

# Susan Alexandra Crate, Ph. D.

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## Research and Teaching Interests

- ◆ Human Ecology, Environmental Anthropology, Cultural & Political Ecology, Sustainability Research
- ◆ Agropastoralism, Subsistence Production, Household Economies, Sustainable Communities, Globalization
- ◆ Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Development, Environmental Justice, Climate Change
- ◆ Ethnography, Oral History, Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods
- ◆ Northern Siberia, Russia, Arctic and Sub-arctic, Circumpolar North

## Academic Positions

Aug 2004-  
date      **George Mason University, Department of Environmental Science and Policy**  
Assistant Professor of Human Ecology

Aug 2002-  
July 2004      **Miami University of Ohio, Geography and Environmental Science**  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies

## Education

1997-2002      Ph.D. in Ecology, **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Curriculum in Ecology**  
Dissertation title: *Cows, Kin & Capitalism: The Cultural Ecology of Vilini Sakha in the Post-Socialist Era*  
Defended 17 December 2001, Graduated 21 May 2002

1989-1994      M. A. in Folklore, **The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Curriculum in Folklore**  
Masters thesis title: *Dance of Life, Circle of Life: Ahyokhai as the Sakhas' Emergent Ethnic Voice*

1988-1991      **Intensive Russian Language & Culture Studies**  
Kharkov State University, Kharkov, Ukraine, Aug 1990-Feb 1991  
Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia, Summer, 1989  
Zaporozhye Institute, Zaporozhye, Ukraine, Summer, 1988

1979-1983      **Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina**  
B. A. in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in education

## Awards and Support

Spring 2006      **University Life Faculty Fellowship** awarded for the development of a university-wide  
Environmental Task Force to facilitate faculty, students and staff to address campus greening.  
**Susan Crate and Dave Kuebrich, \$4000.**

- 2003-2006 **National Science Foundation, Arctic Social Science Program grant #0204845 (May 2003-May 2005); #0532993 (May 2005-May 2006): "Investigating the Economic and Environmental Resilience of Viliui Sakha Villages: Building Capacity, Assessing Sustainability, Gaining Knowledge." S. Crate, P.I. \$90,000.**
- 2006-2008 **Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit/National Park Service grant #105792 \Development of a spatially explicit participatory model to explore anthropogenic on-site threats on rare aquatic resources of the Potomac Gorge" co-PI. \$130,000.**
- 2005-2006 **Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit/National Park Service \“Managing the impacts of surrounding land uses on the rare biotic resources of the Potomac Gorge" co-PI. \$11,000.**
- 2001-2002 **Social Science Research Council Dissertation Write-Up Fellowship:** Funding to write dissertation, 2001-2002 academic year.
- 2001 **Latane Interdisciplinary Summer Research Grant:** Funding for 2-months of comparative research in Alaska.
- 2000-2001 **American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Write-up Award:** Funding to write dissertation, 2000-2001 academic year.
- 2000 **Smith Graduate Research Fund Grant.** Funding for the collection of data for dissertation.
- 1999-2000 **National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Award:** Funding for dissertation research.
- 1999-2000 **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Abroad Award:** Funding for dissertation research.
- 1999-2000 **Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship:** Funding for dissertation research.
- 1999-2000 **International Research & Exchange Board (IREX) Individual Advanced Research Award:** Funding for dissertation research.
- 1999-2000 **Foreign Language & Area Studies Slavic, Eurasian & East European Fellowship:** Funding for dissertation research (declined).
- 1999-2000 **United States Information Agency Regional Scholar Exchange Program Award:** Funding for dissertation research (declined).
- 1996-1997 **John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation:** Funding for the Indigenous Policy Research Project.
- 1994-1995 **John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation:** Funding for the Viliui Environmental Education Project.
- 1993-1994 **International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) On-Site Language Training Grant:** Funding to learn the Sakha (Yakut) Language.

### Research Experience

- May 2003-  
May 2006 **Investigating the Economic and Environmental Resilience of Viliui Sakha Villages: Building Capacity, Assessing Sustainability, Gaining Knowledge.** Four-village applied research project to develop, assess, and implement local indigenous models of sustainability.
- Jun-Aug 2001 **A Preliminary Comparative Analysis of Alaskan and Sakha Villages.** Two month project working in Alaska with village members and tribal councils comparing contemporary issues.
- Jul 1999-00 **The Cultural Ecology of a Post-Socialist Society: The Case of Viliui Sakha.** Dissertation research to investigate how Viliui Sakha agropastoralists are adapting in the post-Soviet context on a household food production level.
- Jan 1996-  
Dec 1997 **Diamonds for the Sakha: An Indigenous Policy Research Project.** Directed a two-year project with indigenous specialists investigating local response to diamond mining activity.
- Jan 1994- **Viliui Environmental Education Project.** Directed a two-year project with indigenous specialists

- Dec 1995 establishing an environmental education center and resource guide.
- Sept 1993- **On-Site Language Training.** Participated in 9-month Sakha language immersion.  
May 1994
- 1990-1992 **Ethnographic Field Research.** Participated in field research projects with local ethnographers documenting the songs, stories, dances, and material culture of the Buryat, Tuvan, Ukrainian, Evenk, and Sakha peoples.
- Jun-Jul 1991 **Photographer.** Documented the cultural and natural heritage of Lake Baikal and participated as one of four contributing photographers to Sierra Club book *Baikal: The Sacred Sea of Siberia*.

## Publications

### Books:

2006 *Cows, Kin and Globalization: An Ethnography of Sustainability*. Walnut Creek: Alta Mira Press.

### Peer Reviewed:

- 2006 Investigating Local Definitions of Sustainability in the Arctic: Insights from Post-Soviet Sakha Villages, *Arctic*.
- 2006 Elder Knowledge and Sustainable Livelihoods in Post-Soviet Russia: Finding Dialogue Across the Generations. *Arctic Anthropology*. 43(1):40-51.
- 2006 *Obnuokai*: A Unique Integration of Social Meaning and Sound, *Journal of American Folklore*. 119(472): 161-183.
- 2004 Russia in the Circumpolar North. *Polar Geography*, 27(2) (April-June 2003): 85-96.
- 2004 The Gendered Nature of Viliui Sakha Post-Soviet Adaptation, in *Post-Soviet Women Encountering Transition*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, pp. 127-145.
- 2003 Viliui Sakha Adaptation: A Subarctic Test of Netting's Smallholder Theory. *Human Ecology*, 31(4): 499-528.
- 2003 The Great Divide: Contested Issues of Post-Soviet Viliui Sakha Land Use. *Europe-Asia Studies*, 55(6): 869-888.
- 2003 Co-option in Siberia: The Case of Diamonds & the Vilyuy Sakha. *Polar Geography*, 26(4) (2002): 289-307.
- 2003 The Legacy of the Viliui Reindeer Herding Complex. *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, 27(1): 25-27.
- 2002 Viliui Sakha Oral History: The Key to Contemporary Household Survival. *Arctic Anthropology* 39(1): 134-154.

### In press:

- Cows and Kin: Innovations and Issues in Post-Soviet Indigenous Communities, *IJARGE*
- "Taiga"; "Clean Development Mechanism"; "Genetic Diversity"; "Native Species", in Paul Robbins, ed., *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society*, Sage Publications.

### Under Review:

- Gone the Winter Bull?: Climate Change and Viliui Sakha, submitted to *Current Anthropology*.

### In prep:

- Indigenous Viliui Sakha people of sub-arctic Russia: Struggle for environmental justice. In *Environmental justice in the Former Soviet Union* Eds., Julian Agyeman and Yelena Ogneva-Himmelberger, MIT Press.
- Contemplating Relations Between Viliui Sakha and the Diamond Mining Company, with Natalia Yakovleva In *Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh and Saleem Ali Community Relations Between the Mining Industry and Indigenous People*. Greenleaf Publishing.
- Contemplating Environmental Justice on the Viliui, to submit to *Journal of Political Ecology*.
- Lost but not Forgotten: Cow Knowledge and 21st Century Viliui Sakha Survival. for *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*

### Other publications:

- 2006 Huntington, Henry (lead), **Crate, Susan A.**, et al. Working Group I: Arctic Economies and Sustainable Development, Science Plan. ICARP II [http://www.icarp.dk/WGreports/WG1\\_final.PDF](http://www.icarp.dk/WGreports/WG1_final.PDF)
- 2005 The Sakha, in Carl Skutsch, ed., *Encyclopedia of World's Minorities*, New York: Routledge, 1052-1053.
- 2004 Sakha, in Carol and Melvin Ember, eds. *Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender*. New York: Kluwer, pp. 768-778.
- 2001 Book Review of John Tichotsky's *Russia's Diamond Colony*. *Nationalities Papers*, 29(4):729-731.
- 1997 Silent Spring in Siberia: The Plight of the Sakha. *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, 20 (4):14-16.

- 1995 *Knek Teen* (Green Spirit). Bichik Press: Yakutsk.  
 1995 Environmental Problems in Sakha, Siberia. *Surviving Together*, 13 (4): 17-19.  
 1994 *Dance of Life, Circle of Life*, M.A. Thesis, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1994.  
 1992 *Baikal: The Sacred Sea of Siberia*. Sierra Club Books, 1992. Contributing Photographer.  
 1992 At Home in Siberia. *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, 16 (1):61- 64.

### Invited Presentations

- Apr 2006 Cows, Kin and Karats: Negotiating Survival on Top of a Diamond Mine. Society for Applied Anthropology, Vancouver, CA
- Nov 2005 What's Diamonds Got to Do With It? American Anthropological Assoc, Washington, DC.
- Sep 2005 Climate Change and Viliui Sakha, Society for Ecological Restoration, Zaragosa, Spain.
- Apr 2005 Elder Knowledge and Sustainable Livelihoods in Post-Soviet Russia: Finding Dialogue Across the Generations. Society for Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe, NM
- Dec 2004 Cows, Kin and Globalization: Indigenous Sustainability in Post-Soviet Russia. Canadian Circumpolar Institute, Edmonton, Alberta.
- Dec 2004 Investigating Indigenous Sustainability in Viliui Sakha Villages, AAASS, Boston, Mass.
- Oct 2004 Contemplating Environmental Justice on the Viliui. Environmental Justice Abroad, Rutgers, NJ
- May 2004 Locating Circumpolar Environmental Change: Environmental and Indigenous Impacts of Diamond Mining in Post-Soviet Siberia. International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, Fairbanks, Alaska.
- Feb 2004 Participation as Empowerment: Sustainable Communities Research. The Power of Intersectionality, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
- Dec 2003 Contemplating Future Sustainability in Post-Soviet Siberia, Environmental Science, Miami U.
- Dec 2003 Russia's Environment: History, Culture and Contemporary Issues, International Studies, Miami U..
- Nov 2003 Indigenous Ideas of Sustainability in Northern Russia, Havighurst Coloquim, Miami University.
- Nov 2003 Russia's Indigenous Peoples: Using Historical Geography to Teach about Peoples without History. American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario.
- April 2003 Cows, Kin, and Future Sustainability: The Cultural Ecology of Viliui Sakha in the Post-Soviet Era. Department of Anthropology Colloquium, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
- March 2003 Arctic Visiting Speaker Bureau, Fairbanks Alaska. Invited Speaker. Presented talks about ongoing research activities for University of Alaska Fairbanks Colloquiums, schools, and the public radio.
- Nov 2002 Applying Anthropology: Can Models from the West Work in a Post-Soviet Context? American Anthropological Association, 101st Annual Meeting, New Orleans.
- Nov 2002 Russia's Environment: History, Culture and Contemporary Issues, Stetson University, Deland, Fl.
- Nov 2002 Cows and Kin: The Cultural Ecology of Viliui Sakha in the Post-Socialist Era, Geography Departmental Colloquium, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
- Oct 2002 How Can Issues of Environmental Justice Gain Importance on the Russian Environmental Agenda? Russia's Environment: Prospects and Possibilities, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
- Oct 2002 Discussant, Placing Gender in Postcommunism, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
- Sep 2002 Cows & Kin: An Evolving Research Agenda, Northern Research Forum 2002, Novgorod, Russia.
- Nov 2001 The Legacy of the Viliui Reindeer-Herding Complex, American Anthropological Association 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- Oct 2001 Applying History and Memory as Adaptive Strategies, American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Anchorage, Alaska.
- May 2001 Oral History as Key to Contemporary Survival, 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Arctic Social Science Association, Quebec, Canada.
- Feb 2001 Waking Up in Siberia: Cows, Kin & the Viliui Sakha, SOYUZ, The Research Network of Post-Socialist Cultural Studies Conference, Berkeley, California.

- Mar 1999 Diamond Mining in Post-Soviet Russia: Accounting for the Past, Looking to the Future, SOYUZ  
The Research Network of Post-Socialist Cultural Studies Conference, Bloomington, Indiana.
- Mar 1999 The Contemporary Yhyakh: The Ludic as Segue to Ethnicity, Politics and Economy, Central  
Eurasian Studies Conference, Bloomington, Indiana.

### Symposiums and Workshops

- Nov 2003 Organizer, 2003 Havighurst Annual International Young Researchers Conference, Russia in Global  
Context: Peoples, Environments, Policies, Miami University, Oxford, OH.
- Nov 2003 Co-organizer, Window to the North: Peoples and Environments of the Arctic, Miami University.
- Oct 2002 Co-organizer, discussant, and session chair, Russia's Environment: Prospects and Possibilities,  
Miami University, Oxford, OH.
- Oct 2002 Discussant, Placing Gender in Postcommunism, Miami University, Oxford, OH.
- Apr 2001-  
Feb 2002 Gender Role Reversals and Sakha Women, Role of Women in Post-Communist Transition  
Workshop, Kennan Institute, Washington, DC.
- Dec 2000 The Case of Elgeei, Still Red: Socialism in Practice Workshop, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC.
- Apr 1998 Discussant, Environmental Justice, Women, Environment and Empowerment, Racine, WI.

### Working Groups and Steering Committees

- Mar 2004-  
Nov 2005 International Conference on Arctic Research Planning II (ICARP II), Member, Working Group 1:  
Sustainable Development and Arctic Economies
- Sep 2004- Northern Research Forum (NRF) Steering Committee Member

### Professional Memberships

- ◆ International Arctic Social Science Association (IASSA)
- ◆ American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS)
- ◆ American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- ◆ Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA)

### Teaching Experience

- 2004-2006 **Assistant Professor, George Mason University:**  
Spring 2006: EVPP 336: Environment and Society  
Spring '05/'06: EVPP 741/ ANTH 580: Culture & Environment in Local to Global Perspectives  
Fall '05/'04: EVPP 741/ ANTH 580: Advanced Seminar in Human Ecology
- 2002-2004 **Postdoctoral Fellow, Miami University:** Instructor for:  
Spring 2004: Geo 307: Geography of Russia and Eurasia  
Anth 306: Peoples and Cultures of Russia and Eurasia  
Fall 2003: Rus/Pol/Geo/Hst/Ath/Fst 133: Imagining Russia: Film as a Window to Cultures  
Geo/IES/ITS/ATH 410: Russia in Global Context: Peoples, Environments, Policies  
Spring 2003: Geo/ Anth /ITS /IES 410/ 510: Cultures and Environments of Russia  
Fall 2002: Geo/ IES / ITS 410/ 510: International Environmental Affairs: Russia
- 1997-2001 **Teaching Assistantship, UNC Chapel Hill:** Led recitation sections, assisted students, wrote and  
graded exams, occasionally lectured.  
Fall 2001: EST 35: Environment and Society, with Dr. Greg Gangi  
Spring 1999: BIO 11: Human Anatomy  
Spr, Fall 1998: EST 35: Environment and Society, with Dr. Greg Gangi  
Fall 1997: BIO 45: Ecology and Population Biology

### Service

- 2005-2006 **Earth Week 2006 coordinator**- held bimonthly 90-minute meetings beginning in December 2005 through May 2006 to organize two weeks of activities celebrating Earth Day at GMU, focusing on climate change and hosting Bill McKibben. Continued to focus effort on campus greening.
- 2004-2005 **Earth Week 2005 coordinator**- held bimonthly 90-minute meetings beginning in December 2004 through May 2005 to organize two weeks of activities celebrating Earth Day at GMU, focusing on climate change and hosting David Orr. Spun out into a campus-wide GREEN initiative.
- 2004-to date **Chair's Advisory Committee**, Environmental Science & Policy, George Mason University
- 2004 **Policy Search Committee**, Environmental Science & Policy, George Mason University
- 2002 **Search Committee**, Ecology Curriculum, UNC-Chapel Hill.
- 2001-2002 **Graduate Teaching Assistant Liaison**, Ecology Curriculum, UNC-Chapel Hill.

### Language Skills

**Sakha (Yakut):** fluent spoken, reading & writing      **Russian:** fluent spoken, reading & writing

### References

Dr. Bruce Winterhalder (Ph.D. advisor)  
University of California at Davis  
Department of Anthropology  
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Davis, CA 95161-8522  
(530) 752-0745 / FAX: (530) 752-8885  
[bwinterhalder@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bwinterhalder@ucdavis.edu)

Dr. Bruce Grant  
Department of Anthropology, New York University  
Rufus D. Smith Hall, 25 Waverly Place  
New York, NY 10003  
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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Department of Public Policy  
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[pete\\_andrews@unc.edu](mailto:pete_andrews@unc.edu)

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