

SEAN GRIFFIN

Curriculum vitae

5 December 2023

EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2010 M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2005 B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science, Pepperdine University, *magna cum laude*

Additional Schooling

- 2007-2011 (summers) Davis School of Russian, Middlebury College
2009 (summer), 2010-2011 Herzen Pedagogical University, St Petersburg, Russia
2002-2003 Universite Cathelique de Lyon, Lyon, France

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENTS

- 2023- present Associate Professor (tenure-track). University of Notre Dame.
Department of German and Russian.
- 2021-2023 Core Research Fellow. Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies.
University of Helsinki.
- 2020-2021 Lecturer. Dartmouth College.
Department of Russian and Department of Religion.
- 2017- 2020 Postdoctoral Fellow. Society of Fellows. Dartmouth College.
Department of Russian and Department of History.
- 2016-2017 VolkswagenStiftung Fellow. University of Münster.
Department of History.
- 2015 Visiting Assistant Professor. Stanford University.
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.
- 2014- 2016 Lecturer. University of California, Los Angeles.

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2019

The Liturgical Past in Byzantium and Early Rus
Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought, Fourth Series
Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press

*Winner, W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize, 2020
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

*Winner, Ecclesiastical History Society Book Prize, 2021
Ecclesiastical History Society

*Paperback edition, 2020

*Reviewed in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Slavic Review*, *The Russian Review*,
The Journal of Ecclesiastical History, *Speculum*, *Kritika*, *Medieval Encounters*,
Canadian-American Slavic Studies, *Logos*, *Church History*, *Scandia*, *Orientalia*
Christiana Periodica, and *Antiphon*.

Books in Progress

The Sacred Reign of Vladimir Putin: Religion, Memory, War
Under contract with the “Religion and Conflict Series” at Cornell University Press

The Secret Confessions of Father Kuksha: Russian Orthodoxy in the Age of Putin
Proposal under review with Princeton University Press

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

January 2024

“Putin’s Holy War of the Fatherland: Sacred Memory and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.” *The Russian Review*, “Rupture: When Things Fall Apart” Special Edition, pp. 1-14.

2021

‘Revolution, *Raskol*, and Rock ‘n’ Roll: The 1,020th anniversary of the Day of the Baptism of Rus’. *The Russian Review*, v. 80/2. Lawrence, KS: Wiley Periodicals, pp. 183-208.

*Winner, Eve Levin Prize, 2022

2020

‘Putin’s Medieval Weapons in the War against Ukraine’. *Studies in*

Medievalism, v. 29. Karl Fugelso (ed.). Suffolk, UK: Boydell and Brewer, pp. 13-21.

2020 «Аки деньица предъ слнцмь: литургические истоки изображения княгини Ольги в Повести временных лет». *Древняя Русь. Вопросы медиевистики*, no. 1 (79) ['The Dayspring Before the Sun: The Liturgical Origins of the Image of Princess Ol'ga in the *Rus Primary Chronicle*', *Ancient Rus. Questions of Medieval Studies*]. Moscow: Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences, pp. 96-109.

2020 «Евхаристический подтекст мученичества князей Бориса и Глеба». *Вестник Санкт-Петербургского Университета. История*, v. 65 (no. 1) [The Eucharistic Subtext of the Martyrdom of Princes Boris and Gleb'. *Journal of St Petersburg University. History*]. St Petersburg: St Petersburg University Press, pp. 5-18.

2019 «Византийская литургия и создание Повести временных лет» ['Byzantine Liturgy and the Making of the *Rus Primary Chronicle*']. *Ruthenica*, v. 15. Kyiv: Institute of History, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, pp. 7-44.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

2013 'Le baptême d'Ol'ga dans le *Récit des temps passés* ou le palimpseste liturgique'. *Ecrire et réécrire l'histoire russe, d'Ivan Terrible à V.O Kliuchevskii*. Pierre Gonnew (ed.). Paris: Institut d'études slaves, pp. 159-168.

Peer-Reviewed Encyclopedia Entries

2022 'Rus'. *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Fourth edition. Andrew Louth (ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2018 'Vasily Rozanov (1856-1919)'. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*. Megan Swift (ed.). London: Routledge.

Web-based Publications

2022 'Russian World or Holy World War? The Real Ideology of the Invasion of Ukraine'. *Public Orthodoxy*. New York, NY: Fordham University.
<https://publicorthodoxy.org/2022/04/12/russian-world-or-holy-world-war/>

2022 'Putinin sodan temppeli: Venäjän asevoimien pääkatedraali'. [Putin's Temple of War: The Main Cathedral of the Russian Armed Forces]. *Areiopagi*. Helsinki, Finland: University of Helsinki.
<https://www.areiopagi.fi/2022/05/putinin-sodan-temppeli/>

Articles in Progress

“The Dark Double: Russian Orthodoxy in Andrei Zviagintsev’s *Leviathan*”
Article 95% finished and preparing for submission to *Slavic Review*

Media and Digital Humanities Projects

Big Data and Big Novels: Text Mining the Prose of the Russian Revolution (2016)

Russian Orthodoxy in Alaska: Old World Faith in the New World (2017-2020)
Documentary film in collaboration with Randall Balmer

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

External Awards and Funding

2021-2023	Core Fellowship. Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. University of Helsinki (€123,700)
2021-2023	Gerda Henkel Stiftung Research Fellowship (€90,800)
2022	Eve Levin Prize (\$250)
2021-22	Luce/ACLS Fellowship in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs (\$63,000)
2021	Ecclesiastical History Society Book Prize (£1,000)
2020	W. Bruce Lincoln Book Prize (\$1,000)
2017-20	Postdoctoral Fellowship. Society of Fellows, Dartmouth College (\$225,000)
2016-17	VolkswagenStiftung Fellowship. University of Münster, Germany (€85,000)
2012-2013	Andrew W. Mellon Pre-Dissertation Fellowship
2010-2011	Fulbright-Hays Fellowship. St Petersburg, Russia
2009	Title VII Award, State Department. St Petersburg, Russia

Awards and Competitive Funding Internal to Dartmouth College

2019-20	Venture Seed Funding (\$15,000)
2018-19	Venture Seed Funding (\$15,000)

Awards and Competitive Funding Internal to University of California, Los Angeles

2014-15	Project Grant, Center for Digital Humanities
2013-2014	Dissertation Year Fellowship
2013	Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Travel Grant, University of Oxford
2013	Humanities Division Travel Grant, Kyiv, Ukraine and Istanbul, Turkey
2012	Graduate Summer Research Mentorship
2012	Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Travel Grant. Sorbonne University.
2009-2010	Del Amo Fellowship

2008-2009 Chancellor's Prize

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2023 'Putin's Holy War of the Fatherland: Memory, Liturgy, and the Invasion of Ukraine'. Conference: Liturgy, Politics, and War in Contemporary Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe. Universität Regensburg.
- 2023 'The Great (and Holy) War of the (Orthodox) Fatherland: Sacred Memory and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine'. Conference: Usages sociaux des discours théologiques. University of Metz.
- 2023 'Narratives on Contemporary Russia'. The Night of Science. Helsinki, Finland.
- 2022 'The Lord is a man of war': Religion, Memory, and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine'. School of Modern Languages and Cultures. University of Glasgow.
- 2022 'Religion and the Invasion of Ukraine'. Center for European and Russian Studies. University of California, Los Angeles.
- 2022 'Putin's Holy War: Russian Orthodoxy and the Invasion of Ukraine'. Helsinki Think Corner. University of Helsinki.
- 2022 'The Dark Double of the Church: Desacralizing Power in *Leviathan*'. Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Yale University.
- 2022 'Sacred Power and Cinematic Protest in Post-Soviet Russia'. Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. University of Southern California.
- 2022 'Liturgical Weapons: Saint Volodymyr the Great and the Invasion of Ukraine'. Conference: Global Medievalisms. Federal University of Rio De Janeiro.
- 2022 'Saint Prince Vladimir the Great: History, Liturgy, Myth'. Russian History Museum. Jordanville, New York.
- 2021 'Putin, Stalin, and Mary the Goddess of War: Decoding the Ideology of the Main Cathedral of the Russian Armed Forces'. Faculty of Theology. Martin-Luther-Universität. Halle, Germany.
- 2021 Book Seminar: *The Liturgical Past in Byzantium and Early Rus*. Theory of History Methodological Seminar. Kyiv, Ukraine.

- 2020 'Medieval Memory Wars in Post-Socialist Russia and Ukraine'. Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages. University of Oxford.
- 2020 'The Sacred Reign of Vladimir Putin: Liturgy, Television, and the Rebirth of Holy Rus'. Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Harvard University.
- 2020 'Orthodoxy, Media, and Memory Politics in Putin's Russia'. Department of Slavic and Russian Studies. University of Arizona.
- 2019 «Литургия и летописание на Руси». Center for Kievan Rus Studies. Institute of Ukrainian History. National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.
- 2019 'God and Governance: Byzantine Liturgical Technologies in Early Rus'. Lehrstuhl für Liturgiewissenschaft. Universität Regensburg.
- 2019 'The Liturgical Past in Byzantium and Early Rus'. Early Slavonic Seminar. St Edmund Hall. University of Oxford.
- 2018 'The Roman Past in Early Rus: Byzantine Liturgy on the Northern Periphery'. Early Slavists' Seminar. Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. Harvard University.
- 2017 'Memory Eternal: Liturgy and Historiography in the Medieval Mediterranean'. Medieval Seminar. Dartmouth College.
- 2015 'Making Chronicles and Making Saints: How Prince Vladimir Became the First Bishop of Rus'. California Medieval History Seminar. Huntington Library. California Technical Institute.
- 2014 'Boris the High Priest and Gleb the Lamb: Restoring the Liturgical Context of the *Rus Primary Chronicle*'. Department of Slavonic Studies. University of Cambridge.
- 2013 'Orthodox Liturgy and the *Rus Primary Chronicle*'. *Voces Nostrates Lecture Series*. Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. University of California, Los Angeles.

Conferences Organized

- 2022 'Churches at War: Eastern Christianity and the Russian Invasion of Ukraine'. Conference organizer. Helsinki, Finland: University of Helsinki.
- 2017 'Ritual and Historiography in the Middle Ages'. Conference Organizer. Münster, Germany: Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster.
- 2014 'On Behalf of All and For All: The Place of Liturgy in Russian Cultural History'. Conference organizer. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA.

Papers

- 2023 'Patriarch Kirill (Gundiaev) of Moscow: Holy Man or Man of War?' Ecclesiastical History Society Winter Meeting.
- 2022 'God is with Us': Liturgy and the History of Holy War in Russia and Ukraine'. Collegium for Advanced Studies. University of Helsinki.
- 2022 'Putin's Holy War of the Fatherland: Russian Orthodoxy and the Invasion of Ukraine'. Christianity and Crisis Conference. Lund, Sweden: University of Lund.
- 2021 'Saint Stalin and Mary the Goddess of War: The Main Cathedral of the Russian Armed Forces'. Collegium for Advanced Studies. University of Helsinki.
- 2019 'Putin's Sacred Geopolitics: Prince Vladimir and the Holy Land of Crimea'. Association for Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- 2019 'Tele-liturgical Weapons and the War in Ukraine'. Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies Young Researchers Conference. Miami, OH.
- 2019 'The Making of Saints in Early Rus'. International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI.
- 2018 'Saint Vladimir Putin the Great? Medieval Rites and Modern Media in Post-Soviet Russia'. Association for Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Conference. Boston, MA.
- 2018 'Liturgy, History, and Memory in the Medieval Mediterranean'. International Medieval Congress. Leeds, England.
- 2018 'A Fire that Burns the Unworthy: Liturgy and Politics on the Byzantine Periphery'. International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI.
- 2017 'The Liturgical Past in Early Rus'. Liturgy and Politics in the Middle Ages: An Overlooked Legacy of Ernst H. Kantorowicz. Poznań, Poland: Uniwersytet im. A. Mickiewicza.
- 2017 'East Roman Rituals and the Creation of Rus'. International Medieval Congress. Leeds, England.
- 2017 'Liturgy, Historiography, and Politics in Early Rus'. Ritual and Historiography in the Middle Ages. Münster, Germany: Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster.

- 2014 'The 'Apostle Constantine' and the Chronicles of Medieval Rus'. Interdisciplinary Symposium: "Constantine and the Grandeur that was Rome". Oxford, England: University of Oxford.
- 2013 'The Orthodox Salvation Story: Ritual, Narrative, and Conversion in the Primary Chronicle'. Association for Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Conference. Boston, MA.
- 2012 'The Liturgical Subtext of Princess' Olga's Baptism in the Primary Chronicle'. Colloque International: Ecrire et recrire l'histoire russe, d'Ivan le Terrible a Vassili Kliutchevskii. Paris, France: Universite Paris-Sorbonne.
- 2012 'Vasilii Rozanov and the Religion of Sex'. Association for Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Conference. New Orleans, LA.
- 2012 'The Strangeness of Christ in V.V. Rozanov's Protestant Poetics'. American Association of Slavic and East European Teachers (AATSEEL) Conference. Seattle, WA.
- 2011 'Is Beauty Moral? Tolstoy, Dostoevsky and the Influence of Orthodox Liturgical Aesthetics in Nineteenth Century Russian Literature'. Sophia Institute Conference. New York, NY: Columbia University/ Union Theological Seminary.
- 2011 'Changes in Tolstoy's Axiology from *War and Peace* to *Anna Karenina*'. Davis School of Russian Graduate Student Conference. Middlebury, VT.

Campus Talks

- 2023 'Putin's Medieval Weapons in the War Against Ukraine'. Medieval Liturgy Working Group. University of Notre Dame.
- 2023 'Bombs, Bullets, and Blessings: Religion and the War in Ukraine'. Department of Church History. University of Helsinki.
- 2023 'A Theology of Victory: Patriarch Kirill (Gundiaev) and the Manufacturing of Holy War in Putin's Russia'. Department of Theology. University of Helsinki.
- 2017 'Medieval Rites and Modern Politics in Putin's Russia'. Postdoctoral Workshop. Department of History. Dartmouth College.
- 2012 'More Evidence that Liturgics Make History: The Major Feasts of the Orthodox Church and the Story of the Baptism of Rus'. Medieval and Early Modern Slavic Workshop.

2010 'The Mother of God and the mother of Rus: How Byzantine Liturgics Gave Birth to the *Primary Chronicle*'. California Slavic Colloquium. Los Angeles, CA: University of Southern California.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lead Instructor

University of Notre Dame

2023-2024 Advanced Russian
2024 Nothing is True and Everything is Possible: Politics, Media, and War in Putin's Russia

Dartmouth College

2018-2021 Nothing is True and Everything is Possible: Politics, Media, and Religion in Post-Soviet Russia
2021 The Sacred Reign of Vladimir Putin: Religion, Culture, and the Politics of Memory
2021 Russia's Game of Thrones: Medievalism from Pushkin to Putin
2021 The Age of Brainwashing: A History of Russian and East European Cinema
2021 Other Christs: Introduction to Eastern Christianity
2020 Introduction to Russian Civilization

Stanford University

2015 The Literature of Kievan and Muscovite Rus (graduate seminar)

University of California, Los Angeles

2016 Big Data and Big Novels: Text Mining the Prose of the Russian Revolution
2016 The Cross and the Sword: An Introduction to Medieval Eastern Europe and Russia
2015 Tsars, Commissars, and Capitalists: Advanced Russian through History
2014 A Cultural History of Russia: Origins to the Rise of Muscovy

Teaching Assistant

University of California, Los Angeles

2014-2015 Intermediate Russian
2012-2013, 2016 Introductory Russian
2011, 2012, 2013 Russian Civilization in the 20th Century
2010, 2012 Christianity: East and West
2009, 2011 The Great Russian Novel
2009, 2010, 2012 Introduction to Slavic Civilization
2010 Studies in Russian Literature: Dostoevsky

2009 Studies in Russian Literature: Chekhov

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

2012-2013 Committee Member, Graduate Student Committee, American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European

Departmental Service

Notre Dame

2023-2024 Book Party Organizer

UCLA

2011-2014 Co-editor, UCLA Undergraduate Slavic Journal

2011-2012 Committee Member, Slavic Languages and Literatures Recruitment Committee

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Russian and Ukrainian History

History of Religion

Eastern Christianity

Politics

Memory Studies

Liturgical Studies

Medieval Studies

Byzantine Studies

Post-Soviet Literature and Film

Media Studies

Textual Criticism

Digital Humanities

LANGUAGES

Native English

Near-native Russian

Intermediate German

Reading knowledge: Old Church Slavonic, Byzantine Greek, French, Ukrainian

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies

American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages
American Academy of Religion
Ecclesiastical History Society
Memory Studies Association: Post-socialist and Comparative Memory Studies
The Medieval Academy of America
International Society for the Study of Medievalism