

## OUR AUTHORS

**Art Leete** is Professor of Ethnology at the University of Tartu, Estonia. His research focuses on the history of ethnographic descriptions, religious changes, and hunting among the Uralic peoples. He has conducted fieldwork in the Russian North and Siberia since the early 1990s.

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**Aimar Ventsel**, PhD, works at the Department of Ethnology at the University of Tartu, Estonia, as a senior researcher. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in Eastern Siberia, studying property relations, local music business, and identity processes. In recent years he has focused on regional policy, language processes, and identity building in Russian 'ethnic' regions. His second field site is Eastern Germany, where he has been engaged with punk and skinhead subculture.

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**Tatiana Argounova-Low** is a lecturer in anthropology at the University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom. With a general interest in Siberia, her publications focus on native communities in Sakha (Yakutia), with a specific interest in contemporary social issues in the area, urban migration, transport, and mobility. Her most recent projects deal with roads, exploring various aspects surrounding roads, and travelling along them.

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**Platon Sleptsov** is a lecturer at the Institute of Language and Culture of the North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk, Russia. His primary interests lie in history, national culture, historical and contemporary family, and marriage issues.

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**Kirill Istomin** is a senior researcher at the Institute of Language, Literature and History, Komi Science Centre, RAS (Syktyvkar, Komi Republic, Russia). His scientific interests include history, ecology, and techniques of reindeer herding in the Arctic, specific traits of reindeer herders' cognition and psychology (particularly their spatial adaptation skills), and cultural variations in the human-animal interaction. He has also published extensively on the problem of alcoholism and suicides among native northerners.

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**Joachim Otto Habeck** is Professor at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Hamburg, Germany. Earlier (2003–2014) he worked as coordinator of the Siberian Studies Centre at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle. He has published on reindeer husbandry and sedentarisation in the Far North of Russia, vernacular notions of culture, and cultural centres in provincial Russia, as well as diverse aspects of identity in post-socialist settings.

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**Laura Siragusa** is a research fellow in anthropology at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, where she is affiliated to the ERC-funded Arctic Domus project. Her research focuses on ways of speaking among Veps, a Finno-Ugric minority based in north-western Russia. After investigating oral practices for healing purposes, she is now working on verbal and non-verbal communicative practices among human and non-human animals.

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**Stephan Dudeck** is an anthropologist working at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland as a member of the ORHELIA (Oral History of Empires by Elders in the Arctic) project that collects stories from indigenous groups of the Barents region. He finished his dissertation on the persistence of reindeer herders' lifestyles in Western Siberia at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany, in 2011. From 1993 to the present, he has regularly visited Khanty and Nenets reindeer herders in the Russian North and Siberia. Among his interests are adaptations to technological change, visual cultures, resistance, and practices of avoidance.

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**Eleanor Peers** is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. She has recently started work on an AHRC-funded project on narrative objects, museum work, and memory in Sakha (Yakutia). Her research over the past five years has focused on the Sakha shamanic revival, and has been supported by the Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology.

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**Stepan Kolodeznikov** is a lecturer at the Institute of Northern Languages and Cultures at the North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk, Russia. His research interests encompass Sakha literature, culture, and language, in addition to pedagogical methodologies.

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**Ivan Gololobov** is an associate research fellow at the Department of Sociology, University of Warwick, Coventry, England. He received his PhD at the Department of Government, University of Essex. His research interests include Russian studies, with a focus on post-Soviet Russia; qualitative methods of sociological research; social theory, and in particular, everything related to the role of language and communication in social and

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**Natalia Struchkova**, historian, PhD, is Dean of the Historical Department at the North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk, Russia, and professor of the Faculty of World History and Anthropology at the same university. She is interested in ritual practices of the indigenous people of Russian Far East, kinetics of Sakha ritual dances, adaption of traditional Sakha rituals to modern society, and Sakha identity.

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**Laur Vallikivi** received his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2011 and is currently a senior researcher at the Department of Ethnology, University of Tartu. His main geographical area of interest is the Russian Arctic, especially the tundra of the nomadic Nenets reindeer herders, where he has carried out extensive fieldwork. His research focuses on religious conversion, post-socialist change, language ideologies, and personhood.

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