

## **Anna Zhelnina, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Social Science, Utrecht University

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### **EDUCATION**

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

Dissertation Title: "Engaging Neighbors: Housing Strategies and Political Mobilization in Moscow's Renovation". \* Committee members: James M. Jasper (Chair), Sharon Zukin, Philip Kasinitz, Jan Willem Duyvendak.

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

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

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

### **PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT**

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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.

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

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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

2016, 2018 Conference Presentation Support Fund (The Graduate Center, CUNY).

2012-2013 Andrew Gagarin Fellowship at the Andrew Gagarin Center for Human Rights at Bard/  
Smolny, St. Petersburg State University.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

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](#) \*

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

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? *Metropolitics*. 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](#).

2019. "Beyond the Global North and South: contemporary studies of local activism in post-soviet Russia," with Elena Tykanova. In: Čamprag, Nebojša and Suri, Anshika (eds.):

*Three Decades of Post-socialist Transition. Conference Proceedings.* Darmstadt, tprints.  
[Link.](#)

2015. "In the District': Youth Solidarities on the Urban Periphery," with Aleksey Zinoviev and Margarita Kuleva. *Russian Education & Society* 57 (2): 84–96.
2014. "'Hanging Out', Creativity, and Right to the City: Urban Public Space in Russia Before and After the Protest Wave of 2011-12." *Stasis* 1: 228–59.
2013. "Learning to Use 'Public Space': Urban Space in Post-Soviet St. Petersburg." *The Open Urban Studies Journal* 1 (6): 57–64.
2011. "'It's Like a Museum Here' Here': The Shopping Mall as Public Space." *Laboratorium: Russian Review of Social Research* 3 (2): 48–69.
2009. "From Barakholka to Shopping Mall: Transformation of Retail Spaces in St. Petersburg." *Anthropology of East Europe Review* 27 (1): 51–64.

### Book Chapters

- Forthcoming. Apathy. Is a lack of feeling our default condition? In: *Dark Emotions*. Michael Hviid Jacobsen (ed.) Routledge.
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. *Oxford Handbook of Political Participation*. Maria Grasso, Marco Giugni (eds.). Oxford University Press.
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.

### Sociological Fiction

2022. "Day X." *The Sociological Review Magazine*. March 8. [Online]. [Link.](#)

### Pedagogical Writing

2021. [A Practical Guide For Teaching The Sociological Imagination](#). With Nga Than, Sebastián Villamizar-Santamaría, Karen Okigbo, and Isabel Gil-Everaert. The Teach@CUNY Handbook, The GC Teaching and Learning Center.

## **TEACHING**

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### Individual course development and teaching:

- 2022 University of Helsinki, MA program “Contemporary Societies”
- Qualitative Research Skills
- 2015-2017 Hunter College, City University of New York, NY, USA
- Social Movements and Social Change
- 2011-2014 Smolny College (St. Petersburg State University, Russia) / Bard College (Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, USA)
- Political Sociology
  - Social Movements
  - Qualitative Research Methods
- 2008-2014 Department of Sociology, National Research University – Higher School of Economics in Saint Petersburg, Russia
- Urban Sociology
  - Sociology of Consumption

### Teaching Assistance:

- 2016-2017 City College, City University of New York, NY, USA (2016-2017, Fall and Spring semesters)
- Community Needs Assessment (Survey design and implementation), primary teacher Dr. Mary Lutz.

## **PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY**

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### Writing:

[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.

[What do the latest studies tell us about political views among young people in Russia?](#) “The Question,” 2017.

[Fortress Under Siege: Moscow’s Renovation](#); “Republic” (in Russian), 2017.

[Mortgage Ghettos](#); “Republic” (in Russian), 2017.

[Social Movements Research in Russia: Sociology of the ignored activism](#); “Critical Mass,” Bulletin of the Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section of the American Sociological Association, 2015.

### Other:

Hosting for the New Books Network podcast. [Profile](#).

[Propaganda, protest, and repression in Russia: an insiders look with Anna Zhelnina.](#)  
International Horizons podcast. May 9, 2022.

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Social Movements, Political Sociology, Urban Sociology, Qualitative Methods

## **ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

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International Sociological Association (ISA): Research Committee 21 “Urban and Regional Development” (RC21)

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

European Sociological Association (ESA)

## **SERVICE**

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Reviewer for: American Sociological Review, Antipode, Journal of Housing and the Built Environment, Land Use Policy, Mobilization, Problems of Post-Communism, Social Problems, Sociological Forum, Space and Culture, Symbolic Interaction, City & Community, Urban Studies

Board Member: Research Committee 21 “Urban and Regional Development” (RC21)

Internal book manuscript review: Polity Press

Colloquium Committee 2015/2016; Faculty Membership Committee 2019/2020 (Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center)

Steering Committee Member, Civil Society Workshop at the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, CUNY Graduate Center