

# Elena Obukhova

Desautels Faculty of Management  
McGill University  
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## Employment

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- 2013- Assistant Professor, Strategy and Organization  
Desautels Faculty of Management, McGill University
- 2007-13 Assistant Professor, Global Economics and Management  
Sloan School of Management, MIT

## Education

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- 2007 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Chicago
- 1997 M.S., Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences, Northwestern University
- 1994 B.A., Anthropology, University of Florida

## Research interests

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Economic sociology; organizational theory; social networks and careers; conformity and differentiation; China

## Journal articles (\*co-author is a student at the beginning of the project)

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- 2017 Obukhova, E. and L. Zhang\*. Social Capital and Job Search in Urban China: The Strength-of-Strong-Ties Hypothesis Revisited. *Chinese Sociological Review* 49(4): 340-361.
- Finalist for Best Overall Paper Award of the Careers Division, Academy of Management
  - An abridged version published in the Academy of Management 2015 *Best Paper Proceedings*
- 2016 Zhang\*, J., E. Zuckerman and E. Obukhova. A Lack of Security or of Cultural Capital? Acculturative Conservatism in the Naming Choices of Early 20th-Century U.S. Jews. *Social Forces* 94(4): 1509-1538.
- 2014 Obukhova, E., E. Zuckerman and J. Zhang\*. When Politics Froze Fashion: The Effect of the Cultural Revolution on Naming in Beijing. *American Journal of Sociology* 120(2): 555-583.
- Honorable mention for Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article, Culture Section, American Sociological Association

- 2013 Obukhova, E. and G. Lan\*. Do Job-Seekers Benefit from Contacts? A Direct Test with Contemporaneous Searches. *Management Science* 59(10): 2204-2216.
- 2012 Obukhova, E. Motivation vs. Relevance: Using Strong Ties to Find a Job in China. *Social Science Research* 41(3): 470-480.

## Working papers

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- Obukhova, E. and A. M. Kleinbaum. Opportunity, Choice and Gender Networking Deficit.
- Honorable mention award, Gender and Diversity Division, Administrative Sciences Association of Canada
- Obukhova, E. and B. Rubineau. Switching Sides: Market Transition and Job Information Sharing in China.

## Book reviews

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- 2011 Culture and Economics: On Values, Economics and International Business, by Eelke De Jong. Routledge, 2009. Reviewed for *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 56(2): 310-311.
- 2006 The Making of the State Enterprise System in Modern China: The Dynamics of Institutional Change, by Morris L. Bian. Harvard University Press, 2005. Reviewed for *American Journal of Sociology*, 112 (2): 629–631.
- 2004 Red Capitalists in China: The Party, Private Entrepreneurs, and Prospects for Political Change, by Bruce J. Dickson. Cambridge University Press, 2003. Reviewed for *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 52 (4): 901-903.

## Other publications

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- 2005 Obukhova, E. Redefining State Embeddedness for the Global Economy: The Rise of China's Silicon Valley. *Proceedings of 2005 Chinese Economists Society International Conference on Sustainable Economic Growth in China*. Volume I-B, p. 3-8.
- 2002 Obukhova, E. and J. Guyer. Transcending the Formal/Informal Distinction: Commercial Relations in Africa and Russia in the Post-1989 World. In *Theory in Economic Anthropology*, J. Ensminger, ed. Alta Mira Press: Walnut Creek, CA.
- 2002 Obukhova, E. Living and Trusting in the Economy of Debt: The Distribution of Newspapers and Magazines in Ibadan. In *Money Struggles and City Life: Devaluation In Ibadan and Other Urban Centers in Southern Nigeria, 1986-96*, J. Guyer, L. Denzer, and A. Agbaje, eds. Heinemann: Portsmouth, NH.

## **Seminars and conference presentations (last 5 years)**

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### **2017-2018**

Administrative Science Association of Canada Meeting, Toronto

### **2016-2017**

MIT-Harvard Economic Sociology Seminar, MIT

East Asian Studies Workshop, University of Chicago

Center for Applied Social and Economic Research, Hong Kong University of S&T

Sociology Department, Hong Kong Baptist University

Stanford Graduate School of Business Conference on Hiring

Economic Sociology Conference, Kellogg, Northwestern University

American Sociological Association Meeting, Montreal

International Sunbelt Social Networks Conference, Beijing, China

### **2015-2016**

Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Anaheim

American Sociological Association Meeting, Seattle

Organizational Theory Junior Conference, Rotman, University of Toronto

Strategic Management Society Annual Meeting, Denver

People and Organizations Conference, Wharton School, Philadelphia

### **2014-2015**

Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Vancouver

GRAI 3ième Conférence en Recherche International, HEC Montréal

People and Organizations Conference, Wharton School, Philadelphia

### **2013-2014**

International Sunbelt Social Network Conference, St. Pete Beach, FL

Intra-Organizational Networks (ION) Conference, U. of Kentucky

## **Honors**

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2017 Li Ka Shing Faculty Exchange Award, Desautels Faculty of Management, McGill University

2008 Fred Kayne (1960) Career Development Professor of Entrepreneurship, MIT Sloan School of Management

2005 Park Lectureship, Sociology Department, University of Chicago

## **Research fellowships and grants**

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2018 Research Grant, Center for Strategy and Organization, McGill University

2016 Research Grant, Center for Strategy and Organization, McGill University

2016 Social Sciences and Humanities Insight Development Grants (co-PI, Yuanyuan Wu (PI))

2015 Social Sciences and Humanities Development Grant, McGill University

2012 Research Support, Junior Faculty Fund, MIT Sloan

2010 Research Support, Edward B. Roberts Entrepreneurship Center Fund, MIT Sloan

2006 Markovitz Dissertation Writing Fellowship, University of Chicago

2003 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Abroad Fellowship, US Department of Education  
 2003 Corporation as a Social Institution Program Dissertation Fellowship, Social Science Research Council  
 2000 Century Fellowship, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago  
 1998 Pre-dissertation Fellowship, Social Science Research Council  
 1998 Blakemore Foundation Fellowship for Study of East Asian Languages

## Teaching experience

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### **McGill Desautels Faculty of Management:**

International Business (BCom core)  
 Managing Globalization (BCom elective)  
 Managing Globalization (MBA elective)

### **MIT Sloan School of Management:**

Global Strategy and Organization (MBA elective)  
 Global Markets, National Politics and the Competitive Advantage (MBA elective)  
 Diaspora Networks for Managers and Entrepreneurs Workshop (MBA)  
 Organizational Processes Team Project Advisor (MBA core)  
 Institutions, Society and International Business (PhD)

### **University of Chicago, Sociology Department:**

Technology and Society (BA)

## Mentoring and advising

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### **Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member:**

Sumeet Duggal (Organizational Behavior, McGill University)  
 Yongwan Lee (Strategy & Organization, McGill University)  
 Steven Zhixiang Liang (Management, Concordia University)  
 Letian Zhang (Sociology, Harvard University, completed 2018)  
 Rima Bhattacharyay (Strategy & Organization, McGill University, completed 2017)  
 Timea Pal (Political Science, MIT, completed 2012)

### **Master's Thesis Supervisor:**

George Lan (MIT Sloan)  
 Shannon Murphy (MIT Sloan)

## Academic service - University

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### McGill Desautels Faculty of Management:

Co-organizer (with Brian Rubineau) Montreal Social Networks Working Group, 2015-

- Organized research brownbags, PhD day, professional development workshops
- Webmaster for blog <https://blogs.mcgill.ca/social-networks/home/>

Member, Research Council, 2014-2017

Member, Strategy and Organization Area, Dissertation Grant Committee, 2014-2016

Member, MBA program committee, 2013-2014

### MIT Sloan School of Management:

Member, Economic Sociology PhD Admissions, 2007-2010

Reviewer, MIT International Science & Technology Initiatives Global Fund, 2009

Co-organizer, MIT-Harvard Economic Sociology Seminar, 2008-2009

Co-organizer, Sloan Behavior and Policy Sciences Junior Faculty Conference, 2008

## Academic service - profession

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### Service at professional journals

Editorial Board Member, *American journal of Sociology* (2017-2019)

Associate Student Editor, *American Journal of Sociology* (2005-2006)

Ad hoc reviewing: *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Organization Science*, *Management Science*, *Social Forces*, *Marketing Science*, *Strategic Management Journal*, *Social Networks*, *Social Science Research*, *Management and Organization Review*, *Small Business Economics Journal*, *Strategic Organization*, *California Management Review*, *Industry & Innovation*, *Work and Occupations*, *European Sociological Review*, *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, *Journal of International Sociology*, *Sociological Forum*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Poetics*

### Conference activities

Program chair, Fellow Travelers on Different Roads: The Intersections of Economic Sociology and Organizations, Occupations, and Work Mini-Conference, Montreal, 2017.

Symposium co-organizer (with Yonghoon Lee), "Grappling with Agency: Tie Creation, Mobilization and Renewal," Academy of Management, 2016.

Symposium co-organizer (with Adina Sterling), "From Whence They Came: How the Origins of Networks Constrain Their Effects," Academy of Management, 2013.

Invited session organizer, "Transnational Processes," American Sociological Association, 2013.

### Other reviewing activities

Paper reviewer, Academy of Management Conference (OMT), 2009-

Paper reviewer, Strategic Management Society, 2017

Proposal reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada, 2013-

Reviewer, International Assessment Exercise, School of Higher Economics, Russia, 2012  
Reviewer, INFORMS / OS dissertation competition, Academy of Management, 2008

### **Non-academic publications**

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- 2006 “Haigui”chengwei Zhongguo IC shejiye xinxing (Returnees are New Stars of China’s IC Design Industry). *China Electronics Times*, 2/21.  
2000 Meiguo daxuede jiuye zhidao zhongxin jiyu Zhongguode chayi (American and Chinese University Career Placement Centers and Their Differences). *Peking University Student Employment Guide*, 4/20, p. 1.

### **Language proficiency**

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- Russian – native speaker
- English – fluent
- Chinese – professional fluency (HSK level 8)
- French – low intermediary