

Curriculum Vitae

Michael Ossorgin, Ph.D.

38 Stratford Rd, Apt 2B

Brooklyn, NY, 11218

(929) 409-7358

mossorginviii@fordham.edu

Fields of Interest

19th-Century Russian Literature, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Gogol, Tolstoy, 19th-Century Russian Art, Primitivism, Futurism, Rayonism, Comparative Black and Russian Literature, Suprematism, Russian Iconography, Early 20th-Century Russian and Soviet Literature, American and Russian Apocalyptic Thought, Mandelshtam, Russian Poetry Translation, Russian and Soviet Literary Theory, 19th-20th-century Russian Personalism, Soviet and Post-Soviet Personalism, Theory of the Novel, Religion in Soviet Film, Art Criticism, History of Visual Realism, Contemporary Russian Journalism, Censorship, Spanish Golden Age Literature, Cervantes, Comparative Literature.

Education

Columbia University, New York, NY, June 2008 – May 2016.

Ph.D. in Slavic Languages, “Visual Polyphony: The Role of Vision in Dostoevsky’s Poetics,” (May 17, 2017).

M.Phil. Major in 19th Century Russian Literature. Minor in Spanish Golden Age Literature (February 2013).

M.A. *Dostoevsky’s Apophatic Approach to Defining a Perfectly Beautiful Person in The Idiot* (May 1, 2010).

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, Summer 2009

Kathryn Wasserman Davis School of Russian, 9-week Russian Program, Level 7

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, September 2005 – May 2008

Program in Continuing Education (Russian language, Soviet and Russian literature)

Princeton in Petersburg Summer Abroad Program, (Summer 2006)

St. John’s College, Annapolis, MD, 2005

Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Philosophy and History of Mathematics and Science

Triple minor in Classics, Music Theory, and Comparative Literature

Senior Thesis, “The Death of Pride; Bearing Fruit in the World,” on

Dostoevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov* and *Notes From Underground*, was written under Nicholas Maistrellis

Harvard Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, MA, Summer 2004

Summer Program in Architecture

Summer School of Russian Liturgical Music, Jordanville, NY, Summers 2002-2003

Summer Program in Russian Orthodox Choral Conducting

Teaching

Senior Lecturer, Fordham University at Lincoln Center, New York, NY, 2022-present.
Advanced Lecturer, Fordham University at Lincoln Center, New York, NY, 2019-2022.
Lecturer, Fordham University at Lincoln Center, New York, NY, 2016-2019.

The Great Russian Minds Series: Russian Personalism. The philosophical tradition of Russian personalism defends human dignity, freedom, and respect for the individual. We use the late great scholar Sergei M. Polovinkin's (1935-2018) classifications to survey N. Lossky's intuitive personalism, N. Berdyaev's eschatological personalism, S. Bulgakov's sophianic personalism, P. Florensky's Christian personalism, and S. Frank's antinomical monodualism. Summer 2022.

The Great Russian Minds Series: Mikhail Bakhtin. In this summer survey course, we approach Bakhtin not only in his capacity as a world-famous critic but, perhaps more importantly, as a humanist philosopher. We read *Art and Answerability* (1919) and *Toward a Philosophy of the Act* (1919-21), continuing with essays "Discourse in the Novel" (1934-1935), "Forms of Time and of the Chronotope in the Novel" (1937-1938) "From the Prehistory of Novelistic Discourse" (1940), "Epic and Novel" (1941), "Rhetoric to the extent that it Lies" (1943), "A Person at the Mirror" (1943), "On questions of Self-Consciousness and Self-Evaluation" (1943), and concluding with *Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics* (1963, much-expanded from his 1929 *Problems of Dostoevsky's Art*), *Rabelais and His World* (1965), and *Speech Genres & Other Late Essays* (1979). Summer 2021.

Dostoevsky and Race in America. A comparative course on three Dostoevsky novels paired with three great works of American fiction that engage the question of race in America. Three American authors' works are in dialogue with three Dostoevsky books: Ellison's *Invisible Man* with *Notes From Underground*, Wright's *Native Son* with *Crime and Punishment*, and Toni Morrison's *Beloved* with *The Brothers Karamazov*. Spring 2021.

The Apocalypse Course: Russian Revelations. We study the Apocalypse—the revelatory moment reverberating through historical and personal time. Interdisciplinary, comparative course rooted in John's *Book of Revelation* according to Russian religious philosophy. Comparative studies: Last Judgment Icons with Michelangelo and Kandinsky's apocalyptic masterpieces; Blok's "The Twelve" and T.S. Eliot's "The Hollow Men"; Gogol's "The Portrait" and O'Connor's "The Enduring Chill"; Bulgakov's *Master and Margarita* and Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*; Tarkovsky's *Sacrifice* and HBO's *The Leftovers*; Scriabin's Second Symphony, Iris DeMent's "Let the Mystery Be," Johnny Cash's "The Man Comes Around," and Bob Dylan's "Hard Rain." Spring 2020 and Spring 2022.

Translating Russian Poetry, Music, Animation, Film, and Journalism. An advanced Russian course. This multimedia translation course expands Russian vocabulary within multiple fields while increasing cultural understanding. We translate the poetry of Pushkin, the bards Okhudzhava and Vysotsky, the Soviet film *Fall Marathon*, the Russian film *Summer*, and Soviet animations. The course

incorporates an online subscription to pre-approved contemporary journals from modern Russian cultural magazines such as *Znak*, *Polka*, *Diskurs*, and *Meduza*. Fall 2019 and Fall 2021.

The Russian Icon in the Arts. An interdisciplinary course on Russian icon as a cultural artifact; a historical source; a literary model in nineteenth-century literature of Chekhov, Dostoevsky, and Tolstoy; a methodological and aesthetic model of Avant-garde art of Kandinsky, Goncharova, Chekrygin, Tatlin, Larionov, and Malevich; as a mechanical production in Soviet film of Tarkovsky and Askoldov; and as a propaganda device in Nicholas II's reign and Putin's cult of personality. Spring 2019, 2023.

Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and the Meaning of Life and Death. One large book on Russian family life and one short meditation on death from each author: *Anna Karenina* and *The Death of Ivan Ilych*, *The Brothers Karamazov*, and *The Dream of a Ridiculous Man*. Spring 2018.

Russian Visions: Literature and Art. An original interdisciplinary course that explores the interaction between the Russian visual arts and Russian literature during two artistically flourishing periods of Russian and early Soviet history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Spring 2017.

Russian Media and the State. Advanced Russian interdisciplinary course is divided into analyzing four works within their socio-historical context: nineteenth-century thick journals; twentieth-century - *The Zhivago Affair* and *The Commissar*; twenty-first century - *Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot*; Russian Language Textbook - *Russian From Intermediate to Advanced*. Fall 2017 and Fall 2020.

Intermediate to Advanced Russian. This course engages students in discussing and analyzing authentic, contemporary texts and videos compiled in *Russian From Intermediate to Advanced* (2015). Fall 2018 and Fall 2022.

Russian Language and Literature, 2017-2022.

Advanced Russian Grammar, Fall 2017.

Intermediate Russian II, 2016-2022.

Intermediate Russian I, 2017-2022.

Introduction to Russian I, 2016-2022.

Russian Language Instructor, Middlebury College, 2020.

Advanced Russian Intensive. Level 6. Summer 2020.

Comp Lit Instructor, Columbia University, New York, NY, Spring 2012.

Quixotes. An original comparative course on Cervantes's *Don Quixote*, Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*, and Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Russian Language Instructor, Columbia University, New York, NY, (Fall 2009–Summer 2017)

First-year Russian Intensive, Summer, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2017, 2018

Second-year Russian, Fall 2012

Second-year Russian, Fall 2011
First-year Russian, Fall 2010-Spring 2011
First-year Russian, Fall 2009-Spring 2010

Employment

2022-pres **Russian Program Director and Senior Lecturer**, Fordham U, NY, NY.
2019-22 **Russian Program Director and Advanced Lecturer**, Fordham U, NY, NY.
2020 **Advanced Russian Language Instructor**, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.
2016-19 **Russian Program Director and Lecturer**, Fordham U, NY, NY.
2015-16 **Archival Assistant, Rare Books and Manuscripts**, Columbia U, NY, NY.
2010-15 **Student-Athlete Tutor**, GSAS, Columbia U, NY, NY
2010-16 **Russian Tutor**, Self-employed, beginner's Russian for college placement exams.
2009-17 **Instructor**, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Columbia U, NY, NY.
2006-08 **Music Consultant**, Stepbridge Studios Evolved, Santa Fe, NM.

Publications

2019 "How The Inmates' Polyphonic Play Performs the All-Creation Icon," in *Dostoevskii i mirovaia kul'tura*.

2017 "Holbein's Visually Polyphonic *Dead Christ* Reveals Contrasting Perspectives in Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*," *Dostoevsky Studies*, v. 21.

2016 Proofreader and Russian Consultant for *Voronezh Notebooks*, Osip Mandelshtam, trans. Andrew Davis, *New York Review of Books*. The long list for the 2017 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation.

Conference Papers

2022 "Orthodoxy and Literature: (The Kairotope) A Problem in Bakhtin's Poetics of Dostoevsky," ASEES, Chicago, November 11.
2021 "Dostoevsky's Prison Theology," ASEES, New Orleans, November 20. "Dostoevsky's Holbein, Malevich, and the Apophatic Icon," ICEES, August 4.
2020 "Jesus's Rebellious Kiss: Compassion as Rebellion in *The Brothers Karamazov*," ASEES, virtual conference, November 7.
2019 "*Notes from the Dead House* as Dostoevsky's Polyphonic Response to Yakobi's Visual Monologism," International Dostoevsky Symposium, Boston, July 19.
2018 "The Inmates' Polyphonic Play in *Dead House* as Performer of the All-Creation Icon," ASEES, December 7.
2017 "Using Florensky's 'Reverse Perspective' to see *The Dead Christ* in *The Idiot*," ASEES, Chicago, IL, November 9.
2015 "Gazing Through Ippolit's Window in *The Idiot*," Slavics Without Borders, Princeton, NJ, April 22.
2012 "Bakhtin and De Man: The Unknowable Self." Princeton-Columbia Slavic Conference, April 27.
"Individual Identity and the Pursuit of Happiness: Kashtanka's Long Day's Journey into a Three Dog Night." AATSEEL, Seattle, WA, January 7.

- 2011 “Florensky’s Betrothal Service for Monks.” AATSEEL, Pasadena, CA, January 7.
 2010 “Zosima’s *Prozorlivost*: Bakhtin’s Model Author.” ASEEEES, Los Angeles, CA, November 19.

Published Reviews

- 2022 Deborah Martinsen Dostoevsky’s “Crime and Punishment”: A Reader’s Guide Academic Studies Press (2022), forthcoming Russian Language Journal, vol. 72.
 2019 “A Haymarket *Khozhdenie na osliati*: Raskolnikov’s Donkey Walk and the Failures of Iconic Performativity,” *Journal of Icon Studies*.

Moderating and Chairing Panels

- 2022 Roundtable participant in “The North American Dostoevsky Society: Rethinking Dostoevsky’s Short Fiction,” ASEEEES, Chicago, IL.
 2021 Roundtable participant in “Literary and Environmental Hierotopy,” ASEEEES, New Orleans, LA.
 2020 Roundtable participant in “Modern-Day Hierotopy: Creating Sacred Spaces in Russian Literature, Film, and Politics,” ASEEEES virtual conference.
 2019 Discussant of “Dostoevsky and the Gospel of Luke,” ASEEEES, San Francisco, CA.
 Roundtable participant on “Lidov’s concept of Hierotopy in Belles Lettres: Sacred Space in Flannery O’Connor’s *Parker’s Back*,” ASEEEES, San Francisco, CA.
 Discussant of “Historical context of Ukrainian Autocephaly” for NESEEEES at New York University, Manhattan, NY.
 2018 Chair of “Dostoevsky in Space,” This panel explored Dostoevsky’s engagement with and depiction of the built environment and the natural world, ASEEEES, Boston, MA.
 2013 Chair of “Theory of the Novel: On the Margins of the Novelistic Canon,” AATSEEL. Panel on marginalized characters in *Oblomov* and a marginalized painting of John the Baptist in Dostoevsky’s *The Idiot*.

Events Organized

2021-present [The Russia Question](#). Founder and host. **TRQ** is a 1-hour webinar devoted to Russian scholarship book talks sponsored by Fordham’s Orthodox Christian Studies Center. I read each author’s book carefully and took exhaustive notes in preparation for their interviews. Special Guests:

- 2022 **Dmitry Bykov** guest lecture and interview on “Russian Culture After the War: Cancel or Rebirth?” May 3.
Hellen Petrovskaya and Polina Uzornikova. A conversation with Fordham Russian students who have family in Ukraine concerning Putin’s invasion and life under Putin’s dictatorship. April 11.
Clemena Antonova, Senior Research and Teaching Associate at the Centre for Patristic and Byzantine Spiritual Legacy, Sofia University, Bulgaria, and Affiliated Research

Fellow at the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, U.K. For her book, *Visual Thought in Russian Religious Philosophy* (2019). March 8.

Hanna Stähle, Head of Foresight and Innovation at The Philanthropy Europe Association, for her book *Russian Church in the Digital Era: Mediatization of Orthodoxy* (2021). February 4.

2021 **Caryl Emerson**, A. Watson Armour III University Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Princeton University, **Randall Poole**, Professor of Intellectual History at the College of St. Scholastica, and **George Pattison**, retired Anglican priest and scholar for their *Oxford Handbook of Russian Religious Thought* (2020). November 15.

Scott Kenworthy, Associate Professor in the Department of Comparative Religion at Miami University, and **Alexander Agadjanian**, Religious Studies Center Professor at the Russian State Humanities University in Moscow on *Understanding World Christianity: Russia* (2021). October 5.

Nadieszda Kizenko, Professor of History and Director of Religious Studies at the University at Albany on *Good for the Souls: A History of Confession in the Russian Empire* (2021). September 28.

2017-2021 Fordham Russian Forum (FRF). Founder and host. FRF hosted experts to discuss Russian politics, culture, and economics. Sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. Interviews were broadcasted online via Facebook Live. Guests:

2021 **Paul Contino** on his *Dostoevsky's Incarnational Realism* (2021), co-hosted with Fordham's Terry Tilley and sponsored by Orthodox Christian Studies Center. April 20.

2020 **Allison Blakely** discusses "Representations of Anti-Blackness in Languages," a virtual roundtable sponsored, organized, and in conjunction with the MLL Diversity Vocabulary Initiative and with generous support from Rafael Zapata, Chief Diversity Officer and Office of The Chief Diversity Officer. October 28.

Co-creators of HBO's *The Leftovers* (2014-2017), director of *Lost* (2004-2010) and *The Watchmen* (2019) **Damon Lindelof**, and author of *Little Children* (2004) and *The Leftovers* (2011), **Tom Perrotta**. April 29.

2019 **Misha Friedman**, author of *The Idealists* (2018), a photography book detailing the role of women in reforming Ukraine's police force. March 26.

Bradley Gorski, Associate Professor at Vanderbilt, presenting on "The Battle for (Pre-)Modernity: Medieval Festivals in Today's Russia." March 5.

2018 **Darya Khrenova**, documentary filmmaker: "Pavlensky: A Life Naked" (2016). November 29.

Val Vinokur, translator of *Isaac Babel: The Essential Fictions* (2017). October 16.

Misha Friedman, co-author and photographer of *Never Remember* (2018). April 26.

Evgeny Mitta, documentary filmmaker: "Act and Punishment," (2017). February 21.

2017 **Nate Schenckan**, Freedom House, Director of Nations In Transit, presents on quantifying the status of democracy in the former Soviet Republics. September 26.

Maksim Pozdorovkin, documentary filmmaker of *Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer* (2013) and

The Notorious Mr. Bout (2014), screens and discusses his short film “Our New President” (2018) on Trump’s favorable reception in Russia. April 27.

Julia Alekseyeva, author and illustrator of *Soviet Daughter: A Graphic Revolution* (Comix Journalism 2017). March 30.

Sophie Pinkham, author of *Black Square: Adventures in Post-soviet Ukraine!* (Norton 2016). March 9.

2016-2017 Fordham Russian Choir. Founder and director. Singing and performing sacred and popular Russian music with Fordham undergraduates, graduate students, and alums.

2014-2016 Bobok. Co-founder, guitarist, director, and the lead vocalist of Columbia-Barnard Slavic Department Russian Band.

Awards and Grants

2023 **Orthodox Christian Studies Center (OCSC) Course Writing Grant**. Funding to research and write a summer intensive survey course on Soviet and Post-Soviet Personalist philosophers. This is the third in a 3-part summer series on The Great Russian Minds.

2022 **Research Scholar** for Northwestern University Research Initiative for the Study of Russian Philosophy and Religious Thought.

2022 **OCSC Course Writing Grant**. Funding to research and write a summer intensive survey course on Russian Personalism.

2021-22 **OCSC Webinar Grant**. Seven-part book talk series on contemporary Russian scholarship.

2021 **OCSC Course Writing Grant**. Funding to research and write an intensive summer intensive on Mikhail Bakhtin.

2021 **OCSC Course Writing Grant**. Fund Funding to research and write a summer intensive survey course on Mikhail Bakhtin, the first in a 3-part series on The Great Russian Minds.

2020 **OCSC Course Writing Grant**. Funding to research and write an interdisciplinary, comparative course on Russian and American apocalyptic thought.

2019 **Carnegie Fellowship**. Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia, Middlebury Graduate Institute.

2019 **OCSC Course Writing Grant**. Funding to research and write a multimedia course on the Russian icon.

2017 **Robert L. Belknap Dissertation Prize**.

2014 **The Harriman Junior Fellowship**.

2013 **The Harriman Junior Fellowship**.

2012 **The Harriman Fund for Slavic Studies**.

2012 **Department Course Competition**. The winner teaches a literature course they design.

2009 **Summer FLAS Fellowship** for Middlebury 9-week intensive Russian program

2008-13 **Faculty Fellowship**, Columbia University

2004 **Hodson Internship Recipient** for Summer at Harvard Graduate School of Design.

2002 **Acknowledgment of Excellence for Original Music Composition** (St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM).

Languages

English - Native

Russian – Fluent

French – Fluent

Spanish – Reading Knowledge

Ancient Greek – Reading Knowledge

Guest Lectures

2021 “Faces of the Russian Icon,” Columbia University, September 16.

2020 “A Brief History of the Russian Icon,” Columbia University, September 24.

2019 “The Psychology of the Russian Icon: Church to Avant-Garde,” Columbia University, September 12.

2018 “The Russian Icon: Agent of Change,” Amherst University, November 2.

“A Modern History of the Russian Icon,” Columbia University, September 25.

2017 “Photographic Journalism in Tolstoy’s Sevastopol’ Sketches.” Fordham Alumni Association, February 7.

Service

2021-present Senior Thesis Advisor, Fordham University

2021-present MLL Diversity Vocabulary Initiative Faculty Member, Fordham University

2019-present Reading Advisory Board Member, International Dostoevsky Society

2018- 2022 Professional Development Committee, Fordham Faculty United

2017-present Curriculum Assessment and Development, Fordham University

2018-present National Endowment for the Humanities Selection Committee

2011-13 Graduate Student Committee Representative AATSEEL.

2009-10 Graduate Student Advisory Council Representative Columbia University

2017-present Undergraduate Student Advisor, Fordham University

2016-present Russian Language Coordinator, Fordham University

References

Professor Cathy L. Popkin, Jesse and George Seigel Professor in the Humanities, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Columbia University, cp18@columbia.edu, 212.854.3941

Professor Andrew H. Clark, Professor of French & Comparative Literature in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Fordham University, anclark@fordham.edu, 212.636.6278

Professor Liza Knapp, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Columbia University, lk2180@columbia.edu, 212.854.5697