

Natalia Forrat

Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies
University of Michigan

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Education

- 2017 PhD in Sociology, Northwestern University, USA
- 2008 MA in Higher Education, University of Michigan, USA
- 2002 Diploma in Sociology (with honors), Tomsk State University, Russia

Academic Positions

- 2020 – present Visiting Research Associate, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan, USA
- 2017 – present Research Affiliate, The Governance Project, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, USA
- 2018 – 20 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan, USA
- 2017 – 18 Postdoctoral Visiting Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, USA
- 2016 – 17 Pre-doctoral Fellow, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Stanford University, USA
- 2002 – 06 Assistant Lecturer to Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Tomsk State University, Russia

Articles, Book Chapters, and Working Papers

- 2021 Forrat, N. "Clientelism or Solidarity? The Social Basis of Authoritarian Power in Russia" (working paper).
- 2018 Forrat, N. "Shock-Resistant Authoritarianism: Schoolteachers and Infrastructural State Capacity in Putin's Russia." *Comparative Politics*. 50 (3): 417-449.
- 2016 Forrat, N. "The Political Economy of Russian Higher Education: Why Does Putin Support Research Universities?" *Post-Soviet Affairs* 32 (4): 299–337.
 - Forrat, N. "A Response to Igor Chirikov." *Post-Soviet Affairs* 32 (4): 345–349. (a response to a critique by another researcher)

Book Project

(under review) *The Social Roots of Authoritarian Power: State-Society Relations and the Political Machines in the Russian Regions*

Other Academic Publications

(in progress) Forrat, N. Compliance with the State and Civil Society. In *Russian Politics Today: Stability and Fragility*, ed. Susanne A. Wengle (textbook under contract at Cambridge University Press)

2021 Forrat, N. (book review) Karrie J. Koesel, Valerie Bunce, and Jessica Chen Weiss, Eds. *Citizens and the State in Authoritarian Regimes: Comparing China and Russia*. *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 26(1), 269-270. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11366-020-09701-8>

2009 Forrat, N. Problema kachestva vysshego obrazovaniia: mirovye vyzovy i ikh rossiiskie transformatsii [The Problem of Educational Quality: Worldwide Challenges and their Russian Transformations], *Voprosy obrazovaniia [Educational Issues]*, 2, 121-138. (In Russian)

- *Best Article Award*, Competition for Young Scholars, Journal “*Voprosy obrazovaniia*” (*Educational Issues*) published by the State University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

2008 Forrat, N., Kosmarski, A. Professional Careers of Young Scholars in Russian Regions: Institutional Conditions and Personal Strategies. In Tom Claes, Frank McMahon and David Preston (Eds.), *Education and Leadership*. Rodopi: Amsterdam / New York, NY. Pp. 327-352.

2007 Forrat, N. Prepodavanie v vuse v kontekste professional’nykh strategii molodykh uchenykh [Teaching in Higher Education Institution in the Context of Young Scholars’ Professional Strategies]. In E. Iarskaia-Smirnova and P. Romanov (Eds.), *Professii.doc. Sotsial’nye transformatsii professionalizma: vzgliady snaruzhi, vzgliady iznutri* (pp. 280-294). Moscow: OOO Variant Press; Center for Social Policy and Gender Studies. (In Russian)

2005 Forrat, N. Professional’naia avtobiographiia: sposoby samoprezentatsii molodykh uchenykh [Professional Autobiography: the Ways of Self-Presentation by Young Scholars], *The Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology*, 1(30), vol. VIII, 113-127. (In Russian)

Media Publications

2020 Forrat, N. Russia: deans are elected, directors are appointed [Rossiia: dekanov—vybiraiut, direktorov—naznachaiut], *Eurasianet.org*, May 29. (in Russian)

2019 Forrat, N. How Russian university administrations were tamed by the state, *Riddle.ru*, December 13.

2019 Forrat, N. Falsifiers by Instruction: How Schoolteachers Became the Kremlin’s Electoral Pillar [Fal’sificatory po Ukazke: Kak Uchitelei Sdelali Elektoral’noi Oporoi Kremliia], *Republic.ru*, January 19. (in Russian)

Research Interests

Comparative politics, comparative-historical sociology, political regimes, state capacity, state-society relations, the social roots of authoritarianism, public policy, development, civil society, social movements, and post-communist countries.

External Grants, Fellowships and Awards

- 2016 Semi-finalist for the *Academy Scholars Program*, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies (top 35 out of 1193 applicants)
- 2016 *Pre-doctoral fellowship* (\$30,000), Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University
- 2011 – 13 *Global Supplementary Grant Program* (\$12,000), Open Society Institute
- 2008 *Best Article Award*, Competition for young scholars, Journal “*Voprosy obrazovaniya*” (*Educational Issues*) published by the State University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia
- 2006 – 08 *Fulbright Graduate Student Grant* (~\$90,000) for Master’s degree study at the University of Michigan
- 2004 – 07 *Ford Foundation Institutional Grant* (\$262,000) to the ERC “Con-text” for the Academic Community Project (roles – director of research program; principal investigator in a research project)
- 2003 *Ford Foundation Research Grant* (\$1,700), for the project “Professional Autobiography: the Ways of Self-Presentation among Younger Scholars”
- 2003 *Open Society Institute Grant* (tuition, travel, and living expenses), for participation in the Summer University program (Central European University, Budapest, Hungary)

Invited Talks

- 2021 *United by the State: The Social Roots of Authoritarian Power in Russia*, Russian and East European Studies workshop, University of Oxford
- 2021 *The Civic and the Political: The Social Roots of Authoritarian Power in Russia*, Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies Workshop, Northwestern University
- 2020 *Putin and Putinism*, online interview with Kathryn Stoner and Natalia Forrat, *Re-Imagining Russia* lecture series to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University, Ohio
- 2020 *Flashpoint: Belarus*, Panel organized by the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan
- 2019 *Solidarity Authoritarianism: State-Society Relations and the Political Regime in Russia*, Department of Sociology, Western Michigan University
- 2018 *People’s Movement in Support of the State: Pensioners’ Organizations in Russia*, Russian Studies Workshop and the Department of Sociology, Indiana University

- 2015 *Shock-Resistant Authoritarianism: Schoolteachers as Infrastructural State Capacity in Putin's Russia*, Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2014 *Shock-Resistant Authoritarianism: Teachers and Regime's Electoral Support in Putin's Russia*, Bose Speaker Series, Department of Political Science and Theory Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Iowa
- 2013 *Why Do We Need a Theory of Authoritarian Social Policy in Comparative Research?* Center for Welfare State Research, the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

Recent Conference Papers and Panel Participation

- 2021 *United by the State: The Social Roots of Authoritarian Power in Russia*. Presented at the SPSA meeting and the Wisconsin Russia Project Conference
- 2020 *Conducting Research on Civil Society and Subnational Politics in Russia's Provinces: Recent Experiences in the Field*. Panel member, ASEES Convention
- 2019 *People and the State: Support and Resistance in Russian Authoritarianism*. Roundtable member, ASEES Convention
- 2019 *People's Movement in Support of the State: Pensioners' Organizations in Russia*. Presented at the MPSA meeting
- 2018 *Clientelism or Solidarity? The Popular Basis of Political Power in Russia*. Presented at the ASEES Convention
- 2018 *The Infrastructure of Authoritarianism: State-Society Relationships and Regime Resilience in Putin's Russia*. Presented at the Southern Political Science Association meeting
- 2017 *The Case of Kemerovo: How to Build a Strong Subnational Autocracy through Social Organizations and Little Coercion*. Presented at the meetings of MPSA, APSA, and ASEES
- 2016 *Shock-Resistant Authoritarianism: Schoolteachers and Infrastructural State Capacity in Putin's Russia*. Presented at the meetings of APSA and ASEES
- 2016 *The State that Betrays the Trust: Community Centers in a Russian Region as a political Tool of a Local Autocrat*. Presented at the ASA mini-conference "Can Comparative Historical Sociology Save the World?", Seattle, WA and the meetings of APSA and SSHA
- 2015 *Why Does Putin Support Research Universities?* Presented at the SSHA meeting
- 2015 *Shock-Resistant Authoritarianism: Teachers and Regime's Electoral Support in Putin's Russia*. Presented at the meetings of MPSA, APSA, and ASEES
- 2013 *Why Do We Need a Theory of Authoritarian Social Policy in Comparative Research?* Presented at meetings of APSA and the European Network for Social Policy Analysis (Poznan, Poland)

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate courses

- Capstone Research Seminar “Public Goods in a Global Perspective” (Northwestern University, International Studies Program, 2014-16)
- Linear Regression Analysis (Tomsk State University, 2013)
- Measurement Scales in Sociological Surveys (Tomsk State University, 2005)
- History of Sociology (seminars) (Tomsk State University, 2002-06)
- Introduction to Sociology (Tomsk State University, 2004)

Teaching Assistantships at Northwestern University

Analysis and Interpretation of Social Data; Work and Occupations: Focus on Gender; Youth and Society; Sociology of Rational Decision-Making; Economy and Society, Revolutions and Social Change; Introduction to Sociology

Service

Institutional Service

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| 2019 | Selection Committee for the Postdoctoral Fellowship, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan |
| 2018 | Selection Committee for International Scholars Program, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame |
| 2014 | Student Representative, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University |
| 2010 – 11 | Graduate Student Coordinator, Comparative-Historical Workshop, Roberta Buffet Center for International and Comparative Studies, Northwestern University |
| 2005 – 06 | Initiator and leader, Youth Editorial Board of the Annual Student Articles Collection, Faculty of Philosophy, Tomsk State University |

Professional Service

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| 2020 | Newsletter Guest Editor (Vol. 18(2)), Democracy and Autocracy Section, American Political Science Association. |
| 2016 | Policy Brief Series editor, Comparative and Historical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association. |
| 2013 – 16 | Organizer, Working Group “Social Policy in Non-Democracies”, American Political Science Association |
| 2007 – 08 | Outreach Committee member and Campus Liaison, American Educational Research Association Graduate Student Council |
| 2002 | Editorial board member, Almanac of the School of Younger Author, Educational Research and Publishing Center “Vestnik Evrasii” with the financial support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation |

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| <i>Reviewer</i> | American Journal of Sociology, Sociological Methodology, Comparative Politics, Journal of Politics, Journal of Eurasian Studies, Post-Communist Economies, Post-Soviet Affairs, Europe-Asia Studies |
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Other Scholarly and Professional Activities

Research Assistance, Applied Research, and Paid Consulting (field organizer and analyst)

- 2015 *Social Policy in the Russian Federation: Directions, Policy Processes, Outcomes, Prospects* part of the project “New Directions in Social Policy: Alternatives from and for the Global South”, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Prof. Linda J. Cook, Department of Political Science, Brown University
- 2008 – 09 Research Associate at Survey Sciences Group, LLC; worked on the Postdoc Data Project (client – the National Science Foundation; contractor – Survey Sciences Group, LLC)
- 2008 *Religion and Nationalism in Russia*
Prof. Genevieve Zubrzycki, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan
- 2007 *Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education*
Prof. Patricia King, School of Education, University of Michigan
- 2006 *Faculty Perceptions of Intercollegiate Athletics Survey*
Prof. Janet Lawrence, School of Education, University of Michigan
- 2000 – 06 Research for Youth Policy Department of Seversk Municipal Administration, Seversk Committee of Representatives, Administration of Tomsk region, Tomsk Polytechnic University and other public and private organizations
- 1999 – 2004 Electoral public opinion polls (personal and phone interviews, focus-groups, exit polls)

References

- Ann Orloff Professor of Sociology and Political Science (Courtesy Appt.),
Northwestern University, a-orloff@northwestern.edu
- Bruce Carruthers Professor of Sociology, Director, Buffett Institute for Global Studies,
Northwestern University, b-carruthers@northwestern.edu
- Linda J. Cook Professor of Political Science and Slavic Studies (Courtesy Appt.),
Brown University, Linda_Cook@brown.edu
- Dan Slater Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professor of Emerging Democracies and Weiser Center
for Emerging Democracies Director; Professor of Political Science,
University of Michigan, dnsltr@umich.edu
- Francis Fukuyama Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International
Studies (FSI), Mosbacher Director of FSI's Center on Democracy, Development,
and the Rule of Law, Professor of Political Science (Courtesy Appt.),
Stanford University, ffukuyam@stanford.edu
- Kathryn Stoner Deputy Director, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies,
Deputy Director of the Ford Dorsey Program in International Policy Studies,
Senior Fellow, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law,
Stanford University, kstoner@stanford.edu
- Theodore P. Gerber Professor of Sociology,
University of Wisconsin-Madison, tgerber@ssc.wisc.edu