

OLGA NECHAEVAE-mail: nechaeva@sas.upenn.eduWebsite: onechaeva.com**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. (in progress) University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA). Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. Since 2018 — expected completion in June, 2025. PhD Candidate (ABD).
- M.A. (2020) University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA). Comparative Literature and Literary Theory.
- M.A. (2018) National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia). Comparative Studies: Russian Literature in Cross-Cultural Perspective. Thesis: *The Higher Institute of Literature and Art in the Historical and Cultural Context of the 1920s*.
- M.Sc. (2014) Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris School of Economics (Paris, France) and National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia). Economics. Thesis: *Central Bank Transparency and Public Information Acquisition*.
- B.Sc. (2012) National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia). Business Informatics. Thesis: *The Development of the Procedures of Client Database Checks*.

DISSERTATION*The Gorky Literary Institute: Creative Writing under Socialism*

This project examines questions of mutual influence among formal education, creative processes, and literary evolution in the socialist world including case studies from the Russian SFSR, the Buryat ASSR, the Mari ASSR, the Lithuanian SSR, the German Democratic Republic, Mali, Ghana, Ethiopia, and other regions and countries. By analyzing the educational activities of the Gorky Literary Institute (1933-) which produced (or sometimes failed to produce) socialist writers, this project shows how socialist creative writing institutions impacted the formation of the transnational “Soviet Republic of Letters.”

PUBLICATIONS

- “From High Hopes to Bitter Disappointment: Mali in the Eyes of Soviets and East Germans (1962–1989).” In: Clemens Günther, Matthias Schwartz (eds.), *The Red Globe: Writing the World in Eastern European Travel Literature of the Cold War*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2025. Forthcoming.
- “The Instruction of Non-Soviet Writers at the Gorky Literary Institute: Gaoussou Diawara and Malian Literature.” In: Susanne Frank (ed.), *The Soviet Cosmopolis: A Project of World Literature and its Global Impact*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024. Forthcoming.

“Незаменимые помощники или убийцы вдохновения: сравнительный анализ руководств по литературному мастерству 1920-х годов” [“Irreplaceable Assistants or Killers of Inspiration: A Comparative Analysis of Creative Writing Textbooks in the 1920s”]. In: *Творческое письмо в России: сюжеты, подходы, проблемы* [Creative Writing in Russia: Topics, Approaches, and Problems]. Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2023. P. 72–92.

“От составителей” [“From the Compilers”] (co-authored with Maya Kucherskaya). In: Cluster of articles “Creative Writing Studies: исследования в области литературного мастерства.” *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie*, No. 183, 2023. P. 76–83.

“Брюсов-педагог: античная литература и класс поэзии в ВЛХИ” [“Briusov as a Teacher: Classical Literature and Poetry Class at VLKhI”]. In: Cluster of articles “Creative Writing Studies: исследования в области литературного мастерства.” *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie*, No. 183, 2023. P. 84–95.

“Высший литературно-художественный институт им. В. Я. Брюсова (ВЛХИ)” [“Briusov Higher Institute of Literature and Art (VLKhI)”]. In: “Литературные институции как классы литературной школы: материалы к словарю” [“Literary Institutions as Classes of a Literary School: Materials for a Dictionary], edited by Oleg Lekmanov and Mikhail Sverdlov. *Matica Srpska Journal for Slavic Studies*, No. 103, 2023. P. 389–405.

“Mali 2023: How Russia Made Its Way into Malian Life.” *The Jordan Center Blog*, NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia. October 24, 2023.
<https://jordanrussiacenter.org/news/mali-2023-how-russia-made-its-way-into-malian-life/>

“Blackness and Soviet Creative Education: African Writers at the Gorky Literary Institute.” In: Nana Osei-Opare, Sunnie Rucker-Chang (eds.), Cluster of articles “Blackness in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Societies.” *Slavic Review*, 2025. Work in Progress.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Soviet Literature, Socialist Realism, Socialist Internationalism, Sociology of Literature, Digital Humanities, Soviet Education, Creative Writing, Postcolonial Literature, Indigenous Studies

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

- 2024 “Digital Humanities Methods and Minor Languages: A Case Study of the Mari Journal *Onchyko*.” ASEEEES Convention. Boston, MA. Forthcoming.
- Conference co-organizer “Theories and Practices of Literary Craft.” National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia. Online. Forthcoming.
- Invited speaker “The Instruction of African Writers at the Gorky Literary Institute in Moscow: Atukwei Okai and Ghanaian Poetry.” Swarthmore College. Swarthmore, PA.

- Organizer and participant in roundtable “The GDR in Slavic and East European Studies: East Germany as a Point of Contact during the Cold War.” AATSEEL Conference. Las Vegas, NV.
- 2023 Organizer of panel “Literature, Art, and Education Across Borders: Soviet-Eastern European Cultural Exchanges during the Cold War.” Paper “„Zwischen Moskau und Leipzig“: Exchange Programs between the Gorky Literary Institute and the Becher Literary Institute in the 1970s–1980s.” ASEEEES Convention. Philadelphia, PA.
- Participant in roundtable “Centering Indigeneity in Russian Studies II: Transdisciplinary Possibilities of Critical Indigenous Theory.” ASEEEES Convention. Philadelphia, PA.
- Discussant for panel “Western Other in the Late Soviet Culture.” ASEEEES Convention. Philadelphia, PA.
- “The Gorky Literary Institute and African Writers: Gaoussou Diawara and Atukwei Okai.” Inaugural Conference of the African Humanities Association (AHA). Cape Town, South Africa. Online.
- Conference co-organizer “Theories and Practices of Literary Craft.” National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia.
- “Atukwei Okai, Ghanaian Poetry, and Soviet Education.” Red World Literature Conference. University of Iceland. Reykjavík, Iceland.
- “Formalism and Creative Writing: Viktor Shklovsky at the Gorky Literary Institute in the 1950s.” Research Colloquium. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Berlin, Germany.
- Organizer of panel “Network Analysis of Soviet and Post-Soviet Literature.” Paper “The Gorky Literary Institute as a Network.” AATSEEL Conference. Online.
- Co-organizer of stream “Indigenous Possibilities in Post-Russian Spaces.” Paper “The Soviet Literatures of Dagestan and the Gorky Literary Institute.” AATSEEL Conference. Online.
- Participant in roundtable “Indigeneity in Post-Russia-Centric Pedagogy.” AATSEEL Conference. Online.
- “Ivan Kharabarov and Iurii Pankratov at the Crossroads.” MLA Convention. Online.
- 2022 “Digital Humanities and Soviet Cultural Institutions: the Case of the Gorky Literary Institute.” Gazeta: Russian, East European, and Eurasian Press History Workshop. Online.
- Organizer of panel “Soviet Literature as a Network: Institutions, Languages, People.” Paper: “Networks, Coalitions, and Factions at the Gorky Literary Institute: a Digital Humanities Analysis.” ASEEEES Convention. Chicago, IL.

- “The Gorky Literary Institute: Teaching Creative Writing under Socialism.” Schlegeltag Colloquium. Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies. Freie Universität. Berlin, Germany.
- Conference co-organizer “Theories and Practices of Literary Craft.” Paper: “*The Little Library of a Young Writer: an Attempt to Transfer Literary Experience Between Generations.*” National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia. Online.
- “The Gorky Literary Institute, Gaoussou Diawara, and Malian Literature.” ACLA Meeting. Online.
- “Vasilii Zakharchenko: Introducing the World to the Soviet Youth.” *The Red Globe: Writing the World in Eastern European Travel Literature.* Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research. Berlin, Germany. Online.
- “Soviet Creative Writing Textbooks on Versification: Alexander Kovalenkov against Ilia Selvinskii.” Princeton University Graduate Conference. Princeton, N.J.
- “Intergenerational Exchange and Its Failures in the Gorky Literary Institute during the Thaw.” The Northeast Corridor Russian History and Culture Workshop. Rutgers University. New Brunswick, N.J.
- Keynote address “The Gorky Literary Institute: Teaching Creative Writing under Socialism.” Slavic Bazaar. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.
- Participant in roundtable “Digital Humanities: Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature in Translation.” AATSEEL Conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2021 “The Instruction of Non-Soviet Writers at the Gorky Literary Institute: Gaoussou Diawara and Malian Literature.” (Post-)Soviet Cosmopolis: The Soviet Project of World Literature and its Legacies. Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research. Berlin, Germany.
- “For Party-Mindedness and Against ‘Peaceful Coexistence of Ideology’: the Gorky Literary Institute during the Thaw.” ASEES Convention. New Orleans, LA.
- “Viktor Shklovsky’s Formalism: Creative Writing vs. Creative Reading.” *Theories and Practices of Literary Craft.* National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia. Online.
- “Write or Translate: Cultural Transfers at the Gorky Literary Institute.” ACLA Meeting. Online.
- 2020 Organizer of panel “Cultural Transfers: How Discourses, Forms, and Literature Moved within the Soviet Union and across Its Borders.” Paper “Socialist Content, (Inter)National Form: The Gorky Literary Institute and Non-Russian Writers.” ASEES Convention. Online.

- “Style and Stylization in Literary Studies: The Experience of Twentieth-Century Russian and French Writers.” Theories and Practices of Literary Craft. National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia. Online.
- Co-organizer of workshop “Constructivist Criticism Workshop for Graduate Students in the Social Sciences and Humanities Studying Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.” Paper “Teaching Creative Writing in the Soviet Union in the 1920s.” New York University and Columbia University in the City of New York. New York, NY.
- Co-organizer of stream “Soviet Literary Institutions.” Paper: “The Gorky Literary Institute: On the Emergence of a New Class of Soviet Writers in the 1930s–Early 1940s.” AATSEEL Conference. San Diego, CA.
- 2019 Organizer of panel “Tradition and Innovation in the Soviet Literary Education: Who and How Taught Literature and Writing in the 1920s–1970s.” Paper “Creative Writing Programs in the Soviet Union in the 1920s–1930s: From Briusov’s Writers Institute to the Gorky Literary Institute.” ASEES Convention. San Francisco, CA.
- Workshop co-organizer “Constructivist Criticism Workshop for Graduate Students in the Social Sciences and Humanities Studying Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.” University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2017 Conference co-organizer “Russian Literature in Comparative Perspective.” Paper “Literary Canon in Russia in the 1920s: Role Models for Aspiring Writers.” National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia.
- “The Writer’s Profession: Literary Educational Institutions in Russia in the 1920s.” Tradition and Innovation in Historical Perspectives. Central European University. Budapest, Hungary.
- Conference co-organizer “Effects of Verisimilitude: Modes of Russian Realism.” National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia
- 2016 Conference co-organizer “World Literature as a Soviet Cultural Project.” National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2024 Instructor. REES 0410 Masterpieces of 19C Russian Literature. University of Pennsylvania.
- Summer 2024 Instructor. English Writing: Place and Belonging. Pre-First Year Program. University of Pennsylvania.
- Spring 2024 Visiting Instructor. RUSS 004 Intermediate Intensive Russian. Swarthmore College.

	Guest Instructor. RUSS 107. Russia and Its Others. Class on Black Writers in the USSR: Gaoussou Diawara, Atukwei Okai, and James Lloydovich Patterson. Swarthmore College.
Summer 2022	Instructor. Enhanced Intermediate Russian. Middlebury College.
Spring 2022	Instructor. Advanced Russian II Russian Society Today (Independent Study). University of Pennsylvania.
Spring 2021	Instructor. RUSS 002 Elementary Russian II. University of Pennsylvania.
Fall 2020	Instructor. RUSS 001 Elementary Russian I. University of Pennsylvania.
Summer 2020	Instructor. REES 145 Masterpieces of 19C Russian Literature. University of Pennsylvania.
Spring 2020	TA. REES 155 Masterpieces of 20C Russian Literature. University of Pennsylvania.
Fall 2019	TA. RUSS 145 Masterpieces of 19C Russian Literature. University of Pennsylvania.
Fall 2017	TA. War in 20C European Literature. National Research University Higher School of Economics. Lecturer. Russian Language in Literature and Media. National Research University Higher School of Economics.
2015–2018	Instructor. Introduction to Macroeconomics. International College of Economics and Finance. National Research University Higher School of Economics. B.Sc. Term Paper Advisor. International College of Economics and Finance. National Research University Higher School of Economics.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2024 – 2025	Penfield Dissertation Research Award from the University of Pennsylvania: for archival work at the University of Iowa.
2022 – 2023	International Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council (IDRF SSRC): for dissertation work abroad in Germany, Lithuania, Ghana, Mali, and Russia. German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) One-Year Research Grant. Penfield Dissertation Research Award from the University of Pennsylvania.
2021 – 2022	Mellon Mid-Doctoral Fellowship from the Price Lab for Digital Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania.
2018 – 2025	Benjamin Franklin Fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania.
2013 – 2014	French Government Scholarship (Bourse du gouvernement français).

RESEARCH GROUPS

2020 – present	DH Project “Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature in Translation.” University of Pennsylvania. Research Project “19C and 20C Literary Circles: History of Literary Education.” National Research University Higher School of Economics. The Graduate Initiative on Indigenous Studies in Russia.
----------------	--

2017 – 2018 Research Group “Questions of the Translation of Style.” National Research University Higher School of Economics.

SERVICE

2023 Volunteer for the Prospectus Workshop for third-year students of the Comparative Literature and Literary Theory Program. University of Pennsylvania.

2019 – 2020 Representative of the Comparative Literature and Literary Theory Program at SASGov – a student government body for graduate students of Penn’s School of Arts & Sciences. University of Pennsylvania.

2017 – 2018 Research Assistant, Eugenia Kelbert. National Research University Higher School of Economics.

2017 – 2018 Assistant to the editors of the School of Philology’s website. National Research University Higher School of Economics.

LANGUAGES

Russian (native), English (near-native), French (advanced), German (intermediate), Mari (novice), Kazakh (novice)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2024 Writing Across Boundaries Program, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies at Arizona State University, and University of Amsterdam, January 24 – August 31, 2024.

Digital Scholarship Research Institute, Swarthmore College, May 7, 2024.

2022 The Center for Teaching and Learning Teaching Certificate, University of Pennsylvania, October 6, 2022.

“Digital Humanities in the Classroom,” Dream Lab, Price Lab for Digital Humanities, University of Pennsylvania, taught by Roberto Vargas and Dorothy Berry, June 13 – 16, 2022.

2021 “Text Analysis,” Dream Lab, Price Lab for Digital Humanities, University of Pennsylvania, taught by Katie Rawson and Scott Enderle, June 14 – 17, 2021.

“Price Lab Summer Projects,” Price Lab for Digital Humanities, University of Pennsylvania, taught by Cassandra Hradil and J.D. Porter, June 14 – August 9, 2021.

2020 “Creating Community in the Remote Literature Classroom,” Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, taught by Jo Park and D. Brian Kim, August 11, 2020.

“Creating Community in Your Online Class,” Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, taught by Ian Petrie, August 5, 2020.

“Incorporating Theory into Undergraduate Courses,” Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, taught by Emily Steinlight, February 25, 2020.

“Russian Language Pedagogy,” University of Pennsylvania, taught by Maria Alley, January 21 – May 26, 2020.

2019 “Teaching in Translation: Using Translated Works and the Practice of Translation in the Classroom,” Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, taught by Emily Wilson, February 11, 2019.

2018 “How to Teach in the Contemporary Political Moment,” Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, taught by Kevin Platt, November 5, 2018.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 2022 – 2023 | Humboldt University of Berlin. Berlin, Germany.
Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies. Berlin, Germany. |
| 2020 – present | American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL)
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
Modern Language Association (MLA) |
| 2018 – present | Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) |

REFERENCES

Kevin M. F. Platt, kmfplatt@sas.upenn.edu

Professor of Russian and East European Studies, University of Pennsylvania

Benjamin Nathans, bnathans@history.upenn.edu

Alan Charles Kors Endowed Term Associate Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

James English, jenglish@english.upenn.edu

John Welsh Centennial Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania

Maria Alley, malley@sas.upenn.edu

Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages, Language Program Director, University of Pennsylvania

Sibelan Forrester, sforres1@swarthmore.edu

Susan W. Lippincott Professor of Modern and Classical Languages, Swarthmore College