

Barbara Henry

Associate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures
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Education

D. Phil., Russian Literature, Oxford University, 1997.

Thesis topic: "Theatrical Parody at the Krivoie zerkalo: Russian 'Teatr miniatyur' 1908-1930." Supervisors: Dr. Julie Curtis, Prof. Gerry Smith.

MA, with distinction, Russian Language and Literature, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, 1990.

BA, Russian Language and Literature, Boston University, College of Liberal Arts, 1988.

Boston University, School of Fine and Performing Arts, Department of Theatre, 1983-85.

Teaching

Associate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literature; Affiliate, Stroum Jewish Studies Center, University of Washington

Courses taught: First-year Russian; Introduction to Russian Culture and Civilization; Major authors: Bulgakov; Babel'; East European Jewish Literature and Culture; Russian Drama and Theatre; Russian Folk Literature; Russian Comedy; "Golden Age" of Russian Literature; Using Slavic Resources; Underworlds, 20th Century Russian Literature.

Publications

Tales from the Russian Underworld (monograph under contract to Cornell University Press, manuscript to be delivered June 30, 2023).

"The Coffin-Maker: Pushkin's Literal Descent to Prose," *Modern Language Review* 118, (January, 2023): 82-98. (peer-reviewed)

"Go I Know Not Where, Bring Back I Know Not What: The Russian Folktale in Uncertain Waters," All the Russias Blog, NYU Jordan Center for the Study of Russia, May, 2020
https://jordanrussiacycenter.org/news/go-i-know-not-where-bring-back-i-know-not-what-the-russian-folktale-in-uncertain-waters/#.YjtWrbhID_Q

"Avrom Fishzon, or the Berdichev Scheherazad," Digital Yiddish Theatre Project, August 2018

<https://yiddishstage.org/avrom-fishzon-or-the-berdichev-sheherazad>

"Bulgakov's Young Doctor in the Land of the Dead," *Russian Review* 77 (July 2018): 396-411. (peer-reviewed)

"Breaking News: Yiddish Theatre Makes Money," with Alyssa Quint (YIVO), August 2016
<http://www.yiddishstage.org/2016/05/17/breaking-news-yiddish-theatre-makes-money/>

"Jacob Gordin: The Great Reformer," in *New York's Yiddish Theater: An American Story*, exhibition catalogue, Museum of the City of New York, edited by Edna Nahshon, Columbia University Press, 2016, 84-101. (peer-reviewed)

Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage: Essays in Drama, Performance, and Show Business, co-edited with Joel Berkowitz. Wayne State University Press, 2012.

Reviewed in: H-Net Reviews (July, 2013); "Yidish af der bine: naye perspektivn" (September 28, 2012), *Forverts*; National Jewish Book Council
<http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/inventing-the-modern-yiddish-stage>

Rewriting Russia: Jacob Gordin's Yiddish Drama, University of Washington Press, 2011.
Reviewed in: *Jewish Daily Forward* (April 30, 2012); H-Net Reviews (March, 2012); *Shofar* (vol. 29); *Slavic Review* (Winter, 2012); *Russian Review* (June, 2012); *Studies in American Jewish Literature* (Fall, 2012); *Slavic & East European Journal* (Winter, 2012)

"Gordin's Dialogue with Tolstoy," in *Jewish Theatre: A Global View*, ed. by Edna Nahshon, Institute for Jewish Studies: Studies in Judaica, Brill Academic Press, 2009, 25-48.

"Tolstoy on the Lower East Side: *Di Kreytser Sonata*," *Tolstoy Studies Journal*, vol. XVI, 2005: 1-19. (peer reviewed) (reprinted in *Yiddish Drama*, ed. by Ben Furnish, Layman Poupard Publishing, Columbia, SC, August 2019.)

"Yiddish Theatre in St Petersburg, 1905-1917," in *Yiddish Theatre: New Approaches*, ed. by Joel Berkowitz, Littman Library of Jewish Civilisation, 2003, 61-75. (peer reviewed)

"Koz'ma Petrovich Prutkov," *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Russian Literature in the Age of Realism*, ed. by Alyssa Dinega Gillespie (Bruccoli, Clark, Layman, 2003), 331-8. (peer reviewed)

"Theatricality, Anti-Theatricality and Cabaret in Russian Modernism," in *Russian Literature, Modernism and the Visual Arts*, ed. by Catriona Kelly and Steven Lovell, Cambridge University Press, 2000, 149-71. (peer reviewed)

"The Krivoie Zerkalo Theatre," *Europa Orientalis*, XVI, 1997: 2, 321-48.

"Reality and Illusion: Duality in Bulgakov's Theatre Plays," in *Bulgakov: The Novelist Playwright*, ed. by Lesley Milne, Harwood Academic Publishers, 1995, 84-90.

Book Reviews

Ala Zuskin Perelman, *The Travels of Benjamin Zuskin*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015, *Russian Review*, January, 2016, vol. 75, no. 2: 148.

Joseph Sherman, ed. *From Revolution to Repression: Soviet Yiddish Writing 1917-1952*. Five Leaves Publications, Nottingham, UK, 2012, for *Slavic and East European Journal* 57, no. 3 (Fall, 2013): 502-3.

Gabriella Safran, *Wandering Soul: The Dybbuk's Creator, S. An-sky* for *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 53, nos. 2, 3, 4 (June-Dec, 2011): 630

Val Vinokur, *The Trace of Judaism: Dostoevsky, Babel, Mandelstam, Levinas*, by Val Vinokur (Northwestern University Press, Evanston, Illinois, 2008), *Russian Review* 69, no. 3 (June, 2010): 509-10.

Twentieth Century Russian Literature: Selected Papers from the Fifth World Congress of Central and East European Studies, Warsaw, 1995, edited by Karen L. Ryan; Barry P. Scherr. *Russian Review* 61, no. 1 (January, 2002): 148-9.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2679513>

Russia. Women. Culture. Indiana, 1996, edited by Helena Gosciolo and Beth Holmgren. *Slavonica* 3, no. 2 (1996/7): 97-8.

Pierrot in Petrograd: Commedia dell'arte/Balagan in Twentieth-Century Russian Theatre and Drama. Montreal and Kingston, 1993, by J. Douglas Clayton.

The Slavonic and East European Review 73, no. 2 (April, 1995): 300-01.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable4211791>

A History of Russian Women's Writing, 1820-1992. Oxford, 1994. *Slovo*, volume 8.1 (1995).

<http://www.ssees.ac.uk/slovo/vol81.htm>

Conferences Organized

Yiddish Theatre Revisited: New Perspectives on Drama and Performance, May 7-9, 2006 (co-organized with Prof. Joel Berkowitz, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee).

An international conference with leading scholars of Yiddish literature and theatre, who presented their research on the history, repertoire and legacies of the Yiddish theatre.

Sponsored by the UW Stroum Jewish Studies Center, the Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, the Chaim Schwarz Foundation for Yiddish Culture, and the Dept of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Total budget: \$25,000

Yiddish: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Northwestern University, April 5-6, 2003.

Devoted to newest research in the field of Yiddish literature, theatre, and linguistics.

Sponsored by Northwestern Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies, and Chicago YIVO.

Total budget: \$5000

Lectures and Conference Presentations

"The Berdichev Sheherezad: Memoirs of Avrom Fishzon," *The Jewish Picaresque*, ASEEEES virtual panel, October, 2022 (presenter and organizer of two linked panels)

"Bulgakov's Doctor Stories," invited presentation/discussion, Medical humanities with Dr. Matthew Morrison, Yale University, October, 2022 (Zoom)

"By Way of Avernus: Chekhov's *Ostrov Sakhalin*," presenter, *Revisiting the Dead House: Late 19th Century Prison Literature*, ASEEEES national conference, New Orleans, 2022

Sawchen Lecture, University of British Columbia, North American Dostoevsky Society, "Road, River, and Book: the Russian Literary Underworld," January 26, 2021 (invited)

"Road, River, and Book: the Russian Literary Underworld," presenter, *Under, Metaphorically*, ASEEEES national conference, virtual panel, 2020

"The World of the Russian Folktale," Deschutes Public Library, Bend, OR, January 25 & 26, 2019 (invited)

"Haunted Undertakings and Dimensional Border Crossings in Pushkin's *Grobovshchik*," presenter, *Spectral Boundaries in Russian Literature and Culture*, ASEEEES national convention, Boston 2018

"Facilis Descensus Shalomet'evo: Bulgakov's Kingdom of Shades," organizer and presenter, *The Russian Revolution as Zombie Apocalypse*, ASEEEES national convention, Chicago 2017

Roundtable, "Teaching Russian Culture," ASEEEES national convention, Washington, DC, 2016

"Bad Community Theatre: The Afterlife of Jacob Gordin?" The World of Yiddish Today, Conference, New York University, June 16-17, 2015 (invited)

"Endings & Beginnings: Mapping the Yiddish Theatre with Ancestry.com," Digital Yiddish Theatre Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, March, 2014 (invited)

"The Descent to the Underworld in Soviet Literature," AATSEEL national conference, January, 2014 (canceled due to illness)

"*Khasye the Orphan: A Jewish Persephone*," Symposium at the 2nd International Yiddish Theatre Festival, sponsored by the Segal Centre for the Performing Arts and The Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University, June 13-22, 2011 in Montreal, Quebec. (invited)

University of California at Berkeley, "The Symphony of Nations: Eli Katz Memorial Conference on Yiddish," September 15-16, 2008, conference paper, "The Pale of Settlement as Wild West." (invited)

Columbia University, Department of Germanics, Deutsches Haus: "The Lives and Lies of Jacob Gordin," April 10, 2008 (invited)

Vanderbilt University, "Reflections on Czernowitz: One Hundred Years Later," March 30-31st, 2008, conference paper, "The Accidental Nationalist: Jacob Gordin" (invited)

University of Washington, May 8, 2006, Yiddish Theatre Revisited, "Jacob Gordin in Russia."

AATSEEL national conference, December 28-30, 2004, "Tolstoy on the Lower East Side: *Di kreytser sonata*." (refereed)

University of Toronto, Soviet and Kosher: A Century of Jewish Culture in Russia, "The Many Faces of Benya Krik: Isaak Babel's *Zakat*, *Odesskie rasskazy*, and *Benya Krik*." October, 2003 (invited)

University of London, Institute of Jewish Studies, "Jewish Theatre," June, 2002. "The Perils of Performance: *Di Kreytser sonata*." (invited)

International Academic Workshop on Yiddish Drama, Theatre, and Performing Arts. Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, June 28-July 2, 1999, "Jewish Plays on the Russian Stage, Moscow and St. Petersburg, 1905-1917."

British Association for Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, Cambridge University, April, 1999, "The Pale of Settlement in Russian Drama." (refereed)

Graduate Seminar, Hilary Term, 1999, Mediaeval and Modern Languages, Sub-Faculty of Russian, "Russia's Other Camp Literature," with Dr. Philip Bullock. (invited)

British Association for Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, Mansfield College, Oxford, 20th Century Working Group, September, 1996, "The Krivoe Zerkalo."

University of Nottingham, Bulgakov Centenary Conference, April, 1991, "Duality in Bulgakov's Plays." (invited)

Community Outreach

Pre-performance talk on Ostrovsky's "The Storm," Seattle Opera, February & March, 2017

Introductory remarks, Seattle Jewish Theatre Company, staged reading of *Mirele Efros*, January, 2014

"¿Quién será? and Other Unlikely Avenues to Jewish Culture," Kol Ami Synagogue, Woodinville, May 24, 2013

"So why Yiddish?" JewDub Talks, University of Washington, November 8, 2012
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsMfS359jk4>
Viewed more than 47,000 times, March 2023

"Avrom Sutzkever: Poet and Partisan," Temple Beth Am, Seattle, March 21, 2010

"Mirele Efros: The Jewish Queen Lear," Stroum Jewish Community Center, Mercer Island, January 2010

"Issac Bashevis Singer," Temple Beth Am, Seattle, July, 2009

Intiman Theatre: "Front Porch" educational outreach, reader and discussant for *Crime and Punishment*, April 2009

Summer Seminar, "Open a Book, Open your World: Exploring International Literature," lecture on Russian literature for high-school and community college instructors, June, 2006

UW Hillel: Jewish Learning Initiative, Introductory Yiddish course, January, 2005

Media

Consultant, Fisher Features, Israeli film production company creating a documentary on the Yiddish theatre and Diaspora culture, working title: *Zayn oder nit zayn: To Be or Not To Be in Yiddish*, 2012

Interview, "Prof's New Book on Yiddish Theatre," *JT News*, February 15, 2012
<http://www.jtnews.net/index.php?columnists/item/8997/C7/>

Interview for Nextbook, "Staged Rebellion: Yiddish Playwright Jacob Gordin inspired fury and adulation", produced by Eric Molinsky, July, 2007.
<http://www.nextbook.org/cultural/feature.html?id=648>

Grants and Awards

Second Book Fellowship (\$10,000), Simpson Center for the Humanities, UW, June-Aug, 2022

Stroum Jewish Studies Center travel grant (\$1000), April 2019

College Course Initiative, funding for additional TA for Russ 110, 2012

University of Washington Royalty Research Fellowship, 2007 (\$6776)

Jewish Studies Program Research and Travel Award, 2007 (\$2500)

Chaim Schwartz Foundation for Yiddish Culture, 2006 (\$3500) (PI)

National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend Award, 2005 (\$5000)

Jewish Studies Program Conference Grant, 2005 (\$15,000)

REECAS/Ellison Center Conference Grant, 2005 (\$5000)

Slavic Department Conference Grant, 2005 (\$500)

Mellon Fellowship, 2000-2002 (\$60,000)

Max Hayward Fellowship, 1998-1999 (£15,000)

Overseas Research Student Scholarship, 1993-95 (£10,000)

Nominee, "Last Word" lecture, UW Alumni Association: 2006; 2007; 2008

Nominee, Distinguished Teaching Award, 2005

Departmental, College, and University Service

Associate chair, Slavic, 2022-

Search committee, Slavic position in Global Literary Studies, 2022

Graduate admissions, Slavic 2022, 2023

Humanities First, First Year Experience, College of Arts & Sciences initiative, 2019-

Chair, Classics department ten-year review, 2018-19

Graduate fellowship committee, Stroum Jewish Studies Center, 2017

Search committee, Slavic department chair, 2017

Graduate admissions committee, Slavic 2017

Admissions and FLAS committee, REECAS, 2016

Jewish Studies Curriculum Committee, 2014-16

Slavic "Husky Experience" committee, 2014

Lecture & discussion for JSIS 504, Autumn, 2014
Slavic Excellence Prize Committee, 2014, 2016
Search committee, English department chair (with Stephen Hinds), 2014
Search committee, assistant professor position in Jewish Studies, 2013-14
Reviewer, Royalty Research Fellowships, 2013
Chair, Cole Fellow search committee, Jewish Studies Program, 2012
Graduate student fellowship committee, Jewish Studies Program, 2012
Search committee, assistant professor position in Jewish Studies & History, 2011
Search committees, Slavic Department advisor & administrative position, 2010, 2011
Search committee, Drama School director (with Hannah Wiley), 2010
Undergraduate adviser, Slavic Department, 2009-
University of Washington Faculty Senate, 2007-2011
Faculty Committee on Instructional Quality (FICQ), 2009-10
Chair, Cole Fellow search committee, Jewish Studies Program, 2010
Co-chair, promotion committee for Bojan Belic, 2010
Reviewer, Royalty Research Fellowships, 2009
Library Research Awards for Undergraduates committee, 2004, 2005, 2007
Jewish Studies Program, Faculty Grant Committee, 2008
Jewish Studies Program, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2007
Language Proficiency Committee, Slavic Department and REECAS/Ellison Ctr, 2007-08
REECAS Admissions Committee, 2005; 2006
Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship Committee, 2005; 2006
Admissions committee, Slavic Department, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011
Asante Prize Committee, 2007, 2009
Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society Scholarship Committee, 2004, 2005
Vadim Pahn Scholarship Committee, 2005, 2009
Lecturer Search Committee, Slavic Department, 2004.
Substitute teaching for José Alaníz (Russian 101, Russ 420); Shosh Westen (Russian 101)
Guest lecture for James West (Russ 502)
Teaching and collegial evaluations for: Gordana Crnkovic, Galya Diment, José Alaníz, Katarzyna Dziwirek, Bojan Belic, Zoya Polack, Yaroslava Soldanova, Emily Schuckman, Lyubov' Penkova, Irene McManman, Lena Doubivko, Alsu Shakirova
Revision of Graduate Reading List, 2004-09
Revision of Honors Thesis guidelines, 2009
Panel chair, "Discourses of Empire," 8th Annual Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference, University of Washington, October 19, 2007.
Panel chair, "American Jewish Writing Today," Simpson Center Symposium April 14, 2005.

Professional Service

Manuscript review for Columbia University Press, University of Michigan Press, Bloomsbury Press, Indiana University Press, *Russian Review*, *Tolstoy Studies Journal*, University of Washington Press, Ardis

Committee on Academic Freedom and Advocacy, ASEEES, 2022-2024

Vucinich Book Prize Committee, ASEEES, 2017-19

AATSEEL abstracts reviewer since 2007

Editorial Work

Editor and Copy editor, Digital Yiddish Theatre Project
<https://web.uwm.edu/yiddish-stage/>

Co-editor, with Joel Berkowitz, *Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage: Essays in Drama, Performance, and Show Business*

Multi-author volume representing the latest research on Yiddish drama and performance, with articles by established and up-and-coming scholars in Jewish studies, Wayne State University Press, 2012. Editor, co-author of introduction, compiled comprehensive index.

Digital Humanities

Digital Yiddish Theatre Project, an international research group working to create an interactive online archive of Yiddish dramatic texts, visual materials, maps, biographies, musical scores and sound recordings. Working groups convened at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, in March, 2014, October, 2015, April 2019, July, 2021 (virtual), April, 2023.