

FRANCESCA SILANO

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EDUCATION

- 2017 PhD**, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
History
Dissertation: “‘In the language of the Patriarch’: Patriarch Tikhon, the Soviet State, and the Orthodox Church, 1865-1925.”
Supervisor: Professor Lynne Viola
- 2011 MA**, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
History
- 2010 BA**, McGill University, Montreal, QC
Dean’s Honour List, History and English Literature

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 Assistant Professor of History**, Department of History and Classics, Providence College, Providence, RI
- 2020-2023 Assistant Professor of History**, Department of History and Political Science, Houghton University, Houghton, NY
- 2018-2020 Visiting Assistant Professor of History and Teaching Fellow**, Department of History and Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University, Oxford, OH
- 2017-2018 Postdoctoral Fellow & Visiting Lecturer**, Russian Studies Workshop
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2022** Research Scholar at the Northwestern University Research Initiative for the Study of Russian Philosophy and Religious Thought
- 2022** Katherine Lindley Project Fund, Houghton, Houghton University (\$1500)
- 2021-22** Houghton University Faculty Development Committee Research Grant (\$900)
- 2021** Virtual Summer Research Lab Assistant, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois
- 2020-21** Houghton University Faculty Development Committee Research Grant (\$900)

- 2019 Miami University Humanities Center Research Apprentice Grant (50 hrs of assistance + \$1000)
- 2016 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$5000)
- 2016 Aiken-Woods Memorial Graduate Scholarship in History (\$2000)
- 2014 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (\$20 000)
- 2012 Canadian Association of Slavists' Graduate Paper Award Winner
- 2012 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$5000)

PUBLICATIONS

- “‘I am a Sincere Believer’: Rethinking Religiosity and Identity in the Early Soviet Union,” *Slavic Review* (forthcoming, Winter, 2023).
- “‘A Dishonor to You and to the Church’: Patriarch Tikhon, Pogroms, and the Russian Revolution, 1917-1919,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 23, no. 1 (Winter, 2022): 5-27.
- “The Orthodox Church,” in Anna Berman, ed., *Tolstoy in Context* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022), 61-7.
- “Christmas in Russia and Orthodox Europe,” in Timothy Larsen, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Christmas* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020), 463-74.
- “(Re)Constructing an Orthodox ‘Scenario of Power’: The Restoration of the Russian Orthodox Patriarchate in Revolutionary Russia (1917-1918),” *Revolutionary Russia* 32, no. 1 (2019): 5-30.
- “Canon Law in a Bolshevik Courtroom: The Russian Revolution as an Orthodox Legal Revolution,” (Russian Version), in *State, Religion and Church in Russia and Worldwide* 37, no. 1/2 (2019): 153-181.

Working Projects

- The Battle for Russia’s Souls: Patriarch Tikhon, the Russian Orthodox Church, and the Soviet State (1865-1925)* (Under contract with Cornell University Press. Submission date Dec. 2023).
- Co-editor with Alexander Agadjanian, Scott Kenworthy, Nadieszda Kizenko and Vera Shevzov of volume *Religion and the Russian Revolution* (Accepted for exclusive review by Indiana University Press; planned for submission in spring, 2023).
- “Canon Law in a Bolshevik Courtroom: The Russian Revolution as an Orthodox Legal Revolution,” (English-language contribution to above-mentioned volume. Submitted, Dec. 2018).
- “‘Is it Necessary to Execute the Churchmen?’: The Trial of the Petrograd Clergy and the Development of the Soviet Criminal Justice System, 1922” (Draft article completed. To be submitted to *Revolutionary Russia*, Summer 2023)

Encyclopedia Entries

“Sergius, Patriarch of Moscow,” in *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 4th ed., ed. Andrew Louth (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022).

Book Reviews

Daniel Scarborough, *Russia's Social Gospel The Orthodox Pastoral Movement in Famine, War, and Revolution* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2021) for *The Slavic and East European Journal* (forthcoming).

Caryl Emerson, George Pattison, and Randall A. Poole, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Russian Religious Thought* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020) for *The Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* (forthcoming).

Heather Bailey, *The Public Image of Eastern Orthodoxy: France and Russia, 1848-1870* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2020) for *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 73, no. 1 (Jan, 2022): 200-01.

Patrick Michelson, *Beyond the Monastery Walls: The Ascetic Revolution in Orthodox Thought, 1814-1914* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2017) for *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* 2, no. 2 (2019): 236-238.

Hyacinthe Destivelle, *The Moscow Council (1917–1918): The Creation of the Conciliar Institutions of the Russian Orthodox Church* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015) for *Theological Studies* 78, no. 1 (2017): 273.

Peer Reviewer

The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023-Present Assistant Professor, Providence College, Providence, NY,
Department of History and Classics

Courses

HIS 315: The Soviet Union and Beyond

DWC 201: Development of Western Civilization: The Modern World

2020-Present Assistant Professor, Houghton University, Houghton, NY
Department of History and Political Science

Courses

HUM 101: Enduring Questions: The Ancient and Medieval Worlds

HUM 102: Enduring Questions: The Early Modern World

HUM 201: Enduring Questions: The Modern World
HIST 230: Medieval Europe
HIST 241: Europe, 1789-1914
HIST 242: Modern Europe (1914-Present)
HIST 250: World History, 1500-Present
HIST 336: Imperial Russia
HIST 337: The Soviet Union and Beyond
HIST 395A: Revolutions in the Modern World
HIST 441: Genocides of the 20th Century
HIST 480/POLS 480: Senior Capstone in History and Political Science
INTS 170A: London Honors Proseminar
INTS 171A: Honors in London (Full semester humanities program)

2018-2020 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Miami University, Oxford, OH
Department of History

Courses

HST 198: World History Since 1500
HST 270: World War II and the Holocaust in the Soviet Union
HST 375: The Soviet Union and Beyond
HST 400: History of the Russian Revolution (Senior Capstone)

2017-2018 **Instructor**, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Russian and East European Institute and Department of Religious Studies

Course

REL-A 300/REEI-R 300/REEI-R 500: “Religions of Russia Since 1991: Identity, Memory, and the Search for Meaning” (Undergraduate and Graduate Students)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers Scheduled/Given

- 2023 “Soviet and Orthodox?: Religion and Religiosity Among Early-Soviet Youth,”
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention,
Philadelphia, PA, November 30-December 3, 2023
- 2022 “Orthodoxy and History: Time and the Scared,” Association for Slavic, East European,
and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 10-13, 2022
- 2022 “Book Discussion: ‘Good for the Souls: A History of Confession in the Russian Empire,’
by Nadieszda Kizenko,” Roundtable Discussion, Association for Slavic, East European,
and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 10-13, 2022

- 2022 “Teaching European History During the Russian War in Ukraine,” Roundtable Discussion, Annual Meeting of the New York State Association of European Historians, Niagara Falls, NY, October 7-8, 2022,
- 2021 “I Was Fired Up with Religious Feeling’: Orthodox Believers on Trial, 1922,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 21-23, 2021
- 2021 “The Past, Present, and Future of Russian Orthodox Studies,” Roundtable Discussion, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 21-23, 2021
- 2019 “Narrating the Russian Revolution: Russian Orthodox Leaders, Bolsheviks, Jews, and the Civil War,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, November 23-26, 2019
- 2018 “‘Is it necessary to execute the clergymen?’: The Trial of the Petrograd Clergy and the Development of the Soviet Criminal Justice System (1922),” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Boston, MA, December 6-9, 2018
- 2018 “A Revolution in Law?: The Russian Orthodox Church, Canon Law, and the Russian Revolution,” Workshop on Religion and the Russian Revolution, Berlin, GER, June 12-14, 2018
- 2018 “Assigning Blame and Imagining Solutions: Russian Orthodox Leaders, Jews, and the Russian Revolution,” Midwest Russian History Workshop, Bloomington, IN, April 15-17, 2018
- 2017 “‘Death to old law and its old servants’”: The Orthodox Church, Canon Law, and the Development of Soviet Law in NEP (1922-1923),” Conference on the Legacy of the Russian Revolution, Germantown, PA, November 16-18, 2017
- 2017 “‘Clothe yourselves in sackcloth’”: Asceticism as an Orthodox Challenge to Revolutionary Ideals (1917-1919),” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 9-12, 2017
- 2017 “The Russian Orthodox Church, Canon Law, and the Russian Revolution,” Conference on Religion and the Russian Revolution, Moscow, RU, October 26-28, 2017
- 2017 “‘A meeting of two worlds’: The 1917 Patriarchal Enthronement Ceremony and Narrating the Russian Revolution,” The Havighurst Center’s International Young Researchers Congress (YRC), Cuma, Italy, June 13-16
- 2017 “Exclusion and Inclusion: Patriarch Tikhon, the Russian Orthodox Church, and the Response to Pogroms in the Civil War, 1919,” Symposium: Religion and Ethno-nationalism in the Era of the Two World Wars, Toronto, ON, May 21-23
- 2016 “Perceptions of the Patriarchate, Russia, and the Revolution in 1917,” Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Washington, DC, November 17- 21
- 2016 “‘In defense of the ‘living man’: Patriarch Tikhon, Learned Monasticism, and Orthodox Journalism (1890-1917),” Canadian Association of Slavists Convention, Calgary, AL, May 30-June 1
- 2015 “‘So You Live by Your Own Laws?’: Patriarch Tikhon and the Church Confiscation Trials of 1922,” Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, November 19-22

- 2015 “‘Indeed I was in America’: Patriarch Tikhon, Freedom of Conscience and the American and Soviet Experiences,” Symposium: Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow (1865-1925): His Life and Times, Jordanville, NY, October 9-11

Service as Discussant

- 2019 Panel Discussant, Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies Young Researchers Conference 2019: “Technologies and Narratives of Truth and Power,” Oxford, OH, April 4-6, 2019

Panels Organized

- 2023 “Russian Orthodoxy, Lived Religion, and Identity in the Early Soviet Union,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, November 30-December 3, 2023
- 2021 “Diversity of Religious Experience: Orthodox Christian Believers and the Famine of 1921-22,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 21-23, 2021
- 2017 “Rethinking Asceticism: Asceticism, Russia, and Orthodoxy (1861-1924),” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 9-12, 2017
- 2016 “The Russian Patriarchate: A Lens Onto Russia’s Past and Present,” Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, Washington, DC, November 17-21
- 2016 “Crossing Boundaries: Russian Religious Thought in the 19th and 20th Centuries,” Canadian Association of Slavists Annual Conference, Calgary, AB, May 30-June 1
- 2015 “The Politics of Legitimacy, Unity, and Repression: The Orthodox Church in Post-Revolutionary Russia and Ukraine,” Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, November, 19-22

Public Talks

- 2018 “Battling for Russians’ Souls: The Russian Orthodox Church, the Bolsheviks, and the Russian Revolution,” Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN, April 11, 2018
- 2017 “‘Death to old law and its old servants’”: The Orthodox Church, Canon Law, and the Development of Soviet Law in NEP (1922-1923),” Russian and East European Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, November 30, 2017

PUBLIC HISTORY

- 2023 Invited presentation of exhibit, “From my Life to Yours: An Exhibit on the Life of Fr. Luigi Giussani, 1922-2005,” First National CLU Conference: *Faith & Culture: Luigi Giussani and the Christian Presence on Campus*, Benedictine College, Atchison, Kansas
- 2023 Invited talk “‘On the Shoulders of Giants’: England’s Saints and Why they Matter Today,” John Henry Newman Cultural Center, Brompton Oratory (London, UK)
- 2022 Invited talk on the Orthodox Church’s role in the war in Ukraine, Wilmington Friends

- Meeting (Wilmington, Ohio)
- 2022 Panelist for “Russia and Ukraine: A Panel Discussion,” Center for Global Humanities, Houghton College (Houghton, NY)
- 2020 Co-Author and Curator of “A Human Being is a Remarkable Thing: The Life of Ety Hillesum,” *New York Encounter Cultural Festival* (NY, New York)

PROFESSIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Mentorship and Advising

- 2022-2023 Senior Thesis Adviser, Jacqueline Johnson, “Tennyson’s Tudors: Tennyson’s *Queen Mary* and How The Victorians Wrote History”; Frances Mullen, “Dangerous Memories: The Commemoration of Jasenovac Concentration Camp in Socialist Yugoslavia”
- 2021-2022 Senior Thesis Adviser, Amanda Redman, “The Development of Feminism and Bolshevik Liberation Ideology: How the Definition of Womanhood Changed During the Early Russian Revolution, 1900-1917”; Isaiah Cornfield, “The Persistent Relevance of John Dewey”
- 2020-2021 Senior Thesis Co-Adviser, Joel Wheeler, “Remembering the Inferno: War Memoirs of the First Half of the Twentieth Century”
- 2019-2020 Honors Thesis Adviser, Jonathan Maxwell, “Kamianets-Podolsky: A Case Study for the Precedent of Genocide, Breakdown of Society, and Barbarism During the Holocaust”
- 2019-2020 Masters Thesis Committee Member, Zinadia Osipova, “Communism Neglected: Non-Revolutionary Lives of the Nizhny Novgorod Professors in Revolutionary Russia
- 2019-2020 Faculty Adviser for Honors Program, Austin Brandenburg, “What Gives You Hope?”

2022-2024 Elected Member, Student Conduct Committee, Houghton, NY

2021-2023 Elected Member, Internal Review Board, Houghton, NY

2021-2022 Faculty Adviser, Catholics on Campus, Houghton, NY

2019-2020 Faculty Sponsor, Russian History Club, Oxford, OH

After becoming enamored of Russian history, a group of my students asked me to help them found this club. I attended their meetings, helped them to plan events, and supported them as they sought full institutional recognition.

2018-2020 Organizer, Works in Progress Meetings, Oxford, OH

Organized meetings for colleagues in the Havighurst Center to share their works in progress and discuss it with colleagues in an interdisciplinary setting.

2017-2018 Conference Organizer, Bloomington, IN

Lead organizer of a symposium on religion and the Russian Revolution held in Berlin in the summer of 2018. Scholars of a variety of disciplines from the United States, Canada, and Russia gathered to discuss pre-selected papers treating the historical and contemporary relationship between religion and the Russian Revolution. Papers are now being edited for the above-mentioned volume on the same theme, of which I am a co-editor.

2015 Conference Co-Organizer, Toronto, ON

Worked with graduate students in the Slavic Studies department to organize the “Slavic Studies Graduate Conference” at University of Toronto, whose goal was to provide graduate students a forum to present their work to seasoned professors, and to encourage interdisciplinary thought and relationships amongst students studying Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe.

LANGUAGES

Russian (Reading, Speaking, and Proficient Writing); Italian (Reading, Speaking, and Proficient Writing); French (Reading and Elementary Speaking and Writing)

AFFILIATIONS

Member of Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) (Since 2012)
Member of Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS) (Since 2015)
Member of Association for the Study of East Christian History and Culture (ASEC) (Since 2015)
Member of the Ecclesiastical History Society (Since 2023)