

RUTH AVERBACH

Curriculum Vitae

702 W. MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA, 94607 | 510-282-4071 | wurl@stanford.edu

EDUCATION

Ph. D., Slavic Languages and Literatures Stanford University Dissertation: <i>Writing Women: Gender, Alterity, and Representation in Russian Realism</i>	2020
M.A., Judaic Studies University of Michigan Thesis: <i>Itzik Fefer and the Development of Soviet Yiddish</i>	2013
B.A., Russian, Eastern European, Eurasian Studies University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	2011

AREAS OF INTEREST

Nineteenth and twentieth-century Russian literature; gender studies; queer theory; comparative realisms; nineteenth-century intellectual history; theories of identity and alterity; German materialism in Russia; Marxism; Socialist Realism; Jewish studies; Yiddish language and literature.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Teaching Fellow, Program for Civic, Liberal, & Global Education	2021 – Pres.
Humanities and Sciences Dean's Fellow, Stanford University	2020 – 2021
Middlebrook Prize in Teaching	2019 – 2020
Provost's Graduate Teaching Fellow	2020
Clayman Institute Graduate Dissertation Fellowship	2019 – 2020
Taube Center for Jewish Studies Fellow	2013 – 2019
Frankel Center Summer Research Grant	2012
Jerold Solovy Fellowship	2011 – 2013
Roland Filler Award	2011
Academic Year FLAS, Russian language	2011 – 2012
Summer FLAS, Russian language	2011
James Scholar	2008 – 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer "Russia and Her Conflicts in History, Literature, Art, and Film" <i>Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Summer Study Program, Stanford University</i> Designed and taught an original course examining the history of Russia's military conflicts through critical study of historical writing, literature, photography, painting, and film. Course is open to undergrads and pre-college high school students interested in Russia and the Humanities.	Summer 2023
--	-------------

Teaching Fellow

Winter 2023

“Where Does It Hurt?”

Program for Civic, Liberal, and Global Education, Stanford University

Led two discussion sections, delivered lessons on foundational concepts in medical anthropology and medical humanities.

Course fulfilled global education requirement for first-year students.

Teaching Fellow

Winter 2023

“Global Citizenship”

Program for Civic, Liberal, and Global Education, Stanford University

Led two discussion sections, delivered lessons on foundational concepts in political science, philosophy, and American history. I introduce students to Marxist, post-colonial, and queer critiques of American political life.

Course fulfilled global education requirement for first-year students.

Teaching Fellow

Fall 2022

“Why College?”

Program for Civic, Liberal, and Global Education, Stanford University

Taught two discussion sections on the benefits and shortcomings of liberal arts educations. Mentored students intellectually and to help them acclimate to Stanford.

Teaching Fellow

Spring 2022

“Globally Queer”

Program for Civic, Liberal, and Global Education, Stanford University

Led two discussion sections, delivered three lectures to all sections on queer theory, trans theory, and visual and poetic works of Yevgeniy Fiks.

Course fulfilled global education requirement for first-year students.

Teaching Fellow

Winter 2022

“Global Citizenship”

Program for Civic, Liberal, and Global Education, Stanford University

Led two discussion sections, delivered lessons on foundational concepts in political science, philosophy, American history, and Russian history.

Designed a lesson template on Russian invasion of Ukraine for instructors also teaching this course.

Course fulfilled global education requirement for first-year students.

Teaching Fellow

Fall 2021

“Stories Everywhere”

Program for Civic, Liberal, and Global Education, Stanford University

Led two discussion sections, taught a unit on contemporary trans fiction to all sections, supervised composition and workshopping of students’ creative fiction and final documentary projects.

Instructor

Spring 2021

Reading in Russian

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Stanford University

Designed a course for advanced students of Russian language conducting their own independent research. Topics included: contemporary Russian cinema, Russian internet language and culture, interpreting Soviet legal documents, and reading in old orthography.

Primary Instructor

Fall 2020

“The Age of Experiment: Individualism in Russian Romantic Prose”

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Stanford University

Designed and taught a core sequence course on Russian Romanticism, including 18th century pre-Romantic works.

Course fulfilled writing requirement for humanities students.

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2019

“Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies”

Department of Feminist, Gender, Sexuality Studies, Stanford University

Led two discussion sections, delivered lecture on Marxist feminism, graded papers and exams.

Instructors: Maxe Crandall, Adrian Daub, Patti Hanlon

Teaching Assistant

Winter 2017

“The Great Russian Novel”

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Stanford University

Lead discussion section, coordinated discussion section materials with lecture sessions, coordinated grading with instructor, administered and organized digital components of course

Instructor: Monika Greenleaf

Instructor

AY 2015-2016

Second-year Russian

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Stanford University

Developed syllabus and overall course structure, including weekly lab practicum, and administered all grades.

Instructor

AY 2015-2016

Intermediate Russian Conversation

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Stanford University

Developed own syllabus for student-oriented learning environment. Content covered included history of 1917 revolution, healthcare in post-Soviet states, and gender issues in contemporary Russia.

Instructor of English Language and Exam Preparation Tutor

2014-2015

Study Zone Language School, Minsk, Belarus

Taught English classes for individuals and groups. In addition to language courses, taught English-language courses preparing students for subject exams in language, mathematics, and European history.

Co-teaching Assistant

Fall 2015

“Writing Across Languages: Eastern European Jewish Literature”

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Stanford University

Designed and led two sessions on Josef Perl and Haskalah, Itzik Fefer and Soviet Yiddish literature.

English Language Tutor

2013-2019

Language and Orientation Tutoring Program, Stanford University

Taught ESL in one-on-one sessions focusing on both language acquisition and cultural orientation. Developed my own instructional materials.

PUBLICATIONS

- “The (Un)making of a Man: Alexander Alexandrov/Nadezhda Durova,” *Slavic Review*, Spring 2023
 “Chernyshevsky’s Feminist Critique of Hegel’s *Lectures on the Philosophy of History*,” under review
 “Beyond Desire: Anti-Capitalism, Gender, and Sexuality in Eastern European Marxisms,” under review

RECENT AND UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

- “Is a Queer Reading of Barkov Possible?: Homo- and hetero-poetics of 18th Century Russian Verse”
 ASEEES Annual Conference, November 2023
 “The (Un)making of a Man”
 Queer(ing) Russia: Academia and Activism in Dialogue, Oxford University, May 2022
 “The Lives of Lenin: Emmanuel Kazakevich’s ‘The Blue Notebook’”
 ASEEES Annual Conference, Online, November 2021
 “AHAB (Assigned Hussar at Birth): Alexandrov-Durova’s Transmasc Poetics”
 Yale Emerging Scholars Lecture Series, Yale REEES, online, February 2021
 “The Economics of Sex Work in the Russian Realist Novel”
 ASEEES Annual Conference, Online, November 2020
 “Reading Radically: Tolstoy, Gender, and Nihilism”
 AATSEEL Annual Conference, San Diego, February 2020
 “Chernyshevsky’s Feminist Critique of Hegel’s *Lectures on the Philosophy of History*”
 Chernyshevsky Conference, Princeton University, April 2019
 “Challenging Masculine Conceptions of Emancipation: Avdot’ia Glinka’s *Leonid Stepanovich*”
 AATSEEL Annual Conference, New Orleans, February 2019
 “A Story of Her Own?: Narrating the Other in Herzen’s *The Thieving Magpie*”
 ASEEES National Convention, Boston, December 2018
 “Redefining Emancipation: Chernyshevsky’s Feminist Critique of Hegel”
 AATSEEL Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., February 2018
 “A Queer Month: Problems of Time and Productivity in Turgenev’s *Month in the Country*”
 AATSEEL Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., February 2018
 “Nihilist Sexual Hygiene: The Case of Andrei Lebyazatnikov”
 ASEEES National Convention, Chicago, November 2017
 “The Politics of Life and Death: Nikolai Levin and Radicalism in *Anna Karenina*”
 AATSEEL Annual Convention, San Francisco, February 2017
 “Soviet Yiddish Literary Criticism, 1917-1937: Language, Identity, Ideology”
 AATSEEL, Austin, January 2016
 “From Mizraim to the Soviet Union: Itzik Fefer’s Soviet-Jewish Exodus”
 ASEEES National Convention, San Antonio, November 2014

CONFERENCE CHAIR AND PANEL ORGANIZATION

- State of the Field for Transgender and Non-Binary Slavists
 ASEEES National Convention, Chicago, November 2022
 State of the Field for Transgender Slavists
 ASEEES National Convention, San Francisco, November 2019
 The Reading and Reception of the Russian Classics in the Late-Soviet Period
 AATSEEL Annual Convention, New Orleans, February 2019

Turgenev at 200: Reassessing Literature's Role in Russian Society
ASEEES National Convention, Boston, December 2018
The Great Lakes Yiddish Theatre Troupe
ASEEES National Convention, Chicago, November 2017

RELATED EXPERIENCES

Co-Organizer and Founder	2018-2020
<i>Marx, Lenin, Stalin Reading Group, Stanford University</i>	
Organized graduate student reading group focused on key texts of Marxist-Leninism and Socialist Realist	

LANGUAGES

Native or near-native: English, Russian
Advanced: Yiddish
Reading or research: Belarusian, French, German, Old Church Slavonic
Learning: Ukrainian