

SETH BERNSTEIN

University of Florida
Keene-Flint Hall 209
P.O. Box 117320
Gainesville, FL 32611
sethbernstein@ufl.edu

Academic Employment:

University of Florida, Department of History:

Associate Professor, 2022-present.

Assistant Professor, 2020-22.

Affiliate Faculty, Center for Jewish Studies, University of Florida, 2021-present.

Affiliate Faculty, Center for European Studies, University of Florida, 2021-present.

Waldo W. Neikirk Term Professor, University of Florida, 2024-29.

Higher School of Economics:

Assistant Professor of History, 2016-19.

Postdoctoral Fellow, 2013-16.

Education:

Ph.D., Department of History, University of Toronto, 2013.

B.A., Department of History and Department of Modern Languages, Kenyon College, 2005.

Publications:

Books:

Return to the Motherland: Soviet Displaced Persons in World War II and the Cold War. Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 2023.

Raised under Stalin: Young Communists and the Defense of Socialism. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2017. (Russian translation: *Vospitannye pri Staline*. ROSSPEN, 2018.)

Translations:

An Anti-Bolshevik Alternative: The White Movement and the Civil War in the Russian North by Liudmila Novikova. Translated by Seth Bernstein. University of Wisconsin Press, 2018.

Agents of Terror: Ordinary Men and Extraordinary Violence in Stalin's Secret Police by Alexander Vatin. Translated, edited and with an introduction by Seth Bernstein. University of Wisconsin Press, 2016.

Refereed Journal Articles:

“AI as a Historical Lens: An Experiment in Periodization of Russia’s State Photography Archive with Neural Networks.” *Slavic Review*. (accepted for publication in 2025)

“Negotiating Respect: Soviet Aspirations and the Repatriation of Allied Nationals from Eastern Europe.” *Journal of Slavic Military Studies* 38, no. 1 (2025): 62-81.

“Fall of a New Soviet-Jewish Person: The Unmasking of Anti-Antisemite Aleksandr Litinskii, AKA American Spy Big Boss.” *Contemporary European History*. (published in advanced access: <https://www.doi.org/10.1017/S0960777324000122>)

“Unfinished Business: Stalinist Anti-Jewish Investigations after the Death of Stalin.” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 25, no. 1 (2024): 35-59.

“Ambiguous Homecoming: Retribution, Exploitation and Social Tensions during Repatriation to the USSR, 1944-46.” *Past and Present* 242, no. 1 (2019): 193-226.

“Aggregate Treason: A Quantitative Analysis of Collaborator Trials in Soviet Ukraine and Crimea.” *Soviet and Post-Soviet Review* 46, no. 1 (2019): 30-54. (co-authored with Irina Makhalova, Higher School of Economics)

“Burying the Alliance: Internment, Repatriation and the Politics of the Sacred in Occupied Germany.” *Journal of Contemporary History* 52, no. 3 (2017): 710–730.

“Rural Russia on the Edges of Authority: *Bezvlastie* in Wartime Riazan, November-December 1941.” *Slavic Review* 75, no. 3 (2016): 560-582.

“Remembering War, Remaining Soviet: Digital Commemoration of World War II in Putin’s Russia.” *Memory Studies* 9, no. 4 (2016): 422-436.

“Class Dismissed? New Elites and Old Enemies among the ‘Best’ Socialist Youth in the Komsomol, 1934-1941.” *The Russian Review* 74, no. 1 (2015): 97-116.

“Wartime Filmmaking on the Margins: Soiuzdetfilm in Evacuation in Stalinabad, 1941-43.” *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema* 9, no. 1 (2015): 24-39.

“Searching for the Soviet Dream: Prosperity and Disillusionment on the Soviet Seattle Agricultural Commune, 1922-1927.” *Agricultural History* 88, no. 1 (2014): 22-44. (co-authored with Robert Cherny, San Francisco State University)

“Valedictorians of the Soviet School: Professionalization and the Impact of War in Soviet Chess.” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 13, no. 2 (2012): 395-418.

Book Chapters:

“The Secret Police Officer as an Oral Historian in the Late Stalinist Period.” In *Other Voices in Soviet History: Collected for a Devil’s Advocate* edited by Heather DeHaan, Dan Healey, and Tracy McDonald. Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press, 2025.

“Tsifrovaia istoriia: Digital’nye issledovaniia proshlogo,” [Digital History: Computational Studies of the Past] in *Vse v proshlom: Teoriia i praktika publichnoi istorii* [Everything in the Past: Theory and practice of public history]. Moscow: Novoe Izdatelstvo, 2021. (co-authored with Anastasia Zaplatina)

Document Publications:

“Soobshcheniia osvedomitelei v amerikanskii Korpus kontrrazvedki o sovetskoi okkupatsii Germanii v Leipsig, 1947 g.” [Witness Reports to the American Counterintelligence Corps about the Soviet Occupation in Leipzig, 1947] *Istoricheskii Arkhiv*, no. 4 (2019).

Book Reviews:

American Historical Review: Larry E. Holmes, *Stalin’s World War II Evacuations: Triumph and Troubles in Kirov* (2019: 1176-1177).

Canadian Slavonic Papers: Michael David-Fox, *Showcasing the Great Experiment: Cultural Diplomacy and Foreign Visitors to the Soviet Union, 1921-41* (2012: 563-564); Brian LaPierre, *Hooligans in Khrushchev’s Russia: Defining, Policing, and Producing Deviance during the Thaw* (2013: 539-540); Susan Grant, *Physical Culture and Sport in Soviet Society: Propaganda, Acculturation, and Transformation in the 1920s and 1930s* (2013: 564-565); Steven Harris, *Communism on Tomorrow Street: Mass Housing and Everyday Life after Stalin* (2014: 180-181); Nina Khrushcheva, *The Lost Khrushchev: A Journey into the Gulag of the Russian Mind* (2015: 149-151); James Heinzen, *The Art of the Bribe: Corruption Under Stalin, 1943-1953* (2017: 217-218); Benjamin Tromly, *Cold War Exiles and the CIA: Plotting to Free Russia* (2020: 225-226); James Ryan and Susan Grant, eds., *Revisioning Stalin and Stalinism: Complexities, Contradictions, and Controversies* (2021: 521-522).

Journal of Contemporary History: Johannes Due Enstad, *Soviet Russians under Nazi Occupation: Fragile Loyalties in World War II* (2020: 224-226).

PaRDeS: Sasha Senderovich. *How the Soviet Jew Was Made* (forthcoming).

Russian Review: Gleb Albert, *The Charisma of World Revolution: Revolutionary Internationalism in Early Soviet Society, 1917-1927* (2024: 304-305); Susan C.I.

Grunewald, *From Incarceration to Repatriation: German Prisoners of War in the Soviet Union* (forthcoming).

Slavic Review: Karl Qualls, *Stalin's Niños: Educating Spanish Civil War Refugee Children in the Soviet Union, 1937-1951* (2021: 431-432); Alfred J. Rieber, *Stalin as Warlord* (2023: 1079).

Web Publications:

“Transliterating non-ASCII characters with Python.” *The Programming Historian*. (<http://programminghistorian.org/lessons/transliterating>)

“Abstractualized,” blog and web application platform for digital humanities research using data visualization and data mining. (<http://www.abstractualized.com>)

Manuscripts in Development:

“Stalinist Antisemitic Trials and Soviet-Jewish Life in Ukraine after World War II” (250pp. monograph)

Edited edition of Abram Friman’s *1919* (450pp. novel translated by Avital Tsype, edited and introduced by Seth Bernstein, with funding from Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida, translation in process)

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships:

Waldo W. Neikirk Term Professorship, University of Florida, 2024-29.

Faculty Award, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Council (2024).

Spark Grant, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (2024).

Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund, University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (2023).

Global Fellows Award, University of Florida International Center (2021).

Higher School of Economics, Student-Teacher Research Team Grant: “Soviet Digital Archives Data Investigation Methodology Group” (SDADIM) (2018; 2019).

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Pearl Resnick Fellow (2017).

Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (2010-13).

International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) Individual Advanced Research Opportunities (IARO) (2010-11).

University of Toronto Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine Travel Grant (2010; 2012).

University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship (2008-10).

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Fellowship (2006-07; 2007-08).

Invited Talks:

“Returning to Stalin: Wild Re-Sovietization in Allied-Occupied Germany.” Global Affairs Colloquium Series, George Mason University, March 13, 2024.

“Fall of a New Soviet-Jewish Person: The Unmasking of Anti-Antisemite Aleksandr Litinskii, aka American Spy Big Boss.” Vanderbilt University, East Europe and Eurasia Seminar, January 25, 2024.

“Return to the Motherland: The KGB’s Campaign to Attract the Ukrainian Diaspora in the 1950s.” Jordan Center, New York University, March 9, 2023.

Peripheral Histories Digital Spatial History Roundtable (participant). Online, December 6, 2021.

“Digital Approaches to the Memory of the Great Patriotic War: Negotiating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods.” University of Tromsø, Tromsø, Norway, September 23, 2021.

“Sovetskie kollaboranisty v period Vtoroi mirovoi voyny.” [“Soviet Collaborators during World War II”] Gulag Museum, Moscow, Russia, December 19, 2018.

“Moving Agency: Jewish and non-Jewish Migrants to and from Soviet Ukraine in the Postwar and Early Cold War.” Kyiv-Mohyla University, Jewish Studies Program, Kyiv, Ukraine, March 22, 2018.

“Mapping over Time: Researching and Teaching Soviet History through GIS.” Conversations in the Digital Humanities, Central European University, Budapest, March 7, 2017.

“Burying the Alliance: The Politics of the Sacred in the Repatriation of Allied Dead from Soviet Occupied Germany.” Workshop at European University, St. Petersburg, May 21, 2015.

“Age Has a Political Meaning: The Great Terror and Soviet Youth.” University College Dublin, April 14, 2014.

“Remembering War, Becoming Soviet: The Impact of World War II in Contemporary Digital Commemoration.” Central European University, Budapest, January 28, 2014.

Conference Presentations:

- “Big Brother, Where Art Thou? Commentary on AI and Police Documents.” Researching the NKVD/KGB and the Opening of Soviet Secret Police Archives in Ukraine, 2014-2024, Prague, Czech Republic, June 21, 2024.
- “National in Form, Fascist in Content: The Propagandist Camp at Wustrau, Germany.” Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, Chapel Hill, March 14, 2024.
- “(Machine) Processing War: What Can a Computer Vision Algorithm Tell Us about Soviet War Films?” Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual convention, Philadelphia, November 30, 2023.
- “Jewish Self-Defense between Fiction and Falsification: The Intertextual Story of Boris Sandro and the Novel 1919.” Ukraine and the Jews: An Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Florida, Gainesville, October 3, 2023.
- “Triple Agent: The Convoluted Anti-Antisemitic Plot of Aleksandr Borisovich, AKA American Spy BB.” Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, Gainesville, April 1, 2023.
- “Sovietization between the Holocaust and Stalin: The Rise and Fall of a Jewish Charitable Committee in Mukachevo, Transcarpathian Ukraine.” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 19, 2022.
- “The Secret Police Officer as an Oral Historian in the Late Stalinist Period.” Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual convention, New Orleans (online), December 2, 2021.
- “Introduction to Natural Language Processing for DH Research with SpaCy – A Fast and Accessible Library that Integrates Modern Machine Learning Technology.” DH 2019, Utrecht, Netherlands, July 8, 2019.
- “Contested Resistance: The NKGB Investigation of Soviet Underground Organizations in Wartime Leipzig.” Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual convention, Boston, December 7, 2018.
- “Is there a Russian DH?” Bristol UK-Russia Research Symposium, University of Bristol, UK, January 20, 2018.
- “Vektory vozvrashcheniia: Mnozhestvo sudeb repatriantov v Stalinskom SSSR posle Vtoroi mirovoi voyny.” [“Vectors of Return: The Many Fates of Repatriates to Stalin’s USSR after the Second World War”] Conference “Kriegsgefangenschaft” [Prisoners of War], Russian-German Museum, Berlin, Germany, June 13-14, 2017.

- “Dal’nee chtenie istoricheskoi pamiati: Runet cherez metodologiiu ‘tsifrovoi gumanitaristiki’.”
[“Reading Historical Memory at a Distance: Exploring the RuNet through Digital Humanities”] Conference “Markets of Memory,” Memorial and the Laboratory for Public History, Moscow, Russia, January 19, 2017.
- “Returnees or Refugees? The Reception of Soviet Repatriates in the USSR, 1945-1946.”
International conference “The Knowledge Factor: Refugees in Central and Eastern Europe, 1912-2001,” Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe, Marburg, Germany, December 8-9, 2016.
- “Return to the Motherland: Repatriation to the USSR after the Death of Stalin.” Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual convention, Washington, DC, November 17, 2016.
- “You Can’t Leave Home Again: Correspondence between Soviet Returners and Non-Returners.”
Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual convention, Philadelphia, November 19, 2015.
- “Repatriation and Conflict in Postwar Soviet Society.” International conference
“Liberation, Occupation, Retribution,” Higher School of Economics, Moscow, June 4, 2015.
- “Authority, Opportunism and Trust in Wartime Rural Russia: *Bezylastie* and the Process of Occupation in Riazan, November-December 1941.” International Workshop,
“Occupations and Liberations in World War II: New Research on the Soviet Experience,” Georgetown University, October 31-November 1, 2014.
- “Soiuzdetfilm in Evacuation in Stalinabad.” International Conference, “Soviet Studios and the Second World War,” Moscow, June 14, 2014.
- “Saving Youth from Crime and the Law: The Komsomol and the Soviet Anti-Shirking Law of 1940.” Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual convention, Boston, November 21, 2013.
- “‘Lifestyle Cannot Be Separate from Politics’: Purges and Degeneracy in the Komsomol, 1936-1938.” Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual convention, New Orleans, November 18, 2012.
- “A Polygraph for Normality: Ideal and Lived Cultural Norms in Russia through Television’s Detektor Lzhi.” Dynamics of Cultural Globalization in Post-Soviet Space Junior Scholars Workshop, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, June 11-13, 2012.
- “Learning from the Enemy: Soviet Studies of Fascist Youth Organizations, 1934-1941.” Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies annual convention, Washington, November 17, 2011.

“Seattle/Seiatel’: An American Agricultural Commune in the Soviet Union.” co-written with Robert Cherny (San Francisco State University), American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch, Santa Clara, August 13, 2010.

Campus Talks:

“War in Ukraine: Why, How, and What Happens Next.” University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, March 1, 2022.

“Return to the Motherland: A Soviet Woman’s Journey from Nazi Germany to Stalin’s Gulag.” University of Florida, Center for European Studies, February 2, 2022.

“Liberated in a Foreign Land: Wild Re-Sovietization and Non-Return among Soviet Displaced Persons in Allied-Occupied Europe.” University of Florida, History Department Workshop, March 19, 2021.

“Wild Repatriation: Life in the Soviet DP Camps of Allied-Occupied Germany.” Higher School of Economics, Moscow, December 20, 2019.

“Burying the Alliance: Interment, Repatriation and the Politics of the Sacred in Occupied Germany.” Higher School of Economics, Moscow, March 11, 2016.

“The Great Terror as a Moral Panic: Youth in 1937-38.” Higher School of Economics, Moscow, January 29, 2015.

“The Komsomol and the Militarization of Youth on the Eve of the Second World War.” Higher School of Economics, Moscow, December 3, 2013.

“Valedictorians of the Soviet School: Chess, Nationalism and the Cold War.” Prandium Lecture Series, University of Toronto-Mississauga, March 19, 2012.

Teaching Experience:

University of Florida, Department of History (2020-present):

“History of Twentieth Century Russia” (EUH 3576).

“Jewish Life in Revolutionary Russia” (EUH 3931/JST 3930).

“Imperial Russian History through Film” (In Russian) (EUS 3937/RUW 4932).

“Crime and Punishment in Authoritarian Europe” (EUH 3931).

“Imperial Russian History” (EUH 3575).

“History Practicum” (HIS 3942).

“Research Seminar: World War II in Europe” (EUH 4930).

“Digital Methods in History (Undergraduate)” (HIS 3931).

“Digital Methods in History (Graduate)” (EUH 5934/WOH 5932).

Graduate Supervision: PhD Advisor – 2 Students; PhD Committee – 6 Students; MA Advisor – 1 Student.

Higher School of Economics, Department of History (2016-19):

“Culture, Society, and War in Twentieth Century Europe,” Third-Year Course.

“Digital Cold War: Creating the Online History of the Postwar World,” Project Seminar.

“History of the Holocaust,” Third-year Course.

“History of War and Military Conflict,” Third-Year Course.

“Introduction to Digital Humanities,” Second-Year Course (co-taught).

“Problems of Russian Political History,” Master’s Course.

“Social History,” Third-Year Course (co-taught).

Student Supervision: MA Program – 4 Students; BA Program – 13 Students.

University of Toronto, Department of History (2012-13):

“History of Twentieth Century Russia” (HIS351).

Departmental and Professional Service (selected):

University of Florida Fulbright Committee, 2024-present.

Chair of Ad Hoc Committee on Digital History, Department of History, University of Florida, 2024-25.

Search Committee Chair, Assistant Director for Digital Humanities, Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere, 2023-24.

Search Committee Chair, European History Lectureship, 2023-24.

External Advisory Board Member, Center for European Studies, University of Florida, 2023-2024.

Communications Coordinator, Department of History, University of Florida, 2022-present.

Conference Organizer, Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, 59th Annual Conference in Gainesville, Florida, 2023.

Advisory Board Member, Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, University of Florida, 2022-present.

Associate Editor, *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, 2022-present.

Member, Digital Humanities Working Group, University of Florida, 2021-24.

Member, History Dissertation Council, Higher School of Economics, 2018-23.

Chair, Dissertation Defense of Timofey Medvedev, 2024.

Member, Dissertation Defense of Vladislav Rybakov, 2024.

Member, Dissertation Defense of Yanina Karpenkina, 2018.

Member, Regional Studies Dissertation Council, Higher School of Economics, 2020-22.

Board Member, Centre for Digital Humanities, Higher School of Economics, 2016-19.

Board Member, Slavic Studies Digital Humanities Group, 2015-20.

Organizer, ASEES 2016 Digital Humanities Pre-Conference (THATCamp).

Editor, *Past Tense: Graduate Review of History*, 2012-13.

Peer Reviewer:

Articles: *Ab Imperio*; *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*; *Cultural and Social History*; *Demokratizatsiya*; *Digital Icons*; *East European Jewish Affairs*; *European Journal of Cultural Studies*; *Journal of Modern History*; *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*; *International Journal of the History of Sport*; *Journal of Genocide Studies*; *Kritika*; *Memory Studies*; *Nationalities Papers*; *Russian Review*; *Slavic Review*; *Soviet and Post-Soviet Review*.

Books: Amherst University Press; Indiana University Press; Princeton University Press; University of Wisconsin Press.

Professional Development:

University of Florida, Certificate in Multicultural Mentoring, July 2021.

University of Toronto, Teaching in Higher Education (THE500), December 2012.

Languages:

Russian (fluent), Ukrainian (reading), French (reading), German (reading).

Technical Skills:

Django Web Platform, HTML/JavaScript, Microsoft Access, Python, QGIS.

Professional Memberships and Affiliations:

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

American Historical Association.