

Joseph Kellner

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EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Assistant Professor of History , University of Georgia	2020-present
Visiting Lecturer in Russian and Global History , University of California, Berkeley	2018-2020
Ph.D. in History, University of California, Berkeley Examination fields: Late Modern Europe, United States, Sociology. <i>Passed with Distinction</i>	2018
M.A. in History, University of California, Berkeley	2013
B.A. in Russian language and culture, Bowdoin College, <i>Summa cum Laude</i>	2009

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Book manuscript: *Red Against Empire: Bolshevik Historians and the Anticolonial Critique*. Primary source reader, University of Toronto Press, expected 2026. Coedited with Prof. Alexei Golubev, University of Houston.

The Spirit of Socialism: Culture and Belief at the Soviet Collapse. Monograph, Cornell University Press, June 2025

In Russian translation, *Novoe Literaturnoe Obozrenie [New Literary Observer]* Press, Moscow, 2026.

Other publications:

Review of *Religious Life in the Late Soviet Union*, eds. Barbara Martin and Nadezhda Beliakova. *Russian Review*, forthcoming in Fall 2025

“Speaking from the Russian Wilds.” Contribution to *Dwelling in Parallel Worlds: Esoteric and New Age Milieus in the Late and Post-Soviet Period*, ed. Birgit Menzel and Anna Tessmann, LIT Verlag Münster, 2026.

Review of *Holy Sobriety in Modern Russia*, by Page Herrlinger. *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review*, no. 1-2 (Spring 2025), forthcoming in Fall 2025.

“The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Mormons.” *Frictions: Europe, America and Global Transformations*. Research blog of the Leibniz Science Campus, Regensburg, Germany. 16 November 2022, <https://frictions.europeamerica.de/research-notes-kellner-soviet-collapse-and-the-mormons/>

“Anatolii Fomenko v kontse istorii [Anatolii Fomenko at the End of History].” Chapter in *V zashchitu meinstrima [In Defense of the Mainstream]*, edited by Lev Danilkin. Moscow: V—A—C Foundation, 2021.

Long-form review of *The Road to Unfreedom*, by Timothy Snyder. *H-Diplo roundtable*, the H-Net network for Diplomatic History and International Affairs, 21 December 2020, <https://hdiplo.org/to/RT22-18>.

Review of *October: The Story of the Russian Revolution*, by China Miéville. *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 54, no. 1-2 (Summer 2020): 313-316. https://brill.com/view/journals/css/54/1-3/article-p313_20.xml

“New Worldviews at the Soviet Collapse and Transition.” *New Age in Russia—Ideologies, Networks, Discourses*. Research blog of the German-Russian Research Project on New Age Cultures in Russia, Mainz, Germany and St. Petersburg, Russia. February 2020, <https://newageru.hypotheses.org/3058>

“As Above, So Below: Astrology and the Fate of Soviet Scientism.” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 20, no. 4 (Fall 2019): 783-812.

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

Willson Center Faculty Research Grant	Semester-long funding for UGA faculty, in support of a promising program of research	2025
Michael F. Adams Early Career Scholar Award	UGA office of research	
	For outstanding research accomplishments, with significant impact on the field of study	2025
Franklin College First-Book Subvention Grant		
	In support of a first monograph at a respected press, whose prestige will benefit the University.	2025
Virginia Mary Macagnoni Prize for Innovative Research		
	Supplemental funding awarded to the top-ranked applicant for the Willson Center Fellowship (below)	2024
Willson Center Research Fellowship		
	Semester's course release for UGA faculty, in support of a promising program of research	2023-2024
Lilly Teaching Fellowship		
	Two-year program for UGA faculty with demonstrated passion for and excellence in teaching	2022-2024
Parks-Heggoy Graduate Faculty Teaching Award		
	For excellence in graduate student teaching, by vote of the graduate student body	2023
Sarah H. Moss Fellowship		
	Support for travel for advanced research for UGA faculty in institutions of higher learning abroad	2022
Visiting Scholars Program, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS)		
	Summer research fellowship for interdisciplinary work on Eastern Europe	2022
Willson Center Faculty Research Grant		
	Semester-long funding for UGA faculty, in support of a promising program of research	2021
International Visiting Fellow, Regensburg ScienceCampus	[canceled]	
	Fellowship at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies	2020
American Federation of Teachers Development Grant		
	To University of California lecturers, in support of travel for ongoing and promising research.	2019
American Councils Academic Fellowship in Russia	[declined]	
	Flexible-term, comprehensive support for scholars pursuing social-scientific research in Russia	2019
Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship		
	Year-long support for advanced graduate students in the humanities and social sciences	2017-2018
Phi Beta Kappa Graduate Fellowship		
	To members of Phi Beta Kappa in support of promising doctoral work	2017
National Geographic Award		
	Exemplary research photography and its use in scholarship by a UC Berkeley graduate student	2017
ISEEES Graduate Student Essay Prize		
	Best essay by a graduate student in Slavic and East European Studies (awarded twice)	2016, 2017
John Wicks Dissertation Award	of the Western Social Science Association	
	Best dissertation-derived, original research at the WSSA conference across all disciplines	2016
IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Fellowship (IARO)		
	Year-long support for scholars abroad, in topics relevant to US policy in Russia and E. Europe	2014-2015
Heller Seminar Paper Prize		
	Best pre-dissertation, chapter-length essay completed in a history graduate seminar	2013
Summer FLAS (Finnish language)		2012
Center for International Mobility Scholarship		
	To promising foreign scholars for research in Finland (conducted at Helsinki's Aleksanteri Institute)	2012
Michael I. Gurevich Memorial Prize	in Russian History	
	Exceptional promise in early-stage graduate study	2011-2012
Berkeley Distinguished Graduate Fellowship		
	UC Berkeley's most prestigious long-term graduate fellowship, awarded for the duration of study	2011-2016
Phi Beta Kappa (Alpha of Maine)		2009

TEACHING PORTFOLIO

7900: History Theory and Practice (graduate seminar)

4990: Historical research and writing, European topics (senior thesis seminar)

4960: Collapse of the USSR (seminar)
4413: Histories of the Soviet People: Non-Russians in the USSR (seminar with Russian-language option)
4300: Russia and the West since 1989
3700: Global History of Communism (lecture survey)
3416: History of the Cold War (lecture survey)
3412: History of the Soviet Union (lecture survey)
2312H: Western Society Since 1500 (honors seminar)
Communism (Honors seminar; submitted for approval)
Comparative Apocalypse: Histories of the End of the World (advanced seminar; in development)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

“Culture and Belief at the Soviet Collapse.” Keynote speech, to the “Religion, Atheism, and Belief under State Socialism” workshop at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, May 2025

“The Awe of Ordinary Labors: 20th-Century Paintings from Ukraine.” Gallery talk, the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA, April 2025

“The Soviet Republic of Ukraine.” Lecture to the Symposium on Ukrainian Art, the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA, March 2025

“Red Against Empire: Bolshevik Historians and a New Past for the Cossacks.” Presented at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies conference, Boston, MA, November 2024.

“Art and Culture in Stalinist Ukraine.” Guest Lecture at the Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia Department of Art History, September 2024.

Colonial Legacies, Radical Histories: Early Soviet Historians and the Anticolonial Critique. Organizer. Manuscript workshop, sponsored by the program in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, University of Texas, Austin, TX, September 2023

“Let Communism Live Forever: Nostalgia and the Idealized East Following the Soviet Collapse.” Presented at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies conference, Chicago, IL, November 2022.

“New Religious Movements in Global Perspective: Russia’s Hare Krishnas.” Presented at “Cultures of the New Age in Late- and Post-Soviet Russia,” an international conference of the German-Russian Research Project on Religious Cultures in Russia, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, June 2022.

“Health, Ecology and Apocalypse at the End of the Soviet World.” Presented at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies conference, New Orleans, LA, November 2021.

“Christ and the UFOs: Mikhail Epstein’s ‘minimal religion’ in the post-Soviet seeking milieu.” Presented at a hybrid workshop of the German-Russian Research Project on Religious Cultures in Russia, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, October 2021.

“Jewish Dissent Under Stalinism.” Presented (virtually) at Round Table Cultural Seminars, New York, NY, September 2020.

“The Earth and the Heavens, Soviet Style: Science and Belief in the Space Age.” Presented at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies conference, San Francisco, CA, November 2019.

“Anatolii Fomenko and the Shape of Russian History.” Presented at the Desert Workshop in Russian History, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, February 2018.

“Anatolii Fomenko and the Struggle for Russia’s Past.” Presented at the Berkeley-Munich Conference at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, June 2017.

“On Sectarianism, Millenarianism, and Apocalypticism.” Presented at the manuscript conference for Yuri Slezkine’s *House of Government: A Saga of the Russian Revolution* (published Princeton University Press, 2017), Berkeley, CA, April 2016.

“The Occult Turn in the Soviet Press, 1987-1991.” Presented at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies conference, Washington, D.C., November 2015.

"Santeri Nuorteva and the Embassy of the International Revolution." Presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, San Francisco, CA, May 2013.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND MEDIA

On Russia’s war in Ukraine

Lectures and panels for UGA’s history and art departments, UGA’s Office of Global Engagement, UGA School of Law, the Atlanta Center for History, World Affairs Council of Atlanta; Peachtree Hills Continuing Education (Atlanta); Center for Life Enrichment of the Highlands, NC
Press interviews and contributions for National Public Radio, Agence France-Presse, Newsy, Grady College of Journalism.

On research and general topics

Book talk and interview, <i>Power Greater</i> , KALX Berkeley	2025
Author interview, <i>New Books Network</i> podcast	2025
Author interview , <i>1869</i> podcast	2025

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Search Committee, Open-Rank in Applied History , UGA Department of History	2024-2025
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The Open , workshop series of UGA’s History Graduate Student Association Committee member and co-founder	2024-present
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Peer review For <i>Russian Review</i>	2022, 2024, 2025 (x2)
For <i>Athens Historian</i>	2024
For Peter Lang Group International Academic Publishers	2021

Policy Committee , UGA Department of History Committee chair	2022-present 2024-present
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Faculty Senate , UGA’s Franklin College of Arts and Sciences	2021-2024
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Treasurer , United Campus Workers of Georgia Local 3265 Member (ex officio) of statewide budget committee and local executive board	2021-present
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Career Diversity Faculty Institute of the American Historical Association Seminar series on non-academic career paths for history graduate students	2021
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Hybrid Classroom Communities Faculty workshop on online and hybrid teaching strategies	Spring 2021
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Co-director , UC Berkeley Russian History <i>Kruzhok</i> working group	2012-2013; 2017-2019
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Contributor and panelist , Berkeley Connect in History: “Developments in the Profession of History”	2015-2019
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Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Voluntary course of seminars and assessments from the UC Berkeley Graduate Division	2016-2019
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CONSULTING AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Research affiliate , German-Russian Research Project on New Age Cultures in Russia A project of Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz and the European University of St. Petersburg	2019-present
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Historical consultant to the permanent Soviet space exhibit, Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center	2015
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Historical consultant and editor , on Soviet-Finnish history, for Professor Jared Diamond	2014
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Research assistant and translator , on Imperial Russia in the Caucasus, for Professor Stephan Astourian	2012
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Translator and editor , World Wildlife Fund Russia	2009-2011
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Member,

Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies; American Historical Association;
United Campus Workers of Georgia Local 3265; American Radio Relay League