



JAKEAUSTINROBERTSON.COM

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they | he ROBERTSON^{PHD}

HISTORIAN | TEACHER | CREATIVE

My years of experience as a professional theatermaker, historian and teacher have taught me that history is full of untold stories that can help us understand our shared human experience. I believe the performing arts have the potential to transform research and teaching into creative experiences that inspire and educate far beyond the classroom.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Medieval & Modern Languages, University of Oxford - 2025

- "Stages of Captivity: Creativity & Colonization in the Professional Gulag Theaters of Vorkuta and Magadan"

M.A. in Acting, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland - 2016

B.A. in Slavic Languages & Literatures, Princeton University - 2015

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer (The Jordan Center, New York University, 2026)

- "Staging the Gulag: Professional Theater in Stalin's Forced-Labor Empire"

Adjunct Faculty (Theatre Studies, Tisch Drama, New York University, 2025)

- "Soviet Stages: Theatre as Revolution, Repression & Resistance in the USSR"
 - A new multidisciplinary theatre studies course for Drama majors, combining lecture, discussion groups and embodied exploration through performance. Syllabus and Student Feedback available upon request.

Teaching Fellow in Russian History (Dept. of History, Warwick University, 2024-25)

- "Socialist Bodies: Dreams and Realities of the Physical in Soviet Russia"

Summer Research Laboratory (REEEC, University of Illinois, 2022)

Russian Language Tutor (Carnegie Prep, 2021-Present)

Undergraduate Lecturer (Modern Langs. Faculty, Oxford Jan 2024)

- "Gulag Worlds: New Discoveries in Life & Culture Behind & Beyond the Barbed Wire"

Language Instructor in Russian & English (ABC Languages, 2018-2022)

Summer Course Instructor, Worldview Scholar Programme (2023)

- "Russia from the Outside In: A Decolonial History of Repression, Expression & Empire"

PUBLISHED WORK

- Jake A. Robertson**, Review of Boris Wolfson's *Travesty Actors: Self & Theatre in Stalinist Culture* (Upcoming - *Modern Drama*, 2026)
- Jake A. Robertson**, "A Creative Revolution in the Classroom: Reflections on 'Soviet Stages' at NYU," in *Stanislavsky and Research Methods* (Upcoming - Routledge, 2027)
- Jake A. Robertson**, "Tragedies & Triumphs: Culture and Power in the Gulag Operas of Vorkuta and Magadan" Chapter in *Precarious Identities: Theatre of Refuge and Risk in Russia and East Central Europe* (Upcoming - Iowa University Press, 2026)
- J. A. Robertson and D. T. Kozlova**. "Khudozhestvennaia kul'tura GULAGa kak fenomen v amerikanskoi i rossiiskoi istoriografii". *Sotsial'no-kul'turnye protsessy na territorii Komi kraia: Istoriia i sovremennost'* (Anthology) (Syktyvkar, 2014)

ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

- Narrating the Gulag Workshop** (Organizer/Presenter/Performer | Oxford 2025)
- Na stsenu! From the Footnotes to the Footlights** (Founder/Producer/Artist | ASEES Convention, 2024-Present)
- The first live theater event in the conference's history, 'Na stsenu!' is a showcase of research-based creative projects by an international cohort of scholar-artists.
- Rethinking Soviet & Post-Soviet Research Project** (Organizer | Oxford 2023)
- Decolonizing and Decentering Slavonic Studies at Oxford and beyond.
 - Research Center for the Humanities Critical-Thinking Communities Grant Winner
- Oxford Reimagining Performance Network** (Convenor 2022-2023)
- Kruzhok: Slavonic Work-in-Progress Group** (Founder/Convenor 2022-2024)
- Interdisciplinary, interdepartmental group for academic and mental health support

CREATIVE PROJECTS

- Sandra Lezenbaum** (Drag Icon & America's Love Coach | Global 2019-today)
- Sandra's single-handedly solving NYC's Cost of Loving Crisis. With original Saungs and transformative Love Lezzons, she's leading the connection revolution we all need right now | saundralezenbaum.com
- Songbird** (Writer/Performer | In Development 2025-26)
- A new play centering the life and music of queer Soviet cabaret icon and Gulag theater star Vadim Kozin in the context of anti-LGBT campaigns in Russia today.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Clarendon Fund Scholarship of Oxford University & University College (2021-2025)

Oxford Research Grants:

- University College Grants: Old Members' Trust (2022, 2023), Keasbey (2023, 2024)
- Modern Langs. Grants: Ilchester Grant (2022, 2023), Graduate Travel (2022)

BASEES Postgraduate Research & Development Grant (2024)

Title VIII Research Grant (U.S. Dept. of State, 2022)

St. Andrew's Society of New York Scholarship (2015-2016)

Princeton Institute for International & Regional Studies Fellowship (2014)

HONORS & AWARDS

Best Emerging Artist (For *MADMAN*, United Solo Festival NYC 2018)

Moses Taylor Pyne Prize (2015)

- Princeton's highest undergraduate distinction, two conferred yearly

Phi Beta Kappa Member Class of 2015

Nicholas Bachko Jr. Scholarship Prize in Slavic Langs. & Literatures (2014)

Montgomery Raiser 1992 Thesis Prize (2015)

Lewis Center for the Arts Award in Theater (2013 & 2014)

Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence (2012 & 2013)

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Russian - Advanced

- Princeton in Petersburg Language Intensive (2012)
- American Councils Russian Language & Area Studies Program (2013)

Georgian - Intermediate

- Oxford School of Global & Area Studies Georgian Programme (2021-2023)

Other Relevant Skills:

- Theatermaking: Professional Actor (Off-Broadway, The Globe, Regional US & UK)
- Public Speaking, Workshop and Group Event Facilitation, Improv Performance, Drag Performance, Comedy/Sketch/Lyric Writing & Performance, Clowning

REFERENCES

Available upon request.