

ANA SILJAK

History Department
Queen's University
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Employment:

Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education, 2023-present.

History Department, Queen's University, 2004-2023. Courses: Intellectual Origins of the Contemporary West; The Russian Novel in Russian History; Imperial Russian History; Radicalism, Revolution, and Religion in Russian History and Literature; European Thought and Culture; Conceptual History of Terrorism

Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Toronto (Visiting Professor), 2008, 2015, 2018.

History and Slavic Departments, Northwestern University (Visiting Professor), 2002-2004.

Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago (Lecturer), 2001-2004.

Books:

Angel of Vengeance: The "Girl Assassin," the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia's Revolutionary World. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2008, paperback edition 2009.

Editor, *Religion and Secular Modernity in Russian Christianity, Judaism, and Atheism.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, forthcoming October 2024.

Editor, *Nikolai Berdiaev and Jacques Maritain: An Exceptional Dialogue (1925-1948)*, by Bernard Hubert. Translated by Christopher Jon Delogu. Montreal: McGill Queen's University Press, forthcoming March 2024.

Visions of the West, with Eric Robinson and Heather Weidner. New York: Oxford, forthcoming 2025.

Editor, *Redrawing Nations: Ethnic Cleansing in East-Central Europe, 1944-1948*, with Philipp Ther. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001.

Work in Progress:

"The Prophet of Modernity: The Personalist Philosophy of Nikolai Berdiaev." Book, projected completion date: October 2023.

"The Art of Life: The Russian Renaissance, 1890-1917." Book project, funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada Insight Grant, projected completion date: June 2024

Catalogue of new materials found in the Nikolai Berdiaev House Museum, Clamart, France. Project funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Institutional Grant. Forthcoming 2024.

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Articles:

“The Personalism of Nikolai Berdiaev,” In *The Oxford Handbook of Russian Religious Thought*, edited by George Pattison, Caryl Emerson, and Randall Poole, 309-326. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

“‘The Beauteous Terrorist’: Russian Women and Terrorism in Literature at the Turn of the Century.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Terrorism*, edited by Carola Dietze and Claudia Verhoeven, 275-291. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

“Sigmund Freud, Sublimation, and the Russian Silver Age.” *Modern Intellectual History* 15, no. 2 (August 2018): 443–70.

"Friedrich Nietzsche, Dmitrii Merezhkovskii, and the Russian Renaissance." *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 60, no. 1-2 (May 2018): 236-255.

"Nikolai Berdiaev and the Origin of Russian Messianism." *The Journal of Modern History* 88, no. 4 (December 2016): 737-763.

“Controversies over Nationalism: The Teaching of Russian History, 1890-1904.” In *Rossia i SShA na stranitsakh uchebnikov: opyt vzaimnykh representatsii*, edited by Victoria Zhuravleva and Ivan I. Kurilla, 106-140. Volgograd: Volgograd State University Press, 2009.

“The Trial of Vera Zasulich.” In *Russian and Soviet History: From the Time of Troubles to the Collapse of the Soviet Union*, edited by Steven Usitalo and William Benton Whisenhunt, 147-161. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008.

“Between East and West: Hegel and the Origins of the Russian Dilemma.” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 62, no. 2 (April 2001): 335-358.

“Christianity, Science, and Progress in Sergei M. Solov'ev's History of Russia.” In *Historiography of Imperial Russia: The Profession and Writing of History in a Multinational State*, edited by Thomas Sanders, 215-238. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe Press, 1999.

Book reviews in *Literary Review of Canada*, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, *Democratization*, and *Journal of Cold War Studies*

Lectures and Papers:

Plenary Speaker, Pontifical University of John Paul II Conference: “Nikolai Berdiaev and Russian Philosophy in the West,” Krakow, Poland, June 2024.

“Nikolai Berdiaev, Personalism, and Human Rights.” Paper presented at the ASEEEES Conference, New Orleans, November 2021 (read in absentia).

“Theocracy or Anarchy? Religion and the State in Russian Philosophy (Vladimir Soloviev and Nikolai Berdiaev).” Paper presented to the Russian and East European Studies Network, March 2021 (virtual).

“Friedrich Nietzsche, Dmitrii Merezhkovskii, and the Russian Renaissance.” Paper presented at the International Congress of Slavists, Belgrade, Serbia, August 2018.

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“Nikolai Berdiaev and the Russian Origin of Human Rights.” Paper presented at the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University, May 2017.

“Personalism and the Silver Age: A Religious Revolt Against the Collective.” Paper presented at the ASEEEES Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2016.

“The Influence of Nikolai Berdiaev on the Development of Western Personalist Philosophy.” Paper presented at the Canadian Association of Slavists Annual Conference, University of Calgary, May 2016.

“Zinaida Gippius and ‘Christian Infatuation,’ with an Addendum on Sigmund Freud.” Paper presented at the conference, “Varieties of Russian Modernity,” Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow, Russia, July 2013.

“Reconsidering the ‘Third Rome’: The Origin of Russian Messianism in the Work of Nikolai Berdiaev.” Paper presented to the Cambridge University Committee for Russian and East European Studies. Cambridge, United Kingdom, February 2011.

“Socialist Eschatology and Russian Terrorism.” Paper presented at the American Historical Association Mini-Conference: “From Religious Self-Sacrifice to Suicide Terrorism: Martyrdom in the West during the Nineteenth Century Compared with the Middle East Today.” Boston, MA, January 2011.

“Nikolai Berdiaev and the Origin of Russian Messianism.” Paper presented to the Washington Russian History Seminar. Georgetown University, February 2010.

“Russian Messianism: A Reconsideration.” Paper presented at the ASEEEES conference, Boston, November 2009.

“Earthly Kingdom: Socialist Eschatology in Nineteenth-Century Russia.” Paper presented to the CERES Faculty Speakers' Series: Crossdisciplinary Discussion in Area Studies at the Munk Center for International Studies, Toronto, Ontario, September 2008.

Dissertation:

Dissertation: “Rival Visions of the Russian Nation: The Teaching of Russian History, 1890-1917” (Harvard, 1997)

Non-Academic Contributions:

“There is no materialist path to the promised land.” *Mere Orthodoxy*, November 7, 2022. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/chekhov-cherry-orchard/>

“Atheist Nones and the Problem of Soviet Atheism.” *Mere Orthodoxy*, November 5, 2021. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/atheist-nones-and-the-problem-of-soviet-atheism/>

“Purity Culture.” *Mere Orthodoxy*, April 13, 2021. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/purity-culture/>

“D.B. Hart’s Inquisitor.” *Mere Orthodoxy*, July 1, 2020. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/db-harts-inquisitor/>

Interview, Charles Taylor Prize Finalists, Rita Celli, CBC Ontario Today, February 9, 2009

Talk on *Angel of Vengeance*, *Globe and Mail*/Ben McNally Books and Brunch, February 8, 2009.

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Contribution to “Q&A: Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. Pulling Readers into History,” *Toronto Star* (February 7, 2009), p. E12.

Interview with Steve Paikin, “Using and Abusing the Past,” *The Agenda*, TV Ontario, February 6, 2009.

Interview with Karin Wells, *Sunday Edition*, CBC Radio One, August 31, 2008.

Selected Reviews of My Work:

Morrissey, Susan K. “Terrorism, Modernity, and the Question of Origins,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 12, no. 1 (2011): 213-226.

McDermid, Jane. Review of *Angel of Vengeance: The “Girl Assassin,” the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia’s Revolutionary World*, in *Slavic Review* 68, no. 3 (2009): 697.

Scott, Chris. “When Nihilists Threatened the World” [review of *Angel of Vengeance: The “Girl Assassin,” the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia’s Revolutionary World*], *Globe and Mail*, Books Section (May 3, 2008), pp. D8-D9.

Paul E. Richardson. “Angel of Vengeance,” *Russian Life* (May/June 2008).

Other Positions:

Coordinator, Russian and East European Studies Network at Queen’s, 2019-2020.

Visiting Scholar, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Stanford University, 2010. 2016-2017.

Awards and Grants:

Institutional Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada 2022-2023

Insight Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2018-2023

Hoover Institution Grant, 2016

Fund for Scholarly Research and Creative Work, Queen’s University, 2016

History Department Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2013

Insight Development Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, 2012-2014

Finalist, Charles Taylor Prize, 2009

Advisory Research Committee Grant, Queen’s University, 2008

Fund for Scholarly Research and Creative Work, Queen’s University, 2006

Fund for Scholarly and Professional Development, Queen’s University, 2005

Education:

Ph.D. Harvard University History 1997

A.B. Stanford University Political Science 1990