

ELENA KORCHMINA

University of Bologna

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Department of Economics

Citizenship: Russian

Italy

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Academic Positions

- 2024- University of Bologna, Senior Assistant Professor
- 2022- 2024 University of Southern Denmark, Department of Economics, Assistant Professor
- 2021- 2022 University of Southern Denmark, Department of Economics, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow.
- 2020 – 2021 Higher School of Economics (Moscow), History Department, Assistant Professor.
- 2017 – 2020 New York University Abu Dhabi (UAE), Social Science Division, Postdoctoral Research Associate.
- 2019 Nuffield College, Oxford (UK), Academic Visitor.
- 2014 – 2020 Higher School of Economics (Moscow), Senior Research Associate.
- 2014 – 2015 Higher School of Economics (Moscow), Acting Director of Center for History Sources.
- 2012 – 2013 Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Moscow), Postdoc Karamzin Fellow.

Education

- 2010, October Ph.D. in Russian History (*Kandidat nauk* in Russian). Vladimir State Humanitarian University. Dissertation topic: “Noble self-government in the first half of the 19th century. The case of Ryazan province”.
- 1999 – 2002 BA in Law (cum laude), Ryazan branch of Moscow Academy of Economy and Law.
- 1995 – 2000 MA in History (cum laude), Ryazan State Pedagogical University.

Publications in English-Language Peer-reviewed Journals

1. How Extractive Was Russian Serfdom? Income Inequality in Moscow Province in the Early Nineteenth Century. With M. Malinowski, *Journal of Economic History*, 2026, Vol. 86, No. 1, pp: 67-108.
2. Catching-up and falling behind: Russian economic growth, 1690s-1880s”, With S. Broadberry, *Journal of Economic History*, 2024, Vol. 84, No. 4.
3. Should I stay or should I go? Living standards of serfs and peasants in 18th century Moscow, *Rivista di storia economica. Italian Review of Economic History*, 2024/3. Pp. 277-305.
4. Peer Pressure: The Puzzle of Tax Compliance of Aristocrats in Early Nineteenth-Century Moscow, *The Economic History Review*, 2022, Vol. 75, issue 3, pp. 779-800.

5. 'Luxury beyond morals': the rise and transformation of the concept in 18th century Russia. *The Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, 2022, p. 1-19. With M. Kiselev
6. Denmark and Russia: What can we learn from the historical comparison of two great Arctic agricultural empires? *Russian Journal of Economics*, 2021. No. 7 (2). With P. Sharp
7. Cattle pasturing as a traditional form of forest use and conflicts between peasants and forestry administration in the long nineteenth century (The case of Białowieża Forest), *Global Environment*, 2020, Vol. 13. No. 3. P. 525-554. With A. Fedotova.
8. Extralegal payments to state officials in Russia, 1750s–1830s: assessing the burden of corruption, *The Economic History Review*, 2019, 1 (Vol. 72), pp. 156 - 181. With I. Fedyukin.
 - listed within the best 35 papers among published papers for 3 years in Higher School of Economics.
9. Karamzin and Money, *Cahiers du Monde Russe*, 2018, 1. (Vol. 59), pp. 117-140. with A. Zorin
10. Conceptualising the Notion of “Profit” among the Russian Nobility (Second Half of the 18th – First Half of the 19th Centuries), *Quaestio Rossica*, 2018, 4 (Vol. 6), pp. 1144–59.

Working Papers

1. Ethnicity, Discrimination and Entry into Industry: Evidence from the Russian Empire (with Marvin Suisse)
2. Institutions in Russia under the Ancient Regime (1725-1861): Taxation, Property, and Elections.
3. Wealth, inequality, and sex: the changes in female and male wealth and their consequences for the governance of the Russian Empire from 1700s to 1850s. EHES Working Paper, No. 243, November 2023
4. The transfer of knowledge under the autocracy. How did Danish entrepreneurs manage to get Russian money in the 19th and 20th centuries?

Work in Progress

1. Living standards in Russia in regional and historical perspective.
2. A new Russian price index for the 19th century. With T. Valetov and R. Konchakov

Book Project

The invention of patriarchy in Russia: How the Enlightenment suppressed the economic rights of Russian women? (book contract in Princeton University Press)

Publications in Russian-Language Peer-reviewed Journals

1. Daily wages of the construction labourers and prices in Moscow and Tobolsk in the 18th century, *Ural Historical Journal*, 2020, 1.
2. The structure of noble property of the Moscow gentry in 1812, *Istoriya (History)*, 2020, Vol. 3. with R. Konchakov.

3. “Don’t give bribes in honour”: how gifts became bribes in Post-Petrine Russia, *Rossiiskaia istoria (Russian History)*, 2015, 2.
4. “To take more ladies’ votes”: the participation of women in noble elections in Russia in the first half of the 19th century, *Rossiiskaia istoria (Russian History)*, 2015, 6.
5. “Many millions of Russian state money are unknown”: poll tax arrears of the 1720-1760s”, *Rossiiskaia istoria (Russian History)*, 2013, 5.
6. Relocation of the poorest nobility from Ryazan to Simbirsk region in the 1840-1850s (in Russian), *Izvestija Samarskogo nauchnogo centra Rossijskoj Akademii Nauk*, 2010, vol. 12, 6 (38).

Book Chapters

1. What Could the Empress Know About Her Money? Russian Poll Tax Revenues in the Eighteenth Century, in *Information and Empire: Mechanisms of Communication in Russia, 1600–1850*. Ed. by S. Franklin and K. Bowers, Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2017, pp. 287-310.
2. The Practice of Personal Finance and the Problem of Debt among the Noble Elite in Eighteenth-Century Russia, in *The Europeanized Elite in Russia, 1762-1825: Public Role and Subjective Self*. Ed. by A. Zorin, A. Schönle, and A. Evstratov. NIU Press, 2016, pp. 162-192.
3. Collecting Poll Tax in Mid-Eighteenth Century: Assessing the Effectiveness of Russian State Apparatus in Historical Perspective, (in Russian), *Ekonomicheskaja istorija: Ezhegodnik*, 2013. Moscow, 2014. With I. Fedyukin
4. The beginning of the 19th century in Russian provinces: the perception of contemporaries, (in Russian) in *Izobretenie veka. Problemy i modeli vremeni v Rossii i Evrope XIX stoletija*. Moscow, 2013.

Grants

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|-------------|---|
| 2022 | Invited to the Interview for ERC consolidator grant. Demythologizing The Russian Empire: A Quantitative Analysis Of Serfdom, Patriarchy, And Military Glory |
| 2022 | Co-Investigator. <i>Carlsberg</i> Infrastructure grant (22,500 euros), University of Southern Denmark (Denmark). |
| 2021 - 2023 | Main Investigator. Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship of EU (score: 100.0), University of Southern Denmark (Denmark). |
| 2020 - 2021 | Main Investigator. Project: Living Standards in Pre-Industrial Russia. (9,000 \$), <i>Higher School of Economics (Russia)</i> . |
| 2019 | Paulsen Fellow. Project: The Costs of Russian Westernization, <i>The London School of Economics and Political Science (UK)</i> . |
| 2016 - 2019 | Leading Research Fellow. Project: Natural Resources in History of Russia: Economic Institutes, Communities of Experts and Infrastructures, <i>The Russian Science Foundation</i> (lead Prof. J. Lajus). |
| 2013 - 2015 | Research fellow. Project: Europeanization of Russian Elite, <i>The Leverbulme Foundation</i> (lead Prof. A. Schönle, A. Zorin). |

2012 - 2013 Karamzin Fellow. Project: The Emergence of Fiscal Military State in Russia, *The Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation* (lead I. Fedyukin).

Awards

- 2022 *European Research Council*, passed to the stage of the interview.
- 2021 *Higher School of Economics*: Reward for contribution to the international reputation of Higher School of Economics.
- 2020 *Higher School of Economics*: Reward for academic work (the quality of international publications).
- 2019 *Higher School of Economics*: Nominated as the Best Teacher in the category of Supervisor.
- 2016 *Higher School of Economics*: Reward for academic work (the quality of publications).
- 2015 *Higher School of Economics*: Reward for academic work (the quality of publications).

Teaching

University of Bologna (Italy)

“Economic History”

University of Southern Denmark (Odense)

“Business History”

Higher School of Economics (Moscow):

“Economic History of the Early Modern and Modern World” (in Russian)

- rated by students as the best course at the History Department, 2021

“Historical demography” (in Russian)

- rated by students as the best course at the History Department, 2020

“Historical Vocabulary (in English), 2020

“Economic History of Russia” (in Russian), 2014 – 2016

“The history of corruption” (in Russian), 2016

New York University Abu Dhabi

Guest lecturer. “State formation in the Middle East in a global perspective” (in English), 2018/2019

Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Moscow)

“World fiscal history” (in Russian), 2018 – 2021

Supervision

2020 – 2023 PhD Supervisor of a student at Higher School of Economics (Moscow)

2016 – 2021 Supervisor of six BA and MA thesis, two of which were nominated as the best at Higher School of Economics at History Department

Invited talks

- 2024 *Oxford*: Wealth, inequality and sex: the changes in female and male wealth and their consequences for the governance of the Russian Empire from the 1700s to the 1850s.
- 2020 *Paris School of Economics*. Peer-pressure: the puzzle of tax compliance.
- 2018 *Università degli Studi di Milano*. At the workshop: “Nobili in affair patrimonio, investment, innovazioni (Secoli XVIII-XX) Noblemen in Business: Wealth, Investments, Innovation (18th-20th Centuries)”, Milan, Italy.

Media Engagement

- 2025 telegram channel “ревизская сказочница» 2.4K followers (in Russian)
- 2022 On-line lecture: The economic position of women in Russia (in Russian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mieBFyPHO5o>
- 2021 Interview about Marie Curie project (In English)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3f8Hp5jQmxg>
- 2020 On-line lecture: Comparison of Russian and Denmark (in Russian)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiQgz0I_qhA
- 2020 Expert for a documentary series: The Nobles’ Money (in Russian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tay9snBUHMk>
- 2020 On-line lecture: The peasant household and serfdom in Russia (in Russian)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_BaBlJL1AA&feature=emb_logo
- 2019 Podcast: How people spent money 150 years ago (in Russian)
<https://prishli.me/>
- 2017 Audio lecture: Moscow VS Petersburg (in Russian)
<https://arzamas.academy/materials/1491>
- 2016 On-line course: The Splendor and Misery of the Russian Nobles (in Russian)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DbocU-Cn4c>

Other Professional Activities

Referee for: *Journal of Economic History*, *Cahiers du Monde Russe*, *Economic History Review*, *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, *European Review of Economic History*.

Co-organizer of workshop:

Summer Workshop in the Economic History and Historical Political Economy of Eurasia (Paris, France), 2023

“Understanding Economic Growth and Development in Central and Eastern Europe” (Moscow, Russia), 2016.

Languages

Russian (native), English (fluent), Italian (B1.1)