

Oleg KOBTZEFF

Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society

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1. Associate Professor in History and Political Geography, American University of Paris
2. Visiting Professor in the history of the Russian Orthodox Church, Institut Saint Serge (prof. Anton Kartachov's chair)
3. Regular commentator on Russian, Ukrainian and Russian-American affairs on French national television and radio channels
4. Co-founder of an ethnographic museum in Alaska (Veniaminov Institute, Kodiak)
5. Publisher of a regional periodical in the Pacific Northwest of the United States; author, editor-in-chief
6. Founding publisher of *Geographica* geographic magazine

Education & Background

Ph.D., 1985, East-European studies, University of Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1); thesis: *La Russie et l'Europe de l'Est* (obtained "mention Très Bien" — equivalent of *summa cum laude*)

BA, history, University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris 4), MA, history, University of Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1)

BTh, St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute

Dual citizen of USA and European Union (France).

Fluent speaker of Russian, English, French, (triple mother tongues) and Italian
Reading knowledge of several Slavic languages,
Elementary knowledge of German

Fields of Expertise

Research interests

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| - The states of the former USSR and Soviet bloc + Yugoslavia since 1986 | of social sciences (particularly geography and anthropology) |
| - Russian borders and frontier lands (particularly Arctic regions) | comparative study of ethnic and religious diversity, and especially identities in Russia and all other Orthodox countries |
| - Russian religious history | Geopolitics of extreme environments (marine, polar, air & space) |
| - Russian naval history | Geopolitics of the environment |
| - history of Russian foreign relations (particularly with USA, France, UK, China, Japan) | Human rights |
| - Russian, French, British and US comparative history of colonialism and imperial expansion | |
| - Russian, French and US comparative history | |

Regions studied (deep immersion field experience)

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|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - St. Petersburg | - Nordic and Arctic regions | - Brittany |
| - Karelia | - Mordova Autonomous Republic | - The Alps |
| - Russia's former possessions: Finland, Alaska, Ukraine | - Baltic Sea | - Paris and its conurbation |
| | - Black Sea | |

Monographs

1. () Paris, University of Panthéon- Sorbonne, 1985, xxxvi + 585 pages + Illus. + Maps. (Private publication in 50 copies. New revised and augmented edition in English in preparation for release in 2022).
2. . Barron's, N.Y., 1996; also published in Finnish, Spanish and 4 French editions— 3rd edition Initiation: russe—on Amazon.fr bestselling list for several months in 2003-2004, N°6 of all books on tape).

Articles or book chapters in peer-reviewed publications :

1. * Pour une étude comparative des pèlerinages sur les tombes de Saint Germain d'Alaska et de Saint

2007: initiator, organizer: Panel: "The Geopolitics of Extreme Environments. Part 2: The Arctic regions", held in November at the American University of Paris. Guest speakers: Jim Bitterman, CNN Paris bureau chief, Joëlle Robert-Lamblin, Arctic explorer, etc.

2007: initiator, organizer: Panel: "The Geopolitics of Extreme Environments. Part 1: Outer Space", held in

conference papers or panelist:

2020: "Le pacifisme de Tolstoï dans son contexte historique", Table ronde " [Faire la paix avec Tolstoï](#) ", Conférence Catholique des Baptisé-e-s Francophones, January 30.

2019: "De la polémologie comme grille de lecture des grands conflits contemporains et instrument de paix: pour une redécouverte de Gaston Bouthoul et d'Erich Fromm". Conference "Faire Paix" hosted by Ecole de Management de Normandie (also co-sponsor) organized by Université de Caen. Sponsored by Région Normandie. November, 15.

2019: "Défense de la nature : les origines de l'écologie en France et dans le monde francophone." organized by FfIRE (Forum francophone interdépartemental de recherches et d'enseignement) - a partnership between AUP and OIF (l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie), OIF headquarters, September 26

2019 : " Sur les traces du Transsibérien ". Individual presentation organized by Association Linguarik, Université populaire de Poissy. September 22.

2019 : " Pour une étude comparative des pèlerinages sur les tombes de Saint Germain d'Alaska et de Saint Séraphim de Sarov. commentaires sur des notes de terrain. " Conference " Liturgies de pèlerinages, 66e Semaine d'études liturgiques", organized by Institut Saint-Serge, Paris, July 1-4

2017 : comments and discussion in the roundtable « [le Siècle Arctique](#) » with Mika Mered and Stéphane Dugast, Institut Libre des Etudes en Relations Internationales, 30 June

2016: "The Geopolitics of the Arctic", International Geostrategic Maritime Observatory round-table event on Geostrategy of the Mediterranean Sea, Paris, December

2015: "Russia in the Mediterranean", International Geostrategic Maritime Observatory round-table event on Geostrategy of the Mediterranean Sea, Paris, June

2014: Panelist, round-table discussion organized by Confrontations Europe think tank, " Comment consolider les relations de l'Union européenne avec l'Ukraine? Comment rétablir le dialogue avec la Russie? How to consolidate the relations of the EU with the Ukraine? How to restore dialogue with Russia?)"

2012: John Meyendorff (his significance for historiography", international conference on John Meyendorff, St. Sergius Theological Seminary

situations", University of Nantes 300th anniversary conference and Nantes-St. Petersburg twinning ceremonies, May 16-19.

2003: "The geography of the Saint Petersburg region", Parsons School of design

2003:

