

Anna Zhelnina, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Science, Utrecht University

a.zhelnina@uu.nl

<http://annazhelnina.com/>

EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology, 2020 (The Graduate Center, City University of New York).

MA, Sociology, 2006 (European University at Saint Petersburg/ University of Helsinki)

BA, Social Anthropology, 2005 (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia)

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

2020-2023 Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute of Urban and Regional Studies.

2017-2019 William Randolph Hearst Fellow, Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, The
Graduate Center (CUNY)

2016-2018 Adjunct Professor, Hunter College (CUNY).

2016-2017 Research Assistant, City College (CUNY)

2008-2014 Research Fellow, Center for Youth Studies, Higher School of Economics in Saint
Petersburg.

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

2021 Best Dissertation Award, American Sociological Association, Section on Collective
Behavior and Social Movements

2020 Mayer N. Zald Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Student Paper Award,
American Sociological Association, Section on Collective Behavior and Social
Movements

2019-2020 Dissertation Year Award, CUNY Graduate Center

2019-2020 Provost's University Fellowship, CUNY

2018 Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center

2017 W. R. Hearst Graduate Assistantship at the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society,
CUNY Graduate Center

2014-2019 The Graduate Center Fellowship (GCF), City University of New York

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

2025. *Private Life, Public Action: How Housing Politics Mobilized Citizens in Moscow*.
Forthcoming. Temple University Press.

2022. *Gains and Losses: How Protestors Win and Lose*, with Jasper, James, Luke Elliott-Negri,
Isaac Jabola-Carolus, Marc Kagan, Jessica Mahlbacher, and Manès Weisskircher. New York:
Oxford University Press. [Link](#).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2023. "Gains and losses in the urban political field: multi-layered outcomes of mobilization in Moscow's housing controversy." *Mobilization: An International Journal* 28(3): 359-376. [Link](#).
2023. "Movement dilemmas under authoritarianism: national and local activism in Russia." *Sociologica*. 17(1): 67-76. [Link](#).
2023. "Making urban futures at your kitchen table: temporality of urban redevelopment in Moscow." *City and Community* 22 (2): 145-162. [Link](#).
2023. "Naughty," "Nice" or "Homo Sapiens:" Gendered Political Toolkits in a Housing Mobilization." *Sociological Forum*. 38 (1): 27-48. [Link](#).
2023. With Jasper, James M. "Stirring Culture: Moral Batteries and Public Characters in the Battle over Moscow's Renovation." *Capital & Class* 47 (1): 43-59. [Link](#).
2022. "Bring Your Own Politics: Life Strategies and Mobilization Against Urban Redevelopment." *Sociology* 56 (4): 783-799. [Link](#).
2021. "Social Movement Gains and Losses: Dilemmas of Arena Creation." With Elliott-Negri, Luke, Isaac Jabola-Carolus, James Jasper, Jessica Mahlbacher, and Manès Weisskircher. *Partecipazione e Conflitto* 14 (3): 998-1013. [Link](#).
2020. "The Apathy Syndrome: How We Are Trained Not to Care about Politics." *Social Problems*, 67 (2), May 2020: 358-378. [Link](#)
2020. "Strategic interaction sequences: the institutionalization of participatory budgeting in New York City," with Jabola-Carolus, Isaac, Luke Elliott-Negri, James M. Jasper, Jessica Mahlbacher, Manes Weisskircher. *Social Movement Studies*. 19 (5-6): 640-656. [Link](#).
2019. National and Urban Politics Converge in Moscow: Will Local Activism Prevail? *Metropolitica*. October 1, 2019. [Link](#).
2019. "Beyond Loyalty and Dissent: Everyday Politics in Contemporary Russia," with Karine Clément. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 33: 143-162. [Link](#).
2019. Introduction to the Special Issue: "Imagining a Link Between Local Activism and Political Transformation: Inventions from Russia and Eastern Europe," with Karine Clément. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 33: 117-124. [Link](#).

Book Chapters

2024. Apathy. Is a lack of feeling our default condition? In: *Dark Emotions: Difficult Emotional Experiences in Social and Everyday Life*. Michael Hviid Jacobsen (ed.) Routledge. [Link](#).
2024. With James M. Jasper. Strategic Assemblies: Tradeoffs and Dilemmas for Social Movements. In *The Oxford Handbook of Peaceful Assembly*, edited by Tabatha Abu El-Haj, Michael Hamilton, Thomas Probert and Sharath Srinivasan. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Link](#).
2023. The River of Urban Resistance: Renovation and new civic infrastructures in Moscow. In *Varieties of Russian Activism: State-Society Contestation in Everyday Life*, edited by Regina Smyth, Jeremy Morris, and Andrey Semenov. Indiana University Press. Pp. 120-142.

2022. With James Jasper. Identity and Emotions. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Participation*. Maria Grasso, Marco Giugni (eds.). Oxford University Press. [Link](#).
2021. Urban Anthropology – Russia. *International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. [Link](#).
2016. “Polittusovka — An Alternative Public Space of Young Politicians in Contemporary Russia.” In *Eastern European Youth Cultures in a Global Context*, 235–50. Springer.
2015. Citizenship of Russian Youth: The Search for an Effective Methodology,” with Elena Omelchenko and Yana Krupets. In *“In Search of ...” New Methodological Approaches to Youth Research*, 295-318. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholar Publishing.
2014. Risks and Pleasures in the Youth Activist Scenes in Contemporary Russia, with Elena Omelchenko. In *Hopeless Youth*, edited by Francisco Martinez and Pille Runnel, 119–40. Tartu: Estonian National Museum.

Other publications (non-reviewed):

[Safeguarding Saint Petersburg’s Skyline](#). *Nature Cities* 1, 490 (July 2024).

[Women in Neighborhood Activism](#). *Urbaria Summaries Series 2023/1*. ISSN 2670-2363.

[Urbaner Aktivismus in Russland: »gewöhnliche« Bürger:innen, erfahrene Aktivist:innen und Gründe für vorsichtigen Optimismus](#). *Russland-Analysen*, Ausgabe 399, 09.03.2021. doi: 10.31205/ra.399.02

[Civic Participation in Urban Development](#). *Urbaria Summaries Series 2020/8*. ISSN 2670-2363.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Movements, Political Sociology, Urban Sociology, Qualitative Methods

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

International Sociological Association (ISA): Research Committee 21 “Urban and Regional Development” (RC21), Board Member (2016-2023)

American Sociological Association (ASA): Community and Urban Sociology, Collective Behavior and Social Movements

European Sociological Association (ESA)

SERVICE

Editorial Board member: *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*

Reviewer for: *American Sociological Review*; *Antipode*; *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*; *Housing, Theory and Society*; *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*; *Land Use Policy*; *Mobilization*; *Post-Soviet Affairs*; *Problems of Post-Communism*; *Social Problems*; *Sociological Forum*; *Space and Culture*; *Symbolic Interaction*; *City & Community*; *Urban Studies*

Internal book manuscript review: Polity Press

Board Member, ISA Research Committee 21 “Urban and Regional Development” (2018-2023)