

“East’ in Global Easts is a neither geographically nor historically fixed entity in Oriental history, or East Asia, or Eastern Europe. The ‘Global East’ is a ‘problem space’ where the East remains a problem.”

Jie-Hyun Lim, Professor of **History, South Korea** 2022

“The Global East occupies an in-between space, simultaneously marginalized and privileged, included and excluded.”

Madina Tlostanova, Professor of **Postcolonial Feminisms, Sweden** 2018

“Problems of the East (...) are explained in terms of past dependencies (...). This way of looking at social problems may tend to marginalize the role of current dependencies and hierarchies.”

Tomasz Zarycki, Professor of **Sociology, Poland** 2014

“As the Global North has long imposed its interpretive gaze on the ‘Easts,’ there is an urgent need for an approach rooted in local contexts. An anthropological perspective (...) is particularly well suited to rethinking and re-centering the Global East within global studies.”

Elizabeth Dunn, Professor of **Geography, United States** 2025



fieldwork-driven
research and scholarship

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What Are the Global Easts?

The term Global Easts refers to countries and societies that do not fit neatly into the familiar binary of the Global North and the Global South. Since the Cold War, this binary has shaped how global difference is imagined, yet it obscures regions that occupy an in-between, interstitial, and ambivalent position.

Marked by a dual positionality—simultaneously marginalized and privileged, peripheral and central—the Global Easts carry the legacies of multiple empires while often aspiring to Western models and producing their own visions of modernity. Their histories show that understanding the modern world requires engaging with societies that stand outside the spotlight of Euro-American narratives.

Timeline of “Easts” Research: Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology

1935-
RESEARCH IN POLAND

1968-1974
FIRST FIELDWORK IN MONGOLIA

1989-
START OF STUDENTS AND STAFF FIELD RESEARCH
IN THE GLOBAL EAST OUTSIDE OF POLAND:
LITHUANIA, BELARUS, LATVIA, RUSSIA, ESTONIA,
UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, KYRGYZSTAN, ARMENIA, AND
GEORGIA

1991-2002
LONGTERM FIELDWORK IN LITHUANIA

1997-
LONGTERM FIELDWORK IN UKRAINE

1993-2020
LONGTERM FIELDWORK IN BELARUS

1993-2018
LONGTERM FIELDWORK IN SIBERIA: ALTAI, TUVA,
KHAKASSIA, YAKUTIA

2004-2021
FIELDWORK IN THE CAUCASUS: DAGESTAN,
CHECHNYA, GEORGIA, ARMENIA

2011-2018
RENEWED FIELDWORK IN MONGOLIA AND CENTRAL
ASIA

2025
FIELDWORK IS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED IN
LITHUANIA, LATVIA, ESTONIA, UKRAINE,
MOLDOVA, KAZAKHSTAN AND TURKEY

MA in Global Easts Studies

The MA in Global Easts Studies is an **interdisciplinary, research-driven program** that blends social theory/anthropology, geopolitics and history with hands-on ethnographic fieldwork. Students work with key **analytical frameworks** while developing **practical skills through field research** conducted in diverse “Easts” societies. All courses are taught **in English**, supported by training in selected Global Easts languages to prepare students for on-site research.

The program fosters critical thinking and equips students to address complex questions arising in societies situated between the Global North and the Global South. Alongside core courses on political, social, economic, and cultural transformations in the Global Easts, students can choose from a wide range of anthropological electives that build both **regional specialization and methodological expertise**.

Global Easts Centre

The Global Easts Centre is a pioneering hub for research and teaching on societies situated between the Global North and the Global South, with a particular focus on **Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia**. Placing fieldwork-driven anthropology at its core, the Centre integrates empirical research with innovative theoretical reflection.

Our approach is distinctive: grounded in fieldwork, multilingual, and committed to understanding the ambivalent positionality of the Global Easts - regions where **diverse traditions, religions, languages, and identities intersect**. The Centre expands long-standing initiatives such as onsite workshops, online seminars, international summer schools, and research fellowships, creating a dynamic platform for global scholarly exchange.

etnologia.uw.edu.pl/global-easts