

# MJ (Maryana) Balezina

they/them

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## EDUCATION

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### Aarhus University

Aarhus, Denmark

*PhD in Political Science*

*Expected February 2026*

- Dissertation topic: Trans\* athlete inclusion: the public's views on discrimination and fairness
- Three-month research stay at Central European University; hosted by Prof. Dr. Erin Jenne
- Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Lars Thorup Larsen, lars@ps.au.dk; Dr. Nicholas Haas, nick.haas@ps.au.dk
- Affiliated with Centre for the Experimental-Philosophical Study of Discrimination (CEPDISC)

### Central European University

Vienna, Austria

*MA in Critical Gender Studies, with Merit*

*2021*

- GPA: 3.65
- Thesis topic: Multifaceted bisexual subjectivity: narratives of bisexuals from Moscow, Russia
- Supervisors: Dr. Eszter Timar, Dr. Hadley Z. Renkin

### HSE University

Moscow, Russia

*BA in Psychology*

*2019*

- GPA: 8.09 (max. 10.00)
- Thesis topic: Predictors for devaluation of women's bisexuality
- Minor in Sociology of culture
- State-funded student
- One semester at George Mason University, USA as part of a Study Abroad program
- Supervisor: Dr. Elena Agadullina, eagadullina@gmail.com

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Under review

- **Balezina M.** To each their sport: support for trans\* inclusion and fair play concerns. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*
- **Balezina M.** Trans\* politics. In Z. Lefkofridi (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Gender and Politics*. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd

### Published

- **Balezina M.**, Zakharova S. (2024). Measuring Attitudes Towards Rape in Russia: Translation and Validation of the Illinois Rape Myths Acceptance Scale. *Current Psychology*, doi: [10.1007/s12144-023-04666-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-023-04666-2)
- Agadullina E.R., Lovakov A.V., **Balezina M.**, Gulevich O. A. (2022). Ambivalent sexism and violence towards women: a meta-analysis. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, doi: [10.1002/ejsp.2855](https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2855)

### Pre-print

- **Balezina M.**, Agadullina E. (2022). Devaluation of women's bisexual identity: the role of gender, sexuality, and ambivalent sexism. WP BRP Series: Psychology. [Link to text](#)

### Manuscripts in progress

- **Balezina M.** Winners and losers of trans\* athlete inclusion: zero-sum views of sports policies
- **Balezina M.** Transgressing sex or gender? Support for trans inclusion in sports across two category frames

## TEACHING

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### Aarhus University

April 2024 – Present

*MA course instructor*

*Aarhus, Denmark*

- **LGBTQ+ Politics: Identity, Rights and Advocacy**

Elective course on critical policy analysis and queer history at the Political Science department, 10 ECTS

- **Critical Media Analysis - Inequalities, Power Dynamics, and Identity**

Elective course on critical humanities and how it relates to journalism at the ERASMUS Journalism, Media and Globalisation program, 10 ECTS

### HSE University

September 2021 – January 2023

*BA & MA course instructor*

*Moscow, Russia*

- **Social Psychology of Prejudice**

Elective MA course on discrimination and prejudice for non-Psychology major students

- **Social Psychology**

Mandatory BA introductory course at the Psychology department for second-year students

- **Psychology of Interpersonal Relationships**

Elective BA introductory course at the Psychology department for third-year students

*BA thesis supervisor*

- Effects of Gender-Neutral Language on Ostracism and Motivation
- Not So Different? The Perception of Bisexual and Homosexual People as Members of Separate Social Groups

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Research Assistant

September 2021 – January 2023

*HSE University, Social Inequality Lab*

*Moscow, Russia*

- Leading two student research groups
- Creating questionnaires and overseeing data collection
- Conducting quantitative data analysis in R (CFA, SEM)
- Preparing manuscripts for publication

### Business Analyst

November 2021 – January 2023

*ECOPSY Consulting*

*Moscow, Russia*

- Preparing and uploading questionnaires
- Conducting quantitative (descriptive statistics, factor analysis) and qualitative (content analysis) data analysis in R and Excel
- Visualizing and interpreting results for client reports
- Providing survey support and client communication

## METHODS TRAINING

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### Selected quantitative methodologies

- Survey Experiments  
Training received at MethodsNet 2025 Summer School, *Designing Survey Experiments* course, taught by Dr. Christopher Wratil
- Measurement Validation  
Full procedural cycle: translation, EFA/CFA, Multi-level CFA, battery dissemination
- Quantitative Text Analysis  
Automatic parsing, DTM; word embeddings, topic modeling

### Selected qualitative methodologies

- Semi-structured Interviews
- Foucauldian Discourse Analysis
- Critical Policy Analysis

### Technical skills

- Data analysis and visualization in R
- Quantitative text analysis in Python
- Database management in SQL
- Other proficiencies: Excel, LaTeX

## CONFERENCES & SCHOOLS

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### Selected conferences

- European Conference on Politics and Gender 2024, Ghent, Belgium  
Two paper presentations: *Anti-Trans\* Bills: Investigating Sports Bans* and *Fair and/but discriminatory? A case of trans\* athletes*
- The Italian Political Science Association Conference (SISP) 2023, Genoa, Italy  
Paper presentation: *Moral foundations in political debates on transgender laws: a comparative analysis of the US Senate and UK House of Commons*
- 17th European Congress of Psychology, 2022, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Online paper presentation: *People without rights: the role of dehumanization and threat in discrimination of homosexual individuals*

### Schools

- Leadership Skills for Female Early-Career Researchers, 2022, University of York, UK  
Two-week online course on academic leadership for Russian scholars sponsored by The Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy in Moscow
- Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion, 2020, Free University, Russia  
Six-week online course for selected students on theoretical and methodological approaches to DEI practices in academia and business

## SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

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### Peer reviewing

Since 2024

- Current Psychology

### Organizing academic events

Since 2022

- Conference panel at the European Conference on Politics and Gender 2024  
Co-organizing two panels titled *Investigating Representation with QTA* and *Quantitative Text Analysis in Gender Representation: Methodological Insights from Parliamentary Speeches*
- Summer School *Academic skills for students in humanities* at Letnyaa Shkola 2022  
Co-organizing one-week summer school for young scholars in humanities and social sciences; conducting six reading seminars on decolonial knowledge production for students of various academic backgrounds

### Invited talks

Since 2023

- *Gender Inequality*  
Aarhus University, Social Psychology of Inequality: Emotions, Relationships, and Groups
- *Trans\* Legislation and Gender Fears*  
HSE University, Gender Studies Minor
- *'Tolerant' West and 'Backward' East: How the EU is (not) Helping in the Fight Against Sexual Inequality in CEE*  
HSE University, open lecture by Social Inequality Lab