

Alexey Bessudnov

Contact

University of Exeter
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Career history

University of Exeter; Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy and Anthropology
Associate Professor (2021 – present)
Senior Lecturer (2017-21)
Lecturer (2014-17)

Deputy Head; Department of Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy and Anthropology (2023 – present)
Director of Education; Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology (2019-22)

National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia)
Assistant Professor of Sociology (2011-14)
European University Institute (Florence, Italy)
Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow (2010-11)

Education

DPhil, Sociology, 2005-11
St.Antony's College, University of Oxford
MA, Sociology, 2003-04
European University at St.Petersburg
Diploma, History, 1996-2003
St.Petersburg State University

Research areas

Ethnic groups and categories; immigration; inequalities in education; statistical methods in the social sciences; computational social science; Russia

Research funding

- 2016-19 “Ethnic groups in the Russian labour market”. PI (Co-I: Dr Andrey Shcherbak). British Academy, International Partnership and Mobility Scheme. £27,725.
- 2017-18 “Inclusion and the academisation of English secondary schools: Trends in the placements of pupils with significant SEN and those permanently excluded”. Co-I (PI: Dr Alison Black, Co-I: Professor Brahm Norwich). ESRC, Secondary Data Analysis Initiative. £221,712.
- 2015-17 “Evaluating an innovative classroom reading intervention in Years 2 and 3”. Co-I (PI: Professor Brahm Norwich). Nuffield Foundation. £439,765.

Publications

- Bessudnov, A. (2026). "Researching Russia with digital trace data". *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*. DOI.
- Kobak, D., Bessudnov, A., Ershov, A., Mikhailova, T., Raksha, A. (2025). "War fatalities in Russia in 2022-2023 estimated via excess male mortality". *Demography* 62(2): 335-347. DOI.
- Bessudnov, A. (2023). "Ethnic and regional inequalities in Russian military fatalities in Ukraine: Preliminary findings from crowdsourced data". *Demographic Research* 48 (31): 883-898. DOI
- Bessudnov, A. et al. (2023). "Predicting perceived ethnicity with data on personal names in Russia". *Journal of Computational Social Science* 6: 589-608. DOI
- Bessudnov, A., Monden, C. (2021). "Ethnic intermarriage in Russia: The tale of four cities". *Post-Soviet Affairs* 37(4): 383-403. DOI
- Koutsouris, G., Norwich, B., Bessudnov, A. (2021). "Interpreting RCT, process evaluation and case study evidence in evaluating the Integrated Group Reading (IGR) programme: a teacher-led, classroom-based intervention for Year 2 and 3 pupils struggling to read". *Educational Review* 73(3): 346-373. DOI
- Bessudnov, A., Shcherbak, A. (2020). "Ethnic discrimination in multi-ethnic societies: Evidence from Russia". *European Sociological Review* 36 (1): 104-120. DOI
- Liu, Y., Bessudnov, A., Black, A., Norwich, B. (2020). "School autonomy and educational inclusion of children with special needs: Evidence from England". *British Educational Research Journal* 46 (3): 532-552. DOI
- Black, A., Bessudnov, A., Liu, Y., Norwich, B. (2019). "Academisation of schools in England and placements of pupils with special educational needs: An analysis of trends, 2011-2017". *Frontiers in Education* 4:3. DOI
- Bessudnov, A., Kurakin, D., Malik, V. (2017). "The myth about universal higher education: Russian in the international context". *Educational Studies Moscow* 3: 83-109. DOI
- Bessudnov, A., Malik, V. (2016). "Socio-economic and gender inequalities in educational trajectories upon completion of lower secondary education in Russia". *Educational Studies Moscow* 1: 135-167. DOI
- Bessudnov, A. (2016). "Ethnic hierarchy and public attitudes towards immigrants in Russia". *European Sociological Review*. 32 (5): 567-580. DOI
- Bessudnov, A. (2016). "The effects of parental social background on labour market outcomes in Russia", in: *Education, Occupation and Social Origin: A Comparative Analysis of the Transmission of Socio-Economic Inequalities*, Eds. F.Bernardi and G.Ballarino. Edward Elgar, pp. 150-167.
- Bessudnov, A., Makarov, A. (2015). "School context and gender differences in mathematical performance among school graduates in Russia". *International Studies in Sociology of Education* 25 (1): 63-81. DOI
- Bessudnov, A., Guardianich, I., Marimon, R. (2015). "A statistical evaluation of the effects of a structured postdoctoral programme". *Studies in Higher Education* 40 (9): 1588-1604. DOI
- Yastrebov, G., Bessudnov, A., Pinskaya, M., Kosaretsky, S. (2013). "Contextualising academic performance in Russian schools: School characteristics, the composition of student body and local deprivation". *Educational Studies Moscow* 4: 188-246. DOI
- Bessudnov, A., McKee, M., Stuckler, D. (2012). "Inequalities in male mortality by occupational class, perceived status and education in Russia, 1994-2006". *European Journal of Public Health* 22(3): 332-337. DOI

Bessudnov, A. (2012). “A relational occupational scale for Russia”, in *Social Stratification: Trends and Processes*, Eds. R.Blackburn, R.Connelly, V.Gayle and P. Lambert. Ashgate, pp.53-68.

Conference presentations and talks

“Emigration from Russia in 2022-23: Estimates and predictors from a nationally representative panel survey”

Presented at: ECSR annual conference, Cologne (4 September 2025); MPIDR symposium, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock (1 July 2025)

“Ethnic and regional inequalities in Russian military fatalities in Ukraine”

Presented at: British Society for Population Studies conference (12 September 2023)

“Ethnic differences in reading and mathematical test performance in primary schools in England”

Presented at: Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, University of Exeter (26 October 2022); British Society for Population Studies conference (13 September 2023); ADR UK conference (16 November 2023)

“Trends in ethnic intermarriage in the UK”

Presented at: British Society for Population Studies conference (15 September 2020); the Understanding Society “People and Places” conference (5 April 2022)

“Ethnic groups in the Russian labour market” (with Andrey Shcherbak)

Presented at: “Ethnic inequality in the labour market” conference (Amsterdam, 28 September 2017); LCSR seminar (HSE St Petersburg, 25 January 2018); St Antony’s College Russian and Eurasian studies seminar (Oxford University, 19 February 2018); Southern Sociological Association meeting (New Orleans, 6 April 2018); HSE April conference (Moscow, 10 April 2018); American Sociological Association meeting (14 August 2018); King’s College London (1 October 2018); European Consortium for Sociological Research conference (29 October 2018)

“Social inequalities in higher education in Russia” (with Dmitry Kurakin and Valeriya Malik)

Presented at: Institute of Education seminar (HSE Moscow, 23 January 2018)

“Ethnic intermarriage and homogamy in Russia”

Presented at: University of Glasgow (2 November 2016)

“Public attitudes towards immigrants in the Russian regions”

Presented at: MWP conference, EUI (11 June 2014); St.Antony’s College, University of Oxford (4 November 2013)

“Unofficial payments in Russian regions: A multilevel analysis”

Presented at: ASEES 2015 convention (Philadelphia, 19 November 2015); Laboratory for Comparative Social Research conferences, HSE Moscow (26 November 2011, 26 April 2012, 10 November 2012); Havighurst Center conference, Miami University (26 March 2012); 13th HSE conference, Moscow (5 April 2012); RC02 meeting, Moscow (26 October 2012)

“Gender differences in mathematical performance in Russia”

Presented at: RC28 spring meeting, Hong Kong (11 May 2012); ASA Annual Meeting 2014 (San Francisco, August 2014)

“Inequality in educational returns in Russia”

Presented at: Workshop on educational inequalities, EUI, Florence (22 June 2012)

“A statistical evaluation of the Max Weber Postdoctoral Programme”

Presented at: MWP conference, EUI, Florence (13 June 2012)

“Inequalities in mortality by occupational class, perceived status, and education in Russia, 1994-2006”

Presented at: 3rd European Public Health Conference, Amsterdam (11 November 2010), EUI (23 November 2010, 9 June 2011)

“No country for old men”: Explaining the age-earnings profiles in Russia”

Presented at: ISA World Congress (16 July 2010), Oxford – Sciences Po Joint Doctoral Seminar (10 December 2009), Graduate Research in Progress Seminar, Department of Sociology, Oxford University (6 November 2009), Departmental Seminar, Department of Sociology, Higher School of Economics, Moscow (6 October 2009), RC28 Summer Meeting, Yale University (3-6 August 2009)

“Social class and informal employment contracts in post-Soviet Russia”

Presented at: 10th International Conference on Economic and Social Development, HSE, Moscow (7-9 April 2009), GSGP Spring Conference, Royal Holloway, University of London (2-5 April 2009), Interdisciplinary Seminar, Department of Political Science and Sociology, European University at St.Petersburg (12 March 2009)

“An occupational status scale for post-Soviet Russia”

Presented at: Joint Seminar of the Laboratory for Labour Market Research and Laboratory for Institutional Analysis, HSE, Moscow (13 October 2009), RC28 Spring Meeting, EUI (15-17 May 2008), 12th Annual Aage Sørensen Memorial Conference for Graduate Students in Sociology, Harvard University (10-11 April 2008)

Teaching

University of Exeter (2014 -): Immigration in Western Societies; Social Problems; Social Analysis; Data Analysis in Social Science 3; Introduction to Quantitative Research; Introduction to Social Data; Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis

Higher School of Economics (2011-14): Introduction to Sociology for Economists; Quantitative Data Analysis in Sociology; Regression Analysis

Professional memberships and responsibilities

Member of the Ethics committee for the College of Social Sciences and International Studies (2015-18)

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (2017)

Reviewer for the *American Sociological Review*, *European Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *International Migration Review*, *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies*, *Nationalities Papers*, *Nations and Nationalism*, *Migration Studies*, *British Educational Research Journal*, *Self and Identity*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Sociological Research Online*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Studies in Higher Education*, *Higher Education*, *Applied Economics Letters*, *European Journal of Health Economics*, *Demograficheskoe Obozrenie*, *Ekonomicheskaya Sotsiologiya*, *Sotsiologiya 4M*, *Voprosy Obrazovaniya*, *Sotsiologicheskiy Zhurnal*, Sage, Routledge, the ESRC.