

# Masha Kirasirova

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## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political and Cultural History of the Soviet Union, Empire, Orientalism, Transnational History, Central Asia, the Modern Middle East, the Global Cold War, Gender, Soviet Film

## EDUCATION

**New York University**, *Doctor of Philosophy*, New York, NY, 2014

Departments of History and Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies

**Dissertation Title:** "The Eastern International: the 'Domestic East' and the 'Foreign East' in Soviet-Arab Relations, 1917-68"

**Committee:** Jane Burbank and Zachary Lockman (advisers); Bruce Grant, Yanni Kotsonis, and Alexander Knysch

**New York University**, *Master of Philosophy*, New York, NY, 2011

Department of Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies

**Département d'Enseignement de l'Arabe Contemporain**, *Stage Annuel*, Cairo, Egypt, 2006-2007

Intensive Modern Standard and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic Program

**Brown University**, *Bachelor of Arts*, Providence RI, 2005

Majors: International Relations and English Literature

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2017- Assistant Professor, New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE

2013-2017 Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow, New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE

## BOOKS

2018 *The Routledge Handbook of the Global Sixties Between Protest and Nation-Building*, co-edited with Jian Chen, Joanna Waley-Cohen, Mary Nolan, Martin Klimke, and Marilyn Young (New York: Routledge Press, January 2018)

## SCHOLARLY ARTICLES (PEER-REVIEWED)

2017 "My Enemy's Enemy: Consequences of the CIA Operation against Abulqasim Lahuti, 1953-1954," *Iranian Studies* 50, 3 (2017): 439-465

2017 "The 'East' as a Category of Bolshevik Ideology and Comintern Administration: Students of the Arab Section of the Communist University in the 1920s," *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 18, 1 (2017): 7-34

2011 "Sons of Muslims in Moscow: Soviet Central Asian Mediators to the Foreign East, 1955-62," *Ab Imperio* 4 (2011): 106-32

## BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2018 “Charlotte Rosenthal: An Egyptian Communist Family Romance” in *The Wider Arc of Revolution*, ed. Choi Chatterjee et al. (Bloomington, Indiana: Slavica Press, 2018), (accepted, waiting for final proofs) (project website: <http://russiasgreatwar.org/index.php>)
- 2018 “Building Anti-Colonial Utopia: The Politics of Space in Soviet Tashkent in the 'Long 1960s',” in *The Routledge Handbook of the Global Sixties*, eds. Chen Jian, Masha Kirasirova, et al. (New York: Routledge Press, January 2018)
- 2015 “Orients Compared: US and Soviet Imaginaries of the Modern Middle East,” in *Interlocking Orientologies in the Cold War Era*, eds. Michael Kemper and Artemy Kalinovsky (London and New York: Routledge, February 2015)

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS (NOT PEER-REVIEWED)

- 2017 “What Vladimir Putin Really Wants in the Middle East,” *Foreign Policy* (December 2017) - <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/12/15/what-vladimir-putin-wants-in-the-middle-east/>
- 2015 “An Anti-Colonial State?: Soviet Internationalism from Stalin to Khrushchev,” *International Seminar on Islam and Multiculturalism: Exploring Islamic Studies within a Symbiotic Framework* (Tokyo: Organization for Islamic Area Studies at Waseda University, March 2015)
- 2014 “Soviet Orientalism and Political Mobilization,” *Ibraaz: Contemporary Visual Culture in North Africa and the Middle East* (<http://www.ibraaz.org/channel/36>), in English and in Arabic translation (November 2014)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2016-2017 Harvard University Davis Center Fellowship (declined)
- 2016-2017 SSRC InterAsia Program Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship
- 2015-2016 Agnese N. Haury Fellowship  
*For research residency at the Center for the United States and the Cold War at the New York University Tamiment Library*
- 2015 Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen Dissertation Prize  
*Awarded at the 2015 meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) for an outstanding English-language doctoral dissertation in Soviet or post-Soviet politics and history*
- 2013 Visiting Research Fellowship, Das Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO)  
*Fall 2013 residency, “Actors in Translocal Spaces” working group, Berlin, Germany*
- 2013 NYU Global Research Initiative Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Berlin, Germany
- 2012-2013 SSRC Eurasia Dissertation Development Award
- 2012-2013 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined)
- 2012-2013 NYU GSAS Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship (declined)
- 2012 CLS Alumni Development Fellowship for Persian language study in Spring 2012.
- 2011-2012 SSRC International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)
- 2011-2012 NYU GSAS Torch Prize Fellowship, December 2010  
*Awarded for educational achievement and research that seeks to increase understanding and knowledge of the cultural and social relations between the US and the world.*
- 2011-2012 IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunities (IARO) Fellowship
- 2011 Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) for Advanced Persian and Tajik  
*Summer Program, Dushanbe, Tajikistan.*
- 2010 NYU Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) Predoctoral Summer Fellowship
- 2010 NYU History Department Friends of History Summer Fellowship
- 2009 FLAS Title VI Grant for Advanced Arabic Study

- 2009 *Summer Program, Institute Française du Proche-Orient (IFPO) in Damascus, Syria.*  
 NYU Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies (MEIS) Summer Fellowship  
*For pre-dissertation research in Damascus, Syria.*
- 2008 FLAS Title VI Grant for Arabic Study  
*Summer Program, IFPO, Damascus, Syria*
- 2008 NYU MEIS Summer Research Fellowship  
*For pre-dissertation research in Damascus, Syria.*

## INVITED TALKS IN LECTURE SERIES

- 2018 “Charlotte Rosenthal, the Russian Revolution, and Transnational Feminism,” *NYUAD Gender Brown Bag*, NYUAD, February 2018
- 2017 “The Third International as Social Space,” *Socialist Intermediaries: Institutions and Practice of Transnational Communism Lecture Series*, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, February 2017
- 2016 “Arabization, Purges, and Terror in the KUTV Arab Circle, 1929-38,” *University of Pennsylvania Russian History and Culture Workshop*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 2016
- 2015 “My Enemy’s Enemy: Consequences of the CIA Operation Against Abulqasim Lahuti, 1953-1954,” *Center for the US and the Cold War / Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia Occasional Lecture Series*, NYU-New York, October 2015
- “The Eastern International,” *Russian History Seminar Series*, Georgetown University, Washington DC, March 2015
- “The East’ and the Soviet 1920s,” *SFS Qatar History Seminar Series*, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Doha, Qatar, March 2015
- 2014 “Beyond the Party Line: Soviet Cultural Outreach to the Arab Intelligentsia before and after World War II,” *National Research University - Higher School of Economics Center for the Study of WWII Research Seminar*, Moscow, Russia, October 2014
- “From the Imperial Guard to the Avant-Garde: Soviet Orientalism as Social Movement and as Aesthetic,” *Global Art Forum at Art Dubai*, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, March 2014
- “Arab Students in Moscow, 1920s-1930s,” *NYUAD History Program Research Seminar*, New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), UAE, February 2014
- 2013 “Liberating Women?: The Communist Women’s International and Middle Eastern Students in Moscow, 1922-36,” *Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) Lecture Series*, Berlin, Germany, November 2013
- 2012 “The Eastern International: Soviet Central Asia and the Afro-Asian Colonial World,” *Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia Occasional Lecture Series*, NYU-NY, February 2013
- “Arab’ Communists at KUTV, 1922-38,” *University of Amsterdam EAST Seminar*, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, October 2012
- 2011 “The Education of New Arab Elites in Moscow and the Politics of Soviet Internationalist ‘Vospitanie’ during the Cold War,” *IREX Public Lecture Series*, American Cultural Center in Moscow, Russia, April 2011

## CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “Muslim Tradition forbids Reciting the Qur'an while Drunk: Soviet Cultural Diplomacy and the Arab Intelligentsia, 1925-1948,” *Transnational Relations between Eastern Europe/USSR and the Middle East. New Perspectives on the Cold War*, University of Geneva, Switzerland, February 2018 (Invited by the University of Geneva/Princeton University Partnership Grant)
- “Concentric Circles of the East at the Communist University for the Toilers of the East,” *Soviet Student Dormitories: Structures and Legacies*, Forum Transregionale Studien's Prisma Ukraïna program, January 2018, Berlin Germany (Invited by Prisma Ukraïna)
- 2017 “Building Anti-Colonial Utopia: The Politics of Space in Soviet Tashkent in the ‘Long 1960s’,” as part of a panel on “National Forms in their Revolutionary Development: Socialist Realism beyond Moscow” *Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Conference*, Chicago, IL, November 2017
- “From Russian Orientalism to the Eastern International” *10th International Convention of Asian Scholars (ICAS)*, July 2017, Chiang Mai, Thailand (Invited by the SSRC)
- “Arabization and Terror,” *Russia and the Arab World: History, Literature, Arts Workshop*, Boston University, February 2017 (Invited by the Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies)
- 2016 “Building Anti-Colonial Utopia: The Politics of Space in Soviet Tashkent in the ‘Long 1960s’,” *Revisiting 1968 and the Global Sixties Conference*, NYU Abu Dhabi, September 2016
- 2015 “My Enemy's Enemy: Consequences of the CIA Operation Against Abulqasim Lahuti, 1953-1954,” *ASEEES Conference*, Philadelphia, PA, November 2015
- “Central Asia as Soviet Development Spectacle,” *Development and Modernization in the Soviet and Post-Soviet Periphery*, co-organized by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), University of Amsterdam (UvA), the Dutch Royal Academy of Science (KNAW), the Central Asia Program at the George Washington University, and the AMT Central Asia Initiative at Leiden University at Leiden University, Netherlands, September 2015
- ““The Eastern International”: Between Soviet Orientalism and Anti-Colonialism,” *Orientalism, Colonial thinking and the Former Soviet Periphery: Exploring Bias and Stereotype Representations of Eastern and Central Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia*, Vilnius University, Lithuania, August 2015
- “Second World Development as Third World Spectacle,” *World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies*, Makuhari, Japan, August 2015
- “Soviet Spectacles in the Middle East,” *Russia and Global History Summer Symposium*, Slavic and Eurasian Research Center, Hokkaido University, Japan, July 2015 (Invited by Hokkaido University)
- 2014 “An Anticolonial State?: Soviet Internationalism under Stalin and Khrushchev,” *Exploring Islamic Studies within a Symbiotic Framework: International Seminar on Islam and Multiculturalism*, co-convened by the Organization of Islamic Studies at Waseda University, Tokyo; the Asia-Europe Center at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, and NYUAD held at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, December 2014 (Invited by NYUAD, Waseda University, and University of Malaya)
- “Middle Eastern Women in Soviet Archives: New Sources and Questions,” *Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) Conference*, Washington DC, November 2014
- “Arabic Writing for Stalinist Bureaucracies: Bolshevik Selves in Translation and Translocation,” *ASEEES Conference*, San Antonio, Texas, November 2014
- “Soviet Spectacles in the Middle East, 1955--68,” *Socialist Internationalism Workshop*, University of California, Berkeley, April 2014 (Invited by Berkeley)

- 2013 “Soviet Central Asia: Revolutionary Mythologies and the Making of Soviet Anti-Imperialism,” *Central Asian Connections: Crossroads of Empire, Trade, and Culture Workshop*, NYU Kevorkian Center, NY, December 2013 (Invited by the NYU Kevorkian Center)
- “The Communist Women’s International and Female Travelers to Moscow from the Middle East,” panelist, *ASEEES*, Boston, MA, November 2013
- “Literary and Musical Revolutions in Soviet Tajikistan,” roundtable organizer and presenter, *ASEEES Conference*, Boston, MA, November 2013
- “Biography on Trial: Comintern Evaluations of the Life of Abulqasim Lahuti,” *MESA Conference*, New Orleans, LA, October 2013
- “Courting the Arab Intelligentsia: Soviet Cultural Politics in the Levant, 1925-1948,” *Arab-Russian and Arab-Soviet Literary Ties Conference*, co-convened by the Faculty of Asian and African Studies at Saint Petersburg State University (Russia); the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature at Boston University (USA); and the Department of Arabic at University of St Andrews (Scotland); at Saint Petersburg State University, Russia, June 2013
- 2012 “Firdowsi, Omar Khayyam, and Lahuti: Soviet-Iranian Rivalries over Persian Classical Heritage in Nationalist Narratives,” *MESA Conference*, Denver, CO, November 2012
- “The Middle East in US and Soviet Imaginaries: The Rise of Area Studies, 1947-1960” [*presented in Russian*], *Western and Soviet Perceptions of Islam in Central Asia and the Caucasus Conference*, Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies, Russia, June 2012 (Invited by University of Amsterdam)
- “Re-creating the Revolution in Turkestan: Kamil Yarmatov’s Mythopoesis for the Afro-Asian World, 1958-68,” *10<sup>th</sup> Annual LSE-GWU-UCSB Graduate Conference on the Cold War*, London School of Economics, United Kingdom, April 2012
- 2011 “The ‘Eastern’ Cultural Offensive: Refracting Soviet Cultural Policies through Central Asia during the Thaw,” *MESA Conference*, Washington DC, December 2011
- “Sons of Muslims in Moscow: Soviet Central Asian Mediators to the Foreign East, 1955-62,” *ASEEES Conference*, Washington DC, November 2011
- “The Middle East in US and Soviet Imaginaries: The Rise of Area Studies, 1947-1960,” *Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS), Imagined Geographies Graduate Conference*, Columbia University, February 2011
- 2010 “The Eastern International,” *SSRC “Globalizing Eurasia” Dissertation Workshop*, Harvard University, September 2010 (Invited by SSRC Eurasia)
- “The Eastern International,” NYU’s *Institute for Public Knowledge*, “*Jumping Scales*” *Dissertation Workshops I & II*, New York University-NY, Part I: May 2010; Part II: November 2010
- “Comintern, Orientalism, and Transnational Networks of Exchange,” *Organization for the Advancement of Studies of Inner Eurasian Societies (OASIES), Power and Movement Across Eurasia*, Columbia University, April 2010
- “The Communist University and the Soviet Union’s Imagination of the ‘Eastern World,’” *Networks and Connections in World History*, Northeastern University, March 2010

## PANEL CHAIRING AND DISCUSSION

- 2016 Discussant, “Globalizing Soviet and Post-Soviet Histories 1945-2015” Panel, *ASEEES 2016 Chair*, “Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage in Late Soviet Russia” Panel, *ASEEES 2016*

- 2015 Chair, “Contesting Colonial, National, and Neoliberal Cosmopolitanism” Panel, Cosmopolitan Currents in the Indian Ocean: New Conceptual Models for Studying Cultural Integration and Change, NYUAD, March 2015
- 2014 Chair and Discussant, “Persecution and Displacement of Minorities” Panel, The Peripheries of World War I: New Methodological and Spatial Perspectives, NYUAD, December 2014

## COURSES AND TEACHING

- 2014-2018 Instructor
- *Gender* (Spring 2018), NYUAD Core Curriculum
  - *The Global Cold War* (Spring 2018, Spring 2014), NYUAD History Program, co-taught with Martin Klimke
  - *Russia and the World* (Spring 2017), NYU-AD History Program
  - *Central Asia and the Middle East* (Spring 2015, Fall 2017), NYU-AD History Program
  - *Russia’s Multiethnic Empire* (Fall 2014), NYU-AD History Program
- 2008 - 2010 Teaching Assistant (TA)
- *Arabian Nights* (Spring 2010), NYU-NY Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Department (MEIS)
  - *Politics of the Middle East* (Fall 2009), NYU-NY MEIS
  - *World Cultures: Middle East* (Spring 2009), NYU-NY Morse Academic Program
  - *Palestine, Zionism and Israel* (Fall 2008), NYU-NY MEIS
- 2003 – 2004 Teaching Assistant
- *Classical and Critical Encounters of Identity in International Relations* (Fall 2004), Brown University

## CAPSTONE (UNDERGRADUATE SENIOR THESES) ADVISING

- 2018 **Adviser:** “Oleksandr Dovzhenko’s War: Between Documentary and Fiction” (Valeriya Golovina, NYUAD)
- 2017 **Adviser:** “The Politics and Aesthetics of Iranian Coffee House Paintings” (Chaeri Lee, History, NYUAD)  
**Second Reader:** “Crossing Mountains: Tea Trade and Frontier Politics in the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands” (Xuexin Cai, History, NYUAD)  
**Second Reader:** “Progress, Freedom and Social Justice: Leftist Resistance in the Kuwaiti Rentier State (1940-2016)” (Margit Lindgren, Arab Crossroads, NYUAD)
- 2015 **Second Reader:** “Banding Together: The Role of Semi-Religious Fraternal Organizations in Fostering Social Stability in Anatolia and the Levant, Twelfth to Fourteenth Centuries” (Craig Breckenridge, Arab Crossroads, NYUAD)
- 2014 **Third Reader:** “More Often Now he Suggests or Advises: The Changed Relationship Between Britain's Representatives and the Sheikhs of the Arabian Gulf, 1947-1971” (James Llyod, History, NYUAD)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2016-2017 Committee member, “History Program Steering Committee”  
 Committee member, “Undergraduate Research Funding Sub-Committee”  
 Committee Founding Member, “Women in the Humanities”  
 Mentor to at least 10 History Student undergraduates

- 2015-2016 Co-organizer, “Revisiting 1968 and the Global Sixties,” two-part international conference held at NYU Shanghai (March 2016) and NYU Abu Dhabi (September 2016)  
*co-organized with Martin Klimke (NYUAD), Jian Chen (NYUSH), Joanna Waley-Cohen (NYUSH), Mary Nolan (NYUNY), and Marilyn Young (NYUNY)*
- 2014-2016 Organizer, NYUAD History Program Lecture Series  
 Arrange the visits of six academic lecturers each semester
- Peer Reviewer,  
*Slavic Studies*  
*Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*  
*Journal of Arabic Literature*  
*Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*  
*NYUAD Journal of International Affairs* (student publication)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)  
 American Historical Association (AHA)  
 Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA)

## LANGUAGES

Russian (native), Arabic (Advanced Reading and Speaking), French (Advanced Reading), Persian (Advanced Reading).

## RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2014 Academic Leader/Lecturer, Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) “Heart of the Silk Road” Summer Tour, Uzbekistan.  
*The GEEO “Heart of the Silk Road” tour was a component of outreach to K-12 teachers organized by the NYUNY Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies*
- 2005-2006 Presidential Intern, American University in Cairo (AUC) Rare Books and Special Collections Library, Cairo, Egypt