

Exploring the Depths of Origins of the Central Theme of Vytautas Kavolis Sociology

Summary

The article examines the genesis of the theme that unites the Lithuanian-American sociologist Vytautas Kavolis explorations in the field of social psychology and of sociology of culture – collective emotionality and its symbolic expression. In order to reconstruct its genesis, the works written by Kavolis in 1950s when studying in Wisconsin and Harvard universities are analyzed. It is argued that the theme was already being developed

at that time, but in a slightly different way than after receiving the PhD in sociology in 1960. The main difference between these periods is related to the analysis of the symbolic expression of collective emotionality. In the works of the study years, the primary aim is decoding the collective emotionality in non-artistic symbolism, and in the works published after 1960 preference is given to analysing artistic symbolism.

Keywords: Vytautas Kavolis, collective emotionality, expressive symbolism, art, National Character Studies, Lithuanian Studies.