

OLGA SHEVCHENKO
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Williamstown, MA 01267
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EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Sociology
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
Williams College
Williamstown, MA

07/2010 - present

Assistant Professor of Sociology
Department of Anthropology and Sociology
Williams College
Williamstown, MA

07/2002 – 06/2010

Postdoctoral Fellow
The Harriman Institute for Advanced Studies
of the Former Soviet Union
Columbia University, NY

09/2002 – 05/2003

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA
Department of Sociology

09/1997 – 12/2002

PhD Degree in Sociology

Dissertation Title: “Living on a Volcano”: The Lived Experience of Social Change in Contemporary Russia”

Qualifying Examinations: Social Theory (passed with Distinction, 1999), Sociology of Culture (passed with Distinction, 2000)

Central European University
Warsaw, Poland
Department of Sociology

09/1996 - 09/1997

MA Degree in Society and Politics validated by Lancaster University (UK)
Graduated with Distinction

Moscow State University
Moscow, Russia
Department of Sociology

09/1991 - 06/1996

Diploma (BA equivalent) in Sociology
Graduated with Distinction

MAJOR INTERESTS

Sociological Theory, Sociology of Culture, Sociology of Everyday Life, Visual Sociology, Sociology of Social Change

CURRENT RESEARCH

Visible Presence: Memory and Photography (edited volume in progress)

Snapshot Histories: The Afterlife of Socialism in Russian Family Photographs
(book project)

TEACHING

Courses offered at Williams College:

Anso 205. Ways of Knowing
Soc 11. Verbatim: Adventures in Ethnographic Theater
Soc 13. Puzzles and Puzzlers (co-instructor Elizabeth Skomp)
Soc 101. Invitation to Sociology
Soc 219. Images and Society
Soc 221. Social Change
Soc 315. Culture, Consumption and Modernity
Soc 316. Consumer Society and Its Critics in the Modern World
Soc 317T. The Private and the Public
Soc 324. Memory and Identity
Soc 332. Communism and Its Aftermath

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2009	Heldt Prize for best book by a woman in any area of Slavic/East European/Eurasian studies (awarded annually by the Association of Women in Slavic Studies)
2006	International Collaborative Research Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
2006	Collaborative Humanities Research Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities
2005	Class of 1945 World Fellowship, Williams College
2002-2003	Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University
2002	Global Supplementary Grant, Open Society Institute
2002	Graduate Essay Prize, Association of Women in Slavic Studies
2002	Winner of the Annual Europe-Asia Studies/Osteuropa lecture competition
2001 - 2002	Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2001	Otto and Gertrude Pollak Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2001	Second Prize for the outstanding graduate student paper, Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies
2000 - 2001	Small Programs Grant, Open Society Institute
1999 - 2000	Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation
1998	Dissertation Field Research Support Fellowship from the Sociology Department at the University of Pennsylvania
1997 -2001	William Penn Fellowship for study at the University of Pennsylvania
1997	Soros Research Grant at the Central European University
1996-1997	Open Society Fellowship for study at the Central European University

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Crisis and the Everyday in Postsocialist Moscow. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2009.

Winner, 2009 Heldt Prize for best book by a woman in any area of Slavic/East European/Eurasian studies (awarded annually by the Association of Women in Slavic Studies)

Winner, 2010 Davis Center Book Prize in Political and Social Studies (Awarded annually by the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies)

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

“Between Elias and Foucault: Discipline, photography, and the Soviet childhood” (with Sarkisona, O.). *Social Psychology Quarterly* 73:1, 2010.

“Soviet past in amateur photography: The work of memory and oblivion” (in Russian, with Sarkisova, O.). *Otechestvennye Zapiski*, no 4 (43), 2008.

“Nationals’ and ‘Expatriates’: Challenges of fulfilling ‘sans frontières’ (‘without borders’) ideals in international humanitarian action” (with Fox, R.C.). *Health and Human Rights*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2008.

“Searching for the *populus* in popular culture” (with Nadkarni, M.). *Social Identities*, vol. 13, no. 5, 2007.

“Wiggle Your Wits”: Social restructuring and the transformation of entertainment genres in Russia.” *Social Identities*, vol. 13, no. 5, 2007.

“The politics of nostalgia: A case for comparative analysis of postsocialist practices” (with Nadkarni, M.). *Ab Imperio: Theory and History of Nationalities and Nationalism in the Post-Soviet Realm*, vol. 2, 2004.

“From socialist camp to a global village?: Globalization and the imaginary landscapes of postsocialism” (with Schukin, Y.). In McCann, L. (ed.). (2004). *Russian Transformations: Challenging the Global Narrative*. London and New York: Routledge Curzon.

“Conflict tradition in Western sociology: Main themes and interpretations of Marx and Weber” (in Russian), in Davydov, Yu. (ed.) (2003). *The New and the Old in Theoretical Sociology*, Book Three. Moscow: ISRA.

“Between the holes: Emerging identities and hybrid patterns of consumption in post-socialist Russia.” *Europe-Asia Studies*, 54:6, September 2002. Translated into German as: “Konsumieren, lamentieren, adaptieren: Hybride Konsummuster und neue Identitäten in Rußland.” *Osteuropa*, 53:4, April 2003.

““In case of fire emergency”: Consumption, security, and the meaning of durables in a transforming society.” *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 2:2, 2002.

“If you are so smart, how come you are so poor?: Rhetorical strategies of affirming masculinity among the members of technical intelligentsia” (in Russian), in Oushakine, S. (ed.) (2002), *On Masculinity*, Moscow: NLO.

“Crossword: Remedy for loneliness, nine characters” (in Russian). *Private Stock: Debates on Politics and Culture*, 18:4, 2001.

“Bread and circuses: Shifting frames and changing references in the ordinary Muscovites’ political talk.” *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, 34:1, 2001.

OTHER WRITINGS

Reviews, Invited responses, etc.

“Considerations on the place of public sociology in Russia” (in Russian), in Iarskaia-Smirnova, E., Romanov, P. (eds.) (2008) *The Public Role of Sociology*, Saratov: Variant TsSPGI.

“*Rashomon* reconsidered.” *Culture: The Newsletter of the Culture Section of the American Sociological Association*, vol. 19, no.3, 2005.

“*Methodenstreit*” (invited contribution to a virtual roundtable on methods of social research) (in Russian). *Private Stock: Debates on Politics and Culture*, 35:3, 2004.

“Joys and perils of adolescence: Cultural anthropology on the post-Soviet space” (in Russian). *New Literary Review (NLO)*, 60:2, 2003.

Web projects

Letters from Pioneer Camp (pioneercamp.williams.edu): a bilingual virtual archive of letters written by Soviet pioneers in the late 1970s-1980s (work in progress).

Selected Conferences and Presentations

2010

“Post-Soviet political talk and neoliberal subjectivity in Russia,” a paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA.

“Resisting resistance: Everyday life, practical competence and the unlikely sources of neoliberal rhetoric in postsocialist Russia,” a paper presented at the Everyday Life Workshop at the University of Indiana.

“Soviet past in domestic photography: Events, evidence, erasure” (with Oksana Sarkisova) paper co-presented at the Visible Presence symposium at Williams College.

2009

“*Foto na document*: The afterlife of passport photos and other ‘official’ documents in post-Soviet private collections,” a paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Boston, MA.

“Soviet history in a shoebox?: Family photography and the politics of memory in Russia.” Paper presented at the “Photography, Archive and Memory” symposium at Roehampton University, London, UK.

“ ‘The state owes me nothing, and I owe nothing to the state’: The lived experience of postsocialism and neoliberal rhetoric in Russia.” Paper presented at the “Redefining the Common Good After Communism” symposium at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME.

2008

“Family photography as memory technology.”

Paper presented at Performing Biographies conference organized by the European Sociological Association Research Network 3, “Biographical Perspectives on European Societies,” Krakow, Poland.

“Three misconceptions and one promise of the studies of Russia’s recent historical politics.”

Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Philadelphia, PA.

“ ‘Communism is the youth of the world!’: Generational rhetoric and the politics of memory in postsocialist Russia.”

Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American Sociological Association, Boston, MA

“Soviet past in amateur photography: The technologies of memory and oblivion.”

Paper presented at the plenary session of the conference Studies in Soviet Culture, Moscow, RGGU (Russian State University of the Humanities).

2007

“Regarding the family past: The afterlife of socialism in family photo albums.”

Paper presented at the annual conference of the International Visual Sociology Association, New York, New York

“‘Us’ and ‘Them’: From Soviet to post-Soviet consumer politics.”

Paper presented at the Consumer Studies Research Network Conference, Barnard College, New York, New York

2006

“Crosswords, community and the transformation of entertainment genres in postsocialist Russia.”

Paper presented at the Five College Slavic Seminar at Smith College, Northampton, MA and at the *Rethinking Socialism* seminar at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

“Photography as a resource: Exploring generational memories of socialism in today's Russia.”

Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, MA

“From socialist camp to a global village?: Globalization and the imaginary landscapes of postsocialism.”

Paper presented at the 2006 Annual Symposium on Cultural Studies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union sponsored by SOYUZ, the Research Network for Post-Communist Cultural Studies and Bryant University, Smithfield, RI.

2005

“Changing minds: Negotiating (post-)socialism across generations.”

Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Salt Lake City, UT

“The big significance of small practices: Crosswords in today’s Moscow.”

Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA

“Practical competence and political talk in 1990s Russia: What changes when life stands still.”

Paper presented at the University of Chicago Russian Studies Workshop, Chicago, IL

2004

"The art of living in unsettled times: Freedom and autonomy in Moscow."

Paper presented at the International Studies Colloquium, Williams College, Williamstown MA.

"Puzzles and puzzlers: A study in cultural production."

Paper presented at the 6th Conference of the European Sociological Association Network for the Sociology of the Arts *The Art of Comparison*, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2003

"On private freedoms and public chaos."

Paper presented at the Symposium "A Leap to Freedom?: Russia Since the Fall of Communism," Williams College, Williamstown, MA

"Awful crisis superstar: Notes on the origins and evolution of a rhetorical frame in a contemporary Russian setting."

Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA.

"Exercise your brain curves [Sheveli izvilinami]: Crosswords, community and cultural and moral capital in today's Moscow."

Paper presented at the 2003 Annual Symposium on Cultural Studies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union sponsored by SOYUZ, the Research Network for Post-Communist Cultural Studies and Amherst College, Amherst, MA.

2002

"Between the holes: Emerging identities and hybrid patterns of consumption in post-socialist Russia."

Paper presented for the Annual *Osteuropa/Europe-Asia Studies* Lecture in Aachen, Germany and Glasgow, UK.

"If you are so smart, how come you are so poor?: Rhetorical strategies of affirming masculinity among members of the Russian technical intelligentsia."

Paper presented at the conference The Intelligentsias of Russia and Poland, Lund University, Sweden.

2001

"Is there a will when there is a way?: Types of apathy and the transformations of the public sphere in Russia."

Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, CA.

"Fridge as fetish: Understanding the symbolic grammar of Russian consumption."

Paper presented at the Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Ithaca, NY.

2000

"Bread and circuses: Shifting frames and changing references in the ordinary Muscovites' political talk."

Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the American Sociological Association, Washington, DC.

“Until the end of the world: Muscovites talking about future at a century’s end.”

Paper presented at the International Conference on Power and Hierarchy, sponsored by the Russian University for the Humanities and Russian Institute for Ethnology and Anthropology, Moscow, Russia and at Language – Culture - Text conference at Duke University, Durham, NC.

1999

“Adaptation of Russians to changing societal environment.”

Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, St.Louis, MO.

“Songs of innocence and songs of experience: Nostalgia and representation of the socialist past in recent Russian film.”

Paper presented at the 1999 Annual Conference of the British Association of Slavic and East European Studies, Cambridge, UK.

1998

“Search of tomorrow in today’s culture: Contemporary Russian film read as representation of changing values.”

Paper presented at the 1998 Annual Symposium on Cultural Studies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union sponsored by SOYUZ, the Research Network for Post-Communist Cultural Studies and Columbia University, New York.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of the American Sociological Association, Eastern Sociological Society, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, International Visual Sociology Association.

Manuscript reviewer for Indiana University Press, Duke University Press, *Sociological Forum*, *Ab Imperio*, *Gastronomica* and *The Journal of Consumer Culture*.

Book reviewer for *International Sociology*, *The Slavic Review*, *Ab Imperio* and *The Journal of Consumer Culture*.

Organizer of the symposium *Visible Presence: Memory, Photography and the Historical Imagination* at the Oakley Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, Williams College, May 2010.

Organizer of and participant of the “Soviet Amateur Photography between the Public and the Private” roundtable at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Boston, MA, November 2009.

Invited participant in the discussion panel “Memory and Oblivion: The Battle for the Past” organized by the Russian State University for the Humanities and the *Otechestvennye Zapiski* journal, Moscow, Russia, December 2008.

Organizer and participant of the “New Past for the New Russia” roundtable at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Philadelphia, PA, November 2008.

Organizer and discussant for the “Borders, Boundaries and Consumption” panel at the ASA (American Sociological Association) annual convention, New York, NY, August 2007.

Panel reviewer for AATSEEL (2006).

Discussant for the “Postsocialist Economy of Desire: Value, Identity and New Persons” panel at the Annual Symposium on Cultural Studies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union sponsored by SOYUZ, the Research Network for Post-Communist Cultural Studies and Bryant University, Smithfield, RI, February 2006.

Discussant for the “Hieroglyphs of Postsocialist Mundane” panel at the Annual Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Salt Lake City, UT, November 2005.

Discussant for the “Anthropology of the State” colloquium, Princeton University, NJ, March 2003.

Discussant for the “Transnational Connections and Cultural Disconnections” panel at the Annual Symposium on Cultural Studies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union sponsored by SOYUZ, the Research Network for Post-Communist Cultural Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, February 2002.

Co-organizer (with Oksana Sarkisova, Central European University) of an interdisciplinary workshop on methodology and practice of visual evidence analysis entitled “Thinking Figuratively: Visual Vocabulary, Historical Narratives, and Conflicting Identities in 20th Century Europe”

Sociology Department

05/2000 – 06/2001

Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia

(jointly with Open Society Institute, Budapest, Hungary)

DEPARTMENT AND COLLEGE SERVICE

Department of Anthropology and Sociology:

Member, Departmental search committee for sociology

2003, 2004, 2005

College:

Lecture Committee, Chair

2010-2011

Faculty Review Panel

2009-2010

Lecture Committee

2008-2009

Winter Study Committee

2005-2006