

# Karolina Nugumanova

Political Science & Sociology

Scuola Normale Superiore

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## Research Agenda

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My research examines how gender, emotions, and political opportunity structures shape political participation and mobilization under authoritarianism and in exile. I combine large-scale survey data, panel studies, experiments, and qualitative interviews to study post-2022 Russian emigration, feminist anti-war activism, and emotional mechanisms of sustained political engagement.

My work contributes to political behavior, migration studies, and gender politics, with a particular focus on authoritarian contexts and transnational activism.

## Academic Appointments

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**Visiting Research Fellow, Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo** 2026

Invited by Masaaki Higashijima.

**Exchange Student, Globalisation Program, Venice International University** 2021

## Education

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**PhD in Political Science and Sociology, Scuola Normale Superiore** Expected 2027

Academic advisors: Martín Portos García; Lorenzo Zamponi.

Dissertation: *Gendered Mobilization in Exile: Understanding the Activism of Post-2022 Russian Emigrants through Emotions, Structure, and Movement Dynamics*.

**MA in Sociology, European University at St. Petersburg** 2020–2022

**BA in Sociology, Novosibirsk State University** 2016–2020

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

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Nugumanova, Karolina. **Micromobilising Emotion: How Feminist Anti-War Resistance Builds Affective Infrastructure in Exile.** *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* (SSCI, Scopus), 2026.

## Manuscripts Under Review / In Preparation

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- Nugumanova, K., Kamalov, E., & Sergeeva, I. *Reverse Gender Gap in Transnational Activism: War-Driven Political Engagement Among Russian Post-2022 Emigrants*. Target journal: *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.
- Kamalov, E., Nugumanova, K., & Sergeeva, I. *Exposure to Transnational Repression and Political Engagement: Evidence from a Panel of Russian Exiles*. Target journals: *APSR* /

## Selected Works in Progress

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- *Destination Preferences in Secondary Migration Among Politically Induced Migrants from Authoritarian States: Evidence from Conjoint Experiment*, with E. Kamalov and I. Sergeeva.
- *The Gendered Opportunity Structure of Exile: How Host-Country Contexts Shape Migrant Political Participation*.
- *Increasing Trust: Methodological Innovations for Retaining Fearful Respondents in Panel Surveys*, with E. Kamalov and I. Sergeeva.

## Academic Positions and Research Projects

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### **Principal Investigator, *The Science of Dreams*** 2022–present

National mixed-methods survey ( $N \approx 1,500$ ) on war-related dream narratives. Research cited in Russian and international media, including *Meduza*, *Republic*, *Paper*, *Posle Media*, *The Dial*, and others.

### **Principal Investigator, *WOT-Foundation*** 2021–2022

Research and policy-oriented project *Media literacy and critical thinking among Russians*

### **Co-Investigator, *OutRush Panel Survey*** 2022–present

Longitudinal panel study of Russian political emigrants ( $N \approx 25,000$ ; 100+ countries), combining survey data, conjoint experiments, and qualitative modules. Funded by the European University Institute and the U.S. Russia Foundation. Research cited in 100+ Russian and international media including *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Bloomberg*, *Al Jazeera*, *BBC*, and *Meduza*, among others.

### **Co-Investigator, *Democracy in Exile (DemEx Project)*** 2024–present

NSF-funded mixed-methods project; George Washington University & Carleton University.

### **Co-Investigator, *A Study on Feminist Anti-War Resistance in Exile*** 2023–2024

Qualitative interview-based study (60 in-depth interviews) with activists of the Feminist Anti-War Resistance movement abroad. Funded by the University of Oslo.

### **Research Assistant, *Building a Commons in the Russian Diaspora*** 2022–2023

Large-scale qualitative project based on 580 in-depth interviews with post-2022 Russian migrants in Serbia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Georgia, and Turkey.

### **Expert Consultant / Foresight Group Facilitator, *EU Public Diplomacy toward Russia*** 2024–2025

European Commission-funded project on Russian emigration and cultural workers in exile.

## Awarded Grants and Fellowships

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- **PhD Fellowship** — PNRR (Italy), fully funded doctoral grant, **€74,000** (2023–2027).
- **Visiting Fellow Grant** — Scuola Normale Superiore, **€3,500** (2026).
- **Mobility Research Grant** — SNS, **€5,000** (2023–2025).
- **MA Scholarship** — European University at St. Petersburg, fully funded (2020–2022).
- **Russian National Sociology Olympiad Grant** — HSE & Yandex, awarded twice, **€2,500** (2021, 2022).

## Participation in Funded Research Projects

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- **Democracy in Exile (DemEx)** — National Science Foundation (NSF), multi-year collaborative research project, Researcher, with Marlene Laruelle et al. (2024–2026).
- **Mapping Opportunities for Social Infrastructure of Russian Anti-War Migration in Latin America** — U.S. Russia Foundation (USRF), funded research project, Researcher, with Vladimir Rouvinski et al. (2024).

## Teaching and Guest Lectures

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- Guest lecture (co-led session), *Political Behavior* — Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence (2025). Topic: Gender inequalities in political participation. [\[Syllabus\]](#)
- Guest lecture, Summer School *GENDER-LIKBEZ 4.0* — European University at St. Petersburg (2023). Topic: Gender differences in political and civic activism among Russian migrants.

## Research Reports and Analytical Publications

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- *On the Move: Mobility, Integration, and Dynamics of Russian Emigration in 2022–2024*, with Emil Kamalov and Ivetta Sergeeva (2025).
- *From Russia to Latin America: Integration, Challenges, and Aspirations of Russian Post-2022 Emigrants*, with Emil Kamalov and Ivetta Sergeeva (2025).
- *Men’s Words, Women’s Work: Exploring the Reverse Gender Gap in Post-2022 Russian Emigration*. *Russian Analytical Digest* (2024).
- *Mapping and Gathering Russian Artists and Cultural Workers in Exile* (2024).
- *One and a Half Years Later: Progress and Barriers in the Integration of Russian Emigrants* (2024).
- ‘Great, Great Sorrow and Eternal Silence’: *An Experiment in Sociological Dream Interpretation after the 24th of February 2022*. *The February Journal* (2023).
- *How do you sleep during the war?* *Posle Media* (2023).
- *I had a dream about Putin. What war-time dreams tell us about reality*. *Republic* (2023, in Russian).

## Selected Academic Conferences

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- European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Thessaloniki (2025)
- ASEES Annual Convention (Boston 2024, Washington, DC 2025)
- Aleksanteri Conference, University of Helsinki (2023, 2024)
- Gens Conference: International Conference on Gender Studies (ISA / ESA / Italian SA), Stintino (2025)
- International Conference “(In)Visible Russian (Anti-)War Migration,” Warsaw (2024)
- International Conference “Problematising Migration: Mobility and Vulnerabilization in an Age of Inequalities,” Palermo (2023)

## Selected Workshops and Invited Talks

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- Gender, Peace and Security: Resistance and Resilience, BIEA Nairobi (2025)
- Mobility and Diversity: War-Induced Russian Migration since February 2022, ZOiS, Berlin (2025)

- Russia’s Outlook in the New Geopolitical Reality, Russia Expert Seminar, European University Institute (2025)
- Migration Working Group, European University Institute (2024)
- LCSR International Workshop “Recent Advances in Comparative Study of Values” (online, 2024)
- Cross-Border Voices: Emigration, Gender, and Activism after the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, ZOIS / EDRAM, Ilia State University, Tbilisi (2024)
- Cross-Border Repression and Solidarity among Russian Exiles, Riga (2024)
- Armenia in Focus: A Safer Haven for Russians — New Russian Exodus and Host Societies: Impacts and Responses, Yerevan State University, Yerevan (2024)

#### Academic Service

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- Ad hoc reviewer for *Problems of Post-Communism* (SSCI-indexed).
- Conference discussant: ASEEEES (2025); European Graduate Network (2024).

#### Public Outreach and Engagement

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- Media articles and op-eds on war, migration, and political activism, including *Posle Media* and *Republic* (2022–present).
- Invited speaker, Kovcheg Network (NGO supporting Russian emigrants): expert talks on Russian post-2022 emigration, mobility, and integration (2023–2025).
- Invited guest, podcasts and radio programs, including *Meduza* and SBS Russian Radio (2023–2025).
- Guest speaker, popular science lecture series on fiction and documentary film — cultural venue, Saint Petersburg, Russia (2022).

#### Skills

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- **Languages:** Russian (native), English (advanced), Italian (intermediate).
- **Methods:** multilevel modeling; panel data; survey and conjoint experiments; Blinder–Oaxaca decomposition; qualitative interviews.
- **Software:** R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Qualtrics, Git, MaxQDA.
- **Research practice:** reproducible research; open science and research data management (certified by Scuola Normale Superiore); intersectional feminist methodology; ethical research with human subjects (CITI certification)

*Updated: January 2026*