

Jacob Lassin

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Department of Media, Journalism,
and Film; Faculty Fellow,
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A. Areas of Interest: Global internet studies, new media, and digital humanities; Russian and East European literature and culture; Literary canon formation and contestation; Religious nationalism and social class in literature and culture.

B. Education:

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| 2019 | Ph.D. in Russian Literature and Culture,
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures,
Yale University |
| 2016 | M.Phil. in Russian Literature and Culture,
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures,
Yale University |
| 2013 | B.A. in Russian Studies and Government (summa cum laude),
The College of William and Mary |

Dissertation and Thesis

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| 2019 | Dissertation: "Sacred Sites: The Russian Orthodox Church and the Literary Canon Online"
Committee: John MacKay, Marijeta Bozovic, Marta Figlerowicz |
| 2012 | Thesis (Highest Honors): "From the Trenches of Stalingrad to the Digital Front: The Myth and Memory of WWII in the Soviet Union and the New Russia"
Thesis Advisor: Elena Prokhorova |

Languages

Native and near Native: English; Russian

Reading Knowledge: Ukrainian; Tatar; German; Old Church Slavonic

Additional Professional Training

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| 2016 | Writing-intensive courses teaching workshop, Yale University |
| 2012-2013 | Advanced Russian language, Bashkir State Pedagogical University |

C. Academic Positions:

- 2022 – Visiting Assistant Professor in Media, Journalism, and Film and Faculty Teaching Fellow at the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University
- 2021 – 2022 Project Lead, Broadening Russian Studies in the Southwest: Indigenous Knowledge and Global Imagination, United States-Russia Foundation (USRF) Supported Project
- 2020 – 2022 Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Arizona State University
- 2019 – 2020 Postdoctoral Fellow, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University

D. Academic Awards and Honors:

- 2022 Kennan Institute Title VIII Research Grant
- 2021 National Council for Eurasian and East European Research NRC Grant
- 2019 – 2020 Orthodox Christian Studies NEH Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined)
- 2018 – 2019 European Studies Graduate Fellow
- 2017 – 2018 MacMillan International Dissertation Fellowship
- 2017 Mellon Summer Writing-in-residence Workshop
- 2015 – 2016 Mellon Graduate Concentration in the Digital Humanities
- 2015 – 2016 Ronald Muirhead Byrnes Fellow
- 2012 – 2013 Boren Scholarship
- 2011 Phi Beta Kappa
- 2011 State Department Critical Language Scholarship (Russian)

E. Publications:

Articles

“Orthodoxy for Educated Doubters: *Foma.ru* and the Uses of the Russian Literary Canon Online,” Forthcoming in the *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies*.

“Knight Moves: Russifying Quantitative Literary Studies,” with Marijeta Bozovic and Carlotta Chenoweth, *Russian Literature* 122-3 (2021): 113-38.

“The Digital City in Post-Soviet Identity Formation: The Case of *OurBaku.com*,” *Digital Icons* 13 (2015): 149-161.

Book Chapters

“Rod Dreher’s Orthodoxy: Transposing Eastern European Religion for an American, Conservative Audience.” In *American Examples* vol. 3, Ed. Michael Altman, University of Alabama Press, forthcoming 2023.

"The Heresy of 'Eastern Papism' in Russian Orthodox Online Discourse." In *Anthropologies of Orthodox Christianity*, Eds. Sarah Riccardi-Swartz and Candace Lukasik, Fordham University Press, forthcoming 2023.

Book Reviews

"Review: Péter Berta's *Materializing Difference: Consumer Culture, Politics, and Ethnicity among Romanian Roma*, *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, forthcoming.

"Review: Jens Herlt and Christian Zehnder's, eds., *Izobilie i askeza v russkoi literature* [*Abundance and Asceticism in Russian Literature*], *Russian Review*, forthcoming.

"Review: Sophie Kotzer's *Russian Orthodoxy, Nationalism and the Soviet State during the Gorbachev Years, 1985-1991*, *Journal of Church and State* 63.2 (2021): 340-2.

"Review: Sonja Luehrmann's *Religion in Secular Archives*," *Anthropology of East Europe Review* 37.1 (2020): 71-4.

"Review: Dmitry Adamsky's *Russian Nuclear Orthodoxy*," *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* 2.2 (2019): 241-2.

"Review: Mischa Gabowitsch's *Protest in Putin's Russia*," *Digital Icons*, Spring 2018.

Public Writing

"Putin's war with the Church," *Engelsberg Ideas*, <https://engelsbergideas.com/notebook/putins-war-with-the-church>, March 4, 2022.

"Russian Orthodox Media is a House Divided Against Itself," *Public Orthodoxy*, <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2022/03/01/russian-orthodox-media-house-divided>, March 1, 2022.

"Putin's antagonism toward Ukraine was never just about NATO – it's about creating a new Russian empire," with Emily Channell-Justice, *The Conversation*, <https://theconversation.com/putins-antagonism-toward-ukraine-was-never-just-about-nato-its-about-creating-a-new-russian-empire-177687>, February 23, 2022.

"Famine, subjugation and nuclear fallout: How Soviet experience helped sow resentment among Ukrainians toward Russia," with Emily Channell-Justice, *The Conversation*, <https://theconversation.com/famine-subjugation-and-nuclear-fallout-how-soviet-experience-helped-sow-resentment-among-ukrainians-toward-russia-175500>, January 27, 2022.

"Why Putin has such a hard time accepting Ukrainian sovereignty," with Emily Channell-Justice. *The Conversation*, <https://theconversation.com/why-putin-has-such-a-hard-time-accepting-ukrainian-sovereignty-174029>, December 21, 2021.

"The Russian Orthodox Church's 'Black List of False Clerics,'" *Public Orthodoxy*, <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2021/01/21/roc-clerics-blacklist>, January 21, 2021.

“Religion Reloaded: The Russian Orthodox Church Online,” *Religion und Gesellschaft in Ost und West*, July 2020.

“The Mosque in the Snow,” *Brownbook* 44, March/April 2014.

Digital Humanities Projects

“Topic Modeling the Slavic Review,” with Marijeta Bozovic, Carlotta Chenoweth, and Trip Kirkpatrick, Yale University, dhrees.triptronix.net/topics.

Works in Progress

Sacred Sites: Russian Orthodox Cultural Politics Online (book manuscript).

“A Proper, Digital Upbringing: The Online Presence of the *Leto Gospodne* Essay Contest,” (*Russian Review*).

Clerical Literature in Post-Soviet Russia and Ukraine (book manuscript).

F. Lectures and Conferences:

Invited Talks

“Russian Orthodoxy Reloaded,” The College of William & Mary Russian and Post-Soviet Studies Program Homecoming Lecture, October 19, 2018.

Guest Lectures

“The Historical and Cultural Context of Andrei Bely’s *Petersburg*,” Trinity University, April 19, 2021.

“Orthodoxy and the Internet in Contemporary Russia,” Yale University, April 24, 2018.

“Topic Modeling Workshop,” Yale University, October 16, 2016.

Conference Presentations

“*Elitsy.ru*, a Russian Orthodox Social Media Network, as Virtual Hub of an Online Religious Conservative Community,” SAR Spring Virtual Conference, May 14, 2021.

“Hierarchies of Holiness: Russian Orthodox Church Politics as Proxy for Kremlinology,” ASEEES Annual Convention, Washington, DC [conference held remotely], November, 14, 2020.

“Making Orthodoxy ‘Cool’: The Case of the *Nikeia* Publishing House,” AATSEEL Conference, San Diego, CA, February 7, 2020.

- “The Union of Orthodox Journalists and the Formation of a Strategic Narrative in Ukraine,” ASEEEES Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, November 26, 2019.
- “ElitsyMedia: The Russian Orthodox Church and the Creation of a Religious Social Media News Network,” AATSEEL Conference, New Orleans, LA, February 8, 2019.
- “Learning to Write Orthodox: The 'Lord's Year' Essay Competition and its Online Coverage,” ASEEEES Annual Convention, Boston, MA, December 9, 2018.
- “Literaturnaia retseptsia romana ‘Lavr’ v religioznom Internet: sravnenie situatsii v Rossii i v Amerike” [talk delivered in Russian], 2nd International Conference: Significant Names in Contemporary Russian Literature, Krakow, Poland, May 18, 2018.
- “An Orthodox Bestseller and the Forging of a Community of Readers Online: The Case of *Everyday Saints* and *Pravoslavie.ru*,” Soyuz Symposium, New Haven, CT, March 3, 2018.
- “The Business and Practice of ‘Correct Reading’: *Pravchlenie.ru* and the Publishing Council of the Russian Orthodox Church,” AATSEEL Conference, Washington, DC, February 3, 2018.
- “Is there an Orthodox Literature?: Contemporary Literary Canonization on Russian Orthodox Websites,” Third Annual Media and Religion Conference, Bucharest Romania, November 11, 2017.
- “Learning from the Digital Canon: The Case of *Foma.ru*,” Biennial ASEC Conference, Oxford, OH, March 11, 2017.
- “Contemporary (Novel) Canonizations: The Case of Evgenii Vodolazkin's *Lavr* in Online Discourse,” ASEEEES Annual Convention, Washington, DC, November 20, 2016.
- “Topic Modeling *Slavic Review*,” HASTAC Conference, Tempe, AZ, May 14, 2016.
- “An Orthodox Talk Show?: Metropolitan Hilarion’s ‘Church and the World,’” AATSEEL Conference, Austin, TX, January 9, 2016.
- “Russian Orthodox Gogol?: The Online Debate Over the Russian Orthodox Church’s Republication of Gogol’s Works,” ASEEEES Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, November 22, 2015.
- “The Co-option and Re-imagination of Russian Realism on the Orthodox Internet,” 15th Annual Aleksanteri Conference, Helsinki, Finland, October 22, 2015.
- “Bakinet’s Identity as Site of Memory: The Case of *Ourbaku.com*,” ACLA Annual Meeting, New York, NY, March 16, 2014.
- “The Military-Patriotic Upbringing on the Digital Front,” ASEEEES Annual Convention, Boston, MA, November 23, 2013.
- “Internet Representations of World War II in Russian Cyberspace,” University of Virginia Slavic

Forum, Charlottesville, VA, March 17, 2012.

“Between Sodom and Madonna’: Blurring the Binaries in *My Fair Nanny*,” Post-Soviet Television: Global Formats and Russian Power, Williamsburg, VA, April 9, 2011.

G. Teaching Experience:

Courses

Graduate

Post-Soviet Geopolitics, Arizona State University, Summer 2021, Spring 2022.

Undergraduate

Media Globalization, Miami University, Spring 2023

Social Media Cultures, Miami University, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Russian Popular Culture: Protest and Propaganda, Arizona State University, Spring 2021.

Democratic Erosion, Arizona State University, Spring 2021.

The Novels of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, Yale University, Spring 2017. Masterpieces of Russian Literature I, Yale University, Fall 2016.

Language

Introductory Russian 120, Yale University, Spring 2019.

Introductory Russian 110, Yale University, Fall 2018.

Advising

Capstone Projects

“Indigenous Russia: Examining the Local through the Lens of the Global,” Sofia Walsh, 2022.

“Sacrilege or Sacrosanct: The Russian Orthodox Church and Russian Nuclear Policy,” Spencer Erjavic, 2021.

“Antisemitism and the Soul in Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature,” Callahan Farr, 2021.

“Translations from *Homeland: Marc Chagall in Vitebsk*,” Jamie Horowitz, 2021.

“Examining Russia and East European Studies for Graduate School and Beyond,” Mary Elie, 2021.

H. Professional Service:

Organizer, Ukrainian Film Series, Arizona State University, Spring 2021

Peer Reviewer, *Russian Review*, 2019–

Graduate Liaison for Senior Faculty Search in Slavic Languages and Literatures, Yale University, Spring 2017

Panel Organizer, “Orthodoxy in Contemporary Russian Media and Culture,” Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture Conference, March 11, 2017

Member of the Organizing Committee, Digital Humanities and Russian and East European Studies Symposium, Yale University, November 12, 2016

Panel Organizer, “‘Mediated Orthodoxy’: Images and Narratives of the Russian Orthodox Church

in Digital Media and Beyond,” ASEEES Annual Convention, November 20, 2016

Research Assistant, Digital Humanities and Russian and East European Studies Initiative, Yale University, 2015–

Co-Organizer Whitney Humanities Center Working Group: Digital Humanities, Yale University, 2014 – 2017

I. Media Appearances (note: I have no control over the headlines)

TV/Radio

“Dr. Jacob Lassin discusses media coverage of Ukraine and the importance of showing what is happening,” *GBNews*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00okCMAcitk&t=2s&ab_channel=GBNews, March 4, 2022.

“Russia-Ukraine Invasion Targets Revealed,” *LiveNOW from FOX*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfTEZkhrUg&ab_channel=LiveNOWfromFOX, February 24, 2022.

“Jacob Lassin Interview,” *LiveNOW from FOX*, <https://youtu.be/VdRRHDZwask>, February 22, 2022.

“Putin has 'divided' NATO members says Jacob Lassin,” *GBNews*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRCL2V7UcP4&t=11s&ab_channel=GBNews, February 14, 2022.

“Dr Jacob Lassin reflects on the Russian public's opinion to rising tensions with Ukraine,” *GBNews*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uPwJHt7bdk&t=25s&ab_channel=GBNews, February 13, 2022.

“Ukraine-Russia Interview,” *LiveNOW from FOX*, <https://youtu.be/TR1vRDXx608>, February 1, 2022.

“Russia-Ukraine Border Crisis,” *Morning Wave in Busan*, https://www.befm.or.kr/program/template.php?midx=89&pg=morning&cn=morning_sp&mode=view&page=1&intnum=31094, December 27, 2021.

J. Other Relevant Professional Information:

Miscellaneous Work Experience

Research Assistant, Prof. Doug Rogers, 2018 – 2019 Research Assistant, Prof. Victoria Smolkin, Summer 2017 Research Assistant, Prof. Marijeta Bozovic, 2014 – 2019 Research Assistant, Kennan Institute, Summer 2013

Contributing Writer, *Central Asia Monitor*, 2012 – 2013

Professional Associations

Soyuz: The Research Network for Postsocialist Cultural Studies, 2018–Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture (ASEC), 2017–American Association for Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL), 2015–Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), 2012–Dobro Slovo National Slavic Honor Society, 2011–

Additional Digital Media Skills

Digital humanities tools: Part of speech tagging, Topic modeling, Voyant, BookWorm
Programming languages: Some knowledge of R and Python for humanities computing

K. Professional References:

Professor Marijeta Bozovic, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Yale University.
Marijeta.Bozovic@yale.edu

Professor Marta Figlerowicz, Department of Comparative Literature and English, Yale University.
Marta.Figlerowicz@yale.edu

Professor Keith Brown, Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Arizona State University. keith_brown@asu.edu

Professor George Demacopoulos, Department of Theology, Fordham University,
demacopoulos@fordham.edu