

# Svetlana Rukhelman

## Curriculum Vitae

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Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University  
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### EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Comparative Literature, Harvard University, 2011  
M.St. Russian Literature, Oxford University, with distinction, 2003  
A.B. Literature, Harvard University, Magna cum laude with highest honors, 2002

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013-present Research Associate, Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University  
2013-present Research Affiliate, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University  
2013-2014 Instructor of Russian, Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, Harvard University  
2012-2013 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Russian and German Studies, Macalester College  
2011-2012 Harvard College Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer, Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, Harvard University

### LANGUAGES

English, Russian: native fluency  
French: high proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing  
German, Latin: reading knowledge

### PUBLICATIONS

- 2010 The Laughter of Gods and Devils: Edith Wharton and the Coen Brothers on Deception, Disappointment, and Cosmic Irony. In: *Comedy in Comparative Literature: Dante, Hoffmann, Nietzsche, Wharton, Borges, & Cabrera Infante* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2010).

#### **Book manuscript in progress:**

*Narratives of Deception: On the (Dis)Pleasure of Being Cheated.* Identifies a new class of literary and cinematic narratives, and examines the narrative mechanisms of exemplary works by Laclos, Denon, Gogol, Melville, Henry James, Nabokov, Flannery O'Connor, Mamet, and Haneke.

## Articles in progress:

'You Ain't So Smart': Free Indirect Discourse and the Rhetoric of Humiliation in Flannery O'Connor's 'Good Country People.' For submission to *Narrative*.

Between the Horrible and the Impossible: Toward a Narratology of Dark Humor. For submission to edited volume on humor and narrative, title TBA; series: Routledge Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Literature.

Dostoevsky's 'Ode to Joy': Forgiveness and Giving in *The Brothers Karamazov*. For submission to *Russian Review*.

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2012 Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard
- 2011 Harvard College Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Harvard
- 2009 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation-Writing Fellowship, Harvard
- 2008 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center, Harvard
- 2004 Summer School Tuition Waiver Fellowship for Language Study, Harvard
- 2003 Presidential Scholar Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard
- 2003 Merle Fainsod Prize, Davis Center, Harvard
- 2002 Clarendon Fund Bursary Scholarship, Oxford University

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Panels Organized

- 2012 Reading the Future: Fate, Chance, and Divination in Fictional Narrative. With Natalya Sukhonos. ACLA, Brown University, Providence, RI, March 29-April 1.
- 2010 Narrating the Mind. With Natalya Sukhonos. ACLA, New Orleans, LA, April 1-4.

### Papers

- 2014 Between the Horrible and the Impossible: Dark Comedy's Narrative Effects. ACLA, NYU, New York, NY, March 21.
- 2012 A German Napoleon 'Gambles' in Russia: Pushkin's 'The Queen of Spades' and the Struggle Against Chance. ACLA, Brown University, Providence, RI, March 30.
- 2012 Forgiveness, Debt, and the Reciprocity Norm in *The Brothers Karamazov*. NeMLA, Rochester, NY, March 16.
- 2010 Suspicion, Suspense, and the Reading of Minds in a Short Story by Flannery O'Connor. ACLA, New Orleans, LA, April 2.
- 2009 Deception, Laughter, and the Dynamics of Surprise. ACLA, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, March 29.

- 2004 Dostoevsky's 'Ode to Joy': Forgiveness and Giving in *The Brothers Karamazov*. Critical Exchanges: Economy and Culture in the Literature of Russia, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, May 8.

### **Discussant**

- 2014 Panel: Alternate Worlds and the "Other Europe": Slavic Themes and Characters in Western Speculative Fiction. ASEEEES, San Antonio, TX, Nov. 20-23.

### **CAMPUS TALKS**

- 2012 Introduced and provided commentary for the film *Operation "Y"* (Leonid Gaidai, 1965). Film series: Classic Russian and Czech Comedies from the 1960s. Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, January 11.
- 2009 David Mamet's *House of Games* and the Humiliation of Being Deceived. Poggioli Comparative Literature Graduate Colloquium, Harvard, Dec. 3.
- 2008 Naïveté and Naïve Narration in the Prose of Andrei Platonov. Slavic Graduate Colloquium, Harvard, March 6.
- 2006 Intertext, Epiphany, and the Fate of the Writer in Isaac Babel's "Guy de Maupassant." Guest lecture in Svetlana Boym's course on 20<sup>th</sup>-century Russian culture, Harvard, Oct. 10.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Instructor of Russian, Harvard University**

Intermediate Russian (fall 2013 – spring 2014)

#### **Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian, Macalester College**

Twentieth-Century Russian Culture: Satire, Dystopia, and Science Fiction (spring 2013)

Fate and Narrative in Russian Culture (fall 2012)

The European East in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Writers and Power (fall 2012)

Intermediate Russian (fall 2012 – spring 2013)

#### **Harvard College Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer, Harvard University**

Twentieth-Century Russian Culture: Satire, Dystopia, and Science Fiction (spring 2012)

Slavic Junior Tutorial (fall 2011)

#### **Graduate Student Teaching Fellow, Harvard University**

Lives Ruined by Literature: The Theme of Reading in the Novel (fall 2008)

Literature Concentration: Junior Tutorial (fall 2006, spring 2007)

How and What Russia Learned to Read (spring 2007)

Twentieth-Century Russian Culture from Revolution to Perestroika (fall 2006) – head TF

Vladimir Nabokov: A Cross-Cultural Perspective (spring 2006)

Wit and Humor in Literature and Film (fall 2005)

## **TEACHING INTERESTS**

Theory and History of the Novel

Theory of Narrative

Cognitive Approaches to Literature and Art

Humor, Irony, and Satire

Dystopian Fiction and Science Fiction

The Literary Experiment in Europe and America, 1900-1935

Truth and Deception in Literature and Film

Manifest Destiny or Inescapable Doom? Human Agency, Causation, and the Concept of Fate in Russian and American Literature

## **SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

2014 Judge, New England Regional High School Olympiada of Spoken Russian, April 5.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2001-2007 Faculty Research Assistant and Editor, Harvard University, Departments of Comparative Literature, Romance Languages, and Slavic Languages & Literatures

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

2009-present American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)

2010-present Modern Languages Association (MLA)

2011-present Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (AASEEES)

## **NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2014-present Assistant Librarian, Fung Library, Harvard University

2012-present Editorial Consultant, *Nautilus*.

2002-2003 Translator, Russian into English. Oxford University.

Transcribed and translated 19th-century Russian police records, edicts, and other archival documents. Project commissioned by Oxford historian Abigail Green.

## **REFERENCES**

William Mills Todd III

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