

## ANA SILJAK

History Department  
Queen's University  
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### **Current Position:**

Professor, History Department, Queen's University. Courses: Intellectual Origins of the Contemporary West, Imperial Russian History, Radicalism, Revolution, and Religion in Russian History and Literature, European Thought and Culture, Conceptual History of Terrorism.

### **Books:**

*Angel of Vengeance: The "Girl Assassin," the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia's Revolutionary World.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 2008, paperback edition 2009.

*Visions of the West*, with Eric Robinson and Paul Halliday. New York: Oxford, forthcoming 2024.

Editor, *Redrawing Nations: Ethnic Cleansing in East-Central Europe, 1944-1948*, with Philipp Ther. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001.

Editor, *The New York Times 20<sup>th</sup> Century in Review: The Balkans*. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2001.

### **Under Review:**

Editor, *Russia, Religion, and Secularism: Exploring the Varieties of Russian Modernity*, preface by Charles Taylor, Cornell University Press.

### **Articles:**

"The Personalism of Nikolai Berdiaev," in Pattison, George, Caryl Emerson, and Randall Poole, eds, *The Oxford Handbook of Russian Religious Thought*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

"'The Beauteous Terrorist': Russian Women and Terrorism in Literature at the Turn of the Century," in Dietze, Carola, and Claudia Verhoeven, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Terrorism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

"Sigmund Freud, Sublimation, and the Russian Silver Age." *Modern Intellectual History* 15, no. 2 (August 2018): 443–70.

Siljak, Ana. "Friedrich Nietzsche, Dmitrii Merezhkovskii, and the Russian Renaissance." *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 60, no. 1-2 (May 2018): 236-255.

"Nikolai Berdiaev and the Origin of Russian Messianism." *The Journal of Modern History* 88, no. 4 (December 2016): 737-763.

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“Controversies over Nationalism: The Teaching of Russian History, 1890-1904,” in Zhuravleva, Victoria I. and Ivan I. Kurilla, eds. *Rossiiia i SShA na stranitsakh uchebnikov: opyt vzaimnykh representatsii*. Volgograd, 2009: 106-140.

“The Trial of Vera Zasulich,” in Steven Usitalo and William Benton Whisenhunt, eds., *Russian and Soviet History: From the Time of Troubles to the Collapse of the Soviet Union*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008.

“Between East and West: Hegel and the Origins of the Russian Dilemma,” *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Vol. 62, no. 2 (April 2001): 335-358.

“Christianity, Science, and Progress in Sergei M. Solov'ev's History of Russia,” in Thomas Sanders, ed. *Historiography of Imperial Russia: The Profession and Writing of History in a Multinational State*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe Press, 1999): 215-238.

Book reviews in: *Literary Review of Canada*, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, *Democratization*, and *Journal of Cold War Studies*

### ***Work in Progress:***

“The Personalism of Nikolai Berdiaev,” book project funded by SSHRC Insight Grant. Projected completion date – June 2023

“The Art of Life: The Russian Renaissance, 1890-1917,” book project funded by SSHRC Insight Grant. Projected completion date – June 2023

### ***Lectures and Papers:***

"Friedrich Nietzsche, Dmitrii Merezhkovskii, and the Russian Renaissance," paper presented at the International Congress of Slavists, Belgrade, Serbia, August 21, 2018.

“Nikolai Berdiaev and the Russian Origin of Human Rights,” talk at the Center for Russian East European, and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University, May 19, 2017.

“Personalism and the Silver Age: A Religious Revolt Against the Collective,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Conference, Washington, D.C., November 19, 2016.

“The Influence of Nikolai Berdiaev on the Development of Western Personalist Philosophy,” Canadian Association of Slavists Annual Conference, University of Calgary, May 31, 2016

“Love and Leonardo da Vinci: Sigmund Freud's Misreading of Dmitrii Merezhkovskii,” Modern Horizons Conference, University of Toronto, October 30-31, 2015.

“Zinaida Gippius and ‘Christian Infatuation,’ with an Addendum on Sigmund Freud,” paper presented at the conference, “Varieties of Russian Modernity,” Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow, Russia, July 8, 2013.

“Reconsidering the ‘Third Rome’: The Origin of Russian Messianism in the Work of Nikolai Berdiaev,” paper presented to the Cambridge University Committee for Russian and East European Studies, Cambridge, United Kingdom, February 8, 2011.

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“Socialist Eschatology and Russian Terrorism,” paper presented at the American Historical Association Mini-Conference: “From Religious Self-Sacrifice to Suicide Terrorism: Martyrdom in the West during the Nineteenth Century Compared with the Middle East Today,” Boston, January 2011.

“Nikolai Berdiaev and the Origin of Russian Messianism,” Washington Russian History Seminar, Georgetown University, February 26, 2010.

“Russian Messianism: A Reconsideration,” American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Boston, November 2009.

“Earthly Kingdom: Socialist Eschatology in Nineteenth-Century Russia,” CERES Faculty Speakers' Series: Crossdisciplinary Discussion in Area Studies, Munk Center for International Studies, September 2008.

### ***Additional Projects:***

Catalogue of the Library of the Nikolai Berdiaev House Museum, Clamart, France. (Forthcoming 2023)

“The Russian Silver Age, Russia’s Renaissance of Art and Culture, 1890-1917.” Collaborative website project funded by the Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship at Queen’s University. (Forthcoming 2022).

“Varieties of Russian Modernity,” conference co-organized with Chris Stroop and Alyssa DeBlasio, sponsored by the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow, July 7-9, 2013.

“The Varieties of Russian Modernity: Rethinking Religion, Secularism, and the Influence of Russia in the Modern World,” Roundtable at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, November 23, 2013.

Dissertation: “Rival Visions of the Russian Nation: The Teaching of Russian History, 1890-1917” (Harvard, 1997)

### ***Media Events and Contributions:***

Talk on *Angel of Vengeance*, Paragraphe Books: Books and Breakfast, April 26, 2009.

Interview, Charles Taylor Prize Finalists, Rita Celli, CBC Ontario Today, February 9, 2009

Talk on *Angel of Vengeance*, *Globe and Mail*/Ben McNally Books and Brunch, February 8, 2009.

Contribution to “Q&A: Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. Pulling Readers into History,” *Toronto Star* (February 7, 2009), p. E12.

Interview with Steve Paikin, “Using and Abusing the Past,” *The Agenda*, TV Ontario, February 6, 2009.

Interview with Karin Wells, *Sunday Edition*, CBC Radio One, August 31, 2008.

### ***Selected Reviews of My Work:***

Susan K. Morrissey, “Terrorism, Modernity, and the Question of Origins,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 12, no. 1 (2011): 213-226.

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Jane McDermid, review of *Angel of Vengeance: The "Girl Assassin," the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia's Revolutionary World*, in *Slavic Review* 68, no. 3 (2009): 697.

Virginia Rounding, "The Lady Killer," [review of Ana Siljak *Angel of Vengeance: The "Girl Assassin," the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia's Revolutionary World*], *Moscow Times/Context*, 18-24 April 2008.

Chris Scott, "When Nihilists Threatened the World" [review of *Angel of Vengeance: The "Girl Assassin," the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia's Revolutionary World*], *Globe and Mail*, Books Section (May 3, 2008), pp. D8-D9.

Paul E. Richardson, "Angel of Vengeance," in *Russian Life* (May/June 2008).

Rainer Mackensen, review of *Redrawing Nations: Ethnic Cleansing in East-Central Europe, 1944-1948*, in *Population and Development Review* 29, no. 1 (2003): 121-124.

Matthew Frank, review of *Redrawing Nations: Ethnic Cleansing in East-Central Europe, 1944-1948*, in *The Slavonic and East European Review* 81, no. 1 (2003): 161-163.

### ***Previous Positions:***

Visiting Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Toronto, 2008, 2015, 2018.

Visiting Scholar, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Stanford University, 2010-2016-2017.

Visiting Fellow, History Faculty, Cambridge University, 2010-2011.

Visiting Professor, History and Slavic Departments, Northwestern University, 2002-2004.

Lecturer, University of Chicago Division of the Humanities, 2001-2004.

### ***Awards:***

Insight Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, 2018-2023

Hoover Institution Grant, 2016

Fund for Scholarly Research and Creative Work, Queen's University, 2016

History Department Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2013

Insight Development Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, 2012-2014

Finalist, Charles Taylor Prize, 2009

Advisory Research Committee Grant, Queen's University, 2008

Fund for Scholarly Research and Creative Work, Queen's University, 2006

Fund for Scholarly and Professional Development, Queen's University, 2005

### ***Education:***

Ph.D. Harvard University History 1997

A.B. Stanford University Political Science 1990