



## Alexander Chernyak

Alexander Chernyak is a scholar and educator specializing in cultural and religious studies, ethnomusicology, and multicultural education. He holds a Master's degree in Culturology and Music from the St. Petersburg State Institute of Culture. His early research documented and analyzed the traditional cultures and music of Siberian ethnic groups, emphasizing their social roles and preservation amid modernization. He later taught Russian folk music and comparative cultural studies in Russia and Germany, fostering critical engagement with issues of identity, migration, and intercultural dialogue.

Chernyak was actively involved in political dissent against the Soviet regime. His participation in protests opposing political oppression led to persecution, forcing him to leave the Soviet Union in 1991 as a political refugee. He earned a second Master's degree in Education from the University of Michigan (USA) and taught at several institutions, including Washtenaw Community College and the University of Michigan. He also served as a research fellow at the International Institute of Ann Arbor, supporting immigrant and refugee communities. Currently, he teaches courses in religious studies and sociology at Hartwick College.

Through lectures and programs promoting multiculturalism and global awareness in today's political climate, he bridges academic knowledge and public discourse, emphasizing cultural understanding in an interconnected, conflict-prone world.