

Anna Zhelnina, Ph.D.

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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.

GRANTS

2025-2030 ERC Starting Grant, "Strategic Care in Activism: Mental Health Across Scales of Social
Change" (Care2Act) (PI)

2025-2026 Institutions for Open Societies (Utrecht University) Seed Grant for "Tensions in
Academia" (Co-PI)

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

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

2026. *Private Life, Public Action: How Housing Politics Mobilized Citizens in Moscow*. 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

2025. "Temporalities of Closure in Urban Planning Conflicts," with Veikko Eranti. *Urban Affairs Review*. Online First. [Link](#).
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? *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](#).

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](#).

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; City & Community; 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 Movement Studies; Social Problems; Sociological Forum; Sociology Compass; Space and Culture; Symbolic Interaction; Urban Studies

Internal book manuscript review: Polity Press

GenAI consultant, Interdisciplinary Social Science education (Bachelor and Master levels), Utrecht University

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

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 (2018-2020)