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### **The role of academic community in Russia's foreign policy-making**

The proposed paper focuses on the role of IR academic community in Russia's foreign policy-making. It argues that factors that discourage scholars from active participation in the public debate and from engagement with foreign policy-making process stand in stark contrast to the relatively rich institutional setting for knowledge exchange between expert community and the government.

On the basis of interviews with Russia-based scholars, I have identified a broad spectrum of attitudes that includes: unwillingness to participate in the policy-making process, skepticism regarding impact and readiness to provide expertise even despite the realization of difficulties. The paper suggests that these views can be attributed to: the broader political context that stimulates reluctance on part of some scholars to engage in 'political activity' that might potentially endanger their career, the prevalence of the ethos of scientific activity as detached from the realm of policy-making and scholars own representation of policy-practitioners. In the eyes of scholars policy-practitioners do not regard research as sufficiently related to 'real politics' and prefer relying on their own knowledge as well as information delivered by intelligence services.