

The Doctoral School of History and the Department of History cordially invite you to the  
Public Defense of the Doctoral Thesis in  
History  
by

**Anna Mazanik**

on

**Sanitation, Urban Environment and the Politics  
of Public Health in Late Imperial Moscow**

will be held on

**Friday, June 12, 2015 at 14:00**

in the

**Senate room  
Central European University (CEU)  
Budapest—1051  
Nádor 9**

Defense Committee

Chair: Karoly Bard, Legal Studies Department, CEU

Supervisor: Alexey Miller, Department of History, CEU

Members: Karl Hall, Department of History, CEU

Daniel Todes, John Hopkins University

Reader: Julia Lajus, National Research University Higher School of  
Economics, St. Petersburg

## **Dissertation abstract**

In the last decades of the nineteenth century Moscow's authorities launched an unprecedented campaign of urban sanitation, or "*ozdorovleniye*", which relied on the newly established in Russia discipline of hygiene as its scientific basis. The centrality of health and sanitation to the idea of modernity, in combination with the portrayal of Russia as intrinsically "backward", led Russian educated elites and medical professionals to see their mission as making the country healthier and cleaner to urgently bridge the perceived gap with "advanced" Western societies.

This dissertation examines the activity of the late-imperial Moscow elites in the sphere of urban sanitation between the mid-1870s and 1905, the time when municipalities, empowered by the new Municipal Statute, were - together with zemstvos - the highest elected political bodies in the Russian Empire. The main research problems of the dissertation are: which motivations - scientific, ideological, social, or economic - were behind the sanitary reforms, who cared and why they cared and which shape their goals took in practice.

The dissertation aims to bring the urban dimension to the history of late-imperial Russian medicine and public health and the health dimension to the Russian urban history. Although in nineteenth-century Russia the emerging field of public health became a highly politicized subject and contested arena of policy, scholars have devoted little attention to the local politics of health and the use of medical sciences in urban reforms.

In the recent decades the understanding of nineteenth century urban public health reforms as pillars of the emerging welfare state was subject to revision. Under the influence of a Foucauldian approach they were reinterpreted as disciplinary tactics, strategies of surveillance and mechanisms of creating liberal

subjects. In the field of Russian studies, Laura Engelstein argued that Foucauldian explanatory model generally does not apply to the Russian context because of the absence of rule of law. Daniel Beer objected to Engelstein's argument and claimed that not just the radical but also the liberal project of "*ozdorovleniye*" was by definition coercive and that imperial scientists and Russian liberalism in general were forerunners of the oppressive solutions of the Soviet regime. Beer, however, did not investigate how scientific knowledge and theories translated into public policy in pre-revolutionary Russia - the problem that is tackled in the present dissertation.

The general approach to the historical sources in the project combines intellectual history of scientific and political debates with the analysis of the actual social policy in the sphere of sanitary regulation. The dissertation relies primarily on the holdings of the Moscow city archive as its source base and consists of five chapters.

Chapter 1 explains the organization of public health in post-Reform Russia, its legal and institutional framework, and discusses the discipline of hygiene that provided the scientific grounds for the sanitary reforms. It argues that in Russia hygiene and bacteriology were not in opposition, but instead hygiene embraced new bacteriological discoveries and remained the umbrella science for the campaign against disease.

Chapter 2 introduces the social, legal and political context of Moscow, the periodization and the general dynamics of the sanitary reforms and the actors involved. It highlights the major themes in the city discussions on sanitation: 1) Moscow's perceived "backwardness" and the necessity to catch up with the

“European standard”; 2) the “public good” seen as the moral obligation of the municipality and the city elites to improve the life of the urban poor through promoting science and public health at the expense of the city; 3) municipalization of all health-related services presented as the best mechanism of overcoming “backwardness” and achieving “public good”.

The three remaining chapters are the case-studies of specific sanitary reforms. Chapter 3 looks at the reform of syphilis prevention, which resulted in the creation of free medical services for those suffering from venereal disease. Chapter 4 explores the construction and operation of the public abattoir that marked a major step in establishing sanitary control over food products. Chapter 5 studies the campaign against river pollution and the appearance of the sewerage system - a fundamental change in the collection, removal and treatment of urban wastes.

The dissertation argues that the sanitary undertakings of the municipal project of “*ozdorovleniye*” implied both “serving the people” and disciplining them. The service to the urban community and to the ideals of public good was expressed in applying scientific knowledge, technology and the municipal resources to fight disease and provide medical assistance to those in need. The disciplinary mechanisms were introduced through constructing, disseminating and imposing new norms of “healthy”, “hygienic” or “civilized” behavior and training the “uncultured” people to live their life according to the model that the elites had in mind. Both of these entangled processes were hindered by the social and political realities of the Russian Empire, particularly the remarkable volatility of the urban population, the scarcity of city finances, the limited legal competence of the

municipal government and its lack of juridical, administrative and symbolic power over the city population. The dissertation stresses, however, that it was not only these external factors that limited the implementation of the municipal “public good” goals but that understanding of the “public good” was in itself very narrow, and the vision of serving urban community had strong disciplinary overtones. Yet, surveillance and disciplining functioned effectively only in respect to selected social groups, while the circle of potential beneficiaries of the newly-created public health structures was much wider.

## ANNA MAZANIK

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- history of medicine and public health in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century
- urban history of modern Europe
- environmental history of imperial Russia and the USSR
- history of human-animal relations
- cultural history of Central and Eastern Europe
  
- current research:

*Sanitation, Urban Environment and the Politics of Public Health in Late Imperial Moscow*

### EDUCATION

2009 – 2015 PhD Program in Comparative History of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe  
Central European University, Department of History

2008 – 2009

MA in Central European History

Central European University, Department of History

Thesis: “Second in the Empire: Social topography of Moscow and Budapest in the early twentieth century”

Supervisor: Gabor Gyani

Graduated with distinction

2003 – 2008

MA in History, specialization in Russian History

Lomonosov Moscow State University, Department of History

Graduated with distinction

### SCHOLARSHIPS (OTHER THAN THE DEGREE PROGRAMS)

2013-2014 Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München  
DAAD Visiting scholar

2013 Technische Universität Darmstadt  
Visiting fellow at Graduiertenkolleg Topologie der Technik

2012 Johns Hopkins University  
Visiting scholar at the Institute of the History of Medicine, program in History of Science, Medicine and Technology

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

2011-2013 ReSET project *Towards a New Cultural History of Eastern and Central Europe*, hosted by the Institute for Historical Research, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Research Center 'Borderland Society: Past and Present'

2011-2013 *Women in European Culture and Society: a sourcebook*, hosted by University of Southern Denmark, research assistant to prof. Deborah Simonton.

2010 -2013 *Gender in the European Town: The making of the modern town*, supported by Danish Research Fund and hosted by University of Southern Denmark

2011-2012 *Urban Historical Scholarship in East Central Europe since 1989*, hosted by CEU, research assistant to profs. Katalin Szende (CEU) and Markian Prokopovych (University of Vienna)

## ACADEMIC AWARDS AND GRANTS

2014 CEU Write-Up Grant

2013 DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) research fellowship

2013 DFG (German Research Foundation) visiting scholar fellowship

2012 CEU Academic Award for Advanced PhD Students

2012 CEU Doctoral Research Support Grant

2009 CEU Full Doctoral Fellowship

2008 CEU Full MA Fellowship

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2014 *Soviet History*, undergraduate seminar, UNIC University, Moscow, Department of Journalism, independent teaching, own syllabus.

2011 *Imperial Order and Nationalism in Contiguous Empires: A comparative perspective*, graduate seminar, CEU, Department of History, teaching assistant to prof. Alexei Miller.

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

2007-2008 Moscow Exchange, Derivatives Market  
Administrative coordinator of the Derivatives Market Department  
Personal assistant to the Director for Development and the Head of the Derivatives Market Department

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Russian: native
- English: professional
- German: advanced reading, intermediate speaking
- French: pre-intermediate
- Italian: pre-intermediate
- Serbo-Croatian: pre-intermediate

## PUBLICATIONS

Academic publications:

“The City as a Transient Home: Residential patterns of Moscow workers around the turn of twentieth century” in *Urban History*, vol. 40, part 1, February 2013.

“Kul’turny povorot i rossiyskaya istoricheskaya urbanistika” [Cultural turn and Russian urban history] in Alexei Miller, ed., *Proshly vek*, INION RAN, 2013.

“A Letter About the Letter to Prison: Russian Environmental Activism, Political Protest, and the Value of Participation”, in Elin Kelsey (ed.), "Beyond Doom and Gloom: An Exploration through Letters," RCC Perspectives 2014, no. 6.

“Urban history in Russia since 2000”, in *Urban History*, forthcoming in 2015.

“Hygiene against autocracy: Sanitary reform in fin-de-siècle Moscow” in Darina Martykanova and Meltem Akbas, eds., *A Marriage of Love and Convenience: Negotiating Science and Technology in Urban Space*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, forthcoming in 2015.

“The City of Men: Gender, space and working-class domesticity in late-imperial Moscow” in Elaine Chalus and Marjo Kaartinen, eds., *Conceived, Constructed & Contested Spaces: Gender in the European Town, c.1500–1914*, Routledge, forthcoming in 2015.

Public history:

“Birthing pains: Rural childbirth in pre-revolutionary Russia” in *Russian Life*, January/February 2015.



“Final months of peace: Russia on the eve of the First World War” in *Russian Life*, July/August 2014.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:

*Cities and River Environments – A Versatile Relationship*, Herder Institute, Marburg, November 2014

12<sup>th</sup> International conference on Urban History, *Cities in Europe, Cities in the world*, Lisbon, 2014

*Beyond “doom and gloom” in environmental narratives*, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, March 2014

*Gender in the European Town: Medieval to Modern*, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, May 2013.

11<sup>th</sup> International conference on Urban History *Cities and Societies in Comparative Prospective*, Prague, September 2012.

*Capital Cities in Transformation: Spaces, Actors, and Transfers*, Humboldt University, Berlin, September, 2011.

Workshops *Gender in the European Town: The making of the modern town*, Helsinki, December, 2010, Umea, May, 2011, London, December 2011, Bath, May 2012.

10<sup>th</sup> International conference on Urban History *City and Society in European History*, Ghent, September, 2010