Contents

Foreword 9

1. My River 16
1.1 My First Time on the Vasyugan 18
1.1.1 The Legacy of Finno-Ugric Ethnography 21
1.1.2 In Search of the Exotic 30
1.2 My Second Time on the Vasyugan 44
1.3 Later Field Trips 53
1.3.1 New Frames of Interpretation 60
1.3.2 Khanty or Ostyak? 64
1.3.3 'How good that we have gathered here today!' 68

2. The River of the Resettled 74
2.1 The History of the Resettlements 77
2.1.1 The Road to the Resettlements 77
2.1.2 The Programme of Resettlements 80
2.1.3 Resettlement as a Project Promoting Siberian Economic Integration 88
2.1.4 The Society of the Resettled 90
2.2 Remembering the Resettlements 95
2.2.1 'We had no land and no home.' 97
2.2.2 'You lot are like this and like that!' 112
2.3 Parallel Life Stories 122
2.3.1 Stereotypes 126
2.3.2 Help 129
2.3.3 Mixed Marriages 135
2.3.4 Escapes 136
2.3.5 Eden and Hell 140
2.4 Becoming Invisible 144

3. The River of the Oil Workers 149
3.1 Oil Worker Romanticism 149
3.2 The Russia of Oil 156
3.3 The Anthropology of Oil 158
3.4 Oil and Forms of Power: The Case of Western Siberia 160
3.5 The Oil of Tomsk Oblast 167

4. The River of the Ostyaks 185
4.1 The Forest 186
4.1.1 Tied to the Wilderness or by Blood? 186
4.1.2 'The taiga is their home' 191
4.1.3 Hunting: Lifestyle, Livelihood, or Hobby? 204

4.2 Alcohol ... 217
4.2.1 Alcohol and Social Sciences ... 221
4.2.2 Vodka and Amanita ... 226
4.2.3 Vodka Consumption ... 233
4.2.4 Vodka and the Economy ... 244
4.2.5 Vodka and Personal Destinies ... 252
4.2.6 Beer ... 265
4.3 The Forest or Vodka ... 273

5. The River of the Khanty ... 277
5.1 Trapped between Discourses ... 278
5.2 From Invisible to Visible ... 284
5.3 From Ostyak to Khanty ... 291
5.4 Stepping onto the Stage of the Oblast… ... 303
5.5 …But Excluded from the Main Stage ... 310

6. And Finally: 'the tale can be told at length, or not at length …' ... 323

Acknowledgements ... 329

Chronology ... 333

Bibliography ... 335