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Peter Meylakhs

Date of birth: 02.02.1972

Place of birth: Leningrad

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Education:

1996-1999 Tel Aviv University, Department of Sociology, specialization – sociology

1999-2001 University of Russian Academy of Education, specialization – psychology

2001+2004 Saint Petersburg State University, Department of Sociology, Chair of Social Work, post-graduate studies.

2007 Ph.D. in sociology. The dissertation's title "The Social Reflection of the Drug Situation in Saint-Petersburg"

2008-2009. Post-doctoral training in National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI), NY, US.

2010-2011. Post-doctoral training at Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale Sociology Department.

Permanent Employment:

2000-2001 Rehabilitation centre for drug addiction "Help", specialist on social rehabilitation of chemically dependent persons

2004+ Centre for Independent Social Research, Saint Petersburg, research fellow

2008-2009 Fogarty fellow at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Worked as a researcher at NDRI.

Projects:

1. Children of Russia project. Elaboration of theoretical foundation of strategies and practices of youth anti-drug movements in the North Western region of the Russian Federation. 2002-2003. Researcher
2. TESIS project. The study of the youth's needs in antidrug NGOs. 2003-2004. Researcher
3. Children of Russia project. The study of youth's social competency skills. 2004. Researcher
4. Eurasia Foundation project. Expert analysis of social problems: prevention of drug use and propaganda of healthy life-style. 2004. Researcher
5. Individual grant of the Center for Independent Social Research. Moral Panics and the Social Construction of the Drug Problem in Saint Petersburg Press. 2004. Researcher
6. Between Integration and Resettlement: The Meskhetian Turks. 2004-2005. Researcher
7. The Police and Ethnic Minorities: The Interaction Practices in Kazan' and Saint-Petersburg. 2006-2008. Principal investigator.
8. Realization of rights of HIV-positive drug users on anti-retroviral therapy: Doctor-patient relationship perspective - the search for possibilities of compromise. 2006 – 2007. Principal investigator.

9. Women, Drug Use, and Harm Reduction in Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine. 2007. Researcher.
10. Simona plus: A pilot assessment of IDU/PLWH needs in medical treatment performed by members of IDU/PLWH communities. Expert. 2008-2009.
11. Governance of HIV/AIDS Prevention in North-Western Russia. Regional team leader. 2008-2010.
12. Staying Safe: Long-term IDUs who have avoided HIV & HCV in New York City. 2008-2009. Researcher.
13. Staying Safe in Vancouver: Identifying Strategies by Long-Term Injection Drug Users to Avoid HIV and HCV Infection. 2009-2010. Consultant.
14. Staying Safe in St.Petersburg: how long-term IDUs avoid HIV infection. 2010-2011. Principal Investigator.

Summer Schools and Workshops:

1. Workshop of V. Yadov. 2003.
2. The Federal Center of Qualification Development in Saint Petersburg State University. Autumn University 2003.
3. Scientific-Research Center "Region" Summer School 2004.

Participation in Conferences:

1. 3rd Scientific Practical Conference on Drug Use Prevention. SPb, 2002.
2. The Problems of Tolerance in the Modern World. SPb, 2003.
3. Mythology and Everyday Life: Power in Narrative/ Power of Narrative. SPb, 2004.
4. Drug Use Prevention and Propaganda of Healthy Life Style in Saint Petersburg. SPb, 2004.
5. International Science-Practical Conference: Actual Aspects of Tolerance in the Modern World. SPb, 2004.
6. Russian Society and Power: Problems of Interaction. SPb, 2004.
7. Changing Youth in the Changing World. Toliatti, 2005.
8. 12th International Conference: The Child in the Modern World. SPb, 2005.
9. International Forum Antinarco – 2005, SPb, 2005.
10. 4th Russian Congress for Support of Education: Consolidation of Civil Society, Business, and State Power in Reform of Education, Security, and Drug Prevention. SPb, 2005.
11. 7th Conference of European Sociological Association: Rethinking Inequalities. Torun, Poland.
12. Health in Changing Society: Discourse, Politics, and Everyday Life in Contemporary Russia. SPb, 2005.
13. 16th Annual Conference of Association for Study Ethnicity and Nationalism. "Nations and Their Pasts." London School of Economics and Political Science, London. 2006.
14. The Mass Media in Post-Soviet Russia, Surrey, England, 2006.
15. Biographical Research on Post-Socialist Space: Ten Years After. SPb, 2006.
16. IHRA's 19th International Conference, Barselona, 2008 "Towards a Global Approach." "Barriers to women drug users' access to services in St. Petersburg: Preliminary results of a qualitative study."
17. IHRA's 19th International Conference, Barselona, 2008 "Devolution and the struggle to avoid infections and social harms: Staying Safe in New York City". Samuel R Friedman, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, Milagros Sandoval, Peter Meylakh, Juan-Carlos Valderrama, Victor Agullo, Esperanza Gomez, Tomas Zabransky, Barbara Janikova, Tim Rhodes.
18. NDRI mini-conference on Hepatitis C, that was conducted in April, 2008. 'Long Term IDU's who have avoided HCV and HIV.' Samuel R Friedman, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, Milagros Sandoval, Peter Meylakh.

19. International AIDS Conference in Mexico-City on 3-8 August 2008. "Learning from the experts: How do some long-term injectors manage to avoid HIV and HCV over the years?"
20. International AIDS Conference in Mexico-City on 3-8 August 2008. "Towards a new generation of HIV prevention programming for IDUs." Samuel R Friedman, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, Milagros Sandoval, Peter Meylakhs, Don Des Jarlais, Holly Hagan.
21. 1 International Sociological Association conference in Barcelona, Spain on 4-9 September where I gave two talks:
 - 1) "The Media Strategies of Amplification of Risks Related to Drug Use as a Boundary Maintenance Mechanism (the Russian case)"
 - 2) "A Local Risk Reduction Facility and its Dependence from the Macro-social Context: the Case of a Mobile Harm Reduction Program in St.Petersburg, Russia" (co-authored with Nastia Meylakhs)
22. 1) 18th International Conference "AIDS, Cancer and Public Health», St. Petersburg, Russia, May 25 – 28, 2009.
'Reducing HIV and Other Risks Associated with Devolution (Severe Loss of Control) among Injection Drug Users' (**Peter Meylakhs** (presenter), Samuel R Friedman, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, Milagros Sandoval).
2) 'Positive deviance research designs and what they tell us about how drug users protect themselves against HIV and hepatitis C in spite of all the obstacles.' Samuel R Friedman, Peter Meylakhs, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, Milagros Sandoval.
23. Forming an international research consortium on "Staying Safe." NIDA International Conference. Friedman et al. Co-author.
24. 4th Conference on Global Health and Vaccination Research: Meeting the challenges of the Millennium. Development Goals and beyond – Health research and policy. Oslo, 30/11 – 2/12 2009. **Peter Meylakhs** (presenter) and Aadne Aasland. 'Vulnerable groups' perception of Federal and local HIV prevention efforts in two Russian districts: preliminary results of a qualitative study.'
25. XVIII International AIDS Conference, Vienna, 18-23 July 2010.
 - 1) 'How taking care of oneself could help long term injection drug users remain uninfected with HIV and HCV.' Oral Presentation. **Peter Meylakhs** (presenter), Samuel R. Friedman, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, Milagros Sandoval, Nastia Meylakhs.
 - 2) 'Drug users' perceptions of HIV prevention programs in North-West Russia.' Oral Presentation. **Peter Meylakhs** (presenter), Aadne Aasland, Arne Grønningsæter.
 - 3) 'Politics of scale in Russian HIV/AIDS prevention: Case study of five municipalities in North-West Russia.' Aadne Aasland (presenter), Peris S. Jones, Arne B. Grønningsæter, Peter Meylakhs.
26. The Governance of HIV/AIDS Prevention in North-West Russia. Arkhangelsk, Russia. 2 December 2010. **Peter Meylakhs** (presenter), Aadne Aasland, Arne Grønningsæter. 'Perception of HIV prevention programs by vulnerable groups: a comparative study of 5 municipalities in Northwest Russia.'
27. 106th American Sociological Organization Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, 20-23 August
28. 2011. 'How Long-Term Drug Users Remain HIV and HCV Free: Role Theory Approach.' **Peter Meylakhs** (presenter), Samuel R. Friedman, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, Milagros Sandoval, Nastia Meylakhs.
29. Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting 2011. Las Vegas, August 19-21.
 - 1) "Taking Care of Themselves: How Long-Term Injection Drug Users Remain HIV and HCV Free." **Peter Meylakhs** (presenter), Samuel R. Friedman, Pedro Mateu-Gelabert, Milagros Sandoval, Nastia Meylakhs.
 - 2) "Dangerous Knowledge vs. Dangerous Ignorance: Risk Narratives on Sex Education in the Russian Press."

Publications: (in Russian)

1. Pravovaya Politika i Ideologiya. (Legal Policy and Ideology.) 3rd Scientific Practical Conference on Drug Use Prevention Proceedings. SPb, 2002.
2. Opasnosti Moral'noy Paniki po Povodu Narkotikov. (The Dangers of Moral Drug Panic). Credo-New, №1, 2003.
3. Narkomaniya v Kriminal'nom I Yuridicheskom Diskursakh. (Drug Addiction in Criminological and Medical Discourses). Proceedings of 11th International Conference "The Child in the Modern World. The State and the Children". SPb.: SPbGU, 2004.
4. Narkomaniya v Zerkale peterburgskikh SMI. (Drug Addiction in the Mirror of Saint-Petersburg Media). Prevention of Drug Use and Propaganda of Healthy Life-style. SPb.: CRNO, 2004.
5. Diskurs Pressy i Press Diskursa. Konstruirovaniye Problemy Narkotikov v Peterburgskikh SMI. (The Discourse of Press and the Press of Discourse: The Construction of the Drug Problem in Saint-Petersburg Media). Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology. № 4(28). Vol. VII. 2004. The revised version of the article is reprinted in: Critical Readings: Moral Panics and the Media. C. Critcher (ed.). Maidenhead: Open University Press. 2006.
6. Publichnoye Prostranstvo v Diskurse Rossiyskogo Neomoralisma. (Public Space in Discourse of Russian Neo-Moralism) // Actual Aspects of Tolerance in the Modern World. I.L. Pervova (ed). SPb, 2004.
7. Moral'naya Panika po Povodu Narkotikov: Pochemu Ona Zakonchilas? (The Moral Drug Panic in Russia: Why Did It End?) Proceedings of 12th International Conference "The Child in the Modern World.". SPb.: SPbGU, 2005.
8. Meditsinskaya I Kriminal'naya Modeli Narkomanii. (Medical and Criminal Models of Addiction) // Drugs, Drug Addiction, Drug Policy. A. Sofronov (ed.). Medical Press: Saint-Petersburg, 2006.
9. Otdavaya Rodine Dolzhnoye: Opyt Etnosymvolicheskogo Analisa Sluchaya Turkov-Meskhentintsev v Tsentral'noy Rossii. (Taking the Concept of "Homeland" Seriously: The Ethnosymbolic Analysis of Community of Meskhetian Turks Living in Central Russia) // Ab Imperio, № 3, 2006.
10. Sotsial'niye, Politicheskiye I Ideologicheskkiye Aspekty Narkomanii. (Social, Political, and Ideological Aspects of Drug Addiction) // The Handbook of Addiction. V. Mendelevich (ed.). Rech': Saint-Petersburg, 2007.

Publications: (in English)

1. Meylakhs, P. 2006. The Discourse of Press and the Press of Discourse: The Construction of the Drug Problem in Saint-Petersburg Media. In *Critical Readings: Moral Panics and the Media*. C. Critcher (ed.). Maidenhead: Open University Press. 2006. Reprinted from Diskurs Pressy i Press Diskursa. Konstruirovaniye Problemy Narkotikov v Peterburgskikh SMI. Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology №.4(28). Vol. VII. 2004.
2. Meylakhs, P. 2009. Drugs and Symbolic Pollution: The Work of Cultural Logic in the Russian Press, *Cultural Sociology*, Volume 3(3): 377–395.
3. Meylakhs, P. 2011. Dangerous Knowledge vs. Dangerous Ignorance: Risk Narratives on Sex Education in the Russian Press, *Health, Risk & Society*, Volume 13(3), 239-254.
4. Taking care of themselves: how long-term injection drug users avoid HIV and Hepatitis C. To be submitted within 2 months.
5. Mateu-Gelabert, Pedro; Sandoval, Milagros; **Meylakhs, Peter**; Wendel, Travis; Samuel R Friedman. 2010. Strategies for Avoiding Opioid Withdrawal: Implications for HCV and HIV Risks. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, Volume 21(3): 179-185.
6. Friedman, Samuel R; Sandoval, Milagros; Mateu-Gelabert, Pedro; **Meylakhs, Peter**; Des Jarlais, Don C. Users. 2011. Symbiotic Goals and the Prevention of Blood-Borne Viruses among Injection Drug. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 46:307–315.

Book reviews:

Kapital Raznoobraziya: Ne Roskosh, no Neobkhodimost' (Diversity Capital: Not Luxury but Necessity). Review on B. A. Ruble. 2005. *Creating diversity capital transnational migrants in Montreal, Washington, and Kyiv. Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology*, Vol.4. 2008.

Reviewing activity:

Anonymous reviewer for *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 2008+

Anonymous reviewer for *Health, Risk, and Society* 2011+

Editorial activity

The Point of No Return. The Report on Monitoring and Evaluation of Accessibility and Quality of the State Health Services for People Living with HIV. Galina Kaminskaya, Grigory Vergus, Vladimir Ossipov, Albert Zaripov, Peter Meylakhs (eds.). Open Society Institute, NYC.

Teaching activity

Series of seminars on qualitative research in drug-users settings. Centre for Independent Social Research, Summer 2009.

Series of seminars on qualitative research in medical settings. Centre for Independent Social Research, Summer 2009.

Membership in Conference Scientific Committees.

1. The Problems of Tolerance in the Modern World. Saint-Petersburg, 2003.
2. International Conference: Actual Aspects of Tolerance in the Modern World. Saint-Petersburg, 2004.
3. Changing Youth in the Changing World. Toliatti, Russia, 2005.
4. Joint Conference of Biographical Perspectives on European Societies Research Network of the European Sociological Association and Centre for Independent Social Research. Biographical Research on Post-Socialist Space: Ten Years After. Saint-Petersburg, 2006.
5. XVIII International AIDS Conference Scientific Program Committee. Track D: Psycho-social and Behavioral Sciences Committee. XVIII International AIDS Conference, Vienna, 2010.
6. The Governance of HIV/AIDS Prevention in North-West Russia. Arkhangelsk, Russia. 2 December 2010.

Scientific Interests: Cultural sociology, medical sociology, structural symbolic interactionism, sociology of social problems, sociology of deviance, social aspects of drug use, social aspects of HIV and HCV prevention, sociology of mass media, sociocultural theory of risk, sociology of ethnicity and nationalism, social theory, qualitative methodology.

Membership in Scientific Organizations: Member of the European Sociological Association, American Sociological Organization, Society for Study of Social Problems, International AIDS Society.

Language Skills

English – (fluently), Hebrew – (fluently), Russian – mother-tongue.