

ALEKSANDRA SIMONOVA

aleksandra_simonova@brown.edu

+1 (510) 735-42-45

Fields of research and teaching interest: sociocultural anthropology, political studies, media studies, international studies, post-Soviet studies.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2024 — current

Postdoctoral Fellow, Brown University, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

Fall 2023

Adjunct Professor, University of San Francisco, Anthropology Program

2018 - 2024

Teaching Assistant, UC Berkeley, Department of Anthropology

EDUCATION

2016 — 2024

PhD in Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley

Thesis: Suspended Beyond Borders: Contesting History and Identity in Crimea

2013 — 2015

MA in Sociology, European University at St.Petersburg

Thesis: Hackerspaces: Hacking and Entrepreneurship in New Spaces for Techno-Science Creativity in Russia

2009 — 2012

Post Graduate Student (ABD), Lomonosov Moscow State University, Department of Philosophy

Thesis: Russian fight for the Middle East: the Orthodox Missionaries and Secular Politics of Russia in Syria.

2004 — 2009

BA in Political Studies (Russian Specialist degree), Lomonosov Moscow State University, Department of Philosophy and Political Studies

Thesis: Practices of lobbying in Russia: a Case Study of the Aluminum Industry.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2023 — Adjunct Professor, course Cultures through Film, University of San Francisco, the Anthropology Program

Spring 2024 — Lecturer, course The Past and Future of War, UC Berkeley, the Department of Anthropology

Teaching assistance (UC Berkeley):

Fall 2021 - Utopia: Art and Power in Modern Times (prof. Alexey Yurchak),

Spring 2019 - Introduction to Anthropology, 3AC (prof. Charles Hirschkind)

Fall 2018 - Introduction to Anthropology, 3AC (prof. James Holston)

FELLOWSHIPS

Fall 2023 — the Graduate Division's Dissertation Completion Fellowship (UC Berkeley)

Summer 2023 — the Graduate Division's Summer Dissertation Writing Grants for Advanced Arts and Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences Students (UC Berkeley)

Spring 2023 — Center for Right-Wing Studies (UC Berkeley), mini-grant for a research project

Fall 2022 — Spring 2023 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Mabelle McLeod Lewis Memorial Fund (Stanford)

Fall 2020 — Spring 2021 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, The Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (UC Berkeley)

Summer 2020 SVA/Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowship, the Society for Visual Anthropology (American Anthropological Association)

Fall 2019 — Spring 2020 ASEEES Dissertation Research Grant (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies)

Fall 2019 — Spring 2020 Allan Sharlin Memorial Award from Institute of International Studies (UC Berkeley)

2018 The Human Rights Center fellowship, The School of Law (UC Berkeley)

2017 ISEEES Summer Field Research Grant (The Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (UC Berkeley)

2016 — 2019 Wadsworth International Fellowship, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research

2016 — 2018 The Regents and Chancellor's Scholarship (UC Berkeley)

2013 — 2016 Research fellowship, Center of Science and Technology Studies, European University at St.Petersburg.

2012 — 2013 Research Fellowship, Institute for Media, Architecture and Design "STRELKA" (Moscow)

Research "Imagination in Orbit" explored the utopian idea and scientific research of outer space in the Soviet Union and modern Russia.

FILMMAKING. SELECTED DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

[Playing Apocalypses](#) (2022), featured by Artdocfest 2023, Labocine, LaboScience, MOST: Testimony Festival (2023).

Awarded as the best student director at the Eastern Europe Film Festival, the best fantasy film at Hercules Independent Film Festival

[Self-portrait with Lev](#) (2022), nominee at Toronto Women Film Festival

[The Color of Home. Red](#) (2020)

PUBLICATIONS

In English

1. On the Borderlands of Ethics and Scholarship, in an edited volume *Academia Across the Borders*, the Foundation for Siberian Cultures, 2024, p.94 - 100
2. Performing Infrastructure: The Cultural Biopolitics of the Russian State in Crimea, *Russian Literature*, 141, 2023, p.143-167
3. [Putinism's Defeated Opposition](#), review on the book *Dissidents Among Dissidents: Ideology, Politics and the Left Post-Soviet Russia* by Ilya Budraitskis, Verso 2022. *Dissent Magazine*, Fall 2022, p.160 - 165
4. Coworking Environments: The Hackerspace and The Skolkovo Innovative City in Moscow in *From Russia With Code*, the edited volume, ed. Biagioli M., Lepinay V. Duke university press, 2019, p.167-194
5. Imagination in Orbit. Report of studio Foresight in Hindsight at Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture, and Design. Moscow: Strelka Press, 2013. P.74- 83.
6. Outer Space Utopia and Mythology, in *Foresight in Hindsight*, an edited volume by Rem Koolhaas and Reinier de Graaf . Moscow: Strelka Press, 2013

In Russian

1. Cultural Analysis of startup Entrepreneurship in Russia: a Case study of a Moscow Hackerspace in *Laboratorium: Russian Review of Social Research*; Saint-Petersburg Vol. 10, Iss. 1, (2018): 51-78. (Rus. Анализ культуры стартап-предпринимателей в России: кейс-стади Московского хакерспейса // "Лабораториум", 2018
2. With Bychkova O., Evstigneeva N., A. Simonova, Chernysh. Socio-economic phenomena of makers. Center of governmental research, European University at St.Petersburg, 2015. ((Rus. Бычкова О., Евстигнеева Н., Симонова А., Черныш А.

Мейкерство как социально-экономический феномен. Центр исследований государственного управления в Европейском университете в Санкт-Петербурге, 2015)

3. Influence of the outer space mythology on developing of scientific research in the USSR and Russia in Sociology of Power, The Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow, 2015. #1 p. 35 - 54. (Rus. Формирование космической мифологии как фактора развития научных исследований космоса в СССР и России // «Социология власти», М.: РАГС, 2015. № 1)
4. The problem of institutionalization in politics and religion. On the establishment of the title of the Metropolitan of the Russian Church and its role in Russian politics. // Experimentum - 2012: Edited volume of the Department of Philosophy of Moscow State University / Ed. E.N. Moshchelkova; Comp. A.V. Vorobyov, T.Yu. Denisov. - М.: Publisher Vorobyov A.V., 2011. - 124 p. (Rus. Проблема институционализации в политике и религии (Об установлении титула Митрополита Русской Церкви и его роль в политике России) // Experimentum — 2012: Сборник научных статей философского факультета МГУ / Под ред. Е.Н.Моцелкова; Сост. А.В. Воробьев, Т.Ю. Денисова. — М.: Издатель Воробьев А.В., 2011. — 124 с.)
5. Foundations of Russia's policy in the Middle East // Izvestia of the Irkutsk State University, Series "Political Science. Religious Studies» №1, 2011 (Rus. Основания политики России на Ближнем Востоке // «Известия Иркутского государственного университета», Серия «Политология. Религиоведение» №1, 2011)
6. Pilgrimage as a socio-political phenomenon of Kievan Rus (X - XIII centuries) // Experimentum - 2011: Edited volume of the Department of Philosophy of Moscow State University / Ed. E.N. Moshchelkova; Comp. A.V. Vorobyov, T.Yu. Denisov. - М.: Publisher Vorobyov A.V. 2011 - 136 p. (Rus. Паломничество как социально-политический феномен Киевской Руси (X – XIII вв.) // Experimentum — 2011: Сборник научных статей философского факультета МГУ / Под ред. Е.Н.Моцелкова; Сост. А.В. Воробьев, Т.Ю. Денисова. — М.: Издатель Воробьев А.В., 2010. — 136 с.)

ART RESIDENCIES and PROGRAMS

May 2023, the Knight Foundation Art + Research Center (A+RC) semester on "Ecologies of War" (Miami, US)

May 2022 — November 2022 - Un/Filmed, documentary film production program

August 1 – 10, 2015 , Tokamak, residency for international artists (Finland)

Summer 2014, Rosa's House of Culture at St. Petersburg (Russia)

Summer 2013, 2nd Moscow Curatorial Summer School, [V-A-C](#) Foundation in Moscow (Russia)

2012 - 2013 Fellowship, [OMA Office](#) + Institute for Media, Architecture and Design
["STRELKA"](#) (Moscow)

TALKS AND CONFERENCES

“Power of Images” at the round table “Book Discussion: In Visible Presence: Soviet Afterlives in Family Photos, by Oksana Sarkisova and Olga Shevchenko”, 2023 ASEEEES

“Russian Patriots at War and Game” 2023 AAA Annual Meeting. Organized a panel “How (not?) to love your country: Patriotism in post-transition Russia”. Discussant: Nancy Ries (Colgate University)

“Playing War: Performing Patriotism and Cross-temporality in post-2014 Crimea”, 47th Annual Berkeley-Stanford Conference on Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies: Peripheries, Berkeley, March 3, 2023

“Performing infrastructure in Crimea”, 2022 AAA Annual Meeting. Organized a panel “Public materialities: alternative histories and national attachments” Discussant: Jonathan Bach (The New School for Social Research)

“Performing infrastructure: the cultural biopolitics of the Russian state in Crimea,” at the Sovereignty symposium, SOYUZ group of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), November 4-7, 2021

“Russian Hacking Culture” at the series of events during the symposium “Imagining Russian Hackers: Myths of Men and Machines,” Yale University (Jan - May 2021)

“Material Mediators of the Political Space: Admiral Nakhimov Versus Dinosaur in The Battle for Post-Soviet Sevastopol,” delivered at 50th Annual ASEEEES Convention, Boston, 5-7 December 2018

“Discursive Categories of the Political Conflict: Russia and the “West” after 2014”, 117th AAA Annual Meeting, San Jose, 14-18 November 2018

“Crimea. Terra Incognita,” delivered at the UC Berkeley Human Rights Center annual fellowship conference, Berkeley, 26 October 2018

“The Battlefield of Sevastopol: from History to the Politics of Memory in Post-Soviet Crimea”, delivered ASN World Convention, New York, 3-5 May 2018

“Urban Citizenship and Right to the City in Sevastopol in Crimea”, delivered at 49th Annual ASEEEES Convention, Chicago, 9-12 November 2017

“Cities of Science: Political and Spatial Imaginary of Science Development in Russia,” delivered at the conference *Humans on the Earth: Historical Geography as*

Epistemology and Worldview, The Remarque Institute, New York University, 24-25 March 2017

“Russian Computer Scientists in Russia and Abroad: the Case of Moscow Hackerspace”, delivered at STS workshop at Venice International University , Venice, 8 – 16 January 2016

“Art Projects in Spaces of “Tech Creativity” in Russia”, delivered at [Tokamak](#), collaborative workshop and residency for international artists, August 1 – 10 2015, Finland.

“Relations Between Machines and Their Developers in the Spaces of Science and Tech Creativity”, delivered at RANHiGS, Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, on April 17-18, 2015.

"Creative Thinking and Innovations in Moscow Hackerspace", delivered at Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, April 17-18, 2015.

«Brogrammers» and Their Sisters: the Role of Family as a Metaphor for the Hackerspace Community”, delivered at conference VDNH VIII, November 7-8, 2014, European University at St. Petersburg (EUSPb), St. Petersburg.

“Why Do Hackerspaces Good for Business?” Delivered at conference «Garages, Kitchens, and Hackerspaces: Spaces and Narratives of the New Innovation», October 26 – 27, 2014, European University at St. Petersburg.