

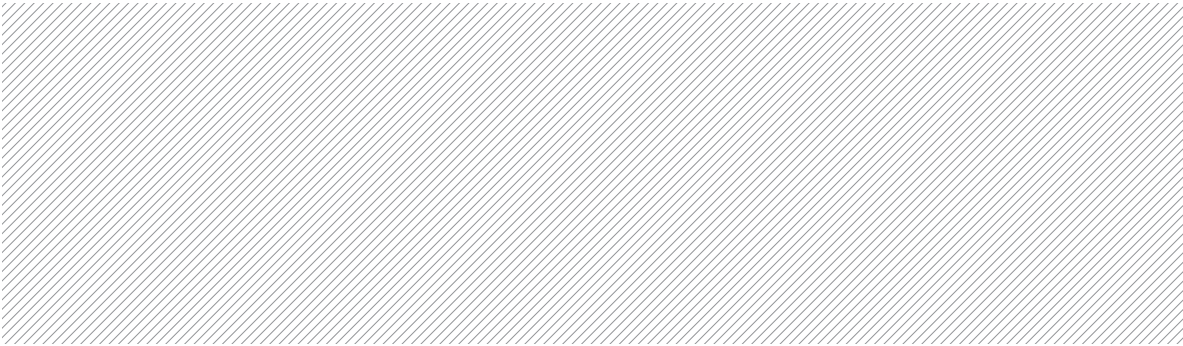



Maria Lvova

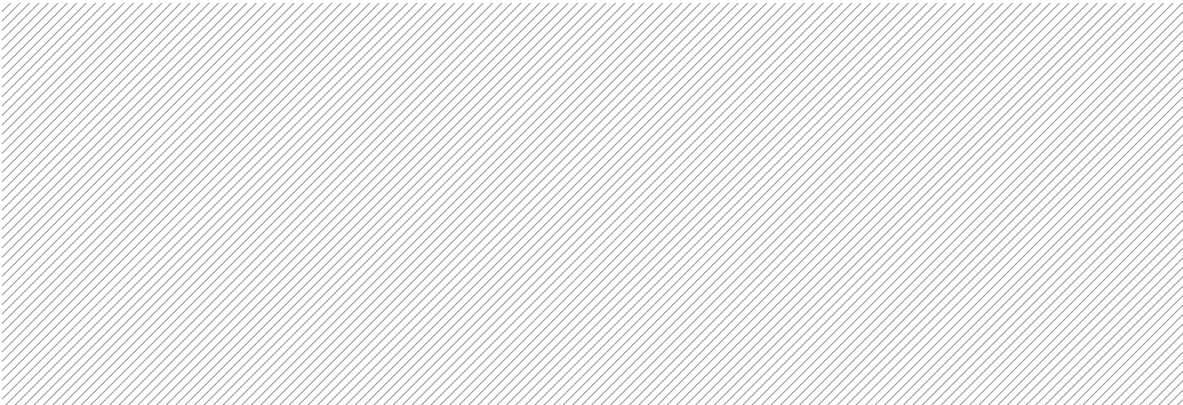
PhD Candidate

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My name is Maria Lvova and I am a PhD candidate at UiT- The Arctic University of Norway, at the Department of Sociology, Political science and Community Planning. My current research interest is related to the issues of security, identity, gender, and methodology. My research project is part of big international project financed by International Polar Year (IPY) entitled, “The impacts of oil and gas activity on peoples of the Arctic using a multiple securities perspective” (GAPS) with particular focus on three Arctic states: Canada, Norway and Russia. This framework provided me with an opportunity to use my experience of living in the Arctic. Originally, I am from the Arkhangelsk region in Russia and graduated the Northern (Arctic) Federal University with a MA in education and humanities and Licentiate in social philosophy. If I look back, I can say that I obtained various opportunities in the sphere of research and education due the development of the Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation. While getting my education in Russia, I had the opportunity to study in Finland (University of Oulu and



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University of Rovaniemi) and Norway (UiT-The Arctic University of Norway). I also obtained a Master degree in Peace and Conflict Transformation from UiT-The Arctic University of Norway.

Energy security and the Arctic are claimed to be of special focus of Russian security policy. For my PhD project, I selected the Murmansk region as the focus of my research. It borders Norway and Finland and is viewed by the Russian state as a geo-strategically important area. Because of the ice-free sea, a large nuclear fleet, including icebreakers and submarines, is located in the ports of the Murmansk region. At the same time the Murmansk region hosts one of the biggest gas deposits – the Shtokman gas and condensate field, which is located on the shelf of the Barents Sea, approximately 550 km away from the shore. Therefore, the Murmansk region is a territory where new trends – oil and gas development in the Arctic – meet traditional military-strategic requirements. Historically, the field of security is strongly dominated by the concept of state security and little is known about the connection between the state and the individual within the Russian security paradigm and ability of people to cope with insecurities. By 2007, when I started to work on my project, the Shtokman gas field was a hot topic actively discussed in the media and at the conferences such as Arctic Frontiers. The extraction from the Shtokman gas field was expected to start in late 2014-2015. The Murmansk region was promised a brilliant future related to oil and gas extraction: a new Russian oil bonanza. In 2017, it is well-known that the Shtokman project is frozen and the expected date of production remains unclear. By focusing on the years of 2007-2012, I examine the transformations related to the development of the Shtokman project as well as analysing whether a change in security thinking took place in relation to oil and gas development in the country.

In addition to my PhD project, I worked for several years at the Research Office of the University of the Arctic. This position gave me valuable experience in research, management and international educational cooperation. I had an opportunity to work in an international environment and to contribute to the development of international educational programmes such as the winter school “Model Arctic Council” (2014) and “Russian studies” (2012-2013). I was also involved in hosting the 7th UArctic Rectors Forum in 2013 in Arkhangelsk, the theme of which was “The Northern Sea Route Logistics, Transportation and Infrastructure”. Being involved in these projects, I was able to learn the mechanisms of cross-border cooperation in the Arctic and fortunate to observe the development of international educational cooperation in the region.