

Oleg KOBZEFF

Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society; Assistant Professor, American University of Paris
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Education & Background

Ph.D., 1985, East-European studies, University of Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1); thesis: *Russian Colonization in North America in the 18th & 19th centuries* (obtained "mention Très Bien"—equivalent of *summa cum laude*)

Dual citizen of USA and European Union (France).

- Fluent speaker of Russian, English, French, (triple mother tongues) and Italian
- Reading knowledge of German, and several Slavic languages

Fields of Expertise

Regions studied (deep immersion field experience)

- St. Petersburg and Carelia
- Russian, frontiers and borders: Finland, Alaska, Ukraine
- Nordic and Arctic regions
- Mordova Autonomous Republic
- Ukraine
- Black Sea
- Brittany
- The Alps
- Paris

Research interests

- Russian, French and Anglo-Saxon history of social sciences (particularly geography and anthropology)
- Ethnic and religious diversity, identities
- Geopolitics of extreme environments (marine, polar, air & space)
- Geopolitics of the environment
- Human rights

Academic Positions

- 1993 - present: The American University of Paris, Assistant Professor of Central & Eastern European affairs, history, and political geography (adjunct until 2008)
- 2000 - 2007: [American Graduate School of International Affairs and Diplomacy](#), Paris campus of Arcadia University, Associate Professor of international relations
- 2003 - 2005: Parsons School of Design, (Paris campus), lecturer
- 1995 - 1999: Collège de France, Researcher (assistant to Professor [François-Xavier Coquin](#)).
- 1992 - 1995: University of Panthéon-Sorbonne, Department of Slavic History: Post-graduate T.A.
- 1988 - 1991: [Gogol Library](#) (founded 1902, now part of the "Fondo Slavo" of the Italian National library), Rome, Italy: Acting Head Curator.
- Teacher of social studies and Russian, [Saint Stephen's School](#), Rome and [Castelli International School](#), Grottaferrata
- 1985 - 1988: Co-founding director, Veniaminov Museum (ethno-historical museum), Kodiak, Alaska
- Professor, St. Herman Seminary, Kodiak, Alaska (local Native American private college supported by tribal corporations — see [Smithsonian Institution webpage](#)).

Curriculum development

- Reintroduced geography into the curriculum of the American U. of Paris after 20 years of interruption
- introduced environmental studies ahead of the university's specialization in this field
- Participated in the elaboration of the environmental studies minor

- Created five new courses at the American University of Paris ("Waters of the Globe", "The Arctic regions: culture, environment and geopolitics", "Geopolitics of the Mediterranean", "French geopolitics", "A World Changing Too Rapidly? Culture and International Politics")
- Created two new courses at Parsons school of Design ("science and creativity" and "From Eisenstein to Pavel Lungin: cinema and politics")

other courses taught

American University of Paris

1. Politics of Central & Eastern Europe (upper-level, taught from 1993 to 2007 every 2 years)
2. Russian foreign policy (upper-level, taught in 1990s)
3. Politics of Human Rights (upper-level, taught since 1994 every year)
4. Political ideologies (temporary replacement)
5. introductory course to economic and geopolitical history (taught from 2000 to 2007 tous les semestres)
6. Introduction to international relations (intermediary-level, taught occasionally)
7. History of Paris (taught in 2000)
8. Introduction to World History (introductory-level, taught from 2000 to 2003)

Université de Paris XI, Faculté de Droit Jean Monnet (M.A. program in international relations)

9. French foreign policy (temporary replacement, 2007)

American Graduate School of International Affairs and Diplomacy, Paris (Arcadia University, partner de l'Université de Paris XI)

10. Geostrategy and geopolitics (de 2000 to 2007 every year)
11. Seminar on current events (from 2000 to 2007 every 18 months)
12. Origins of global conflict (from 2000 to 2007 every 18 months)

ISIT - Institut Supérieur d'Interprétariat et de Traduction, Paris

13. Geopolitics of the United States – Level 1 (two-semester course taught in 2011-2012)
14. Geopolitics of the United States – Level 2 (two-semester course taught in 2011-2012)
15. Geopolitics of the UK – Level 2 (two-semester course taught in 2011-2012)
16. Geopolitics of the UK – Level 2 (two-semester course taught in 2011-2012)

ILERI - Institut Libre d'Etudes des Relations Internationales, Paris

17. History of political ideas – Level 1 (Spring 2013)

Parsons School of Design, Paris campus

18. Senior seminar on the methodology of cultural studies

Part-time assignments (as interpreter)

- U.S. National Parks Service;
- U.S. Fish & Game Service;
- Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (Franco-Soviet joint space programs)
 - o signature of international COSPAS-SARSAT treaty (worldwide search and rescue system)
 - o Venus-Haley exploration mission
 - o Data transmission negotiations
 - o Negotiations on joint satellite projects between Soviet Vice-Minister of Telecommunications and Director of Satellite division of France-Télécom
- UNESCO
- TF1 (French 1st national TV channel)

Publishing record

Editorial positions

- **publisher**, assistant éditeur, columnist, *The Kodiak Fisherman* - regional monthly 36-page magazine (tabloid format) ; circulation : 4000, 40% advertisement
- co-editor, Hall Gardner & Oleg Kobtzeff, eds., *The Ashgate Research Companion to War*, Farnham: Ashgate: London, 2012
- Assistant editor, Gardner, Hall, (ed.), *Central and South-central Europe in Transition*, Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2000.
- Faculty Supervisor, *Scripta Politica et Economica*, American University of Paris scholarly faculty-student publication
- creator of *Nature & Cultures*, quarterly educational magazine (geography, environnement, ethnography, history) : www.natureandcultures.org
- Member of board of editors for *Boréales* (pluri-disciplinary academic journal on Nordic studies), French Center for Nordic Studies, [Journal of Eurasian Politics & Society](http://JournalofEurasianPoliticsandSociety)
- Reviewer for *Inter-Nord*, *Alaskan History*, *Revue d'Etudes Slaves*
- Credited consultant for William W. Fitzhugh and Aron Cromwell, *Crossroads of Continents*, Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1988

Monographs

1. *La Colonization russe en Amérique du Nord: 18 - 19 ème siècles (Russian Colonization in North-America, 18th-19th Centuries)* Paris, University of Panthéon- Sorbonne, 1985, xxxvi + 585 pages + Illus. + Maps. New revised and augmented edition in English in preparation for release in 2014.
2. *Beginning Russian*. Barron's, N.Y., 1996; also published in Finnish, Spanish and 4 French editions—3rd edition Initiation: russe—on Amazon.fr bestselling list for several months in 2003-2004, N°6 of all books on tape).

Articles in peer-reviewed publications :

1. "Kodiak: île américaine, île russe », in Catherine Géry & Dominique Samson, eds., *Mélanges en l'honneur d'Anne-Victoire Charrin*, Paris: Institut des Langues Orientales, (to be released in late 2013).
2. « Pour le monde mais pas de ce monde: un homme simple dans un monde compliqué », in *La joie du Royaume, Actes du colloque International l'héritage du père Alexandre Schmemmann (Paris 11-14 décembre 2008)*, sous la direction de André Lossky, Cyrille Sollogoub et Daniel Struve, Paris: YMCA Press, 2012, pp. 34-38
3. « [Gwenn A. Miller: Kodiak Kreol](#) », *Cahiers du monde russe* [En ligne], 51/4 | 2010
4. « General Introduction. Polemology » (co-authored with Hall Gardner), in Hall Gardner & Oleg Kobtzeff, eds., *The Ashgate Research Companion to War*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2012, pp. 1-31
5. " Age of Progress or 'Age of Extremes'? The Escalation of Warfare in Modern Times and the Nature of its Mutation", in Hall Gardner & Oleg Kobtzeff, eds., *The Ashgate Research Companion to War*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2012, pp. 99-130
6. « Time of Troubles: War in an Age of Planetary Upheaval, From the End of the Middle Ages to 1648 » in Hall Gardner & Oleg Kobtzeff, eds., *The Ashgate Research Companion to War*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2012, pp. 229-250
7. « Totalitarian Times—Total War, Global War: the Roots of World War II and the Nature of the Conflict », in Hall Gardner & Oleg Kobtzeff, eds., *The Ashgate Research Companion to War*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2012 , pp. 337-370
8. " Belgrade, Moscow and Washington in the War of Kosovo: Dispelling the 'Clash of Civilizations' Myth", in Hall Gardner & Oleg Kobtzeff, eds., *The Ashgate Research Companion to War*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2012, pp. 433-442

9. "Espaces et cultures du Bassin de la Neva : représentations mythiques et réalités géopolitiques, in Walter Zidaric, ed., *Saint-Petersbourg : 1703-2003, Actes du Colloque international, Université de Nantes, mai 2003*, Nantes : Centre de Recherches sur les Identités Nationales et l'Interculturalité, , 2004,
10. "Environmental Security and Civil Society", in- Gardner, Hall, ed., *Central and South-central Europe in Transition*, Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2000, pp. 219-296.
11. "Au-delà de la Sibérie: l'Eglise Orthodoxe et les Indigènes de l'Alaska" (Beyond Siberia : The Orthodox Church and the Indigenous People of Alaska), in - Chichlo, Boris, ed., *Sibérie II*, Paris: Institut des Etudes Slaves, 1999, pp. 133-148
12. "The Forgotten Religion: the Geopolitics of the Orthodox world", *Scripta Politica et Economica*, vol. XIII, N° 1, November 1996, pp. 10-11, 26.
13. "Dwindling democracy (The Russian presidential election)", *Scripta Politica et Economica*, vol. XII, N° 3, March 1996, pp. 7-9.
14. "L'Evêque et le chamane" (The Bishop and the Shaman), in - Charrin-Pochtar, Anne-Victoire, (ed.), *Les Sibériens*, special issue N° 78 of *Autrement*, Paris, 1995, pp. 80-93.
15. "Map of Russian America in the 1800s", *Alaska Magazine*, October 1988, vol. 54, N° 10, pp. 20-21 (first complete map of Russian colonies in 19th century N. America).
16. "Ruling Siberia: the imperial power, the Orthodox Church and the Native people", *Siberica*, British Siberian Studies Seminar, vol. II, 1984, pp. 6-15. (favorably reviewed by David Collins in *Siberia: A Select, Annotated Bibliography of English Language Works Relating to Siberia and the Soviet Far East*, Oxford, Denver, Santa Barbara: Clio Press, 1991).
17. "La Colonisation russe en Amérique du Nord : 18-19^{ème} siècles", *Boréales*, N° 36-37, 1985, pp. 75-78.
18. "Environmental Security and Civil Society", in- Gardner, Hall, ed., *Central and South-central Europe in Transition*, Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2000, pp. 219-296. Favorably reviewed in Marek Payerhin, *Transitions and Environment in Poland*", *An Annotated Bibliography for the Post-Secondary Curriculum Development Project prepared for the University of Michigan's Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies* (<http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/crees/pdf/Payerhin1.pdf>).
19. "Au-delà de la Sibérie: l'Eglise Orthodoxe et les Indigènes de l'Alaska" (Beyond Siberia : The Orthodox Church and the Indigenous People of Alaska), in - Chichlo, Boris, ed., *Sibérie II*, Paris: Institut des Etudes Slaves, 1999, pp. 133-148 favorably reviewed in James Forsyth, Reviewed work(s): *Siberie II: Questions siberiennes: Histoire, cultures, litterature* by Boris Chichlo, *Slavic Review*, Vol. 59, No. 3 (Autumn, 2000), pp. 660-661. Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2697366661>: "one of the most interesting essays [of the volume]".
20. "Holocauste en URSS: un héritage sanglant", *Enquête sur l'Histoire*, N° 22, Août-Sept., 1997, pp. 14-17.
21. "The Forgotten Religion: the Geopolitics of the Orthodox world", *Scripta Politica et Economica*, vol. XIII, N° 1, November 1996, pp. 10-11, 26.
22. "Dwindling democracy (The Russian presidential election)", *Scripta Politica et Economica*, vol. XII, N° 3, March 1996, pp. 7-9.
23. "L'Evêque et le chamane" (The Bishop and the Shaman), in - Charrin-Pochtar, Anne-Victoire, (Ed.), *Les Sibériens*, special issue N° 78 of *Autrement*, Paris, 1995, pp. 80-93.
24. "Les Chiffres du Goulag. Un révisionnisme rampant", *Enquête sur l'Histoire*, N° 9, Août-Sept., 1994, pp. 46-48.
25. "Ruling Siberia: the imperial power, the Orthodox Church and the Native people", *Siberica*, British Siberian Studies Seminar, vol. II, 1984, pp. 6-15. (favorably reviewed by David Collins in *Siberia (A Select, Annotated Bibliography of English Language Works Relating to Siberia and the Soviet Far East)*, Oxford, Denver, Santa Barbara: Clio Press, 1991.
26. "La Colonisation russe en Amérique du Nord : 18-19^{ème} siècles", *Boréales*, N° 36-37, 1985, pp. 75-78.

Manuscripts submitted to peer-reviewed journals :

27. "From the shores of America to the shores of the Baltic: the extreme frontiers of Russia"
28. " 'Créoles'. From the Gulf of Mexico to Far North Pacific: the Surprising Migration of a Word", Fondation des États-Unis, Paris.
29. "How Russian Colonization Works: the Case of Russian America"
30. "Emmigration and Historic Methodology: the Diasporas from Russia, in Paris and Other Places"

Editorials and journalistic publications

1. "La deuxième guerre de Corée aura-t-elle lieu?", *Huffington Post-francophone* edition, 2013
2. "Quel avenir pour le Parti Républicain?", *Huffington Post-francophone* edition, 7 Nov. 2012
3. "De la "dictature de la médiocrité" à une intensification de la vie politique américaine. Ce qui a déjà changé en 2012 à la veille des résultats", *Huffington Post-francophone* edition, 6 Nov. 2012 (bilan de la campagne présidentielle US à la veille des résultats; prédit une victoire d'Obama grâce à l'électorat des swing states).
4. "The Arctic: A New Mediterranean?", *Nature and Cultures*, issue 1, Spring 2013
5. "Zoos: Who Needs Them?" (co-écrit sous le pseudonyme "Alan Aftonfalker", avec l'assistance de Yaroslav Rovenskih), *Nature and Cultures*, issue 1, Fall 2012
6. "Obama: l'heure du bilan", *Huffington Post-francophone* edition, 6 Sept. 2012
7. "Fin de la convention républicaine: à Tampa, une Amérique morose", *Huffington Post-francophone* edition, 31 Août 2012
8. "L'affaire Pussy Riot: un simple chahut qui dégénère en intifada juridique et culturelle", *Huffington Post-francophone* edition, 18 Août 2012
9. "Les Hirondelles font-elles le printemps russe"? *Huffington Post-francophone* edition, 14 février 2012
10. "Holocauste en URSS: un héritage sanglant", *Enquête sur l'Histoire*, N° 22, Août-Sept., 1997, pp. 14-18
11. "Les Chiffres du Goulag. Un révisionnisme rampant", *Enquête sur l'Histoire*, N° 9, Août-Sept., 1994, pp. 46-48.
12. "Préface", Mike Rostad & Larry Matfay, *Time to Dance*, Anchorage, 1988.
13. "Map of Russian America in the 1800s", *Alaska Magazine*, October 1988, vol. 54, N° 10, pp. 20-21 (first map ever published, showing all Russian settlements from Siberia to California).

Translations

From French and Russian into English: Script + interviews and dialogue, English version of *Reflets de la danse: le Kirov* (The Kirov ballet theater), French national TV channel TF1 production, nominated for Emmy award—best foreign documentary.

From French into English: Rupnik, Jacques: "In Search of Central Europe: Ten Years Later", in Gardner, Hall, (ed.), *Central and South-central Europe in Transition*, Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2000.

From English into French:

Khodarkovsky, M., "Découverte, invasion, rencontre", in - Charrin-Pochtar, Anne-Victoire, ed., *Les Sibériens*, special issue N° 78 of *Autrement*, Paris, 1995, pp. 64-80.

Theodore S. Greenberg, Linda M. Samuel, Wingate Grant, & Larissa Gray, *Stolen Asset Recovery: A Good Practices Guide for Non-Conviction Based Asset Forfeiture*, Washington DC: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank, 2009. (co-translator with Gleb Store)

Plus free-lance journalistic assignments for various employers including NBC-News Anchorage, Alaska Magazine, and major American, French, and Russian periodicals, corporate publications and audio-visual media (complete list upon request).

Conferences and public events

organizer of conferences, steering committee positions

2011: co-organizer Première of French-language version of documentary of "Gulag: the Secret Story" (public screening, press conference and debate), American U. of Paris

2007: initiator, organizer: Panel: "The Geopolitics of Extreme Environments. Part 2: The Arctic regions", held in November at the American University of Paris. Guest speakers: Jim Bitterman, CNN Paris bureau chief, Joëlle Robert-Lamblin, Arctic explorer, etc.

2007: initiator, organizer: Panel: "The Geopolitics of Extreme Environments. Part 1: Outer Space", held in

October at the American University of Paris. Guest speakers: various representatives of Air and space industries and science

2004: Steering committee member for March 25-27, University of Nantes international conference on "Broken Borders": border regions – crucible of identities

2001: chair panel on Central and Eastern Europe, *New World, New Europe, New Threats: NATO and the European Union in the New Millennium*, conference organized by NATO and the American U. of Paris, December 7-8, French Senate.

1998: Location coordinator, *Mickiewicz, la France, l'Europe* bicentennial conference and celebrations, Collège de France and Polish Library of Paris, Dec. 17-19.

1998: Moderator, *The forgotten victims: refugees in camps in Bosnia*, panel discussion with Said Zulficar (UNESCO) and Claire Boulanger (Médecins du Monde), American U. of Paris, November 16.

1997: Initiator, organizer, chair, public lecture and debate with Anatoly Sobchak, Mayor of St. Petersburg, Russia; American University of Paris, March 10th.

1996: Initiator, organizer, chair, "1945-1995: a Half-century of Geopolitics in the North Pacific", conference, American University of Paris, April 1.

1996: *60° N: Alaska-Carélie*, personal exhibit of photos from geographic and ethnographic expeditions, l'Astrolabe Gallery (oldest geographic bookstore Latin Quarter), Paris.

1996: member of steering committee, co-author of catalog and exhibit contributor, *From Moscow to Constantinople* international conference and exhibition, Nov. 14 to Dec.15, Hellenic Foundation, London; (organized by Byzantine Society, Oxford University).

1995: member of steering committee, translator, panel, *The Past, Present and the Future of the Conflict in the Former Yugoslavia*, American University of Paris, May 11.

1993: Initiator, organizer, chair, panel, *The Environment in the ex-USSR*: University of Paris, December 10.

1988: member of steering committee, first international conference on the history and anthropology of the Koniag people, Kodiak Area Native Association, Kodiak, Alaska.

1985: Initiator, organizer, Grand opening of Veniaminov Institute Museum, July, Kodiak, Alaska, followed by series of lectures and slide shows (approximately 50) for tourists and locals (covered statewide by radio and TV).

speaking engagements

regular radio & TV political talk-show panelist

on France 24 Télévision and Radio France-International (average: once every two months), and Radio Algérie (channel 3 — average: monthly); appeared occasionally on half of French and Russian national TV channels, Radio Algérie-International, France Culture, France Inter and (shows available online at or by searching "Kobtzeff" – "videos" through any internet search motor). Debated with leading journalists and government members (including French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-François Deniau)

conference papers:

2012: "John Meyendorff: his significance for historiography", international conference on John Meyendorff, St. Sergius Theological Institute, Paris, February

2010: "The Equal Rights Amendment: Why it is Just and Necessary", Democrats Abroad conference in Paris,

held at the American U. of Paris

2009: "Alexander Schmemmann:", international conference on Alexander Schmemmann, St. Sergius Theological Institute, Paris, december.

2007: Keynote speech, panel on "The Geopolitics of Extreme Environments. Part 1: Outer Space" held in October at the American University of Paris.

2004: "From the shores of America to the shores of the Baltic: the extreme frontiers of Russia", March 25-27, University of Nantes international conference on "Broken Borders": border regions – crucible of identities.

2003: "Space and cultures of the Neva Basin : mythical representations and geopolitical situations", University of Nantes 300th anniversary conference and Nantes-St. Petersburg twinning ceremonies, May 16-19.

2003: "The geography of the Saint Petersburg region", Parsons School of design

2003: "Frances's culture of the outdoors", Annual conference of the Royal Geographic Society, London, September 3-5.

2001: "Emigration and Historic Methodology: the Diasporas from Russia, in Paris and Other Places", 150th Anniversary of the Turgenyev Library in Paris Conference (Paris et l'immigration russe), French Senate, Jan. 18-20, 2001.

1999: "The Russian Orthodox Church as a multi-national Church: the experience of Russian America", Sept. 10, 3rd International Conference on Russian America, Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

1999: "Russia's involvement in Kosovo", Russia in the 21st century, Conference, American University of Paris, April 13.

1998: "Religion in the Former Peoples' Republics", Reformed Church of Paris academic circle, rue de Grenelle (diplomatic quarter of Paris), March 17.

1996: "The Geopolitics of the Pacific North-West", 1945-1995: a Half-century of Geopolitics in the North Pacific, conference, American University of Paris, April 1.

1995: Anchorman: Paris City Hall music festival, live broadcast on France-Musique (French national radio)

1993: "Environmental Problems as a Political Issue in Eastern Europe Today", The Environment in the ex-USSR: debate, American University of Paris, December 10.

1993: "Russian America", informal assembly of students and professors organized by Russian Academy of Sciences Prof. Emelyanov, Moscow, Aug. 20.

1991: TESTIMONIAL: St. Paul Basilica, Rome (sharing microphone with Pope John-Paul II), February

1989: TESTIMONIAL: St. Paul Basilica, Rome (sharing microphone with Pope John-Paul II), broadcast live on Italian national television, February

1988: "The Koniag's Russian Heritage", first international conference on the history and anthropology of the Koniag people, Kodiak Area Native Association, Kodiak, Alaska.

1987: "How Russian Colonization Works: the Case of Russian America", 2nd International conference on Russian America, August, Sitka, Alaska, (organized by the US National Parks Service & the State of Alaska).

1986: "Ivan-Innokentiiy Veniaminov and the Russian Frontier", 13th annual meeting of the

Alaska Anthropological Association, March, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

1985: "Ruling Siberia: the Imperial Power, the Orthodox Church and the Native People", British Siberian Studies Seminar annual conference, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge University, March.

1983: "Au-delà de la Sibérie: L'Eglise Orthodoxe et les indigènes de l'Alaska", First International Conference on Siberia, Institut d'Etudes Slaves, Paris, May 24-27.

1982: "Ruling Siberia: the imperial power, the Orthodox Church and the Native people", British Siberian Studies Seminar conference, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge

References

- Professor François-Xavier Coquin, Collège de France, 1 Rue Marcellin Berthelot, 75005 Paris.
- Professor Hall Gardner, Chair, Dept. of International Affairs and political Science, American University of Paris, 37 Avenue Bosquet, 75007, Paris, France, Tel ; (0)1 40 62 06 77
- Professor Leonid Shur, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 77 rue de Paris 92190, Meudon; Tel. 0033-1 46 26 74 19

articles on Oleg Kobizeff in following publications

- Biography and interview in Голубева-Монаткина, Н. И., *Русская эмигрантская речь во Франции конца XX века: Тексты и комментарии*. - М.: УРСС, 2004, pp. 415-418.
- http://zarubezhje.narod.ru/kl/k_180.htm (<http://www.libfl.ru/index-eng.shtml> .)
- Esther Etkin, "A Life Less Ordinary", *ThePlanet*, 4 décembre, 2003, pp. 3, 5 (American University of Paris student magazine available online at <http://www.ac.aup.fr/a48890/pdfs/ThePlanet-Issue7.pdf>)

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