

**OLGA NECHAEVA**E-mail: [nechaeva@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:nechaeva@sas.upenn.edu)Website: [onechaeva.com](http://onechaeva.com)**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. (in progress) University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA). Comparative Literature and Literary Theory. Since 2018 – expected completion in summer, 2024. 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). Magna cum laude in 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, 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**

“The Instruction of Non-Soviet Writers at the Gorky Literary Institute: Gaoussou Diawara and Malian Literature.” In: *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. *Zbornik Matice srpske za slavistiku*, 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://jordanrussiacycenter.org/news/mali-2023-how-russia-made-its-way-into-malian-life/>

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

- 2024 “The School for Aspiring Authors: Briusov on Creative Writing Instruction.” Briusov Readings 2023. Yerevan, Armenia. Online. Forthcoming.
- Participant in roundtable “The GDR in Slavic and East European Studies: East Germany as a Point of Contact during the Cold War.” American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference. Las Vegas, NV. Forthcoming.
- 2023 “„Zwischen Moskau und Leipzig“: Exchange Programs between the Gorky Literary Institute and the Becher Literary Institute in the 1970s–1980s.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention. Philadelphia, PA.
- Participant in roundtable “Centering Indigeneity in Russian Studies II: Transdisciplinary Possibilities of Critical Indigenous Theory.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) 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.
- “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.
- “The Gorky Literary Institute as a Network.” American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference. Online.
- “The Soviet Literatures of Dagestan and the Gorky Literary Institute.” American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference. Online.
- Participant in roundtable “Indigeneity in Post-Russia-Centric Pedagogy.” American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference. Online.
- “Ivan Kharabarov and Iurii Pankratov at the Crossroads.” Modern Language Association (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.
- “Networks, Coalitions, and Factions at the Gorky Literary Institute: a Digital Humanities Analysis.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) 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.
- “*The Little Library of a Young Writer: an Attempt to Transfer Literary Experience Between Generations.*” Theories and Practices of Literary Craft. National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia (online).
- “The Gorky Literary Institute, Gaoussou Diawara, and Malian Literature.” American Comparative Literature Association (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.” American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (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.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) 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.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Meeting. Online.
- 2020 “Socialist Content, (Inter)National Form: The Gorky Literary Institute and Non-Russian Writers.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) 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.
- “Teaching Creative Writing in the Soviet Union in the 1920s.” Constructivist Criticism Workshop for Graduate Students in the Social Sciences and Humanities Studying Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. New York University and Columbia University in the City of New York. New York, NY.
- “The Gorky Literary Institute: On the Emergence of a New Class of Soviet Writers in the 1930s–Early 1940s.” American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference. San Diego, CA.
- 2019 “Creative Writing Programs in the Soviet Union in the 1920s–1930s: From Briusov’s Writers Institute to the Gorky Literary Institute.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention. San Francisco, CA.

- 2017 “Literary Canon in Russia in the 1920s: Role Models for Aspiring Writers.” Russian Literature in Comparative Perspective. 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.

### **CONFERENCES, STREAMS, AND PANELS ORGANIZED**

- 2024 “The GDR in Slavic and East European Studies: East Germany as a Point of Contact during the Cold War.” Roundtable organizer. American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference. Las Vegas, NV. Forthcoming.
- 2023 “Literature, Art, and Education Across Borders: Soviet-Eastern European Cultural Exchanges during the Cold War.” Panel organizer. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention. Philadelphia, PA. Forthcoming.
- “Theories and Practices of Literary Craft.” Conference co-organizer. National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia.
- “Network Analysis of Soviet and Post-Soviet Literature.” Panel organizer. American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference. Online.
- “Indigenous Possibilities in Post-Russian Spaces.” Stream co-organizer. American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference. Online.
- 2022 “Soviet Literature as a Network: Institutions, Languages, People.” Panel organizer. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention. Chicago, IL.
- 2021 “Theories and Practices of Literary Craft.” Conference co-organizer. National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia. Online.
- 2020 “Cultural Transfers: How Discourses, Forms, and Literature Moved within the Soviet Union and across Its Borders.” Panel organizer. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention. Online.
- “Constructivist Criticism Workshop for Graduate Students in the Social Sciences and Humanities Studying Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.” Workshop co-organizer. New York University and Columbia University in the City of New York. New York, NY.
- “Soviet Literary Institutions.” Stream co-organizer. American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) Conference. San Diego, CA.

- 2019 “Tradition and Innovation in the Soviet Literary Education: Who and How Taught Literature and Writing in the 1920s–1970s.” Panel organizer. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention. California, CA.
- “Constructivist Criticism Workshop for Graduate Students in the Social Sciences and Humanities Studying Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus.” Workshop co-organizer. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2017 “Russian Literature in Comparative Perspective.” Conference co-organizer. National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia.
- “Effects of Verisimilitude: Modes of Russian Realism.” Conference co-organizer. National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia.
- 2016 “World Literature as a Soviet Cultural Project.” Conference co-organizer. National Research University Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Spring 2024 Visiting Instructor. RUSS 004 Intermediate Intensive Russian. 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. National Research University Higher School of Economics.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- 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

	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 – 2024	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 (basic)

### ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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](mailto:kmfplatt@sas.upenn.edu)  
Professor of Russian and East European Studies, Chair of Doctoral Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania
- Benjamin Nathans, [bnathans@history.upenn.edu](mailto:bnathans@history.upenn.edu)  
Alan Charles Kors Endowed Term Associate Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania
- James English, [jenglish@english.upenn.edu](mailto:jenglish@english.upenn.edu)  
John Welsh Centennial Professor of English, Faculty Director at the Price Lab for Digital Humanities, University of Pennsylvania
- Maria Alley, [malley@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:malley@sas.upenn.edu)  
Senior Lecturer in Foreign Languages, Language Program Director, University of Pennsylvania