

Olgs (Volha) Sasunkevich

Gender: Female

Date and Place of Birth: September 24, 1983, Minsk, Belarus

Citizenship: Belarus

Residence: Sweden

E-mail: olga.sasunkevich@gu.se

Education

2010 - 2012 PhD student (History of Eastern Europe), International Research Training Group *Baltic Borderlands: Shifting Boundaries of Mind and Culture in the Borderlands of the Baltic Sea Region*, Greifswald University, Germany (funded by German Research Foundation (DFG))

Dissertation "From Political Borders to Social Boundaries: A History of Female Shuttle Trade on the Belarus-Lithuania borderland (1990 – 2011) *summa cum laude*

2006 – 2008 Master Program *Cultural Studies* (specialization – *Gender Studies*), European Humanities University (Vilnius, Lithuania)

2001 – 2006 undergraduate student, Faculty of Journalism (specialization – *Theory of Communication*), Belarusian State University (Minsk, Belarus)

Qualifications:

2014 Dr. Phil. (History of Eastern Europe)

2008 MA diploma in Sociology

2006 Diploma of Specialist in Theory of Communication (with Honors)

Linguistic Skills

Native language(s)

Belarusian, Russian

Other languages:

English (C2), German (B2), Lithuanian (A2), Polish (fluent reading),

Employment

March 2017 assistant professor, Department of Cultural Sciences, University of Gothenburg (30% teaching in Gendered Practices, 60% - research project *Spaces of Resistance: Gender and Sexuality in the Times of Transformations*)

2014-2017 full-time lecturer, Department of Media, European Humanities University (50% of research, 50% of teaching)

2008–2013 part-time assistant, Department of Media, European Humanities University
Courses: Sociology of Gender, Gender and Post-Soviet Society, Modern PR Technologies

2006–2008 marketing specialist, Media Holding *Vladimir Grevtsov Agency*, Minsk, Belarus

Scholarships, Exchange Programs, Academic Visits

- Sep – Oct 2016** Post-Doctoral Scholarship, German Historical Institute, Warsaw
- September 2015** Visiting Researcher, Center for European Studies, Lund University
- June 2015** Visiting Researcher, Leibniz Institute for Regional Development, Leipzig, Germany
- January – May 2014** Fulbright Visiting Scholar, School of Social Transformations, Arizona State University, USA
- January – December 2013** guest researcher, doctoral student, Center for European Studies, Lund University, Sweden (funded by the Swedish Institute)

Research Funding and Research Projects

- Since December 2016** Researcher in 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 Programme): Collaborative Project, work in the team of four people representing Lithuania
- January – September 2015** Civil Society Scholar Award– research grant for research on Polish minority in Hrodna region, Belarus. Open Society Foundation.
- 2009** participant of a research project *The Construction of Social Problems: Social History, Visual Analysis, Ethnography* (the Center of Social Policy and Gender Studies, Saratov, Russia).

Awards

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.

Reviewer

2017

Gender, Place and Culture
East European Politics & Societies and Cultures

2016

Women's Studies International Forum
ACTA ACADEMIAE ARTIUM VILNENSIS

Organization of Conferences and Workshops

2016 Conference The Collapse of Memory - Memory of Collapse: Remembering the Past, Re-Constructing the Future in Periods of Crisis, Lund, 20 – 22 September 2016, together with Prof. Barbara Törnquist-Plewa (Lund University, Centre for

European Studies); Prof. Joachim Schiedermaier (Greifswald University); Dr. Alexander Drost (Baltic Borderlands, Greifswald University)

- 2015** Workshop “Contextualizing Belarus: Belarusian Studies as Interdisciplinary Area Studies”, European Humanities University, Vilnius, Lithuania (together with Dr. Felix Ackermann)
- 2012** Co-organizer, a member of organisational committee of the Graduate Conference *Beyond the Sea*, Greifswald University

Scientific and societal impact of the research

Academic publications

Special Issues

- 2017** A New Land: Rediscovering Agency in Belarusian History, Politics and Society, *Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society* (co-editor with Felix Ackermann and Mark Bermann)

Book

- December 2015** *Informal Trade, Gender and the Border Experience: From Political Borders to Social Boundaries*. Ashgate.

Book chapters

- 2016** Theorizing Social Functioning of Political Borders through the Studies of Cross-border Petty Trade, In J. Lee & M. North, eds. *Borderlands Studies in Europe and North America*. Nebraska University Press.
- 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.

Articles:

- 2017** In Search of Agency: Examining Belarusian Society from Below (co-author with Felix Ackermann and Mark Bermann), *Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Societ*, 1: 1–20
- 2012** From Political Borders to Social Boundaries: Oral History Method in the Study of a Petty Smuggling Community on the Belarus-Lithuania Border. In *Studia Maritima*, Vol. XXV, p. 255–68
- 2011** Place, Gender and Class on Borderlands: Towards a Theoretical Framework of Studying the Border between Belarus and Lithuania. *Gender Studies and Research (Lyčiu studijos ir tyrimai)*: 52–66 (per-reviewed) <http://www.su.lt/mokslas/mokslo-leidiniai/ml-lyciu-studijos-ir-tyrimai/2011-nr9>
- 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): 138–64 <http://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/aecer/article/view/658>

2009 Medikalizaciya materinstva v belorusskikh media [Medikalization of motherhood in Belarusian media discourse]. *Zhurnal issledovaniï social'noi politiki*, 7 (3): 405–18 (in Russian)

Reviews

2016 Book Review: Informal Economies in Post-Socialist Spaces: Practices, Institutions and Networks, J. Morris, A. Polese, eds. *International Sociology*, pp. 578 – 581

Conference Review “Winter Academy: Beyond History and Identity: New Perspectives on Aesthetics, Politics, and Society in Eastern Europe”, H-Soz-Kult, <http://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-6438>

2015 Review of the book by Violeta Davoliūtė *The Making and Breaking of Soviet Lithuania: memory and modernity in the wake of war*. Routledge. *Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society*, 1 – 2, pp. 477 – 480

Conference review “Bordering the Monster? “Creative Destruction” and De- and Re-Bordering of Established Structures/Borders”, H-Soz-Kult, <http://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-5828>

Non-academic publications

Books

2013 Gendernyi Likbez, [Eliminating Gender Illiteracy] (editor, together with Elena Minchenia) (in Russian)

Media

2015 U EHU abmerkavali razvicce belaruskikh dasledvannjau [The development of Belarusian Studies was discussed at EHU] (co-author with Felix Ackermann), *Nasha Niva*, <http://nn.by/?c=ar&i=151993>

2013 Hendar – ne zhanochae pytanne [Gender is not only a Woman’s Question], *Interview for on-line media Tvoi styl’*, <http://www.t-styl.info/by/114/society/9776/%D0%93%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%80-%E2%80%93%D0%BD%D0%B5-%D0%B6%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%87%D0%B0%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D1%8B%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%BD%D0%B5!.htm>

2012 On Belarusian Feminism from Post-Marxist Perspective, *Prasvet, a Journal of Social Critique* (together with Elena Minchenia, in Russian) <http://prasvet.com/984>

Conferences

2017 Forced emancipation and absent men: Understanding Women’s Economic Participation in Belarusian Regions, *Gender. Power. Eastern Europe: Changing*

Concepts of Feminities and Masculinities and Power Relations, June 21 – 23, Berlin

- 2016** Roundtable discussion “What Belarusian Studies are and what they should become”, organizer and co-moderator, *6th Congress of Belarusian Researchers*, October 6 – 9, Kaunas

Becoming a Pole: the influence of Karta Polaka on ethnic self-identification of the Polish minority in Hrodna region, Belarus, *Europe, Nations and Insecurity: Challenges to Identity*, Vytautas Magnus University in cooperation with the Association for the Study of Nationalities, Kaunas, 28 June – 1 July

- 2015** De-Essentializing Ethnicity: ‘Karta Polaka’ and the Process of Ethnicization in the Belarus-Poland Border Region, Winter Academy “*Beyond History and Identity: New Perspectives on Aesthetics, Politics, and Society in Eastern Europe*”, Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin, Germany

Beyond the Wall: Selective Openness of Schengen Borders in Micro-Perspective, *International Congress of Belarusian Studies*, Kaunas, Lithuania (in Russian)

- 2014** Informal Economy as a Form of Daily Life Resistance, *Resistance. Subjects, Representations, Contexts*, Oldenburg University, Germany

Gendering Informal Work: Necessity, Solidarity, and Agency in Cross-Border Trade Activities, *The value of women’s work: between the subjective and the economic*, Florence, EUI

Re-telling the EU external border in the Baltic Sea Region: the Belarus-Lithuania Border in Stories of Female Shuttle Traders, *ABS I World Conference “Post-Cold War Borders: Global Trends and Regional Responses”*, Joensuu, Finland – St. Petersburg, Russia

Heroes of Post-Socialist Transformation: Women in Cross-Border Trade, *Womanity 2014: Moving Toward Equality*, Arizona State University

- 2013** Beyond Survival: Approaching Informal Economic Activities of Petty Traders on the Belarus-Lithuania Border, paper presented at the conference *Beyond Transition? New Directions in Eastern and Central European Studies*, Lund University, Sweden

How Selective Openness of the Schengen Borders Works: A Case of Petty Trade on the Border between Belarus and Lithuania, paper presented at the Second EastBordNet Conference *Relocating Borders: Comparative Approach*, Berlin

- 2012** Short-Term Mobility after 1989: a Case of a Small Town on the Border between Belarus and Lithuania, paper presented at the History and Geography Symposium *Patterns of Transnational Mobility in an Extended Europe since 1989*, Leipzig, Germany

Paradoxes of Borders: Shuttle Trade and Border Experience on the Belarus-Lithuania Borderland, paper presented at the *15th Berlin Roundtables on*

Transnationality "Borders and Borderlands: Contested Spaces Between States", Berlin, Germany

2011 Crossing Intellectuals Boundaries: How Do Belarusian Intellectuals Become Visible to the West and What Does It Lead to?, paper presented at the workshop *Change in the Baltic Sea Region: An example for other regions?*, Marstrand, Sweden

Studying Borderlands: Political Dimension of Oral History Research, paper presented at the International Graduate Conference *Colonial Legacies, Postcolonial Contestations: Decolonizing Social Science and Humanities*, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

Place, Gender and Power on the Borderlands: Studying the Petty Smuggling Community on the Border between Belarus and Lithuania, paper presented at the conference *Barbarian, the Baltic, and Beyond: a Comparative Borderlands Conference*, University of California at Santa Barbara, USA

Space, Gender and Power on the borderlands: towards the methodological problems of analyzing borderland regions in East Europe after the EU enlargement (the case of the Belarus – Lithuania borderland), paper presented at the annual conference of British Association of Slavic and East European Studies (BASEES), Cambridge, UK

2010 Following a Green Channel: Some Aspects of the Case of the Belarus-Lithuania Border, paper presented at the international conference on border regions *A Borderless Europe?*, Alison, University of Southern Denmark Sonderborg

2009 Panelist of round-table discussion *Women's agency and public/private division in Belarus* at the international conference *Feminism and Philosophy: rethinking Simone de Beauvoir* (Centre for Gender Studies, European Humanities University; Culture, Philosophy and Arts Research Institute).

Positions of trust in society and other societal merits

Cooperation with NGOs and political activists

Expertise and policy-based research

Since 09/2015 research expert in the project *Gender and Environmentalism*, NGO *Gender Perspectives*, Minsk, Belarus

Main tasks: preparation of the report and policy suggestions on the implementation of the gender perspective in ecological and environmentalist initiatives in Belarus

Expert evaluation of activities reports prepared by *Gender Perspectives*

Trainings and lectures

2014 *Women's experience of informal economy*, presentation for participants of Women's club (Obyedinennaya Grazhdanskaya Partiya)

2013 *Gender and gender sensitivity in everyday experience*, Training for activists of non-governmental organization *Provincija*

2009 *Expert Opinion on Gender Issues in Belarusian Media*, Department of Professional Development, Institute of Journalism, Belarusian State University, Minsk

Educational Projects

2011 - 2012 tutor and expert, project *The Development of Gender Sensitivity as a Requisite for Gender Equality in Belarus* (Belarusian Human Rights House (Vilnius, Lithuania), Centre for Gender Studies EHU, with support of Norwegian Ministry of International Affairs and Swedish Committee of Human Rights)