

## **ELENA OBUKHOVA**

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### **EDUCATION**

- 2007 Ph.D. (expected), Sociology, University of Chicago.  
*Special fields:* Work and Occupations (honors), Technology and Organizations.
- 1997 M.S. Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences, Northwestern University.
- 1994 B.A. Anthropology, University of Florida.

### **DISSERTATION**

Building Silicon Cities: Technological Development in the Globalized World

*Dissertation abstract:*

My dissertation proposes that globalization engendered a new category of political and economic actors – high-skilled migrants – with a potential to refashion the development process. Foreign-born professionals, managers, and entrepreneurs comprise an increasingly large segment of the high technology labor force in developed countries; they also represent a potential developmental resource for their countries of origin. Focusing on Shanghai's emerging high technology region, often dubbed "China's Silicon Valley," my dissertation explores how high-skilled migrants shaped firm technology strategies and state policy-making. Firstly, my survey of firms suggests that the return of high-skilled migrants contributed to the diffusion of advanced technologies to the new high technology region. Secondly, my interviews show that building relationships with the high-skilled migrant community in China and abroad strengthened the local developmental state. In sum, my dissertation research suggested that while the developmental state remains an important influence on development, high-skilled migrants play an increasingly pivotal role in the emergence of new technology regions.

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Economic sociology, historical/comparative sociology, organizations, science and technology

## FELLOWSHIPS

- 2006 Markovitz Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago.
- 2005 Park Lectureship, Sociology Department, University of Chicago for independent teaching of a self-designed undergraduate course.
- 2003 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Abroad Fellowship, US Department of Education.
- 2003 Social Science Research Council Corporation as a Social Institution Program Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2000 Century Fellowship, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago tuition and stipend support for four years of graduate study.
- 1998 Social Science Research Council Pre-dissertation Fellowship for one year of research in China.
- 1998 Blakemore Foundation Fellowship for Study of East Asian Languages for one year of language study in China.

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2005 Redefining State Embeddedness for the Global Economy: The Rise of China's Silicon Valley. *Proceedings of 2005 Chinese Economists Society International Conference on Sustainable Economic Growth in China*. Volume I-B, p. 3-8.
- 2002 (with J. Guyer) Transcending the Formal/Informal Distinction: Commercial Relations in Africa and Russia in the Post-1989 World. In *Theory in Economic Anthropology*, J. Ensminger, ed. Alta Mira Press: Walnut Creek, CA.
- 2002 Living and Trusting in the Economy of Debt: The Distribution of Newspapers and Magazines in Ibadan. In *Money Struggles and City Life: Devaluation In Ibadan and Other Urban Centers in Southern Nigeria, 1986-96*, J. Guyer, L. Denzer, and A. Agbaje, eds. Heinemann: Portsmouth, NH.

## **MANUSCRIPTS**

Schools, Markets and Networks in School-to-Work Transition: Evidence from China, Revise and Resubmit from *Social Forces*.

State-push, Global-pull or Brain Circulation? Technological Development and Inter-organizational Networks.

Re-defining State Embeddedness for the Global Economy: Immigrant Professionals and the Rise of China's Silicon Valley.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

2006 The Making of the State Enterprise System in Modern China: The Dynamics of Institutional Change, by Morris L. Bian. Harvard University Press, 2005.  
Reviewed for *American Journal of Sociology*, v.112 (2).

2004 Red Capitalists in China: The Party, Private Entrepreneurs, and Prospects for Political Change, by Bruce J. Dickson. Cambridge University Press, 2003.  
Reviewed for *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, v.52 (4).

## **SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS**

2006 High-skilled Migrants and Technological Development: The Case of China's Silicon Valley. Metro-Chicago Immigration Seminar, University of Illinois - Chicago, Chicago, IL.

2006 Inter-organization Networks and Technological Change in Shanghai's Semiconductor Industry. Politics, Economy, and Culture Seminar, Indiana University, IN.

2003 Creating Competitive Advantage through Networks of Learning: The Development of the Semiconductor Industry in China. Silicon Valley Networks Seminar, Stanford University, CA.

2003 Networks of Learning in China's Electronics Industry. Working Group on the Network Construction of Markets. Santa Fe Complexity Institute, Santa Fe, NM.

2000 China's Emerging Labor Markets and Student Job Search. Social Science Research Council International Pre-dissertation Fellowship Program Workshop, Salt Lake City, UT.

- 1997 Living and Trusting in the Economy of Debt: The Distribution of Newspapers and Magazines in Ibadan. Devaluation and Popular Economy Workshop, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2006 Immigrant Professionals and the Rise of China's Silicon Valley. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
- 2006 Inter-organizational Networks and Technological Upgrading in a New Technology Cluster. North American Chinese Sociologists Association Annual Meetings, Montreal, Canada. *Also presented at:* Michigan China Fellows Annual Conference, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2005 Redefining State Embeddedness for the Global Economy: The Rise of China's Silicon Valley. Chinese Economists Society Annual Conference, Chongqing, China. *Also presented at:* American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. and Graduate Seminar on China, Universities Service Center for China Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
- 2004 Industrial Policy for Technical Change: The Role of the State in the Development of China's IC Design Industry. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2001 Building a Transnational Community: Nigeria Abroad. Globalization Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 2001 Competencies, Social Networks and Labor Markets: Job Search in China. Ethnography Conference, Loyola University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 1998 (with J. Guyer) Transcending the Formal/Informal Distinction: Commercial Relations in Africa and Russia in the Post-1989 World. Society for Economic Anthropology Annual Meeting, Evanston, IL.

## **TEACHING INTERESTS**

Economic sociology; organizations; work and occupations; globalization, development and social change; research methods; network analysis; technology and society; Chinese society.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Instructor, University of Chicago (2005-2006):

Technology and Society (Sociology Department).

Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago (2002-2003):

Organizational Decision Making (Political Science Department),

Social Change (Sociology Department),

Network Structures of Effective Management (Graduate School of Business).

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University (1995-98):

Decision Science, Network Analysis, Game Theory (Mathematical Methods for Social Sciences Program).

Cultural Anthropology, Language and Culture (Anthropology).

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Book review editorial board, *American Journal of Sociology* (2006-2007).

Associate editor, *American Journal of Sociology* (2005-2006)

member of six-person board making editorial decisions on submissions,

head of manuscript assignment board.

Organizer, North American Chinese Sociologists Association meeting, Montreal, Canada, August 2006.

Member, manuscript assignment board, *American Journal of Sociology* (2002-2003)

member of six-person board assigning reviewers for journal submissions.

Occasional reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*.

## **NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

2006 “Haigui”chengwei Zhongguo IC shejiye xinxing (Returnees are New Stars of China’s IC Design Industry). *China Electronics Times*, 2/21.

2000 Meiguo daxuede jiuye zhidao zhongxin jiyu Zhongguode chayi (American and Chinese University Career Placement Centers and Their Differences). *Peking University Student Employment Guide*, 4/20, p. 1.

## **LANGUAGE PROFFICIENCY**

Russian – native speaker; English – fluent; Chinese – professional fluency (HSK level 8).

## **REFERENCES**

William Parish (chair) - Professor, Sociology Department, University of Chicago.

Andrew Abbott - Professor, Sociology Department, University of Chicago.

Gary Herrigel - Associate Professor, Political Science Department, University of Chicago.

John Padgett - Professor, Political Science Department, University of Chicago.