she married her classmate Yevgeniy Ivanovych Golovakha, who is presently working at the Institute of Sociology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. In 1970 she gave birth to her daughter Inna. (Inna Golovakha-Hicks is a Ukrainian folklorist).

During her university years Natalia Panina specialized in psychopathology under the supervision of Prof. Bluma Zeygarnik (Kurt Levin's apprentice). Panina's first student term paper created strong discussions among scholars of the psychopathology department, because it contained empirical data, which clearly showed as groundless the conclusions of some research done at the department, based on which the dissertation was defended and articles were published. During her university years Natalia Panina continued to play sports, and was on the university volleyball team.

After graduating from Moscow State University in 1972 Natalia Panina began to teach psychology at the Kiev Institute for Foreign Languages and in 1974 she went to work at the Institute of Gerontology of the Academy of Medical Sciences, where she concentrated on the sociological aspect of the preparation of the elderly for life after retirement. After just a year of work in the Institute, the 25-year-old Natalia Panina was chosen to be on an expert (USSR) jury in the Podol court. Regardless of her young age, anyone who personally knew Panina was convinced that her opinion in the court would always be honest, fair, and humane.

In 1976 Natalia Panina entered the graduate school of ISI of the USSR Academy of Science, where, under the supervision of Prof. Anatoly Kharchev, she prepared and defended in 1980 her dissertation "Problems of the Social Adaptation of the Elderly to the Status of Pensioner". Working first as a Junior Scholar, and since 1981 as a Senior Scholar, Panina received recognition as a leading specialist in her area of specialization.

She participated in a series of international comparative studies on the social problem of the elderly, which were organized by WHO and UNESCO. During this time she was actively publishing articles in scholarly Ukrainian, Russian, Georgian, and German journals.

In 1985, wistfully, she left the Institute of Gerontology, and for two years had to look for a job, because she did not want to become a member of the Communist Party, and all attempts to hire her were cut short by the Kiev party leadership. In 1987 she began to work as a junior scholar of the Department of Information of Social Sciences of the USSR Academy of Science. From 1989 to 1991 she was working as a leading scholar of the Central Ukrainian branch of the VCIOM (under the leadership of N. Churilov). Together with N. Churilov she created the first opinion poll network in Ukraine, and developed methodical aspects of the building of the representative samples for adult population in Ukraine.

In 1991 she began to work in the Institute of Sociology of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. In 1993 she defended the doctoral dissertation “The Way of Life and Psychological State of the Population During the Transformation from Totalitarian Society to Democracy”. She was the head of the Department of Social Diagnostics, and from 1995 she held a position of the head of the Department of Social Political Processes, and was a main scientific researcher of this department since 2001.

In 1992 in the Institute of Sociology Natalia Panina had begun the development of the project and approbation of the conducting methodology of the Sociological Monitoring, which became a main source of the systematical sociological information for the politicians, scholars, and Ukrainian public. Based on the monitoring results (1994-2006) were written dozens of books and hundreds of scientific and sociopolitical articles.

Under Panina’s guidance was created a unique archive of sociological data in the Institute of Sociology, and were developed organizational and methodic bases for the creation of the national sociological archive.

Natalia Panina was a leading Ukrainian specialist in a number of directions of the sociological science’s development, especially those related to the study of social adaptation and transformation of the society, national tolerance, political culture, monitoring and epidemiological research. She adapted and widely used a number of well known western methods and developed her own. An “Integral Index of Social Well-being” and “Index of Destabilization and Protest Potential” developed by Panina are being widely used in scientific research and in practice of social management. Natalia Panina added a number of new categories to sociologi-

cal terminology: age-role expectations, anomic demoralization and others. These terms help to disclose important aspects of new social phenomena.

Natalia Panina participated in a number of an international projects in collaboration with the specialists from the Institute of Sociology of Russian Academy of Sciences, VCIOM (presently Levada's Analytical Center), and with specialists from the Poland, Hungary, Cambridge, London, Georgetown, and New York (at Stony Brook) University. She also collaborated with a few scholarly organizations in Germany, Switzerland, Holland, France, and the Slovak Republic. She has published in scholarly editions of these countries. She conducted epidemiological research of the psychological state and health among children and mothers from Chernobyl. This project led by Professor Evelyn Bromet (State University of New York at Stony Brook) received acknowledgment among specialists from many countries. Special public response and acknowledgment received Panina's articles on national tolerance in Ukraine. Her works on this topic were reprinted in many editions and quoted a number of times.

Natalia Panina published over 200 scientific works, among which are her textbook "The Technology of Sociological Research", books "The Psychology of Human Mutual Understanding" and "Social Insanity: History, Theory and Modern Practice", and a number of books and articles based on the results of sociological monitoring.

Natalia Panina was a member of a number of international scientific organizations, a chair of the commission on Professional Ethics of the Ukrainian Sociological Association. She prepared "Codex of the Professional Ethics of Sociologists", which became an official document in 2004 at the Congress of Ukrainian Sociological Association.

Natalia Panina was born on December 10, Human Rights Day. In her entire life, above everything else, she put human honor and dignity. She never compromised when she saw that decency or professionalism were not respected. Everyone knew that Natalia Panina did not allow a careless or dishonest attitude toward work. And the same demands, she put before herself all her life. Living for the most part on painkilling medicine, knowing that long hours in front of her computer were damaging for her health, she still was doing her job, putting a great deal of time and effort into it, in order to perfect it. Her works were quoted much more frequently than others, and not only in Ukraine. One of the most recent articles about Ukraine in the leading Polish newspaper "Gazette

Vyborcha” ends with a quotation taken from Panina’s article, published earlier in the prominent Ukrainian weekly “Zerkalo Nedeli”.

It is symbolic that after Panina’s resignation, a new chief of the Commission on Professional Ethics of the Ukrainian Sociological Association was not elected. This is in main part due to the fact that Natalia Panina represented the honor and conscience of Ukrainian sociological scholarship.

Natalia Panina died on August 8, 2006.