

# Alumni & Postdoc Notes



Sergei Antonov

I joined the Department of History at Yale University as a tenure-track assistant professor. I specialize in modern Russia after 1800, with particular interest in politics, culture, and society in the late imperial period (ca. 1850–1917). My research focuses on the history of Russian law, conceived broadly to include not only legislation and legal doctrines, but also ways in which legal norms and institutions impacted the daily practices of ordinary people.

My first book, *Bankrupts and Usurers of Imperial Russia: Debt, Property, and the Law in the Age of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy*, was released by Harvard University Press in 2016. Based on close readings of previously unexamined court cases, it is the first full-length history of the culture of personal debt in Russia. My current research projects focus on the culture of crime and criminal justice in late imperial Russia as well as on Russian serfdom as a legal regime.

A native of Moscow, I came to the U.S. with my family in 1992 and received my undergraduate education at Washington and Lee University and at University College, Oxford. I also hold a J.D. from NYU Law and practiced law in New York City prior to becoming a historian. At Columbia, I studied under Professor Richard Wortman and happily participated in numerous Harriman Institute and Columbia workshops and seminars. Beginning in 2013, I also developed and taught a number of advanced seminars on Russian history at Columbia as adjunct assistant professor. I am extremely grateful to the Harriman Institute for its generous support over the years.

—[Sergei Antonov](#) (Ph.D., History, 2011; Harriman Postdoctoral Fellow, 2012–2013)

I got my M.A. from Columbia in 1963, the Certificate of the Harriman Institute in 1964, and my Ph.D. from Columbia in 1966. I had taken intensive Russian at Cambridge University when I was an officer-cadet in the British Army and had been seconded to British Intelligence after service in Special Forces in Omagh, Northern Ireland. The program was called the “Joint Services School for Linguists.” I mustered out with the rating of “interpreter,” Brit-speak for “analyst.” I then did a degree at Oxford University’s Merton College in Persian-Turkish-Arabic, and instead of taking up a posting to Iran to guard British Petroleum’s pipeline, I left the army and emigrated to Canada, where I set up the Russian program at Carleton University in Ottawa. After four years, I emigrated to the United States; through the good offices of Robert Maguire I got my first American job at Dartmouth, while I was completing the dissertation. I also taught at the University of Virginia and the University of Arizona. I retired from the University of Arizona as Professor Emeritus in 2010. Since then, while I have continued to publish articles, my main focus has been organizing my research archives, which are housed at Harvard University.

One archive is the basis for a book, coauthored with my wife, Carol Garrard, *The Bones of Berdichev: The Life and Fate of Vasily Grossman*, originally published in 1996

by The Free Press; second edition published by Pen & Sword Military Ltd. Barnsley (U.K., 2012). This book won the Giovanni Comisso Premio, the Italian national prize for history/biography, and has been translated into Spanish and Italian. It is composed of documents related to Grossman's life, the Holocaust in the Occupied Soviet Union, and the repression of Soviet writers, and includes material from the secret police's own archive, "The Archive of the October Revolution."

The Houghton Library at Harvard has also accepted the research archive for our book *Russian Orthodoxy Resurgent: Faith and Power in the New Russia* (Princeton University Press, 2008; Oxford, 2009). However, it has not been catalogued and made available on the internet yet. This book was the result of my year as a Wilson Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., 2004–5. The following year I served as a senior associate member for Trinity term at St. Antony's College, Oxford University.

—**John Garrard** (M.A., 1963; Russian Institute Certificate, 1964; Ph.D., History, 1966)

I received my B.A. from Dartmouth (2005) and Ph.D. from Columbia University (2011), where I was fortunate to hold a Harriman Junior Fellowship (2010–2011). I am currently assistant professor and director of graduate studies in the Slavic Department at the University of Kansas. Beginning in 2018, I will also be editor of the *Tolstoy Studies Journal*. My training and core specialization are in nineteenth-century Russian literature, from the age of the novel through the fin de siècle. I have published an edited volume, *Russian Writers and the Fin de Siècle—The Twilight of Realism* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), as well as a special issue of the *Tolstoy Studies Journal: Anna Karenina in the 21st Century*. I have a monograph forthcoming in 2018, *Russian Grotesque Realism: The Great Reforms and Gentry Decline* (Ohio State University Press), for which I was awarded a Harriman First-Book Subvention grant, as well as another edited volume, *Beyond Moscow: Reading Russia's Regional Identities and Initiatives* (Routledge). I have written over twenty academic articles, and my writing for the public has appeared in Salon.com, the *New Republic*, Business Insider, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

—**Ani Kokobobo** (Ph.D., Slavic Languages, 2011)

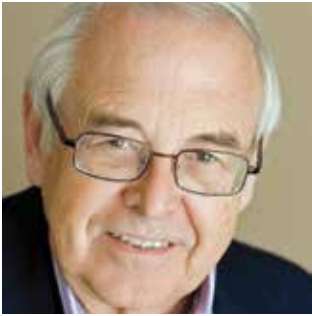
After graduating from Williams College in 1961, I entered the Russian Institute and received an M.A. and Russian Institute Certificate in 1965. My M.A. Certificate essay on post-World War II Soviet historical writing on aspects of German history was directed by Professor Alexander Dallin. Although when I came to Columbia I expected to specialize in the history of the Soviet period, I soon shifted to the study of the institutions and officials of late imperial Russia, inspired by Professor Marc Raeff, who ended up directing my Ph.D. work. During the academic year 1967–68,



John Garrard



Ani Kokobobo



Richard G. Robbins, Jr.



Lucia Savchik

I spent ten months in the Soviet Union doing research for my dissertation, guided by Professor P. A. Zaionchkovsky. I defended in 1970.

I began teaching Russian history at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 1969 and in the fall of 1975 had the good fortune to spend a semester at Columbia as senior research fellow at the Russian Institute. I returned to the USSR/Russia for extended periods of research in 1976, 1981, 1990, and 2003, supported by IREX and/or Fulbright-Hays grants. While at UNM I published two books: *Famine in Russia, 1891–1892: The Imperial Government Responds to a Crisis* (Columbia U.P., 1975) and *The Tsar's Viceroy: Russian Provincial Governors in the Last Years of the Empire* (Cornell U.P., 1987). From 1995 to 2001, I served as chairman of the History Department.

I retired in 2007 and now live with my wife, Catherine, in San Francisco, not far from our daughter and three grandchildren. When I moved to the Bay Area, I joined the local Institute for Historical Study, a lively group of independent scholars, and for three years served as its president. I also continue to do some teaching under the auspices of the SF State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. My latest book, *Overtaken by the Night: One Russian's Journey through Peace, War, Revolution, and Terror*, a biography of Vladimir Dzhunkovsky, was published this fall, in November 2017, by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

—**Richard G. Robbins, Jr.** (M.A. and Russian Institute Certificate, 1965; Ph.D., History, 1970)

In my apartment overlooking the tracks of Bishkek's main train station, I often peered down to watch passengers queue for the Bishkek-Moscow line. I had graduated with a B.A. in political science and Russian studies from Dalhousie University and was working as a consultant in postconflict stabilization at Search for Common Ground and as a freelance writer on Russian politics for Mic. I intended to complete a master's degree at some point but hadn't yet been hit over the head with a real focus apart from post-Soviet studies. It was in that old apartment complex, studying the rail tracks, that I fully realized the interconnectedness of migration and development and began to examine the effects of Soviet legacies on the region. I never took that train, but the following spring, I began my degree in international affairs, with a focus on political and economic development in former Soviet states at SIPA, and joined the Harriman Institute as a research assistant. At the Institute I found endless resources, knowledge, and camaraderie, without which my research and growth would not have been possible.

I currently work as an international consultant for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Vienna, where I focus on policy and liaison with the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. In this capacity I have the opportunity to remain connected to the region on a political and academic level and to interact with both local and international players armed with the knowledge and sensitivities the region demands. I am also a contributor and the managing editor for the *Forced Migration Forum*, a scholarly policy-platform borne out of a course at Columbia, and have contributed to *EurasiaNet* and the *Truman National Security Project*. I am a coauthor of the report "A Crowdfunding Platform for the Moldovan Diaspora" (Columbia and IOM) and of "Spheres of Influence in the Eurasian Theater" (St. Antony's College, Oxford).

—**Lucia Savchik** (M.A., SIPA, 2017)

I received my Ph.D. from Columbia in 1999 and was a Harriman Institute Postdoctoral Fellow in 1999–2000. After teaching for a year at the University of Iowa, I took a tenure-track position at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, where I have taught ever since. I received an SSRC Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2004. My book, *Threads of Empire: Loyalty and Tsarist Authority in Bashkiria, 1555–1917* (Studies of the Harriman Institute), was awarded a First Book Subvention Prize by the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. In fall 2016, I was a Short-Term Fellow at New York University’s Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, where I began a new project on the history of sugar as a commodity in late imperial Russia. I am currently professor of history at Northeastern Illinois University and chair of the History Department.

—**Charles Steinwedel** (Ph.D., History, 1999; Harriman Postdoctoral Fellow, 1999–2000)

I am an associate professor of history at Yale University. My research focuses on European intellectual history, particularly twentieth- and twenty-first century Central and Eastern Europe. I am the translator of Michał Głowiński’s *The Black Seasons* and the author of *Caviar and Ashes: A Warsaw Generation’s Life and Death in Marxism, 1918–1968* and *The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe*. My book about the 2013–2014 revolution in Ukraine, *The Ukrainian Night: An Intimate History of Revolution*, is forthcoming with Yale University Press in January 2018; presently I am at work on a longer book project titled “Phenomenological Encounters: Scenes from Central Europe.” My recent essays include “Surreal Love in Prague” (*TLS*); “Out of the Desert: A Heidegger for Poland” (*TLS*); “Rescuing the Yiddish Ukraine” (*New York Review of Books*); “Rachelka’s Tablecloth: Poles and Jews, Intimacy and Fragility ‘on the Periphery of the Holocaust,’” (*Tr@nsit Online*); “Can We See Ideas? On Evocation, Experience, and Empathy” (*Modern European Intellectual History*); “Entscheidung am Majdan: Eine Phänomenologie der Ukrainischen Revolution” (*Lettre International*); “Reading Tony Judt in Wartime Ukraine” (*New Yorker*); and “The Bard of Eastern Ukraine, Where Things Are Falling Apart.” (*New Yorker*).

—**Marci Shore** (Harriman Postdoctoral Fellow, 2001–2002)



Charles Steinwedel



Marci Shore