

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is a collective effort in more ways than we can describe. From conceptualizing the project, securing the funding, assembling the team, all the way to developing the international network to support the research and conversations that we wanted to have, we have relied on colleagues and friends in Russia, the US, France, the UK, and the Netherlands, including several we made along the way. *From Russia with Code* is the product of a three-year effort by a team of scholars connected to the Science and Technology Studies (STS) Center at the European University at Saint Petersburg (EUSP), funded by a grant from the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation for the study of high-skill brain drain. This project would not have been possible without the EUSP's unique intellectual and interdisciplinary environment and the Ministry's support for the extensive and multisited research required by our research topic.

As in all collective enterprises, especially academic ones, the most important persons are not necessarily the most visible. In our case, they do not appear on the book cover nor in the list of contributors, and yet they have been present throughout the book, working next to it, and making it possible. Olga Dragan, EUSP's finance officer, has crucially supported the project from its inception in January 2013, when it was only a grant application, all the way through its slow metamorphosis into the book you are reading. With the help of Natalia Voinova, Olga steered the ship clear of all bureaucratic shoals, even when the political campaigns against the EUSP turned bureaucratic rules into something else.

A relatively recent arrival on the Russian academic landscape, the EUSP is at once a research center and the leading private higher-degree-granting social science institution in Russia, ranking every year in the

top five of all Russian universities. A project of this scale would not have been possible without the support that the STS Center was fortunate to receive from the other departments, especially Anthropology, History, Sociology, Political Science, and Economics. While enjoying their support, it has also been a pleasure to witness the “positive spillovers” that our project has enabled, inserting STS questions and approaches into conversations with colleagues across the social sciences and into the research that the graduate students have been conceptualizing and pursuing.

We were fortunate when Zinaida Vasilyeva accepted our invitation to become the executive director of the project. Since the project’s inception, she skillfully negotiated the contrasting needs and desires of the academic scholars and of the multilayered bureaucratic world in which the project grew and operated. In this, she was helped throughout by Anastasia Karkacheva, who added to the job description of assistant director her precious and much-appreciated design skills. Diana Kurkovsky West joined the project as a researcher in 2014, quickly moving to direct the STS Center in 2016, with the support of Olga Sezneva who took leave from her faculty position in Amsterdam to help strengthen and broaden the academic agenda and programs of the Center while also connecting it to Saint Petersburg’s broader cultural circles and networks. Liliia Zemnukhova was part of the research project from the beginning, always contributing much-appreciated problem-solving skills and contagious energy. Mélanie Feakins generously shared with us her knowledge and experience of Russian offshoring in the IT business, providing crucial fieldwork contacts and suggestions.

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and international scholars and networks that have grown around the “megagrant” project have contributed to Oleg’s goal of solidifying the EUSP Center’s role as the premier STS hub in Russia—a country where our already interdisciplinary field needs to add additional perspectives to make sense of the many different scenarios emerging at the intersection of dramatic historical changes, geographical specificities, and mobilities. While his name does not appear among the book’s contributors, Oleg has been a full-fledged collaborator, from his early support of our “megagrant” application to innumerable discussions and brainstorming sessions throughout the project. The pleasure associated with the completion of this book is also tinged by the sadness of acknowledging the closure of the project, but we hope that the relations of intellectual kinship with Oleg and the faculty and students of the EUSP will spawn more initiatives and conversations, in Saint Petersburg and elsewhere.