

## Joseph Kellner

220 LeConte Hall, 250 Baldwin St., Athens, GA 30602 | [kellner@uga.edu](mailto:kellner@uga.edu)

---

### EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

<b>Assistant Professor of History</b> , University of Georgia	2020-present
<b>Visiting Lecturer in Russian and Global History</b> , University of California, Berkeley	2018-2020
<b>Ph.D.</b> in History, University of California, Berkeley	2018
<b>M.A.</b> in History, University of California, Berkeley	2013
<b>B.A.</b> in Russian language and culture, Bowdoin College, <i>Summa cum Laude</i>	2009

---

### PUBLICATIONS

Book manuscript: *The Spirit of Socialism: Culture and Belief at the Soviet Collapse*. Monograph, Cornell University Press, expected 2025; in Russian translation, expected 2027.

Book manuscript: *Red Against Empire: Bolshevik Historians and the Anticolonial Critique*. Primary source reader, University of Toronto Press, expected 2025. Coedited with Prof. Alexei Golubev, University of Houston.

“Speaking from the Russian Wilds.” Contribution to *New Age and Esoteric Milieus in the Soviet Period and Afterwards*, ed. Birgit Menzel and Anna Tessmann, LIT Verlag Münster, expected 2024.

“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](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

#### 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-Heggy Graduate Faculty Teaching Award

For excellence in graduate student teaching, by vote of the graduate student body	2023
<b>Sarah H. Moss Fellowship</b>	
Support for travel for advanced research for UGA faculty in institutions of higher learning abroad	2022
<b>Visiting Scholars Program, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS)</b>	
Summer research fellowship for interdisciplinary work on Eastern Europe	2022
<b>Willson Center Faculty Research Grant</b>	
Semester-long funding for UGA faculty, in support of a promising program of research	2021
<b>International Visiting Fellow, Regensburg ScienceCampus [canceled]</b>	
Fellowship at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies	2020
<b>American Federation of Teachers Development Grant</b>	
To University of California lecturers, in support of travel for ongoing and promising research.	2019
<b>American Councils Academic Fellowship in Russia [declined]</b>	
Flexible-term, comprehensive support for scholars pursuing social-scientific research in Russia	2019
<b>Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship</b>	
Year-long support for advanced graduate students in the humanities and social sciences	2017-2018
<b>Phi Beta Kappa Graduate Fellowship</b>	
To members of Phi Beta Kappa in support of promising doctoral work	2017
<b>National Geographic Award</b>	
Exemplary research photography and its use in scholarship by a UC Berkeley graduate student	2017
<b>ISEEES Graduate Student Essay Prize</b>	
Best essay by a graduate student in Slavic and East European Studies (awarded twice)	2016, 2017
<b>John Wicks Dissertation Award</b> of the Western Social Science Association	
Best dissertation-derived, original research at the WSSA conference across all disciplines	2016
<b>IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Fellowship (IARO)</b>	
Year-long support for scholars abroad, in topics relevant to US policy in Russia and E. Europe	2014-2015
<b>Heller Seminar Paper Prize</b>	
Best pre-dissertation, chapter-length essay completed in a history graduate seminar	2013
<b>Summer FLAS (Finnish language)</b>	2012
<b>Center for International Mobility Scholarship</b>	
To promising foreign scholars for research in Finland (conducted at Helsinki's Aleksanteri Institute)	2012
<b>Michael I. Gurevich Memorial Prize</b> in Russian History	
Exceptional promise in early-stage graduate study	2011-2012
<b>Berkeley Distinguished Graduate Fellowship</b>	
UC Berkeley's most prestigious long-term graduate fellowship, awarded for the duration of study	2011-2016
<b>Phi Beta Kappa (Alpha of Maine)</b>	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 Soviet Empire (seminar with Russian-language option)  
 3730: Global History of the Twentieth Century (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)  
 Global History of Communism (lecture survey; submitted for approval)  
 Comparative Apocalypse: Histories of the End of the World (advanced seminar; in development)

---

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

*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.

“*Santeri Nuorteva: Posol’ mirovoi revoliutsii* [Santeri Nuorteva: Ambassador of the International Revolution].” Guest lecture in the Russian Flagship Program, UGA Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, Fall 2020 and 2021.

“Space Age, Nuclear Age.” Guest Lecture in Soviet Culture, UGA Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, April 2021.

“Late Soviet Morality, Creativity and Spirituality.” Discussant at the Graduate Student Conference on the Late Soviet Union. Harvard University, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, April 2021.

“The Making of a Cold War Spy.” Lecture to the Lunchtime Time Machine series, UGA Department of History, November 2020.

“Russian Radicals and the Invention of Political Terrorism.” Guest Lecture in Soviet Culture, UGA Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, October 2020.

“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.

“Those Who Know History: The Vissarion Sect and the End of the Soviet World.” Presented at the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies conference, Washington, D.C., November 2017.

“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 department, UGA's Office of Global Engagement, UGA School of Law, the Atlanta Center for History, World Affairs Council of Atlanta;  
*Press interviews and contributions* for National Public Radio, Agence France-Presse, Newsy, Grady College of Journalism.

**On research and general topics**

Astrology in the USSR and the Russian Federation, for *The Debrief* 2021  
 Russian UFO cultures, for *Coda Story* 2021  
 Russian Foreign Policy, for *Great Decisions, a lecture program of the Foreign Policy Association* 2019

**SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Peer review**

For *Russian Review* 2022  
 For Peter Lang Group International Academic Publishers 2021

**Policy Committee**, UGA Department of History 2022-present  
 Committee chair Fall 2023

**History Representative to the FLAS Fellowship Review Board**

Oversight and selection for over \$200k in scholarship money to undergraduate language students 2022-present

**Faculty Senate**, UGA's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences 2021-present

**Treasurer**, United Campus Workers of Georgia Local 3265  
 Member (ex officio) of statewide budget committee and local executive board 2021-present

**UGA Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion** (ongoing)  
 Voluntary, six-seminar course towards a diverse, equitable and inclusive campus at UGA 2021-present

**Career Diversity Faculty Institute of the American Historical Association**  
 Seminar series on non-academic career paths for history graduate students 2021

**Hybrid Classroom Communities** Faculty workshop on online and hybrid teaching strategies Spring 2021

**Co-director**, UC Berkeley Russian History *Kruszhok* working group 2012-2013; 2017-2019

**Contributor and panelist**, Berkeley Connect in History: "Developments in the Profession of History" 2015-2019

**Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education**  
 Voluntary course of seminars and assessments from the UC Berkeley Graduate Division 2016-2019

**CONSULTING AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**Research affiliate**, German-Russian Research Project on New Age Cultures in Russia 2019-present  
 A project of Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz and the European University of St. Petersburg

**Historical consultant** to the permanent Soviet space exhibit, Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center 2015

**Historical consultant and editor**, on Soviet-Finnish history, for Professor Jared Diamond 2014

**Research assistant and translator**, on Imperial Russia in the Caucasus, for Professor Stephan Astourian 2012

**Translator and editor**, World Wildlife Fund Russia 2009-2011

**Member,**

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