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University College, Oxford

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JAKE A. ROBERTSON

they/he

RESEARCHER & STORYTELLER

with a passion for bringing scholarship and art together. My years of experience as a professional theatermaker and freelance historian have convinced me that history is full of untold stories that can help us understand our shared human experience and that the performing arts hold a unique creative potential to bring those stories out of the Ivory Tower and into our world.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Soviet History, Theater, the Gulag, Art & Authoritarianism, "Periphery" Studies

EDUCATION

University College, Oxford (Clarendon Scholar)

- DPhil (PhD) in Modern Languages (Russian) Exp. Completion, Mar 2025
- Supervisors: Polly Jones and Dan Healey
- Dissertation: "Stages of Captivity: Professional Theater in Gulag Capitals of Vorkuta and Magadan"

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Glasgow, UK)

- M.A. in Classical & Contemporary Text (Acting) - 2016

Princeton University (Princeton, NJ)

- B.A. in Slavic Languages & Literatures, summa cum laude - 2015
- Certificates: Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies; Theater

INITIATIVES & LEADERSHIP ROLES

Oxford Reimagining Performance Network (Convenor 2022-Present)

- Dragademia: Show & Tell (Panel/Performance Spectacular) – Termly

KRUZHOK: Slavonic Work-in-Progress Group (Founder/Convenor 2022-Present)

An interdisciplinary initiative providing academic and mental health support for graduate students in depts. including Modern Langs., History & Area Studies.

Rethinking Soviet & Post-Soviet Research Project (Organizer)

Decolonizing and Decentering Slavonic Studies at Oxford and beyond.

Recipient of The Oxford Research Center for the Humanities (TORCH) Critical-Thinking Communities Grant (2023) Includes: Network-Building, Reading Grps., New Archival Strategies Network, Decentering and Digitizing Soviet & Post-Soviet Research International Workshop (Oxford, September 2023)

PUBLISHED WORK

J. 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 (Co-Edited Volume, Iowa University Press)

Jake 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' (Sbornik statei) (Syktyvkar, 2014)

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Assn. for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Conference 2023

- 4-Panel Series: Decentering Soviet Theater (Organizer, Chair & Participant)
Paper: "Proteges on the 'Periphery': The Gulag Legacy of Meyerhold, Stanislavsky, and Nemirovich-Danchenko"

Medieval & Modern Languages Graduate Conference (Oxford 2023)

- Pres: "Art on the Edge: Patronage and Precarity in Gulag Theaters on the Soviet 'Periphery'"

British Association for Slavonic & East European Studies (BASEES) Conference 2023

- Panel: "Freed with No Right to Leave: Former Gulag Prisoners & Their Lives on the Soviet 'Periphery'" (Organizer & Participant)
 - Paper: "Culture Held Captive: Art and Life for Former Gulag Theatermakers on the 'Periphery'"

ASEEES Conference 2022

- Panel: "Forgotten Faces of the Gulag: Interaction, Creation, and Liminal Spaces in the World of Forced Labor" (Organizer & Participant)
 - Paper: "Reviews with No Names: Patronage, Performance, and Precarity in the Gulag Theater of Vorkuta"

Slavonic Research Seminar (Oxford Faculty of Medieval & Modern Langs. (MML))

- Pres.: "Russian Research Reinvented: Scholarship & Creative Engagement" (2022)
- Pres.: "Patrons or Puppetmasters: Camp Bosses and the Gulag Operas of Vorkuta and Magadan."

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecture for Students of Oxford Faculty of MML (Jan 2024)

- "Gulag Worlds: Solzhenitsyn, Shalamov, and Life and Culture Behind and Beyond the Barbed Wire"

Summer Course Instructor, Worldview Scholar Programme (2023)

- For this I created an original course: "Russia from the Outside In: A Decolonial History of Repression, Expression & Empire"

REEEC Summer Research Laboratory Associate (University of Illinois 2022)

Summer Research Laboratory Associate (University of Illinois 2022)

Freelance Russian Language Instructor (2020-Present)

Teacher of Russian & English, ABC Languages NYC

(2018-2021) Asst. Instructor to Prof. S. Morrison, Princeton Global Seminar Moscow

(2019) Editor/Research Asst./Translator for Profs. Deborah Kaple, Caryl Emerson,

Olga Hasty, and R. N. Sandberg, Princeton University (2017-2021)

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

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

- Moses Taylor Pyne Prize (2015)
 - Princeton's highest undergraduate distinction, two conferred yearly
- Nicholas Bachko Jr. Scholarship Prize in Slavic Langs. & Literatures (2014)
- Phi Beta Kappa Member Class of 2015
- 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

Other Relevant Skills:

- Public Speaking, Theater, Improvisation, Comedy/Sketch/Lyric Writing, Clowning

VOLUNTEER WORK

- St. Andrew's Society of New York, Scholar Network Manager (2020-22)
- Brotherhood Sister Sol GRE Advising (NYC, 2019)
- The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (2010-11)
- Princeton Community Action (Volunteer, Fall 2011)

REFERENCES

Provided upon request.