



Elena Chernyak is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Social Work in the Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Human Services at Hartwick College (Oneonta, NY, USA). She received her PhD in Sociology from the Department of Sociology, University of Windsor (Canada). She also holds her MA degree in Journalism from Saint-Petersburg State University (Russia), Master of Religious Education from Assumption University (Canada), and Master of Social Work from the University of Windsor (Canada). Elena's research explores critical social issues, particularly gender oppression and victimization, social inequality, and the intersection of culture, religion, and gender. Her research interests lie primarily in the area of gender study and encompass gender-based violence, gender or patriarchal ideology, gendered discourses and social institutions, family relations, as well as Russia and Soviet and post-Soviet societies, immigration (i.e., immigration policy, immigrants' well-being, immigrants' adaptation), and feminist theories. Elena is known for her comparative studies on intimate partner violence and her insightful analysis of gender roles shaped by cultural and religious frameworks, particularly within Russian society. She is the author of several articles on domestic violence against women in which she examined and discussed the extent and determinants of intimate partner in different developing countries, analyzed how patriarchal ideology and traditional gender norms contribute to gender-based violence, and explored the historical, political, and social context of domestic violence in the former Soviet Union. A dedicated educator and mentor, Elena has supervised numerous student research projects, supporting their development as emerging scholars and professionals. Her commitment to advancing social

justice and fostering inclusive environments in both academic and community settings underscore her influence in the sociological and interdisciplinary fields.