



Sara Dickinson

Associate professor

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Education and training

Ph.D. Slavic Languages and Literatures (specialization in Russian literature minor in Polish literature)

Imagining Space and the Self Russian Travel Writing and Its Narrators
1762-1825 - not applicable
Harvard University - Cambridge MA - US

M.A. Slavic Languages and Literatures (specialization Russian literature)

Indiana University - Bloomington IN - US

B.A. Russian Linguistics

with Honors
The University of Chicago - Chicago IL - US

Academic experience

2008 - ONGOING

Associate Professor Department of Modern Languages and Cultures

Università di Genova - Genova - IT
Teaching Russian literature language and culture

2003 - 2008

Research and Teaching Fellow (Rientro dei Cervelli) Department of Modern Languages and Cultures

Università di Genova - Genova - IT
Teaching Russian literature and culture

2002 - 2003

Adjunct Professor Department of Modern Languages and Cultures

Università di Genova - Genova - IT
Teaching Russian literature

1995 - 2002

Assistant Professor Department of Slavic and East

European Literatures

Ohio State University - Columbus OH - US

Teaching Russian and Polish literature language film Graduate Studies Committee 1996-2001 GSC Chair 1999 Undergraduate Honors Advisor 1997-2001.

1989 - 1992

Teaching Fellow Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Harvard University - Cambridge MA - US

Teaching Russian language and literature

1986 - 1987

Teaching Assistant Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Indiana University - Bloomington IN - US

Teaching Russian language

Work experience

2021 - ONGOING

Vice President

Association for Women in Slavic Studies (AWSS)

Chair of the Heldt Book Prize Committee (awarding 4 prizes in 2021 and 3 prizes in 2022).

2020 - ONGOING

Founding Member Coordinator of 19v Seminar Series

19v. Interdisciplinary Working Group on Russian Literature and Culture

Overseeing activities of this interdisciplinary and international association principal organizer of biweekly 19v Seminar Series (Zoom) cofounder of The Other 19v discussion group on minor writers.

2017 - ONGOING

Research Committee Department of Modern Languages and Cultures

Università di Genova - Genova - IT

Distribution of research funding to departmental members

2016 - ONGOING

ERASMUS Committee Department of Modern Languages and Cultures

Università di Genova - Genova - IT

Oversee procedures relating to the students of Russian in ERASMUS.

2016 - ONGOING

Departmental Representative University Commission for

the Inclusion of Students with Disabilities

Università di Genova - Genova - IT

1998 - 2000

President

Eighteenth-Century Russian Studies Association - US

Language skills

English

Mother tongue

Italian

Proficient

Russian

Proficient

French

Independent

Teaching activity

Università di Genova

Undergraduate literature and culture courses: First-year, second-year, and third-year survey courses on Russian literature and culture 850-1850, 1835-1905, 1840-1960, 1900-1945, 1917-1990; "Russia, The Orient and The Other."

Undergraduate language courses: First-year Russian.

Master's literature and culture courses: "Women's Writing in Russia from Its Origins to 1850"; "The Puškin Phenomenon"; "Onegin and Pečorin"; "Tolstoj"; "Science and Science Fiction in the 1920s."

Seminars on specific novels and narrative poems: Tolstoj, *Anna Karenina*; Dostoevskij, *Crime and Punishment*; Puškin, *The Fountain of Bachčisaraj*, *The Gypsies*, *The Bronze Horseman*; Chernyševskij, *What Is To Be Done?*; Belyj, *Petersburg*; Pasternak, *Doctor Živago*; Nabokov, *Lolita*.

Master's seminars on language and literary style: Nabokov, *Lolita*; Bunin, "Gospodin iz San Francisko"; Čechov, "Vyšnevij sad."

Master's interdisciplinary seminars on literary theory: Bakhtin, "Forms of Time and of the Chronotope in the Novel" and "Author and Hero in Aesthetic Activity"; Joseph Frank, "Spatial Form in Modern Literature"; Jurij Lotman, "Geographical Space in the Medieval Russian Texts" and "Problems of Artistic Space in the Prose of Gogol"; Roman Jakobson, "Linguistics and Poetics"; Viktor Šklovskij, "Art as Device"; Russian Postmodernism (Epshtein and others).

Doctoral program lectures: "Il resoconto di viaggio come genere autobiografico" [Travel Writing as Autobiography] (2016); "Academic Writing in English" (2017); "Ospitalità o tradimento? La reazione russa a Sheikh-Ali di Daghestan nel 1796" [Hospitality or Betrayal? The Russian Response to Sheikh-Ali of Daghestan in 1796] (2017).

Lectures for the "Università della Terza Età" (courses for senior citizens): 1814: "Il viaggiatore russo a Parigi" (2010); "Scontri e contrasti: Solochov e Solženicy'n" (2010); "The Thaw in Russia" (2011), "Tolstoy's *Khadzhi-Murat*" (2012) "The Turksib Railroad and Russian Culture" (2013), "Aelita: Fantascienza nel giovane Urss" (2018).

Direction of over 80 undergraduate theses and 20 master's theses. Member of numerous admissions, examination, and thesis committees for undergraduate and master's students.

Ohio State University

Undergraduate literature and culture courses: Russian Culture (850-1980); surveys of Russian literature (1790-1900, 1835-1925, 1820-1990, 1900-1930); WWII and the Holocaust in Polish Literature, Culture, and Film.

Advanced literature courses and seminars: surveys of Russian Literature, 1650-1800; Pushkin and His Era, Dostoevskij; Russian Orientalism; Karamzin; survey of Polish literature 1900-1990.

Advanced theory and film courses; Introduction to Literary Theory (graduate proseminar), Introduction to Literary and Linguistic Theory (graduate proseminar); Russian Film.

Language courses: Polish for Reading.

Direction of 6 undergraduate honor's theses and 4 master's theses. Member of numerous admissions, examination, and thesis committees for undergraduate, master's, and PhD students.

Harvard University

Tutorial in Russian Literature, 1790-1990.

First-year Russian

Indiana University

First-year Russian.

Postgraduate research and teaching activity

Supervision of PhD students, residents and post-doctoral fellows

Coadvisor to three doctoral candidates (Program in Classical and Modern Literatures and Cultures): 1 incomplete; 1 graduated in 2020, 1 graduated in 2021.

PhD committees membership

Doctoral College, Program in Classical and Modern Literatures and Cultures, 2010-2020

Research interests

18th- and 19th-century Russian literature and culture, especially: Russian women's writing; the history of emotions (*toska* and nostalgia); travel writing and imaginary geography; the Crimea and the Crimean War, the Caucasus, Central Asia; Ossian; Fonvizin; Puškin; Turgenev; Dostoeskij; Gončarov; Nabokov

Grants

2020

Bildung and Class in Goncharov

Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia New York University - US

5.000 USD - Pricipal investigator

This project examines the biography of Aleksandr Aduv, protagonist of Ivan

Goncharov's first novel *Obyknovennaia istoriia* (1847), as a careful reworkings of Goncharov's own life experiences and reflections on them in order to illuminate some of the pressures that gave form to his art. On the background of a standard scenario that pits rural virtue and childhood innocence against modern life in the capital, Goncharov elaborates a peculiar narrative of personal development upon Aduiev's life, that transforms murky periods of stasis into fruitful pauses that serve to redirect his energies. The first part of my project examines this narrative of *Bildung*. The second part explores the connection between the novel and the shape of Goncharov's own life. In many ways, Goncharov's biography illustrates the standard Russian narrative of moving from country to city in pursuit of education and career and it is not surprising that his novel reflects this basic and widespread pattern, but it also reveals his general interest in well-defined narratives of personal development that ostensibly lead to self-realization and success. Indeed, in both *Obyknovennaia istoriia*, which appeared when Goncharov was 35 years old, and the later *Oblomov*, which he completed at age 47, the protagonist's biography differs from the author's in specific and interesting ways. In his fictional meditations on *Bildung*, Goncharov pointedly alters his own familial circumstances and educational experiences, as well as his history of geographical relocation – making choices at each turn that he then tests and often reiterates to illustrate convictions, misgivings, and anxieties about the nature and direction of his own life. Of particular interest is the relationship between Goncharov's unusual social status (a merchant with the legal privileges of a nobleman) and his fictional insistence on a clear trajectory of *Bildung*. My project will explore the social tensions that permeated Goncharov's life – his professional service career, his literary aspirations, and his interactions in Russian society – indelibly coloring the trajectories and denouements explored by his fictional protagonists. My research will be based on close readings of Goncharov's literary texts and life writings, critical studies of his life and works, and texts on social class and *Bildung* in nineteenth-century Russia.

2012

The Chronotopes of Toska An Investigation of the Poetics of Regret in Russian and Polish Literary Texts

PRA - IT

6.790 euros - Participant

This project led to the volume: Sara Dickinson and Laura Salmon, eds., *Melancholic Identities, Toska, and Reflective Nostalgia: Case Studies from Russian and Russian-Jewish Culture* (Firenze University Press, 2015). My contributions to the volume were editing, the Preface, and the article "Aleksandra Xvostova, Nikolaj Karamzin and the Gendering of Toska." The article, which began as an attempt to understand what *toska* meant for Aleksandra Xvostova and for readers of her then popular *Otryvki* (*Fragments*, 1796), reviews the evolution of *toska* in eighteenth-century literary discourse to demonstrate this sentiment's profound connection with notions of femininity. Indeed, that century's use of *toska* culminates in

Xvostova's *Otryvki*, the emotional emphases of which were one of the reasons for its success. In fact, we argue that Russian women's writing contains a tradition of emotional expression that is lexically distinct from the male tradition. Xvostova's emphatic and reiterative use of *toska* participates in a larger debate about gender and the 'ownership' of personal emotions and it was relevant to literary arguments about 'feminization' that involved writers such as Nikolaj Karamzin and Vasilij Zuckovskij, but also a number of women authors (e.g. Ekaterina Urusova, Anna Turčaninova, Elizaveta Dolgorukova, Anna Volkova), whose work asserts the right of the female subject to both suffer strong emotion and to express it.

2009

Stylistically Marked Lexemes in Russian and Polish Literature

PRA - IT

3.498 euros - Participant

Editorial activity

Member, Editorial Board for the 'Russkaja literatura' book series, Ledizioni, Milan, 2020-present.

Member, Editorial Board for the 'Modern Biographies' book series, Academic Studies Press, Boston, 2018-present.

Review Editor for the journal *The Pushkin Review/Puškinskij vestnik*, 2007-2017.

Peer review of articles for scholarly journals in: *Aspasia: The International Yearbook of Women's and Gender History of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe*; *Avtobiografija: Life Writing and the Representation of the Self in Russian Culture*; *Canadian Slavonic Papers*; *EMF: Studies in Early Modern France*; *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*; *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*; *Ricerca Continua (book series at Universitalia press)*; *The Russian Review*; *Slavic and East European Journal*; *Studies in Travel Writing*; *Studi Slavistici*; Presses universitaires de Strasbourg; 1993-present.

Assignments abroad

Research Associate, Virtual Open Research Laboratory of the Russia, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 25 January - 5 May 2021.

Short-Term Visiting Fellow, Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, New York University, 1 January - 7 February 2020. (Award of 5.000 USD).

Visiting Scholar, UFR d'Etudes slaves, Sorbonne Université, Paris, 19 September - 25 October 2019.

Visiting Scholar, Center for Slavic and East European Studies and Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, April 2015.

Kennan Institute for Russian Studies (Woodrow Wilson Center) Short-Term Grant, Washington, D.C., 2003.