

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

RAISA AVAK, a specialist in the Even language, headed the Institute for Advanced Teacher Training in Palana, Kamchatka. Her work focused on the development of curricula, teaching materials, and educational programmes for the Indigenous languages of the region. Through her involvement in teacher training and language education, she contributed to broader efforts aimed at the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages in Kamchatka. Together with Erich Kasten, she also co-authored educational materials for the teaching and learning of the Even language.

BORIS P. CHICHLO (SHISHLO) is an anthropologist and Honorary Research Fellow at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Research Unit Eco-anthropologie, Paris). Since initiating archaeological and ethnographic fieldwork in Tuva in 1965, he has conducted extensive research across the circumpolar regions of Siberia, including Yamal, Yakutia, Chukotka, and Kamchatka. His latest field research, completed in 2012, focused on Southern Siberia. His scholarly interests include the social and cultural resilience of Indigenous peoples in historical perspective, religious beliefs and practices, and broader questions of Russian society and statehood viewed through the prism of Siberia, including Indigenous participation in Russia's war against Ukraine.

STEPHAN DUDECK is a research fellow in Arctic Studies at the Institute of Cultural Research of the University of Tartu in Estonia. He is an anthropologist focusing on collaborative research with Indigenous communities in Western Siberia. He has worked in the Russian North since the early 1990s and has also field experience in post-Soviet Central Asia.

ELENA DUL'CHENKO worked as a geochemist at the Kamchatka branch of the Pacific Institute of Geography of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (FEB RAS) in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii (formerly the Institute of Ecology and Nature Management). Her research focuses on the distribution of trace elements in Kamchatka's ecosystems and the assessment of environmental conditions in areas traditionally used by Indigenous communities. To this end, she has conducted extensive fieldwork, particularly in central and southern Kamchatka, investigating the interactions between environmental processes and human land use.

ERICH KASTEN is a social and cultural anthropologist whose research has focused on First Nations in the Canadian Pacific Northwest and Indigenous peoples of Northeastern Siberia. He is the director of the Foundation for Siberian Cultures (Kulturstiftung Sibirien) in Fürstenberg/Havel, Germany. Alongside his longstanding interest in the history of research in northern Siberia, since the 1980s his work has centred on community driven projects to sustain Indigenous environmental knowledge, endangered languages, crafts and arts. In recent years, his research has increasingly addressed contemporary political issues affecting Indigenous communities in northern Russia.

VALERII KRAVCHENKO is considered one of the most distinguished music educators in Kamchatka. As a teacher, pianist, author, photographer, and cultural historian, he played a pivotal role in the cultural development of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii and contributed substantially to the preservation and documentation of the region's musical heritage. Following his studies at the Kharkiv State Conservatory, he settled in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskii in 1968. Alongside his teaching activities at the present-day Kamchatka College of Arts, he was among the first classically trained pianists to perform regularly in remote Indigenous communities, reflecting his longstanding interest in Indigenous music and dance traditions. Since 1989, he has worked as a *répétiteur* for the Kamchatka Choral Capella, participating in numerous international concert tours throughout Western Europe and beyond.

GAVRIIL MALYSHEV is an architect at the international urban planning firm MLA and a PhD researcher in the Faculty of Anthropology at the European University at St. Petersburg (Russia). His research focuses on post-Soviet architecture and urbanism, examining the social, political, and material transformations of the built environment after the collapse of the Soviet Union. His current interests center on the Russian North, particularly Chukotka, where he investigates the histories and contemporary dynamics of Arctic settlements, infrastructure, architecture, and urban change.

LIIVO NIGLAS is a research fellow in Ethnology at the University of Tartu, Estonia, and an award-winning documentary filmmaker specialising in visual anthropology. His research focuses on Indigenous communities and the use of documentary film as a method of anthropological inquiry. He has conducted extensive fieldwork and film projects in Siberia, Inner Asia, East Africa, North America and Europe.

ANNA SHIBAROVA is a philologist and lecturer in Russian studies at the Institute of Slavic Philology at LMU Munich, Germany. Her research focuses on the biographies of Indigenous human rights activists across generations, as well as on the media representation of Indigenous Small-Numbered peoples of the North in the USSR and post-Soviet Russia.

ANNA SIRINA is a Doctor of Historical Sciences and Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow). She graduated from the Faculty of History at Irkutsk State University and completed doctoral studies at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology. Her research specializes in the ethnography of the Evenk, Even, and other Indigenous peoples of Eastern Siberia and the Russian Far East, as well as in the history of ethnographic and anthropological scholarship. Her scholarly interests include human–environment relations, interethnic interactions, state–Indigenous relations in the North, material culture, and the production of scientific knowledge.

ALEKSANDRA URKACHAN was one of the most renowned figures in the contemporary Koryak cultural movement in Kamchatka. Her activities encompassed cultural education, the preservation and documentation of Indigenous oral traditions, and the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge. After beginning her career as a singer and dancer in Soviet-era *agitbrigady* [Agitation and cultural outreach and propaganda brigades], she later joined the Koryak Centre for Folk Arts in Palana, where she worked as an expert on Nymylan Koryak language and culture. Her contributions extended beyond documentation and preservation to the active revitalization and public promotion of Indigenous cultural heritage through the organization of cultural programmes and community events.

NIKOLAI VAKHTIN is the director of the Center for Arctic Social Studies, European University in St Petersburg, and a university professor at the same institution. He graduated from St. Petersburg State University with a degree in linguistics and studied the languages of the Russian Far East (Siberian Yupik, Sirinek, Aleut, Yukaghir) from a linguistic and sociolinguistic perspective. He has published and co-edited numerous books including the collection *Russian Cultural Anthropology after the Collapse of Communism* (Routledge, 2012) and *Public Debate in Russia: Matters of (Dis)order* (Edinburgh UP, 2016). He teaches courses in Arctic anthropology, sociolinguistics and linguistics.

ORAN R. YOUNG is distinguished professor emeritus in the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California Santa Barbara. His research centers on the creation, implementation, and adaptation of governance systems with particular reference to atmospheric issues including climate change, the oceans, and the polar regions.

TJAN ZAOTSCHNAJA was born and raised in an Indigenous Itelmen family in Kamchatka. During the 1970s, together with her husband she collected materials about the status of Itelmen language and culture, materials that were confiscated during a house search in Moscow in 1980. Later she and her family were deported from the then-Soviet Union. Since then, she has been living in Munich, Germany, where she has worked as an activist and author for, among others, the *Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker* (GfbV) [Society for Threatened Peoples].

OLEG ZAPOROTSKII was born in Kovran on the western coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula and has been an influential Itelmen political and cultural leader of the post-Soviet period. In 1989, he established the Council for the Revival of Itelmen Culture in Kamchatka (Tkhsanom), which he chaired for many years. He later worked closely with the Kamchatka Information Centre of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), advocating for Indigenous rights, traditional fishing practices, and access to traditional territories and natural resources. From 2012 to 2014, he served as Commissioner (Ombudsman) for the rights and legitimate

interests of the Indigenous Peoples of the Kamchatka Krai, acting as an intermediary between Indigenous communities and regional authorities.

LILIYA ZDOR is a Chukchi cultural expert and independent researcher from the Russian Far East dedicated to preserving the Chukchi language, oral histories, and traditional knowledge. She has developed cultural documentation projects and collaborated with the U.S. National Park Service to document Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Pacific walrus populations. Liliya Zdor has also worked with the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Alaska Museum of the North to incorporate Indigenous perspectives into museum collections and reconnect Chukchi communities with their cultural heritage.

EDUARD ZDOR is a research fellow at the University of Alaska Museum of the North. His research focuses on the linguistic dimensions of archaeological collections, with particular emphasis on integrating Indigenous perspectives into museum databases and interpretive frameworks. He studies the Indigenous cultures of the Bering Strait region, including their knowledge systems and perspectives on wildlife governance.

MARK ZDOR is a student at St. Petersburg State University who is currently living in exile due to his civic activism. He participates in ethnographic research on the Indigenous peoples of the Russian North, with a particular focus on Chukchi culture. In addition to his academic work, he is involved in anti-war advocacy and campaigns for Indigenous rights.