

Mischa Gabowitsch – brief biographical statement (and some explanations)

Here is my brief bio as well as a longer version. **PLEASE** use this bio, in full or in part, rather than anything you might find online.

PLEASE also refer to the tips on page 3 to avoid some common ways in which my name has been misspelled or my biography has been misrepresented.

BRIEF BIO (105 words):

Mischa Gabowitsch, historian and sociologist, is Professor of Multilingual and Transnational Post-Soviet Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz in Germany. He holds BA and MA degrees from the University of Oxford and a PhD from the School of Advanced Social Research (EHESS) in Paris, and has previously held positions at Princeton University, the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, and the University of Vienna. His book publications include *Protest in Putin's Russia* (2016), *Replicating Atonement: Foreign Models in the Commemoration of Atrocities* (2017), and *Monuments and Territory: War Memorials in Russian-Occupied Ukraine* (2025, with Mykola Homanyuk), as well as other books in a variety of languages.

PLEASE also refer to the explanations on page 3!

LONGER VERSION (420 words):

Mischa Gabowitsch, historian and sociologist, is Professor of Multilingual and Transnational Post-Soviet Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz in Germany. He directs the Russian sub-department at the university's Department of Translation Studies, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies. Located in Gernersheim, this department is the largest and most prestigious school of translation and interpreting in the German-speaking world. He is fluent in seven languages.

Mischa Gabowitsch was born in Moscow in 1977 and grew up in Germany, close to the French border. He holds a BA and MA from the University of Oxford and a DEA and PhD in History and Area Studies (2007) from the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris, where he was also a visiting student at the École normale supérieure. He held the inaugural Albert Einstein Fellowship at Einstein's summer house in Caputh, Germany, and a Cotsen Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Princeton University's Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts, where he was also a lecturer in the Sociology Department. He worked as a senior researcher at the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany, from 2010 to 2022 and, from 2022 to 2024, as a Lise Meitner Fellow at the University of Vienna's Research Center for the History of Transformations (RECET).

His doctoral dissertation (written in French) was entitled *The Specter of Fascism: Russian Nationalism and Its Opponents, 1987-2007*. From 2002 to 2006, he edited a Moscow-based journal entitled *Neprikosnovenny zapas: Debates on Politics and Culture*. He was the founding editor-in-chief of *Laboratorium: Russian Review of Social Research*, a peer-reviewed journal published in Russian

and English, and co-founder of the working group on Post-Socialist and Comparative Memory Studies (PoSoCoMeS) within the Memory Studies Association.

Mischa Gabowitsch is the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of numerous books and thematic journal issues in various languages, including, in English, *Monuments and Territory: War Memorials in Russian-Occupied Ukraine* (2025); *Protest and Authoritarian Reaction in Belarus: New Subjectivities and Beyond* (2023); *Beyond Representation: The Visual Analysis of History Textbooks and Other Educational Media* (2023); *The Sociology of Protest in Belarus—Social Dynamics, Ideological Shifts, and Demand for Change* (2021); *Replicating Atonement: Foreign Models in the Commemoration of Atrocities* (2017); *Protest in Putin's Russia* (2016); *The Russian Field: Views from Abroad* (2011); and *Russian Sociology in Local and Global Context* (2009).

He has served on the advisory boards of various publications, foundations, and research projects in France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, and the USA. He has also translated several books and over 200 scholarly articles and essays from, or into, Russian, German, French, and English.

PLEASE also refer to the explanations on page 3!

- **PLEASE** make an effort not to misspell my name. I use the German spelling in ALL languages that use the Latin alphabet, including French and English.
 - My first name is **Mischa**, NOT Misha, Micha, Michael, or Mikhail.
 - My last name is **Gabowitsch with a “w” and a “tsch” and NO “R”**, NOT Grabowitsch, Grabowski, Gabowitch, Gabovitch, Gabovich, etc. Feel free to stress either the first or the second syllable.
 - In Russian, however, I am known, and sign my publications, as **Михаил Габович**.

- I’m a professor at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz. However, **I do not work in the city of Mainz**, as our department is located in Germersheim, about 110 km south of Mainz and closer to the cities of Mannheim and Karlsruhe. I live in Heidelberg, not in Mainz or Germersheim (but I do not work at Heidelberg University).

- **I hold a D.E.A. and a PhD from the EHESS in Paris.** EHESS stands for École des hautes études en sciences sociales, which means School of Advanced Social Research. I did not study at the Sorbonne! I did, however, spend a year as a visiting student at the École normale supérieure (ENS), a “grande école” in Paris that is not a university and also not part of the “Sorbonne.” Also, I did not do my PhD at Princeton University.

- **I am a historian and sociologist.** I hold a PhD in Contemporary History and Area Studies from the EHESS in Paris. I have worked as a historian and taught history. I have also worked as a sociologist, taught sociology, and edited a sociological journal. However:
 - I have never been a journalist! I edited two journals in Russia. Academic journals are not newspapers. I was editor-in-chief of both journals, not editor “for” them.
 - I am not a political scientist, even though much of my work touches on politics.
 - Nor is it accurate to present me as an anthropologist, Slavist, art historian, cultural studies scholar, linguist, or translation scholar, even though these fields of study are relevant to my work and I enjoy being in dialogue and collaborating with colleagues from these disciplines.

- I worked as a professional **translator** of scholarly texts and, occasionally, as an interpreter in the past, but am longer active in that field, with rare exceptions.