

Dissertation title: A Comparative Study of Intimate Partner Violence in Post-Soviet Countries: Evidence from National Surveys

Dissertation advisor: Amy Fitzgerald, Professor, Advisor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminology, University of Windsor, Canada

Committee members: Tanya Basok, Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminology, University of Windsor, Canada

Ruth Mann, Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminology, University of Windsor, Canada

Nazim Habibov, Professor, School of Social Work, University of Windsor, Canada

Betty Barrett, School of Social Work, University of Windsor, Canada

External Examiner: Joseph Michalski, Professor, Department of Sociology, The University of Western Ontario, Canada

In my doctoral dissertation, I examined physical intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in the countries of the former Soviet Union (FSU). The objective of my research was to analyze and compare the extent and determinants of IPV in post-Soviet countries. The specific research question my study answered was: “What are individual, household, and community determinants of IPV in the countries of the FSU, and how and to what extent do these determinants vary among these countries?” To answer the research question, I utilized data from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Ukraine by the United States Agency of International Development between 2005 and 2012. To analyze the factors affecting IPV, I use a multilevel regression model that distinguishes the effect of variables at individual, household, and community levels. Drawing on socialist feminist and resource theories, I explored IPV in the FSU societies through a comprehensive set of hypotheses predicated on the assumption that the roots of violence against women are based on the unequal power relations between men and women and the normative use of violence in society. The findings indicate that patriarchal ideology and traditional gender norms in FSU societies strongly affect violence against women. My dissertation research contributes to understanding the extent and correlates of IPV in the FSU by utilizing improved measures of IPV, more comprehensive coverage of IPV issues compared to previous studies on IPV, and illustrating the complexity of the relationships between IPV and the economic and social status of women, their experiences, and empowerment.

FOR RESEARCH PAGE:

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Chernyak, E. (Forthcoming). A hen is not a bird, a woman is not a person: Gender stereotypes in contemporary Russia. In A. Wagner & A. Condello (Eds.), *(In)Visible Signs of Gender-Based Violence*. Springer Nature Switzerland AG: Switzerland

Chernyak, E. (2023). Intimate partner violence in Post-Soviet Countries: Contextual features and implication. In R. Baikady et al. (Eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Problems*. Palgrave Macmillan: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-68127-2_45-1 link

Chernyak, E. (2022). Globalization and modern family: Family transformation in changing society. In R. Baikady et al. (Eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Problems*. Palgrave Macmillan: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-68127-2_108-1

Chernyak, E. (2020). A comparative study of intimate partner violence in post-Soviet countries: Evidence from National Surveys. *Journal of Family Issues*, 41(12), 2297-2327. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X20942818>

Chernyak, E., Ceresola, R., & Herrold, M. (2020). From past to present: Children's exposure of intimate partner violence and subsequent experience of IPV in adulthood among women. *Journal of Gender-Based Violence*, 4(2), 259-278. <https://doi.org/10.1332/239868020X15893856098343>

Chernyak, E. (2020). Who is at risk? Intimate partner violence against women in the Kyrgyz Republic. *Violence and Gender*, 7(3), 121-130. DOI: 10.1089/vio.2019.0004

Chernyak, E. (2016). What is a woman created for? The image of women in Russia through the lens of the Russian Orthodox Church. *Feminist Theology*, 24(3), 299-313. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0966735015627953>

SERVICES

Leadership:

Vice-Chair. Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Hartwick College. 11/2023 – present

Department Chair. Department of Sociology, Criminology and Human Services, Hartwick College. 04/2021 – 06/2024

Chair. Institutional Review Board. Hartwick College. 05/2020 – present

Director. Social Work Program. Hartwick College. 08/2017 – present

Service to the Profession:

Symposium organizer. *Second Regional Sociology Symposium "Portrait of a Tipping Point: Critical Questions for Social Scientists in 2025"*. Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY. April 5, 2025. [Symposium site](#)

Panel organizer. *International congress: Combating gender-based violence. International research project in the field of gender equity*. Lille University, France. July 3-6, 2023. [Congress site](#)

Panel 1: Culture, religion and gender-based violence

Panel 2: Theorizing violence against women: Integration of post-modernist theories in feminist perspectives

Symposium organizer. *First Regional Sociology Symposium “The (up)roaring 2020s: Sociology's responsibility in addressing recurring social problems”*. Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY. April 1, 2023.

Presider. Paper session: Gendered Violence: Sociological Insights. *Eastern Sociological Association 92 Annual Meeting: Strategic sites and ways for sociology to fight inequality and injustice*. Boston, MA, USA. March 10-13, 2022

Session organizer. Session: Culture, Religion, and Gender Inequality. *IV International Sociological Association Forum*. Porto Alegre, Brazil. February 23-27, 2021

Selected service to Hartwick College:

Hartwick College Board of Trustees Student Experience Committee

Hartwick College Hearing Board Member

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Hearing Officer

Women and Gender Studies Steering Committee

Interdisciplinary Studies Committee

Chapter representative, Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society of Sociology

Institutional Review Board Member

Department Search Committee

Sociology Club Supervisor