

## Notions of Custom and Rite in Soviet Ethnology and Folklore Studies

### Summary

This paper describes how the notion of rite and custom are treated in Soviet ethnology and folklore studies.

Although these two concepts are often attributed the same meaning in everyday usage, many Soviet ethnologists and folklorists have attempted to differentiate between them, pointing to theoretical and methodological issues that are opening up in the study of customs. Problems facing Soviet ethnologists indicate that customs and rites, no matter how important they are considered (even as the most important subject of ethnological research) still lack a precise definition. A closer study of Soviet theoretical and comparative achievements might aid theoretical insight among Yugoslav ethnologists as well, since they are in the midst of qualifying and explaining a similar terminology for ethnology.

(Translated by Ellen Elias-Bursać)