

Taking inspiration from the Weberian agenda (Weber 2001[1905]), this project aims to investigate the interrelation between economic decision-making and religious identity within ethnic Russian Eastern Christian communities inhabiting the western bank of Chudskoe/Peipsi Lake, paying particular attention to the historical dimension (period: 1721-today). It entails a combination of archival research, interviews, and participant observation in the everyday rural life. Using historical and anthropological methods, the study investigates the patterns of labour and exchange/gender and age in the priestless Orthodox communities, thereby exploring the particularities of the arrangement between economy and religion in Eastern Christianity. In this way the study contributes to the emerging project of the anthropology of Christianity, by providing a comparative perspective on matters of materiality, individual and collective conceptualizations of personhood, pertinence of belief, and salvation.