

AUTHORS

Vlada Baranova graduated from St. Petersburg University and the European University at St. Petersburg with degrees in sociolinguistics. She holds a PhD in anthropology. She is a sociolinguist, migration researcher, and language activist. Until her resignation in 2022, Baranova worked as an associate professor at the Saint Petersburg campus of HSE University. Currently she is a visiting scholar at the Northeast Institute at the University of Hamburg. Her main works include (in Russian) *Language Policy without Politicians: Linguistic Activism and Minority Languages in Russia* (2023) and *Language and Identity: Urums and Rumeys of the Azov Region* (2010).

Liubov Chernysheva defended her PhD dissertation in sociology in 2022. She is currently a research fellow at the Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and a visiting researcher at the Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany. Her research projects focus on neighboring, mass housing, urban commons, collective initiatives, and grassroots urban activism.

Polina Kislitsyna finished her PhD program in cultural anthropology at the European University at St. Petersburg (Russia) in 2020. Her dissertation project was titled “Biographical Narratives of Nonheterosexuals in Contemporary Russia: Discursive Strategies and Self-Understanding.” She received her master’s degree in cultural anthropology at the European University at St. Petersburg in 2017. In 2022 she was a visiting researcher at the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki. Currently, Kislitsyna is an independent researcher. Her recent publications have focused on religious experience, coming out, embodiment, queer activism, and discursive strategies represented in biographical narratives of Russian nonheterosexuals.

Dmitry Kurakin received his PhD in sociology from HSE University in 2012. He is a visiting professor of sociology at Yale University, as well as a lead research fellow at the Centre for Fundamental Sociology and a professor at the Institute of Education, both at HSE University (Russia). Previously, he founded the Moscow Centre for Cultural Sociology at HSE University and headed it until 2023. The Centre investigates cultural factors of inequality and how they affect its reproduction in education. Kurakin’s research interests include Durkheimian cultural sociology, theory of the sacred, the emotional dimension of culture, and their implications for a wide variety of empirical topics, from inequality to the body.

Tamara Kusimova is an independent scholar. She has master's degree in sociology, specializing in the study of inequalities in education. In 2020–2022 she worked at the Center for Cultural Sociology at HSE University's Institute of Education, Russia. Her main interest is social mobility in contemporary Russia, in particular how people overcome social and economic inequalities to achieve success, which is itself a culturally specific category and subject of study.

Verena Podolsky is currently pursuing a joint master's degree in global journalism and Russian and Slavic studies at NYU. As an undergraduate, she studied psychology and later comparative sociology at HSE University (Moscow, Russia), focusing on digital nomadism. Since February 2022, Podolsky has lived in Armenia, Germany, and the US, working as a freelance journalist and social researcher. Her work primarily revolves around covering the experiences of Russians in exile and violations of academic freedom in Russia. She is a member of an informal group of researchers of Russian migration Exodus-22.

Eva Rapoport is a cultural anthropologist and photographer. Before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, she was working on a PhD dissertation about spirit possession beliefs and practices in Javanese culture. In March 2022 she became a volunteer and later a coordinator of the Istanbul branch of the Ark (Kovcheg), an organization helping Russian political emigrants. Her research of the 2022 emigration from Russia has led to a visual project "Imagine Unimaginable," where Midjourney AI was used to illustrate the emigrants' metaphorical narratives. The project was exhibited in Paris and Istanbul.