

Kristina Butaeva

Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility,
Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, United States.

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Research Interests

Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Social Economics.

Topics: Inequality, Intergenerational Mobility.

Education

2021 **Ph.D.** in Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong.

Dissertation: “Three Essays on Income Inequality in China”.

2017 **Candidate of Science (Ph.D.)** in Economics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

Dissertation: “Income Inequality in Russia: A New Measurement Approach”.

2014 **M.A.**, *summa cum laude*, Economics, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Moscow, Russia.

2012 **B.Sc.**, *summa cum laude*, Economics, Voronezh State University, Voronezh, Russia.

Academic Employment

Dec 2022 - Present *Postdoctoral Scholar*, Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility, Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, United States.

Sep 2021 - Dec 2022 *Postdoctoral Scholar*, Greater Eurasia Research Center (GEAR), Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Hong Kong.

Jan 2018 - May 2018 *Research Fellow*, Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA), University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, United States.

Sep 2016 - Jan 2018 *Research Fellow*, International Laboratory of Cultural Diversity and Economic Development, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

Jan 2016 - Sep 2018 *Research Fellow*, Center for the Study of Diversity and Social Interactions (NES CSDSI), New Economic School, Moscow, Russia.

Working Papers

Butaeva, K. (2025). Income Inequality in China, 2012-2018: A New Measurement Approach.
[[SSRN](#) ].

- Butaeva, K.**, Chen, L., Durlauf, S. N., & Park, A. (2025). A Tale of Two Transitions: Mobility Dynamics in China and Russia after Central Planning. [[NBER](#) ↗].
- Butaeva, K.** & Park, A. (2025). Income Inequality in Chinese Provinces: The Role of Human Capital. [[SSRN](#) ↗].

Work in Progress

- Butaeva, K.** (to be submitted in 2025). Income Mobility and Public Goods: Evidence from Chinese Provinces.
- Butaeva, K.** & Durlauf, S. (to be submitted in 2025). Statistical Models of Intergenerational Mobility. In *Handbook of the Economics of Intergenerational Mobility* (Vol. 1).
- Butaeva, K.**, Durlauf, S., & Shapoval, A. (to be submitted in 2025). Intergenerational Mobility in Late Qing Dynasty (1783-1909): Evidence from Northeast China.
- Butaeva, K.** & Sha, W. (to be submitted in 2026). Wars and Nationalism in Russia.
- Wodtke, G., Wang, W., **Butaeva, K.**, & Durlauf, S. (to be submitted in 2026). Class Mobility in the Era of Rising Inequality: A Synthetic Dynasty Analysis.

Publications

Journal Articles

- Butaeva, K.**, Weber, S., & Davydov, D. V. (2018). Sports Mega Events Effectiveness Analysis: The Economists' View [in Russian]. *Voprosy Ekonomiki*, (7), 149–160. [[PDF](#) ↗].
- Butaeva, K.** (2017). Composite Semi-Parametric Model of Income Distribution in Russia [in Russian]. *Modern Economics: Problems and Solutions*, 5(89), 43–48. [[PDF](#) ↗].
- Butaeva, K.** (2017). Income Inequality as an Object of Economic Research in the Context of Analyzing the Standard of Living and Public Welfare [in Russian]. *Vestnik Tyumenskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta. Sotsial'no-ekonomicheskie i Pravovye Issledovaniya*, 3(3), 71–86. [[PDF](#) ↗].
- Butaeva, K.** (2016). Considering the Problem of Personal Income Distribution in Russia [in Russian]. *Living Standards of the Population in the Regions of Russia*, (2), 130–136. [[PDF](#) ↗].
- Butaeva, K.**, Weber, S., & Davydov, D. (2016). Language, Culture, Migration, and Conflicts: Projection into Economic Field [in Russian]. *Moscow State University Economics Bulletin*, 1(21), 3–21. [[PDF](#) ↗].

Research Reports

- Auzan, A., Avdienkova, M., Andreeva, D., Bakhtigaraeva, A., Bryzgalin, V., **Butaeva, K.**, Weber, S., Davydov, D., Zolotov, A., Nikitin, K., & Nikishina, E. (2017). Sociocultural Factors of Innovative Development and Successful Implementation of Reforms [in Russian]. *Moscow: Center for Strategic Research*. [[PDF](#) ↗].

Selected Conference Proceedings

- Butaeva, K.** (2015). Modeling Income Distribution Across Households: Enabling Comparative Analysis at the Regional Level [in Russian], In: *System Modeling of Social-Economic Processes: the Materials of 38th International Scientific School-Seminar / Ed. by V.G. Grebenikov, I.N. Shchepina*. Voronezh, Russia: Voronezh State Pedagogical University. 290–293. [[PDF ↗](#)].
- Butaeva, K.** (2014). Modelling of Russian Social Structure [in Russian], In: *Proceedings of the Fifth Interuniversity Round Table "The Russian Labor Market Through the Eyes of Young Scientists". IX Science Festival of Lomonosov Moscow State University. / Ed. by R.P. Kolosova*. Moscow, Russia: Lomonosov Moscow State University. 49–56. [[PDF ↗](#)].
- Butaeva, K.** & Bobkov, V. N. (2014). Developing a Combined Lognormal–Pareto Model to Predict the Material Wealth Structure of Russian Society [in Russian], In: *System Modeling of Social-Economic Processes: the Materials of 37th International Scientific School-Seminar / Ed. by V.G. Grebennikov, I.N. Shchepina*. Voronezh, Russia: Voronezh State Pedagogical University. 312–315. [[PDF ↗](#)].
- Butaeva, K.** & Smyshlyayev, V. A. (2011). The Financial Market and its Role in Forming the Financial Resources of the State and Economic Entities [in Russian], In: *Proceedings of the 5th International Scientific Conference: Current Economic and Socio-Political Issues in the Development of the Modern World and Russia*. Voronezh, Russia: Voronezh State University. 117–122.
- Butaeva, K.** & Kluchisheva, V. G. (2010). The Impact of State Social Programs on the Standard of Living in Russia [in Russian], In: *Proceedings of the 4th Russian Scientific Conference of Students and Young Scholars: Actual Problems of Socio-political Development of Russia and the World. / Ed. by T.N. Gogoleva*. Voronezh, Russia: Voronezh State University. 12–16.
- Butaeva, K.** & Smyshlyayev, V. A. (2010). The Impact of the Economic Crisis on the Standard of Living in Russia: Policy Intervention Measures [in Russian], In: *Proceedings of the Conference: Russia on the Way Out of the Economic Crisis / Ed. by V.V. Tumaleva*. Saint Petersburg, Russia: NOU VPO "Institute of Business; Law". 5–7.

Presentations

Talks

- Demography Workshop, University of Chicago (Chicago, November 13, 2025).
- The Inequality Workshop, University of Chicago (Chicago, May 2, 2025).
- Recent Advances in Inequality and Mobility Conference, University of Chicago (Chicago, October 18-19, 2024).
- Economics of Intergenerational Mobility Conference, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Chicago, August 28, 2024).
- Conference and Summer School on Socioeconomic Opportunity and Inequality, University of Chicago (Chicago, July 23, 2024).
- Demography Workshop, University of Chicago (Chicago, March 21, 2024).

- Applied Micro Seminar, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Hong Kong, November 2, 2021, and November 9, 2022).
- "The 2019 Gaidar Forum," organized by Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) (Moscow, Russia, January 2019).
- Russian Economic Challenge 2018, Carnegie Moscow Center in partnership with the Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO (Moscow, Russia, September 2018).
- International Conference "Economics. Literature. Language," Saint Petersburg State University (Saint Petersburg, June 2-4, 2018).
- 40th International Scientific School-Seminar "System Modeling of Social-Economic Processes" (Voronezh, Russia, September 2017).
- NES CSDSI Academic and Methodological Seminar "Contemporary Research on Diversity and Social Relations," University of Tyumen (Tyumen, Russia, June 2017).
- XVIII April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development, National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia, April 2017).
- International Scientific Conference of Students and Young Scientists "Lomonosov-2017," Moscow State University (Moscow, Russia, April 2017).
- NES CSDSI Winter School "Cultural Diversity and Income Inequality," Ural Federal University (Yekaterinburg, Russia, December 2016).
- NES CSDSI Academic and Methodological Seminar, Far Eastern Federal University (Vladivostok, Russia, November 2016).
- 39th International Scientific School-Seminar "System Modeling of Social-Economic Processes" (Saint-Petersburg, Russia, September 2016).
- NES CSDSI Summer School "Socio-cultural and Economic Development of Russian Regions: An East Vector," Siberian Federal University (Krasnoyarsk, Russia, July 2016).
- International Scientific Conference of Students and Young Scientists "Lomonosov-2016," Moscow State University (Moscow, Russia, April 2016).
- NES CSDSI Winter School "Culture, Regional Diversity, and Social Interactions" Far Eastern Federal University (Vladivostok, Russia, December 2015).
- XI International Conference "Russian Regions in the Focus of Changes," Ural Federal University (Yekaterinburg, Russia, November 2015).
- 38th International Scientific School-Seminar "System Modeling of Social-Economic Processes" (Kazan, Russia, September 2015).
- NES CSDSI Baikal Summer School "Culture, Institutions and Diversity" (Gremyachinsk, Russia, June 2014).

Posters

- SIOE 2016 - Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics, Sciences Po (Paris, France, June 2016).

Schools

- Summer School on Socioeconomic Opportunity and Inequality, Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality at the University of Chicago and the Yerevan Economic School (YES) in collaboration with the Central Bank of Armenia (Dilijan, Armenia, July 2025).
- NES-HCEO Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, New Economic School (Moscow, Russia, June 2019).
- Bonn-HCEO Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, University of Bonn (Bonn, Germany, August– September 2016).

Grants & Fellowships

Sep 2010 – Jan 2011 Voronezh State University Exchange Study Abroad Grant: Internship in the University of Tartu (*Tartu Ulikolli*), Tartu, Estonia.

Teaching

The University of Chicago

Spring 2025	Co-instructor together with Prof. Steven N. Durlauf and Prof. Geoffrey T. Wodtke, "The Inequality Working Group" Stone Center Research Seminar, [WEB ]
Spring 2025	Guest lecturer, Inequality: Theory, Methods, and Evidence (graduate), course instructor – Prof. Steven N. Durlauf (ECON 34930)

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

Fall 2020	TA, Understanding Society (undergraduate), course instructor – Prof. Julian McAllister Groves (SOSC 1850)
Fall 2019	TA, Social Science Research Design and Methods (graduate), course instructor – Prof. Jin Wang (SOSC 5110)
Spring 2019	TA, China's Economic Transformation (graduate), course instructor – Prof. Albert F. Park (SOSC 4260)

Academic Service

Journal Reviewer

2024 – present Sociological Methods and Research

Software

R, Stata, MATLAB, L^AT_EX.

Other Information

- *Language:* Russian – native; English – fluent.

References

Prof. Steven N. Durlauf
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