

PhD-topic Olga Sasunkevich

**From Political Borders to Social Boundaries: Narrativization of Social Changes on the Belarus-Lithuania Border in Stories of Female Shuttle Traders (1989-2008)**

The topic of my research is connected with the investigation of a special economic practice determined by the existing of a border – the so-called “shuttle trade” – on the Belarus-Lithuania Border. Through the analyzing of shuttle trade I would like to find answers to essential questions about social transformations in the borderland region under the pressure of global conditions. My research project has been planned as the comparative ethnographic research of two borderland towns – Oshmyany, located on the Belarusian side, and Druskininkai, situated in Lithuania. I consider shuttle trade as a brilliant case not only for the investigation of local economic practices existing in the borderland region but also for the interpretation of the new global world – the world in which some borders are neutralized while others are created. The uncertainty of borders is almost invisible in the dominant discourse about globalization. The primary aim of my research plan is to overcome this invisibility, to include the experience of different groups of people – not only the winners but also the losers of the globalization.