

# LAURA M. POPOVA

## WORK ADDRESS:

Barrett Honors College  
Arizona State University  
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## AREAS OF INTEREST:

Old World Archaeology	Contemporary Social and Political Theory
Eurasia – Russia and the Caucasus	Archaeological Theory
Paleobotanical Analysis, Landscapes	Political Ecology

## EMPLOYMENT:

2006-Present: *Arizona State University*  
Honors Faculty Fellow, Barrett Honors College

Spring 2005, 2006: *University of Chicago*  
Lecturer, Social Science Collegiate Division

## EDUCATION:

2000-2006: *University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology*  
Ph.D., 2006. Dissertation: *Political Pastures: Navigating the Steppe in the Middle Volga Region (Russia) during the Bronze Age*

1997-2000: *University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology*  
M.A., 2000

1994-1997: *University of Missouri – Columbia, Department of Anthropology*  
B.A., *Summa Cum Laude*, 1997. Anthropology (with Honors), French minor.

## FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS:

2007	Sol and Esther Drescher Faculty Research Grants (Barrett Honors College)
2006-07	Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Visiting Scholar, University of California at Los Angeles - <i>Declined</i>
2005-06	Social Science Dissertation Teaching and Research Fellowship (University of Chicago)
2005	Department of Anthropology Starr Lectureship (University of Chicago) Course: The Eurasian Landscape - <i>Declined</i>
2004	Overseas Dissertation Research Fellowship (University of Chicago)
2002	Student Paper Award, 8 <sup>th</sup> European Association of Archaeologists Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece

Curriculum Vitae – Laura M. Popova

- 2002 Leiffer Pre-field Research Fellowship (University of Chicago)  
 2000 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Russian) - *Declined*  
 1997 Phi Beta Kappa, Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Eta Sigma, Golden Key National Honor Society  
 1996 University of Missouri Undergraduate Research Scholarship  
 1995-1997 Jesse Wrench Scholarship for Anthropology at the University of Missouri

**RESEARCH GRANTS:**

- 2004 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant –  
*Pastoral Economies and Ecologies of the Late Bronze Age in the Middle Volga Region, Russia*

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Work in Progress:

Popova, Laura M.

n.d. Kibit 1: A Small-Scale Late Bronze Age Metallurgical Site in the Middle Volga region, Russia. In preparation for submission to the *Journal of European Archaeology*.

n.d., Meadow Steppe and Marsh: The Late Bronze Age Environment at Krasnosamarskoe. In preparation for submission to the *Journal of Field Archaeology*.

n.d., Political Ecology and Archaeology (with Andrew Bauer). In preparation for submission to *Current Anthropology*.

Edited Volumes:

Forthcoming (2007). *Social Orders and Social Landscapes: Proceedings of the 2005 University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology*. Lead Editor with Charles Hartley and Adam T. Smith. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Press.

2006. *Beyond the Steppe and the Sown: Proceedings of the 2002 University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology*. Co-editor with David Peterson and Adam T. Smith. Colloquia Pontica Series. Leiden: Brill.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

(\* indicates publication under the name Laura Soikkeli)

Forthcoming. Blurring the Boundaries: Uncovering the Complex Interactions between Foragers and Pastoralists in the Volga-Ural Region. In *Monuments, Metals, and Mobility: Trajectories of Complexity in the Late Prehistory of the Eurasian Steppe*. Edited by Bryan Hanks and Kathryn Linduff. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

- Forthcoming (2007). Introduction (with Charles Hartley and Adam T. Smith). In *Social Orders and Social Landscapes: Proceedings of the 2005 University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology*. Edited by Laura M. Popova, Charles Hartley, and Adam T. Smith. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Press.
- Forthcoming (2007). A New Historical Legend: Tracing the Long-Term Landscape History of the Samara River Valley. In *Social Orders and Social Landscapes: Proceedings of the 2005 University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology*. Edited by Laura M. Popova, Charles Hartley and Adam T. Smith. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Press.
2006. Pastoralism in the Late Bronze Age in Russia: Past Interpretations and New Goals for Future Research. In *Beyond the Steppe and the Sown: Proceedings of the 2002 University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology*. Edited by D. Peterson, L. Popova, and A. Smith. Colloquia Pontica Series. Leiden: Brill.
2006. Introduction (with David Peterson and Adam T. Smith). In *Beyond the Steppe and the Sown: Proceedings of the 2002 University of Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology*. Edited by D. Peterson, L. Popova, and A. Smith. Colloquia Pontica Series. Leiden: Brill.
2005. The Samara Valley Project: Late Bronze Age Economy and Ritual in the Russian Steppes (with David W. Anthony, Dorcas Brown, Emmett Brown, Audrey Goodman, Aleksandr Khokhlov, Pavel Kuznetsov, Pavel Kosintsev, Oleg Mochalov, Eileen Murphy, Anne Pike-Tay, Arlene Rosen, Nerissa Russell, and Alison Weisskopf). *Eurasia Antiqua* 11: 395-417.
2005. Poisk sledov gornorudnogo delo epokhi pozdnei bronzy v srednom Povol'zhe (arkheologicheskie raboty v neissledovanikh raionakh Samaraskoi oblasti (with Pavel F. Kuznetsov, Oleg D. Mochalov, David Peterson, Alla P. Semenova, and Dimitri Kormilitsin). *Izvestia Samarskogo nauchnogo tsentra Rossiskoi akademii nauk* 2 (July-December):332-343.
2003. An Initial Assessment of Pollen Preservation at the Late Bronze Age Structure at Krasnosamarskoe. In *Chteniya, posvyashchennye 100-letiu deyatel'nosti Vasiliya Alekseevicha Gorodtsova v gosudarstvennom musee*. Edited by N.I. Shishlina. State Historical Museum, Moscow. Pp. 189-192
- \*1999. William Clark's 1814 Map of Central Missouri. *Missouri Archaeological Society Quarterly* 16(1): 4-12.

## TEACHING:

### Arizona State University:

*Undergraduate: **The Human Event 171*** (discussion course exploring the world's greatest literature from earliest writing to the Renaissance), **The Human Event 172** (a selection of the most influential thinkers in the social sciences from the Renaissance to the present).

### University of Chicago:

*Instructor: **Power, Identity, and Resistance 112*** (discussion course covering major socio-political theorists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century including Lenin, Arendt, Hayek, Polanyi, Marcuse, Foucault, Fanon and others)

*Teaching Assistant: **Power, Identity, and Resistance 111*** (discussion course covering the development of liberalism and its critics, focusing on Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, J.S. Mill, Nietzsche and others); **Power, Identity, and Resistance 112** (see above), **Archaeology Method and Theory** (intensive graduate discussion course covering the development of archaeological method and theory in the United States)

## PREPARED COURSES:

### The Eurasian Landscape

This course investigates how landscapes are constituted as material and conceptual products in socio-historical contexts. Focusing on case studies from Eurasia, ranging from the Bronze Age to the present, we will look at how the contours of this particular landscape are shaped by physical structures as well as ecological possibilities, by memory as well as by social orders. Thus, this course examines literature from both the natural and social sciences (ethnography, archaeology, paleobotany, geography, and history) in order to develop a more nuanced picture of human-environment interaction in Eurasia.

### A Political Ecology of Pastoralism: Past and Present

This seminar critically examines the politics of pastoral land use, focusing on the historic and current roles that economic and political networks, gender, and development play in shaping human relationships to nature. In particular we will take on and explore the issues of land tenure and territoriality, land management and misuse, conflict, the role of climate change in creating conditions of stability and instability, and the current fascination with predicting crisis among pastoral communities. We explore these issues by using the powerful conceptual tools of

political ecology. The readings in this class will trace the multiple ways in which pastoralists interact with and are constrained by their environments by looking at several archaeological, historical, and ethnographic texts that draw from the whole world.

**SERVICE:**

College:

- Admissions Committee, 2006-Present
- Study Abroad Program Committee 2006-Present
- BHC Writing Center Committee, Spring 2007
- Honors Faculty Council Committee, 2006-Present
- BHC Movie Night Coordinator, 2006- Present

**CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PUBLIC LECTURES:**

- 2007 Politics and Pastures: Life in Bronze Age Russia. New Faculty Lecture, Arizona State University, April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 2006 The Social and Political Aspects of Making Metal During the Late Bronze Age in Russia. Paper Presented at the Society of American Archaeology 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2006 The Kurgan Complex: Coming to Terms with Middle Bronze Age Burials in the Volga-Ural Region (with M. Marshall). Paper Presented at the Society of American Archaeology 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2006 Blurring the Boundaries: Uncovering the Complex Interactions between Foragers and Pastoralists in the Volga-Ural Region. Paper presented at the Steppe Symposium at the University of Pittsburgh.
- 2005 Living and Working in the Forest-Steppe during the Late Bronze Age: An In-Depth Look at Kibit 1 (with P. Kuznetsov, O. Mochalov, E. Brown, and M. McLeester). Paper presented at the European Association of Archaeologists 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Cork, Ireland.
- 2005 An Introduction to Research in the Kamishla Region, Russia (with P. Kuznetsov, O. Mochalov, and D. Peterson). Paper presented at the European Association of Archaeologists 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Cork, Ireland.
- 2005 As for the Nomads, They Lived on the Marsh Meadows: Understanding Shifting Bronze Age Settlement Patterns in the Samara River Valley, Russia. Paper presented at the Second University of Chicago Eurasian Archaeology

Conference “Social Orders and Social Landscapes: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Eurasian Archaeology.” April 15-16, 2005.

- 2005 Rich Homeland: A Paleobotanical Study of a Late Bronze Age Settlement in the Forest-Steppe – Baitugan, Russia (with Madeleine McLeester). Poster presented at the Society of American Archaeology 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2004 Re-integrating the Global and the Local in the Eastern European Steppe: An Analysis of Past and Current Pollen and Faunal Studies of the Region. Paper presented at the University of Chicago Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop.
- 2003 Interacting with Pastoralists: A Comparison of Pastoral Practices and Products in the Volga-Don, Volga-Ural, and Southern Ural Regions. Paper presented at the European Association of Archaeologists 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- 2003 Pastoral Ecologies of the Late Bronze Age: A Paleobotanical Assessment of Krasnosamarskoe and Peschani Dol. Paper presented at the Society for American Archaeology 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 2002 Meadow Steppe and Marsh: The Late Bronze Age Environment at Krasnosamarskoe and Pollen Analysis. Paper presented at the European Association for Archaeologists 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 2002 Pastoral Ecologies and Economies of the Late Bronze Age in the Middle Volga Region. Paper presented at the First University of Chicago Eurasian Archaeology Conference “Beyond the Steppe and the Sown: Integrating Local and Global Visions.” May 3-4, 2002

**OTHER PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS:**

- 2006 Session organizer, Archaeology in Europe and Eurasia. The Society of American Archaeology 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2005 Student Conference Committee Chair, Second University of Chicago Eurasian Archaeology Conference: Social Orders and Social Landscapes. April 15-16, 2005.
- 2003 Session Co-organizer (with A. Smith and D. Peterson), The Complications of Complexity: The Roots of Social Complexity in the Eurasian Steppes and the Caucasus in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium BC. The European Association of Archaeologists 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia.

- 2002 Student Conference Committee, First University of Chicago Eurasian Archaeology Conference: Beyond the Steppe and the Sown. May 3-4, 2002
- 2001 Participant, First Annual conference in honor of Vasili Alekseevich Gorodtsov concerning chronology and periodization of archaeological cultures in Russia and the Former Soviet Republics in Samara, Russia.
- 1998-99 Workshop Co-organizer (with Anwen Tormey), Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop at the University of Chicago

**FIELDWORK:**

- 2005 Paleobotanical Specialist and Field Assistant. Joint Armenian-American Project for the Archaeology and Geography of Ancient Transcaucasian States (ArAGATS), Excavation of the Late Bronze Age Fortress at Gegharot, **Republic of Armenia**. Directors: Adam T. Smith, Ruben Badalyan.
- 2004 Co-director and Paleobotanical Specialist. Joint Russian-American excavation of a Late Bronze Age settlement (Kibit 1) in the Kamishla Region, Samara. **Russian Federation**. Directors: Laura Popova, Pavel Kuznetsov, and Oleg Mochalov.
- 2003 Paleobotanical Specialist and Field Assistant. Joint Armenian-American Project for the Archaeology and Geography of Ancient Transcaucasian States (ArAGATS), Excavation of the Late Bronze Age Fortresses of Gegharot and Tsakahovit, **Republic of Armenia**. Directors: Adam T. Smith, Ruben Badalyan.
- 2001 Paleobotanical Specialist and Field Assistant. Joint Russian-American archaeological survey and test excavations in the Kamishla District (Northeastern Samara), **Russian Federation**. Directors: David Peterson, Pavel Kuznetsov, and Oleg Mochalov.
- 2001 Paleobotanical Specialist and Field Assistant. Joint Russian-American Samara Valley Archaeology Project. Excavation of a Late Bronze Age pit structure at Krasnosamarskoe. **Russian Federation**. Directors: David Anthony, Igor Vasiliev.
- 2000 Paleobotanical Specialist and Field Assistant. Joint Russian-American Samara Valley Archaeology Project. Excavation of Late Bronze Age herding camps at Peschani Dol. **Russian Federation**. Directors: David Anthony, Igor Vasiliev.
- 1999 Field Assistant. Joint Russian-American Samara Valley Archaeology Project. Excavation of Bronze Age burial mounds and part of a Late Bronze Age pit structure at Krasnosamarskoe. **Russian Federation**. Directors: David Anthony, Igor Vasiliev.

- 1997 Field Assistant. Archaeological survey of Mount Rainier National Park in association with Central Washington University. Director: Patrick McKutchen
- 1996 Field Assistant. Joint French-American excavation at Verberie Buisson Campin. Excavation of a long-term Upper-Paleolithic campsite. **France**. Directors: Jim Enloe, Françoise Audouze.
- 1995 Student. Field School at Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello, Virginia. Director: Susan Kern

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

Member of the Society for American Archaeology, the European Association of Archaeologists, and the American Anthropological Association

**LANGUAGES:** Russian and French

**REFERENCES:**

- Mark Jacobs, Dean, Barrett Honors College, Arizona State University  
Email: Mark.Jacobs.asu.edu
- Margaret Nelson, Vice Dean, Barrett Honors College, Arizona State University  
Email: mnselson@asu.edu
- Kathleen Morrison, Professor of Anthropology, University of Chicago  
Email: k-morrison@uchicago.edu
- Dr. Adam Smith, Professor of Anthropology, University of Chicago  
Email: atsmith@uchicago.edu
- Dr. David Anthony, Professor of Anthropology, Hartwick College  
anthonyd@hartwick.edu
- Dr. Konstantin Kremenetski, Adjunct Faculty, Physical Geography, UCLA  
Email: costya@geog.ucla.edu