

**Professor Caroline Humphrey**  
**Black Sea Currents: Migration and cosmopolitan dynamics in two post-Imperial cities, Odessa and Istanbul**  
**End of Year Report for 2007**

We found important materials on diasporas, new migrants, international networks, and links between Odessa, Istanbul and Batumi during fieldwork carried out in commodity markets in Odessa, and 'Russian' districts of Istanbul. We collected significant ethnographic material about the relations which the contemporary inhabitants of the two cities' old cosmopolitan quarters forge with the built environment and the material remains around them which were left behind by the previous (mostly 'minority') communities who used to live there. In the case of Istanbul, the immigrants to the city's old quarters who have arrived in the city from rural parts of Turkey have created mythical narratives about the city's old quarters and their previous inhabitants. We found out that, in the long run, it will be possible to study relations between the departed old cosmopolitan communities and the new inhabitants of rural background, particularly if we are to plan research in periods when the old city dwellers return for visits to the city's run down districts.

1. Dr. Yael Navaro-Yashin: two short field trips to Istanbul (March and August). Preliminary fieldwork (site-setting), bibliographic source collection, initial contacts and interviews.
2. Prof. Caroline Humphrey: a field trip to Odessa, Ukraine (August). Data collection on the city's two main markets, trading communities and trading minorities. Formal interviews with the markets' administrators.
3. Dr. Vera Skvirskaja: formally joined the project on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007. On the previous AHRC funded project (Examining Post-Cosmopolitanism), she spent five months in Odessa (April-August). The materials she gathered will be useful also for the 'Black sea Currents' project. She also identified new leads for the current project in Odessa, especially among Afghan migrants and Russians/Ukrainians migrating to Istanbul.
4. Dr. Galina Manzanova has received the sum of £1,000.00 to cover research expenses (mainly, archival research in Moscow) for the period of one year.