

Dr Marina Sapritsky-Nahum

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EDUCATION

- PhD Social Anthropology, London School of Economics 2011
MSc Social Anthropology, London School of Economics 2004
BA International Relations, Boston University, *Cum Laude* 2002

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2023–*present* University College London, Dept of Anthropology, Honorary Research Associate
- 2022–25 Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media, European Centre for Jewish Music, Research Associate
- 2023 Stanford University Montag Centre for Overseas Studies, Oxford University. Teaching and supervising undergraduate student on the topic of Soviet Jewish Diaspora. Summer Term.
- 2014–*present* London School of Economics and Political Science, Religion in Contemporary Society Program and Department of Anthropology, Visiting Fellow
- 2012-13 London School of Economics, Teaching Fellow
- 2007-08 London School of Economics, Graduate Teaching Assistant
- 2006 Odessa National University, Visiting Researcher

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2022–25 German Academic Research Council (DFG) Priority Program “Jewish Cultural Heritage.” Project “Knowledge Architectures: Mapping Structures of Jewish heritagization process on communal, organizational, and academic levels in post-1945 Europe.”
- 2015-16 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, International Fellowship in Jewish Studies. Project " New Directions in Transnational Jewish Identity: Russian-speaking Jews in London."
- 2014-15 Brandeis-Genesis Institute for Russian Jewry. Junior Faculty Research Grant. Project " New Directions in Transnational Jewish Identity: Russian-speaking Jews in London."
- 2008-09 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Doctoral Scholarship. Project

“Negotiating Traditions: Jewish Life in post-Soviet Odessa.”

2007–08 London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Anthropology, Alfred Gell Memorial Grant.

2005-07 American Councils for International Education, Title VIII Research Scholar Fellowship for Doctoral research in Ukraine. Project “Negotiating Traditions: Jewish Life in post-Soviet Odessa.”

PUBLICATIONS

ETHNOGRAPHIC MONOGRAPH

2024 *Jewish Odessa: Negotiating Identities and Traditions in Contemporary Ukraine*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Reviews:

LSE Book Review <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lseviewofbooks/2025/01/08/book-review-jewish-odesa-negotiating-identities-and-traditions-in-contemporary-ukraine-marina-sapritsky-nahum/>

The Odesa Journal <https://odessa-journal.com/jewish-odesa-negotiating-identities-and-traditions-in-contemporary-ukraine-explores-the-rich-jewish-history-and-contemporary-jewish-life-in-odesa>

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Forthcoming. “Identity Transformations of Ukrainian Jewry during the Russian-Ukrainian War: Odesa’s Communities and Religious Leaders Home and in Exile.” Accepted for special issue: Religion and War. *Canadian Slavonic Papers*.

2025. “Russian Speaking but not ‘Svoi’: Language Ideologies of Ukrainian Jewish Refugees.” Accepted for special issue: Ukraine. *Sociolinguistic Studies* 19 (3-4).

2023 “Fragmented Histories and Fragmented Lives.” In Catherine Wanner, ed., *Dispossession: Imperial Legacies and Russia’s War on Ukraine*, pp.100-120. London: Routledge.

2018 “Between a Home and a Homeland: Experiences of Jewish Return Migrants in Ukraine.” In Tom Selwyn and Nicola Frost, eds., *Traveling Towards Home*, pp.55-77. New York: Berghahn Books.

2016 “Home in the Diaspora? Jewish Returnees and Transmigrants in Ukraine.” In Zvi Gitelman, ed., *The New Jewish Diaspora*, pp. 60–75. Rutgers University Press.

2015 “From *Evrei* to *Eudei*: Turning or Returning to Faith?” Special Issue: ‘Judaism after USSR: Old and New, Religious and National.’ *State, Religions and Church* 3(33): 224–55. (in Russian) http://www.religion.ranepa.ru/sites/default/files/GRC_3-2015_final++.pdf

- 2013 “Returnees or Immigrants: Anthropological Analysis of ‘Russian’ Israelis in Odessa.” Special Issue, Israeli Diasporas: Where, How and Why. *Diaspora* (2): 47–66. (in Russian)
- 2012 “Negotiating Cosmopolitanism: Migration, Religious Education and Shifting Jewish Orientations in post-Soviet Odessa.” In Caroline Humphrey and Vera Skvirskaja, eds., *Explorations of the Post-Cosmopolitan City*, pp. 65-93, New York: Berghahn Books.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2024 *Cosmopolitan Spaces in Odesa: A Case Study of an Urban Context* by Mirja Lecke and Efraim Sicher, eds. Ukrainian Studies. Boston: Academic Studies Press. *The Russian Review* 83 (2): 324-325.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/russ.12619>
- 2024 The Ties that bind: Ukraine through a Jewish lens. Book Review of Jewish Ukrainian Relations and the Birth of a Political Nation by Vladislav Davidzon. Jewish Renaissance. Summer 2024.
- 2011 *Communities of the Converted: Ukrainians and Global Evangelism*, by Catherine Wanner. *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 17(2): 431-32.
www.jstor.org/stable/23011409.

PUBLIC MEDIA, BLOG POSTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 “The Ukrainian Haggadahs Offering a Taste of Freedom.” Jewish Renaissance. Spring 2025
- 2024 “Jewish Communities in the Russian-Ukrainian War.” *EUROP LSE Blog*. 23.11.2024.
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2024/10/23/jewish-communities-in-the-russia-ukraine-war/>
- 2024 “Why the Jewish World Must not Give up on Ukraine” *Haaretz*. 22.11.2024. <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/europe/2024-10-22/ty-article-opinion/.premium/odesa-and-october-7-why-the-jewish-world-must-not-give-up-on-ukraine/00000192-b3a8-d542-a9ba-b3eb93550000>
- 2022 “Germany Wants Jews.” *Tablet Magazine*. 26.04.2022. <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/germany-wants-jews>
- 2022 “The Ukrainian War Tears Apart the Russian-speaking Jewish World.” *Haaretz*. 14.04.2022. <https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/2022-04-14/ty-article-opinion/.highlight/jew-vs-jew-the-ukraine-war-tears-apart-the-russian-speaking-jewish-world/00000180-5ba7-dc66-a392-7ff977c0000>
- 2022 “Putin’s War and the Making of a Ukrainian Jewry.” *LSE Religion and Global Society Blog*. 02.03.2022. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/religionglobalsociety/2022/03/putins-war-and-the-making-of-a-ukrainian-jewry/>

- 2020 “Publicising the Miracle of Chanukah: Celebrating in COVID-19.” *LSE Religion and Global Society Blog*. 18.12.2020. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/religionglobalsociety/2020/12/publicising-the-miracle-of-chanukah-celebrating-in-covid-19/>
- 2020 “‘This Night is Different From All Others’: Passover in London and Celebrating Liberation in Isolation.” 09.04.2020. *LSE Religion and Global Society Blog*. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/religionglobalsociety/2020/04/this-night-is-different-from-all-others-passover-in-london-and-celebrating-liberation-in-isolation/>
- 2006 “*Tuda ili Obratno?*” (There or Back: Return Migration of Russian-speaking Jewry) *Moria Almanac* 6. pp 12–20 (in Russian).

INVITED KEYNOTES, LECTURES, AND SEMINAR PAPERS

- 2025 Keynote Panel: “Heritage Shaped by War: Ukrainian-Jewish Culture in Europe and Beyond.” *Jewish Cultural Heritage in the Light of Critical Heritage Studies*. Conference of the DFG Priority Program (SPP 2357) Jewish Cultural Heritage. Bonn, Germany, 5 March.
- 2025 “Jewish Odesa: Negotiating Identities and Traditions in Contemporary Ukraine.” Public Lecture. Slavic Literature and Culture with Center for Interdisciplinary Ukrainian Studies/”Think Space Ukraine, “University of Regensburg, Germany. 28 January.
- 2024 Exploring a Jewish Community in Ukraine today: the case of Odesa. University College London (UCL) Institute of Jewish Studies and The Institute for Polish Jewish Studies. Ukraine Series Public Lecture. 30 January.
- 2024 “Jewish Identity in Ukraine” Indiana University. Borns Jewish Studies Program Seminar Lecture. 18 September.
- 2023 “Shifts in Belonging, Fissures in Relation: Jewish Responses to Russia’s War in Ukraine.” University College London (UCL) Anthropology Seminar. 1 November.
- 2022 “Russia’s War in Ukraine: Fragmented Lives and Histories.” London School of Economics, Anthropology Department. Research Seminar on Anthropological Theory, London, UK. 17 June.
- 2022 “Talk is the Cement and the Substance: Research and Reflections on the ‘Russian’ Jewish Community. Symposium in Honor of Prof Fran Markowitz. Ben Gurion University, Israel. 11 May.

BOOK TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Harvard University, Ukrainian Research Institute. Public Lecture. 5 May.

- 2025 University of Washington, Department of Anthropology. Public Lecture. 8, March.
- 2025 University of Florida, Jewish Studies Department. Public Lecture 6, March.
- 2025 University of Antwerp. Institute of Jewish Studies. Public Lecture 18. March.
- 2025 Inaco, The Centre de recherche Europes-Eurasie (CREE) Paris, France. Public Lecture. Moderator, Clarisse Brossard. 20 March.
<https://www.inalco.fr/en/events/meeting-marina-sapritsky-nahum>
- 2025 Chabad Belgravia Synagogue, London, UK. Public Lecture. Moderator, Olha Mucha. 24 March.
- 2024 University College London (UCL), School of East European Studies (SSEES) and Eurasia seminar co-organised with the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies, the UCL Institute of Jewish Studies and UCL Anthropology. Public Lecture. 25 November.
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ssees/events/2024/nov/jewish-odesa-negotiating-identities-and-traditions-contemporary-ukraine>
- 2024 London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Department of Anthropology. Moderators: Professor Mathijs Pelkmans (LSE) and Professor Ruth Mandel (UCL)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 New Book Roundtable- Jewish Odesa: Negotiating Identities and Traditions in Contemporary Ukraine. Chair: Nataliia Goshylyk. Moderators: Laada Bilaniuk and Sasha Senderovich. *The 31st Annual Conference for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies. REECAS Northwest*. 10-12 April. University of Washington, Seattle, WA USA.
- 2024 “Community as Salvation: Jewish Life during the Russian- Ukrainian War.” *Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference*. Online Panel “Three Jewish Responses to Catastrophe.” 17 December.
- 2023 “Jewish Cultural Heritage in the Context of Jewish Heritage Studies.” *Jewish Cultural Heritage in the Light of Critical Heritage Studies*. Conference of the DFG Priority Program (SPP 2357) Jewish Cultural Heritage Grand Forum. Schwabisch-Gmund, Germany. 5-8 June.
- 2023 “Ethnographic Portrait of Ukrainian Jewish Refugees in Germany.” *War in Ukraine and its impact on East European Jewish Studies Conference*. Nevzlin Center, Hebrew University, Israel. 26-27 June.
- 2023 “In Search of a Home: Ukrainian Jewish Refugees in Berlin.” *European Association of Jewish Studies (EAJS) 12th Congress*. Frankfurt, Germany. 16-20 July.
- 2023 “A Rabbi never leaves his community: Ukrainian Communities Torn by Russia’s War in Ukraine.” *European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR)*. Vilnius, Lithuania. 4-6 September.
- 2022 Roundtable: Between Loss and Response: Ethnographic Reflections on Ruptured Lives in Russia’s War on Ukraine.” *Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)*. Online. 11 November.
- 2021 “Jewish Revival in post-Soviet Odessa: Identities, Communities and Places.” *Odessa, Cosmopolitanism, Modernism* Conference. Israel Institute for Advanced Studies. Online. 21-24 June.
- 2019 “What Does It Mean to Return *from* Israel? The Language of Jewish Migration and the Feelings Behind It.” *Annual Meeting, American Anthropological Association (AAA)*. Vancouver, BC, Canada. 20-24 November.
- 2013 “Why Odessa? Jewish and Non-Jewish Heritages and Mythologies.” *International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry*, Leonid Nevzlin Research Center, held at Mechnikov Odesa National University, Odessa, Ukraine. 1-4 July
- 2013 “Religious Journeys of Russian-Speaking Israelis in Ukraine.” *Religiosity in Migration* conference, Ben Gurion University, Israel.
- 2011 “Home in the Diaspora? Jewish Returnees and Transmigrants in Post-Soviet Ukraine.” *The Contemporary Russian-Speaking Diaspora* conference, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University.

- 2010 “Jewish Migration in Odessa: Newcomers and Returnees.” Paper presented at the *Black Sea Cities: State Practices, Co-Existence and Migration* conference, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, Cambridge University.
- 2008 “Building Religious Empires in Jewish Odessa.” Paper presented at the 39th National Convention, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, New Orleans, LA, USA
- 2007 “Jewish Migration in Post-Soviet Ukraine: The Case of Odessa.” Paper presented at *Ukraine: A Sending, Transit and Destination Country of Migration*. Institut für Soziologie, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Marburg, Germany.
- 2007 “Reviving and Reliving the Past: Contested Jewish Identity in Odessa.” Paper presented at *Nation, Community and the State*, Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 2025 London Jewish Book Week. “The Making of Ukrainian Jewry” discussion with Ukrainian poet Ilya Kaminsky and Director of The Ukrainian Institute Marina Pesenti.
- 2025 Language, Food and Memory: Jewish Heritage and Identity from Odesa to Siberia and beyond. Public Talk with Food writer Alissa Timoshkina and BBS Journalist and writer, Nadia Ragozhina. Pushkin House. 26 February.
- 2024 Interview. *Chema* 19. 28 December. <https://mozzoviewer.publishingcenter.net/dist/b175161ddd0994cf3b73033a0d6a7052/extract.web/?docId=176771>
- 2024 Women, the Arts and Jewish Orthodoxy Discussion. In conversation with Jessica Roda and Sarit Yogel. Chabad Belgravia Synagogue, London, UK. 14 March.
- 2023 From the front lines of war-torn Ukraine. In conversation with Kharkiv based Rabbi Mendel Moscovitz. Chabad Belgravia Synagogue, London, UK. 23 June.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2025 Here There Be Dragons Dragons Podcast. Urban life Season 4 “Odes[s]a” <https://www.htbdpodcast.com/episodes>
- 2022 Cited expert in “Russia, Ukraine and the spectre of 1941. *Financial Times Magazine*, March 10, 2022.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University College London, Dept of Anthropology

- Anthropology of Socialist and Post Socialist Societies (Guest Lecturer, “Soviet and Contemporary Ukraine”), November 2024

London School of Economics, Department of Anthropology:

- Theory and Ethnography (Teaching Fellow, Tutorials), 2012-13
- Introduction to Anthropology (Graduate Teaching Assistant, Tutorials), 2007-08

Jewish Community Centre of Odessa (Migdal)

- English, 2006-07

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Member of the Advisory Board, PJ Library, London UK, 2019-present

Translator, Jewish Museum of Odesa. Odesa, Ukraine, 2005-present

Researcher and translator for author Sarah Helm’s manuscript *Ravensbruck: Life and Death in Hitler’s Concentration Camp*. Anchor Books, London, UK, 2007–08

Development Associate, Catholic Medical Mission Board. New York, NY, 2002-003

LANGUAGES

Russian (fluent); English (fluent); Ukrainian (intermediate); French (intermediate); Hebrew (basic reading)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR); European Association of Jewish Studies (EAJS); British Association of Jewish Studies (BAJS); American Association of Jewish Studies (ASJ); British Academy Early Career Research Network.