

Curriculum Vitae

Justin "Charlie" Smith

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MAJOR PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

In my work I address issues of Russian Modernist and Avant-garde movements in prose, poetry, and the arts with an emphasis on aesthetics, ideology, art, and politics. As part of my ongoing dissertation work, I am currently formulating a theory of "Russian Surrealism," involving the unacknowledged intellectual history of Surrealist ideas in Russia, as well as the basic formal qualities of avant-garde and experimental literature of the early 20th century that can be called "Surrealist." I am also interested in the psychology of (national/natural) space in Russian literature, Metaphysical Realism, affect theory, and theological/occult literature in Eastern Europe.

EDUCATION:

BA English – The Pennsylvania State University (2015)

BA Russian – The Pennsylvania State University (2015)

STARTALK Russian Language Pedagogy Seminar at Middlebury University (2017)

Ph.D. Russian Literature – University of Illinois at Chicago (in progress)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS:

2015: Penn State Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship
Funding for study abroad in St. Petersburg during the summer of 2015

2019: UIC Provost Graduate Research Award (PGRA)
Highly competitive award for graduate students at UIC which provided funding for a trip to several cities in Russia to conduct archival research for my dissertation

2022: UIC Dean's Scholar Fellowship
Highly competitive fellowship granted to only two Ph.D. students in the university's liberal arts college. The fellowship provided funding for the 2022-2023 academic year, allowing me to complete my dissertation work.

EMPLOYMENT:

2008-2011: Private First-Class U.S. Army – Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (EOD – 89D) – Honorably Discharged

2015-Present: Freelance Russian-English Translator

To date, I have done translation work for a religious studies journal published by the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland and have translated computer software for Cannon Instrument Company in State College, Pennsylvania. I am currently seeking a publisher for a book-length translation of short stories by Soviet/Russian author Yuri Mamleev.

2016-2017: Graduate Assistant (GA) – UIC Language and Culture Learning Center (LCLC)

Working as a graduate assistant at UIC's Language and Culture Learning Center, I performed technical support and administrative tasks, fulfilling work tickets sent in by humanities professors from various departments. This position involved heavy interaction with university faculty and problem-solving on a day-to-day basis.

2017: Teaching Assistant (TA) – RELS/CST/HIST 150 – Catholicism in US History

I worked as a teaching assistant under prof. Laura Dingledein in the program in Religious Studies at UIC for one semester, during which I aided her in preparing materials for class, grading the students' work, and acting as the instructor in her absence.

2020-2021: Head Teaching Assistant – Basic Language Program (BLP) for the Department of Polish, Russian, and Lithuanian Studies (PRLS)

During my department's interim search for a new language program director, I fulfilled some of the duties of that office, acting as liaison for students and faculty members involved in Russian and Polish language instruction. I also facilitated the new language program director's entry into her position.

2016-2022: Teaching Assistant (TA) – Department of Polish, Russian, and Lithuanian Studies (PRLS) at UIC

*Though my official title in this post is 'teaching assistant,' I conduct my courses autonomously as the sole instructor, essentially fulfilling the role of a professor. I have accrued five years of continuous experience in language pedagogy (Russian) and crafting and instructing courses on Russian and Soviet culture. The list of courses that I have personally taught includes: **RUSS 101 (Elementary Russian I); RUSS 102 (Elementary Russian II); RUSS 103 (Intermediate Russian I); RUSS 116 (Russian Culture: The Soviet Period); RUSS 120 (Experimental Short Prose of the Russian Twentieth Century); RUSS 150 (Introduction to Russian Cinema)***

2022-Present: Lecturer in Russian Language and Culture – Department of Modern Languages at DePaul University

PROFESSIONAL TALKS:

21 April 2018: “Spinning a Sterling Web: Relational Networking in the Russian Silver Age” – Seventh Annual Workshop on Russian Modernism at UIC

1 November 2018: “An Order to the Army of Art: Mayakovsky's Futurism and Aesthetics of War” – The War That Made Today: Three Interdisciplinary Conversations – UIC Institute for the Humanities

23 November 2019: “Platonov's *Foundation Pit*: A Socialist-Surrealist Novel” – Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) 2019 Annual Convention

19 January 2020: “Intuitive ‘Horror’ as the Progenitor of Text and Thought in the Works of Leonid Lipavsky and Daniil Kharms” – American Association for Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) 2020 Annual Convention

11 May 2021: Guest Lecture on Surrealism in Platonov's *Foundation Pit* – Northwestern University – SLAVIC 438 – Studies in 20th-Century Russian Literature: 1900 – 1930s (prof. Nina Gourianova)

8 February 2022: Guest Lecture on Yuri Mamleev's *Shatuny* and Metaphysical Realism – Northwestern University – SLAVIC 438 – Russian Prose After the 1940s (prof. Nina Gourianova)

12 November 2022: “Demons in the Gloom: Yuri Mamleev's *Shatuny* and Metaphysical Realism” – Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) 2022 Annual Convention

PUBLICATIONS:

8 October 2020: “On Translating the Chinari” – NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia – All the Russias Blog (<https://jordanrussiacenter.org/news/chinari/>)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

2014-Present: Member of the Dobro Slovo Society

A national honors society for scholars of Slavic languages and cultures.

2019-Present: Member of the Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

2019-Present: Member of the American Association for Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL)

LANGUAGES:

English (Fluent)

Russian (Fluent)

Polish (Reading Knowledge)

French (Reading Knowledge)