

Curriculum vitae

Volha (Olga) Sasunkevich

1983-09-24

I Degrees

- 2014** Dr. Phil in History of Eastern Europe (summa cum laude) (Greifswald University, Germany)
- 2008** Master of Sociology (with specialization in Gender Studies) (European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania)
- 2006** Specialist in Theory of Communication (with Honors) (Belarusian State University, Minsk, Belarus)

II Employment

Since February 2021 Senior Lecturer in Gender Studies, Department of Cultural Sciences, University of Gothenburg

March 2017 – January 2021 assistant senior lecturer in gender studies, Department of Cultural Sciences, University of Gothenburg

Breaks in Employment

March–May 2020 parental leave (50%)

August 2019–February 2020 parental leave (100 %)

October 2014 – February 2017 full-time lecturer, Department of Media,; Executive co-director of EHU Center for Gender Studies, European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania

Since 2008 part-time assistant, Department of Media, European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuanian

III Research Projects and Research Collaboration

A) Externally financed projects, project leader

2023–2026 scientific coordinator of the Graduate School “The Future of Democracy: Cultural Analyses of Illiberal Populism in Times of Crises” (Swedish Research Council, 21 mln SEK)

2022–2023 MiDem - Migration and Democracy: Confronting Illiberalism in the Baltic Sea Region, 300,000 SEK, the Swedish Institute (<https://www.gu.se/node/78430>).

2019–2022 Feminist and Queer Solidarities Beyond Borders, Nordic Gender Equality Fund, 670,000 SEK (<https://www.feministqueersolidarities.com/>).

2018 Transnational Solidarities: Gender and Sexuality beyond Geopolitics, Research initiation grant from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, 180,000 SEK.

2015 Between Ethnic Identity and Economic Rationality: Economic Exploitation of ‘Karta Polaka’ by Residents of the Belarusian-Polish Borderland, Research Grant from Open Society Foundation, 10,000 USD.

B) Externally financed projects, contributor

2017–2021 researcher (60%) *Spaces of Resistance. A Study of Gender and Sexuality in Times of Transformations*, Knut and Alice Wallenberg’s Foundation/Department of Cultural Sciences, University of Gothenburg (PI Prof. Mia Liinason)
<https://sites.google.com/view/spacesofresistance/home>.

2015–2017 Researcher (25%) *C.O.N.T.A.C.T.: Creating an Online Network, Monitoring Team and Phone App to Counter Hate Crime Tactics*, European Commission, Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program, Department of Social Sciences, European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania (PI Assoc. Prof. Andrei Stepanov).

C) Other forms of research collaboration

2021–2023 Member of ethical advisory board for artistic-research project *The Magic Closet and the Dream Machine: Post-Soviet Queerness, Archiving, and the Art of Resistance*, the Austrian Science Funds (FWF) program for Arts-based Research (PEEK), Department of English and American Studies, University of Vienna, Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna (PI Dr. Katharina Wiedlack).

2018–2020 Steering group member, *Transforming Identities: Exploring changes, tensions and visions in the Nordic region through the prism of identity politics*, Workshop Grant from The Joint Committee for Nordic Research Councils in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOS-HS) / Vetenskapsrådet and Nordic Council of Ministers (PI Assoc. Prof. Elisabeth Engebretsen, University of Stavanger).

2018–2021 Project participant, *Transforming Values: Gender, Religiosities and Secularities across the Globe*, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (PI Prof. Mia Liinason, University of Gothenburg).

III Scholarly Assessment Assignments

A) Expert for employment or promotion

2017/2018 Member of the recruitment committee for postdoc positions in Gender Studies at the Department of Cultural Sciences, University of Gothenburg (within the project *Spaces of Resistance. A Study of Gender and Sexuality in Times of Transformations*).

2017 Member of the PhD recruitment committee in Gender studies at the Department of Cultural Sciences, University of Gothenburg.

B) Faculty examiner/student reviewer in connection with public defense of theses

2022 External Reader for 60% PhD seminar by Aleksandra Reczuch, Södertörn University

2017–2019, 2021-2022 Examiner of Master Theses in Gender Studies at the Department of Cultural Sciences, University of Gothenburg.

2017–2019, 2022 External reviewer of Bachelor and Master Theses at the European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania.

C) Examining committee member

2016 Member of the examining committee for the public defense of bachelor theses by the students of the Department of Social and Political Sciences at the European Humanities University.

D) Referee for scholarly work

2022 *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, ISSN 1873-6920.

2021 Reviewer for *Problems of Post-Communism*, ISSN 1075-8216; *Europe-Asia Studies*, ISSN 0966-8136; *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies* 2292-7956.

2019 Reviewer for *Gender, Place and Culture*, ISSN 1360-0524.

2018 Reviewer for a book chapter in Wiedlack, K., Shoshanova, S. and Godovannaya, M. (2019) *Queer-Feminist Solidarity and East/West Divide*. Peter Lang, ISBN 978-1-78874-679-3; for *Topos*, ISSN 1815-0047 (in Russian).

2017 Reviewer for *Gender, Place and Culture*, ISSN 1360-0524; *East European Politics and Societies*, ISSN 0888-3254.

2016 Reviewer for *Women's Studies International Forum*, ISSN 0277-5395; *Acta Academiae Artium Vilnensis*, ISSN 1392-0316; *Acta Poloniae Historica*, ISSN 0001-6829.

IV Prizes and other awards

2022 Huttenbach prize for the best article published in Nationalities Papers in 2021 (shared with co-authors Monika Frėjutė-Rakauskienė and Kristina Šliavaite).

2014 Graduate Essay Prize 2014 by Association for Women in Slavic Studies for Chapter «Shuttle Trade and Gender Relations: Female World in a Provincial Border Town» of the doctoral dissertation.

V Publications (selected)

A) Monographs

Çağatay, Selin; Liinason, Mia, and **Sasunkevich, Olga** (2022) *Feminist and LGBTI+ Activism across Russia, Scandinavia and Turkey: Transnationalizing Spaces of Resistance*. Palgrave Macmillan, 252 pages.

ISBN: 978-3-030-84450-9

ISBN: 978-3-030-84451-6 (eBook) <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-84451-6>.

Open-access, peer-reviewed, equal contribution by all co-authors (names are in the alphabetical order).

Sasunkevich, Olga (2015) *Informal Trade, Gender and the Border Experience: From Political Borders to Social Boundaries*, Ashgate, ISBN 9781472462213, 200 pages.

Peer-reviewed. Paperback is published by Routledge in 2018, ISBN ISBN 9781138546899.

Scholarly recognition:

Reviewed by Urbanovicz, Roman (2018) From Political Borders to Social Boundaries. *Journal of Belarusian Studies*, 6, ISSN 0075-4161, pp. 80-85.

Short-listed among three best monographs in English at the Congress of Belarusian Studies in 2017.

Editorship

Cope, Ben; Minchenia, Alena; and **Sasunkevich, Olga** (2017) *Post-Socialist Anxiety: Gender Studies in Eastern Europe in the Context of the Conservative Backlash* (20th anniversary of the Centre for Gender Studies at EHU), Special issue of *Perekrestki: Zhurnal Issledovaniï vostochnoevropetskogo pograniçhia*, 1-2, ISSN 1822-5136, 284 pages (in Russian).

A peer-reviewed special issue, equal co-editorship.

Ackermann, Felix; Berman, Mark, and **Sasunkevich, Olga** (2017) *A New Land: Rediscovering Agency in Belarusian History, Politics, and Society*, Special issue of *Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society*, 3 (1), ISSN 2364-5334, 198 pages.

A peer-reviewed special issue, equal co-editorship.

B) Scholarly articles

i. Journal articles

Peer-reviewed

Arik, Hulya; Çağatay, Selin; Liinason, Mia, and **Sasunkevich, Olga** (2022). Unsettling political: Conceptualizing the political in feminist and LGBTI+ activism across Russia, Scandinavian countries and Turkey, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, Print ISSN: 1461-6742 Online ISSN: 1468-4470.

Liinason, Mia, and **Sasunkevich, Olga** (2022). Exploring transnational LGBT+ solidarities across the Norwegian-Russian border: The case of Barents

Pride. *Sexualities*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/13634607221107815>

Sasunkevich, Olga (2021) (Un)doing Polishness: Negotiation of ethnic belonging in personal narratives about Karta Polaka, *East European Politics and Societies: and Cultures*, 35 (3), 661-681, ISSN 0888-3254.

Frėjutė-Rakauskienė, Monika; **Sasunkevich, Olga** and Šliavaitė, Kristina (2021) Polish ethnic minority in Belarus and Lithuania: politics, institutions, and identities, *Nationalities Papers*, 49 (6), 1132-1150, ISSN: 0090-5992.

Equal co-authorship. Awarded Huttenbach prize for the best article published in Nationalities Papers in 2021.

Sasunkevich, Olga (2019) ‘But I liked it, I liked it’: Revealing agentic aspects of women’s engagement in informal economy on the EU external borders. *The European Journal of Women's Studies*, 26 (2), 117-131, ISSN: 13505068.

Sasunkevich, Olga (2011) Place, Gender and Class on Borderlands: Towards a Theoretical Framework of Studying the Border between Belarus and Lithuania. *Gender Studies and Research*, 52-66, ISSN 2424-3310.

Non-reviewed

Sasunkevich, Olga (2021) Beyond Anti-genderism: Gender, Sexuality and Religion in Eastern Europe, *Religion and Gender*, 11, 105-112, ISSN: 1878-5417.

Cope, Ben; Minchenia, Alena, and **Sasunkevich, Olga** (2017) Introduction: Three Editors Voice Their Opinions about the Past and Present of Gender Studies in Postsocialist Space. *Perekrestki: Zhurnal Issledovaniï vostochnoevropetskogo pograničia*, 1-2, ISSN 1822-5136, 10-24 (in Russian).

Ackermann, Felix; Berman, Mark, and Sasunkevich, Olga (2017) In Search of Agency: Examining Belarusian Society from Below, *Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society*, 3 (1), 1-20, ISSN 2364-5334.

Sasunkevich, Olga (2010) “Pride Identity” as a Strategy of Self-Representation in the Situation of a Research Interview: The Case of Belarusian Women Involved in Market Trade. *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, 28 (1), 138-164, ISSN 2153-2931.

Sasunkevich, Olga (2009) Medikalizaciia materinstva v belorusskikh media [Medicalization of Motherhood in Belarusian Media]. *Zhurnal issledovaniï social'noi politiki*, 7 (3), 405-418, ISSN 1727-0634 (in Russian).

ii. Chapters in anthologies

Peer-reviewed contributions

Sasunkevich, Olga (2023, forthcoming) Belarus. In *Europe: An Encyclopedia of Culture and Society*, edited by Thomas M. Wilson. ABC-CLIO. ISBN 978-1-4408-5544-3.

Sasunkevich, Olga (2021) Emancipation is More than the Freedom of Choice: Rethinking the Feminist Agenda in Postsocialism, In *Gender and Power in Eastern Europe - Changing Concepts of Femininity and Masculinity in Power Relations*, ed. by K. Bluhm, G. Pickhan, J. Stypinska, A. Wierzcholska, Springer, 145-169, ISBN 978-3-03053129-4.

Liinason, Mia **and Sasunkevich, Olga** (2018) Women Resisting Border Regimes: Two Case Studies from Eastern and Northern Europe, In *Dreaming Global Change, Doing Local Feminisms: Visions of Feminism: global North/global South encounters, conversations and disagreements*, ed. by L. Martinsson and D. Mulinari, Routledge, 39-57, ISBN 978-1-138-55601-0. *Equal co-authorship*.

Sasunkevich, Olga (2018) Ethnography of Invisible: Studying Informal Economy in Small Towns, In *SAGE Research Methods Cases. Part 2*. SAGE Publications Ltd, ISBN 9781526436665, <https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781526436665>, 13 pages.

Sasunkevich, Olga (2016) Theorizing Social Functioning of Political Borders through Studies of Cross-Border Petty Trade, In *Globalizing Borderlands Studies in Europe and North America*, ed. and with an introduction by John W. I. Lee and Michael North, Nebraska University Press, 233-249, ISBN 978-0-8032-8562-0.

Sasunkevich, Olga (2014) “Business as Casual”: Shuttle Trade on the Belarus-Lithuania Border In *The Informal Post-Socialist Economy: Embedded Practices and Livelihoods*, ed. by J. Morris and A. Polese. Routledge, ISBN 978-0-415-85491-7.