

Participant Bios:

Melissa Caldwell is Associate Professor of Anthropology at University of California Santa Cruz. Her ethnographic fieldwork in an international, church-based food program in Moscow (1997-2002) chronicles the daily lives and experiences of the program's clients, who are primarily elderly Muscovite pensioners and veterans, and their interactions with social services officials and domestic and foreign aid workers. Some of her more recent research addresses the experiences of black Africans in Moscow society. She is author of *Not By Bread Alone: Social Support in the New Russia* (Berkeley: University of California Press).

Ela Drazkiewicz is a PhD Candidate in Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. She is completing her dissertation on the topic, "From Recipient to Donor: The Engagement of Polish NGOs in Development", which is based on fieldwork in South Sudan and Poland among various development experts representing NGOs, international institutions and governmental bodies. Her research involves studies of development practices and ideology as well as politics and interrelations between various actors of the international assistance networks.

Patty Gray is Lecturer in Anthropology at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. In the 1990s she carried out ethnographic research in the far northeast of Russia and witnessed the influx of foreign humanitarian aid from both official sources and charitable organizations. Her ambivalence over this experience drew her attention to Russia's (re)emergence as a donor after 2006, and she made this the focus of her current research. She is author of *The Predicament of Chukotka's Indigenous Movement: Post-Soviet Activism in the Russian Far North* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Maxim Matusevich is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Russian and East European Studies Programme at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. His research focuses on the history of cultural and political encounters between Africa and Russia/Soviet Union. He is the author of *No Easy Row for a Russian Hoe: Ideology and Pragmatism in Nigerian-Soviet Relations, 1960-1991*, and he is editor of *Africa in Russia, Russia in Africa: three centuries of encounters* (both from Africa World Press).

Christian Noack is Lecturer in History at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. His research interests include nationalities issues, the history of Islam in Russia, work and leisure in the post Stalinist Soviet Union, and the EU's changing relations with Russia since the latter has begun to play a more active role in international relations and development. He is author of *Muslimischer Nationalismus im Russischen Reich. Nationsbildung und Nationalbewegung bei Tataren und Baschkiren, 1860-1917* (Stuttgart: Steiner).

Nikolai Ssorin-Chaikov is Lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. His research interests include anthropology of the state and governmentality, exchange theory, socialist modernity and post-socialism, and the legacies of the Cold War. He curated an award-winning exhibition of gifts to Soviet leaders at the Kremlin Museum, Moscow, which gives unique insight into what relations these gifts created and maintained between the givers and the political centre of the Soviet system. He is author of *The Social Life of the State in Sub-Arctic Siberia* (Stanford University Press).

Tuomas Takala is Professor of Education at the University of Tampere. His main research area is education policy-making in developing countries, particularly Southern and Eastern Africa and South Asia. He has extensive experience as a consultant to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, UNESCO and ADEA in education sector analysis, and planning and evaluation of education projects and programs. He has recently done research, with his PhD student Nelli Piattoeva, on conceptions of development assistance to education in post-Soviet international discourse. He is author of *Educational Problems of Developing Countries* and *Education for All: The Objective and Reality in Developing Countries* (in Finnish).