

IRINA VAKULENKO
Geography / GIS Program, EPPS
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Educational History

- Ph.D. in Geography (Economic and Social Geography) - Moscow State Pedagogical University, Russia (1985)
M.A. in School Administration - Moscow State Pedagogical University, Russia (1989)
M.S. in Geography and English - Moscow State Pedagogical University, USSR Russia (1978)
Certificate of Completion of Academy of Associate Faculty at Collin County Community College (2004)
- “Recent Tendencies in the Development of Small Towns in the USA” (Supreme Commission for Academic Degrees at the USSR Council of Ministers, 1985)
- Diplomas and Degrees have been validated by International Academic Credential Evaluators, Inc. in full compliance with the recommendations of the National Council for the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials as follows: B.S. in Geography, M.S. in Geography, Ph.D. in Geography, M.A. in Scientific Foundations of School Administration.

Professional Experience

- 2008 – present Senior Lecturer at Geography/GIS Program, EPPS, UTD
Teaching undergraduate geography courses as well as courses cross listed with economics, sociology, and public administration. Started with one course of Introduction to World Regions and have expanded the portfolio to seven courses including Global Economy; Population and Development; Urban Planning and Policy; Urban Growth and Structure; Russia: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow; Human Migration and Mobility. Developed new syllabi, PowerPoint presentations, arsenal of creative learning control methods, student learning centered educational techniques, tests and student performance evaluation procedures.
- 2000 – 2009 Associate Geography Professor at Collin College (Plano, Texas).
Taught courses in World Regional and Physical Geography, Participated in promotion of student learning research and debate. Developed special syllabi and volunteered teaching Honors courses in the same discipline to qualified students with grades recognized as Honors Grades by Registrar’s Office.
- 2007 –2008 Adjunct Geography Professor at Richland College (Richardson, Texas)
Taught courses in World Regional and Physical Geography.
- 1992 - 1995 International Finance Corporation, Resident Mission to the Russian Federation (Moscow, Russia)– Aid to Resident Representative
Performed analyses, reviews, and translations of data for various privatization projects and acted as a liaison between the IFC Resident Representative and the Russian government agencies, interpreted during business trips of IFC specialists and executives. Assisted American utilities technical and economic specialists in training Russian energy system senior managers. As a member of the emergency team of the World Bank was expedited to the site of the catastrophe in the Arctic to participate in field studies, data collection and analyses, loan terms

negotiation for Komi oil spills mitigation project. Developed and translated information to keep Russian public informed of IFC programs and accomplishments.

- 1987 - 1990 Moscow State Pedagogical University, Russia – Geography Professor
Lectured courses of World Regional Geography, Modern Economic Production Technologies and Environment, Population Geography. Supervised students' case studies and projects. Lectured and conducted seminars on Methods of Teaching Geography.
- 1978 - 1985 USSR Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography (Moscow, Russia)- Researcher
Performed statistical study of population migration trends in the U.S. Developed reasoning for nonmetropolitan urban population growth. Collected, analyzed statistical evidence to prove that technological revolution, ecology and industries preferences for amenities were the main drives for population redistribution. Mapped correlation data. Research conclusions and recommendations were used in State Planning Committee Small Town Development Program.

Research Interests

Most of my academic carrier has been focused on teaching. Research areas have varied within a context of population studies and teaching methods and techniques. Areas of expertise include the study of population redistribution in response to new economic trends of switching to service-based economy in more developed countries, migration flows that accompanied that redistribution. Creative teaching and student-oriented learning have been explored and discussed in a number of publications.

Professional Memberships

- Member of Association of American Geographers.

Honors and other Recognitions

- 1985, 1986 - Awards and recognitions from the USSR Ministry of Education for Creative Teaching.
- 2008 President's Teaching Excellence Awards Nominee (UTD).

Awards and Fellowships

Achievements in Original Achievement, Investigation, and Research

- In the course of research in 1980s I have had nine publications in scientific journals and books. All are in Russian. The list is available upon request.

Professional and University Citizenship

- 2009 – Serve in the dissertation faculty committee for a Ph.D. student supervised by Dr. Al Armendariz, at the Department of Environmental and Civil Engineering, SMU. The project deals with potential environmental benefits of different types of neighborhood development at Army bases. Urban planning aspect of the matter was requested as an area of expertise.
- 2009 –Performed textbook reviews and comparison analysis for Wiley Publishers.
- 2009 - Participated in negotiations between EPPS and Saratov State University, Russia about the prospects of collaboration in the field of training undergraduate and graduate students in Social

Sciences and possibilities of development joint degree programs. Took care of the Saratov State University delegation during their visit in Dallas, TX.

- 1987 - Guest speaker at the University of London Institute of Education, and a year later BBC educational channel interviewed me in Moscow, attended my classes to feature me in their program.
- 1984 - Presented the research findings at an international conference on Pacific Rim Development in Nakhodka (Russian Far East).
- 1982-1985 Collaborated with the USSR State Planning Committee to revitalize dying small town communities across Russia.
- Always participate in department and school meetings and activities.
- Courses and other curricula developed: I currently have the portfolio of seven courses including Intro to World Regions; Global Economy; Population and Development; Urban Planning and Policy; Urban Growth and Structure; Russia: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow; Human Migration and Mobility. Developed new syllabi, PowerPoint presentations, arsenal of creative learning control methods, student learning centered educational techniques, tests and student performance evaluation procedures. This portfolio is still being built and upgraded by 1-2 new courses each semester.
- University activities and committees
2009 - Member of the committee on the learning space design at UTD. Participated in the pilot study of renovated learning classroom by testing it, followed by discussions, and surveys about it. The project was being coordinated by Dr. Rhonda Blackburn, Associate Provost.