

Alissa Klots

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EMPLOYMENT

Current Position

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, since 2019

Past Positions

Assistant Professor, Department of History, The European University at Saint Petersburg, 2017 - 2019

Research fellow\Lecturer, Center for Comparative History and Political Studies at Perm State National Research University, 2014-2016

EDUCATION

Ph.D. History, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2017

Dissertation: The Kitchen Maid That Will Rule The State: Domestic Service and the Soviet Revolutionary Project, 1917-1953

Major: Modern European History

Minors: Women's and Gender History (concentrations: history of sexuality; nation, state, and civil society);

Global and Comparative History (concentrations: modern empires, postcolonial theory, memory studies)

Kandidat Nauk (Candidate of Science), Perm State University (Russia), 2012

Dissertation: Domestic Service As A Social Institute Of The Stalinist Epoch

Spetsialist, History, Perm State University (Russia), 2006.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

Domestic Service in the Soviet Union: Women's Emancipation and the Gendered Hierarchy of Labor. Cambridge University Press, 2024 (forthcoming).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Just Like Any Other Worker? Class and Gender in the Regulation of Domestic Service in the Early Soviet Period,” *Journal of Social History*, 56:1 (2022): 114-143.

“‘Tak vy zhivaia istoria?’: sovetskii chekovek na fone tikhoi arkhivnoi revolutsii pozdnego sotsializma,” [‘So You Are Living History? Soviet Person and the Quiet Archival Revolution of Late Socialism] *Antropologicheskii Forum/Forum for Anthropology and Culture* 50 (2021):131-161. Co-authored with Maria Romashova.

“Young Minds – Young Bodies: The Emotional and the Physical in the Late Soviet Discourse on Aging,” *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review*, 48:2 (2021): 189-210. Co-authored with Maria Romashova.

“Lenin’s Cohort: The First Mass Generation of Soviet Pensioners and Public Activism of the Khrushchev’s Era,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, 20:3 (2018): 573-597. Co-authored with Maria Romashova.

Edited Volumes

“The Right to a Permanent Collection: Archiving the Lives of Soviet Pensioners,” in *Geriatrics and Ageing in the Soviet Union: Medical, Political and Social Context*. Eds. Susan Grant and Isaac McKean Scarborough (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023), 149-164. Co-authored with Maria Romashova.

‘The Kitchen Maid as Revolutionary Symbol: Paid Domestic Labour and the Emancipation of Soviet Women, 1917-1941’ in *The Palgrave Handbook on Women and Gender in Twentieth-Century Russia and the Soviet Union*. Ed. Melanie Ilic (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), 83-100.

Editor-Reviewed Articles

“Svetlyi put’: Institut domashnei prislugi kak migratsionnyi kanal i mechanism sotsial’noi mobil’nosti epokhi stalinizma,” [The Radiant Path: Domestic Service as a Migration Channel and Social Mobility Mechanism of the Stalinist Epoch] *Novoie Literaturnoie Obozreniie* 117:5 (2012): 40-52

Reviews

Review of Sokolova, Anna. *Novomu cheloveku, novaia smert’? Pokhoronnaia kul’ltura rannego SSSR*. Studia religiosa. Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2022. *The Russian Review* 81: 4 (2022): 773-774.

Review of Yulia Gradszkova, *Soviet Politics of Emancipation of Ethnic Minority Women*. New York: Springer, 2018. *Laboratorium: Russian Review of Social Research*. 12: 1 (2020): 217–221.

Review of Maria Cristina Galmarini-Kabala, *The Right to Be Helped: Deviance, Entitlement, and the Soviet Moral Order*. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2017, *Zhurnal*

Issledovaniï Sotsial'noi politiki [The Journal of Social Policy Studies] 16:2 (2018):395-398

Review of Jennifer Utrata, *Women without Men: Single Mothers and Family Change in the New Russia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015. *Kotrapunkt: Zhurnal o Politike i Obschestve*, 11 (2018) http://www.counter-point.org/11_utrata_review/

Review of Dirke Hoerder, Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk, and Silke Neunsinger, eds. *Towards a Global History of Domestic and Caregiving Workers*. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 2015, *Laboratorium: Russian Review of Social Research*, 2016 8 (3):124-126.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“A Heart-to-Heart Conversation: Debating the Limits of Adolescent Friendship, Love, and Courtship in 1960s Russia,” article-length manuscript.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Humboldt fellowship for mid-career scholars, Henriette Herz Program, awarded in 2023 for 18 months in 2024-2026.

Summer Term Research Stipend for Untenured Faculty, University of Pittsburgh, 2023.

Small Faculty Grant, REEES, University of Pittsburgh, 2020-2023.

Dan David Fellow, The Zvi Yaetz School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University, 2018-2019.

Susman Dissertation Fellowship, Fall 2016.

Research Stipend, German Historical Institute, Moscow, May-July 2014.

Global Supplementary Grant, Open Society Foundations, 2013

Andrew W. Mellon Summer Research Grant, Rutgers University, 2013

Davis Graduate Travel Grant, Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, 2012

Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers University, 2011-2012

SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Invited Talks

“Like One of the Family: Domestic Service as a Site of Intimate Negotiations,” St. Andrews University, St. Andrews, March 29, 2023.

“The Bridging Occupation: Soviet Domestic Workers Between the City and the Countryside,” keynote lecture for “Borderlands”: Spaces of Contact and Conflict in Europe and Central Asia, 17th Annual Graduate Student Conference, February 28, 2020.

“Lenin’s Cohort: The First Mass Generation of Soviet Pensioners and Public Activism of the Khrushchev’s Era,” The Israeli Inter-University Partnership in Russian and East European Studies, Tel Aviv, April 7, 2019.

“Just Like Any Other Worker? Class and Gender in the Regulation of Domestic Service in Early Soviet Russia,” Interdisciplinary seminar “Contextualizing the Self: Making and Remaking the First Person,” Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, November 27, 2018

“An Integral Part of Socialist Economy: Paid Domestic Labor and Etatization of the Home,”
College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, November 3, 2017

“The Kitchen Maid as Revolutionary Symbol: Paid Domestic Labor and Emancipation of the
Soviet Woman, 1917-1941”, Séminaire "L'univers des choses soviétiques," School of
Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris, March 19, 2015

“And Any Kitchen Maid Will Be Able to Rule the State: Domestic Servants and the
Revolution,” German Historical Institute in Moscow and French-Russian Center for
Humanities and Social Sciences Joint Seminar, Moscow, January 14, 2014

Papers Presented

“Raising a New Soviet Person on Revolutionary Traditions: The Role of Older Generation in
Communist Upbringing,” presented at the BASEEES Annual Convention, Glasgow,
March 31-April 2, 2023.

“‘Children Are Our First Concern’: Active Retirees and Communist Upbringing,” presented at
the conference “The Social and the Cultural History of Aging, 1945-1991,” University of
Basel, December 7-8, 2022.

“On the Late Soviet Roots of Russia’s Anti-Genderism,” presented at the online workshop “Anti-
Gender and Anti-LGBTQ+ Politics in Central and Eastern Europe: Historical
Continuities, Transnational Connections, Contested Futures,” University of Chicago May
13, 2022

“Friendship, Love, and Sex in the Lives of Soviet Working-Class Youth,” presented at the
“Everyday Life in State-Socialist Societies” conference, Pula, Croatia, May 12-15, 22.

“Soviet Retirees as a Political Community,” International Conference “The Politics of Old Age:
Old People and Aging in British and European History,” Sorbonne University, Marburg
University, German Historical Institute London, May 7-8, 2021.

“*Babii Vek*: Women Activists on Aging and Womanhood,” presented at the conference Ageing
and Gerontology after 1945: Situating the Soviet Case, Liverpool, December 5-6, 2019.

“For the Elderly by the Elderly: Public Organizations and the Late Soviet Welfare System,”
presented at Sixth Annual Conference of the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast
European Studies, Regensburg, June 21-23, 2018.

“Can There Be Love at My Age? Teenagers Respond to the Late Soviet Campaign,” presented at
the Third Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, Tartu, June 10-
12, 2018.

“Just Like Any Other Worker? Regulating Paid Domestic Labor in Early Soviet Russia,”
presented at the conference Workers beyond Socialist Glorification and Post-Socialist
Disavowal: New Perspectives on Eastern European Labour History, Vienna, May 24-25,
2018.

“Young Minds – Young Bodies: The Emotional and Physical in the Late Soviet Discourse on Aging,” presented at the ASEES Annual Convention, Chicago, November 9-12, 2017.

“Servants into Workers: Domestic Service and the Creation of a New Soviet Person, 1920-1928,” presented at the conference Beyond the Home: New Histories of Domestic Servants, Oxford, September 7-8, 2017.

“An Integral Part of Socialist Economy: Paid Domestic Labor and Etatisation of the Home in the 1930s,” presented at Fisher Workshop “The Soviet Home: Domestic Ideology and Practice,” Urbana-Champaign, June 23-24, 2017.

“*Arkhivatsiia ‘(ne)obyknovennogo’: dokumenty lichnogo proiskhozhdeniia i kommémorativnye prakiki starshego pokoleniia v SSSR 1960-1980-kh godov*” [Archiving the “(Un)Usual: Personal Documents and Commémorative Practices of the Older Generation in the USSR in the 1960s-1980s], presented at the international conference A ‘Memory Revolution’: Soviet History through the Lens of Personal Documents, Moscow, June 7-8, Moscow.

“Pain in My Heart, Memory in My Soul: Gender, Aging and Soviet Subjectivity in the Diaries of Valentina Sokolova,” presented at the workshop “The Many Faces of Late Socialism. The Individual in the ‘Eastern Bloc’, 1953-1988,” Cologne, May 26-28, 2016. With Maria Romashova

“How Non-Work Becomes Work: Paid Domestic Labor and the Construction of the Soviet Working Class, 1917-1941,” presented at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEES) Annual Convention, Philadelphia, November 19-22, 2015 and at 51st International Conference of Labour and Social History “Work and Non-Work,” Berlin, September 17-19, 2015

“*Domashniie rabotnitsy v SSSR: Sotsialisticheskiie migratsii i neravenstva*” [Domestic Workers in the USSR: Socialist Migrations and Inequalities] presented at International Conference “Domestic Workers in the Countries of Central Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union: Postsocialist Migrations and Inequalities”, St. Petersburg, April 24-26, 2015.

“*Kto my – sluzhanki ili rabochiie? Professional’nyie soiuzy domashnikh rabotnits do i posle Oktabr’a*” [Who Are We – Servants or Workers? Professional Unions of Domestic Workers Before and After October] presented at *Rabocheie Profsoiuznoie Dvizhenie v Rossii: Iz proshlogo v budushcheie* [Workers’ Union Movement in Russia: From the Past into the Future], Moscow, April 17-19, 2015.

“Can a Bolshevik Have a Servant? Paid Domestic Labor Under The Dictatorship Of The Proletariat, 1917-1941,” presented at British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) Annual Conference Cambridge, March 28-30, 2015.

“*Barski’e zamashki: na’emnyi domashniy trud i pozdnestalinskaia respektabil’nost’*” [Lordly Manners: Paid Domestic Labor and Late Stalinist Respectability] presented at the VII

International Conference “Late Stalinism. Soviet State and Society in the Post-War period. 1945-1953», Tver’, December 4-6, 2014

“*Profso ’uzy protiv partii? Prosvetrabota v so ’uze Narpit I bor’ba za sovetского rabocheho*” [Unions versus the State? Educational Work in the Narpit Union and the Struggle for the Soviet Worker, 1921-1930» presented at the “Exhibition Achievements of National Sciences-8”, European University at Saint Petersburg, November 8-9, 2014

“*Kukharka kak simvol revolutsii: na ’emnyi domashniy trud i osvobozhdenie sovetской zhenshiny*” [Kitchen Maid as a Revolutionary Symbol: Paid Domestic Labor and the Liberation of the Soviet Woman, 1917-1941] presented at the VII International Convention of the Russian Association for Research in Women’s History “Sex. Politics. Policulturalism: Gender Systems and Gender Relations in Past and Present”, Ryazan’, October 9-12, 2014

“*Iz prislugi v rabochi’e: prosvetitel’skaia rabota profso ’uza rabochikh narodnogo pitani’a I sovet’ska’a politika identichnosti, 1917-1930*” [Servants into Workers: Educational Work in the Union of people’s Food Services and Soviet Identity Politics, 1917-1930” presented at the International Conference “Conceptual Foundations of Soviet Educational Politics” (Laboratory of Historical and Cultural Studies at the School of Contemporary Humanitarian Research, RANEPa, Moscow, September 26-27, 2014

“Domestic Servants and the Myth of 1905: A Revolution of Their Own?” presented at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) and the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) Joint Regional Conference, Astana (May 22-24, 2014)

“And Any Kitchen Maid Will Be Able to Rule the State: Domestic Servants and the Revolution”, presented at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention, Boston (November 21-24, 2013)

“Nannies in the Homes of Soviet Elite: Transcending Borders of Class, Ethnicity, and Culture”, at “Projects of Modernity: Constructing the “Soviet” in European Perspective,” Perm National Research University, Russia (June 24-26, 2013); and at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention, New Orleans (November 15-18, 2012)

Conferences, Workshops, Seminars Organized

The Socialist Studies Seminar, 2021-2023. Co-organized with Wendy Goldman (Carnegie Mellon University).

Workshop “*Figura svidetelia v sovet’skikh kommemorativnykh praktikakh 1960-1980 gg.*” [Witnessing and Soviet Commemorative Practices in the 1960-1980s.], Moscow Higher School of Economics, December 7-8, 2021.

Workshop “Aging, Disability and Health in Socialist Europe and Beyond,” University of Pittsburgh, March 26& April 2, 2021. Co-organized with James Chappel (Duke University).

Protests in Belarus: An Interdisciplinary Forum. University of Pittsburg, September 28, 2020. Co-organized with Jan Musekamp.

International Conference “Exclusiveness of the Excluded: Marginality and Historical Change in Imperial, Soviet and Post-Soviet Times,” Perm State National Research University, February 18, 2016.

International Workshop “Sexuality and the State: Mobilization Strategies within the Soviet and Post-Soviet Space,” Perm State National Research University, February 27-28, 2015. Sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation

International Graduate Student Conference “Mobilization and Movement in Eastern Europe and Eurasia,” Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, March 28, 2014

International Conference “Projects of Modernity: Constructing the “Soviet” in European Perspective,” Perm State National Research University, June 24-26, 2013

PUBLIC LECTURES

“*Kuharka, kotoraiia budet upravliat gosudarstvom: Domashniaa prisluga v SSSR*” [The Kitchen Maid that Will Rule the State: Domestic Service in the Soviet Union], Nekrasov Library, Saint Petersburg, March, 27, 2021.

“*Sovetskaya sem'a v proshlom i nastoiashchem*” [Soviet Family in Past and Present], We-fest: Women’s Festival Open for All, Perm, September 30, 2018.

“*Komsomolka, sportsmenka, krasavitsa: konstruirovaniye sovetskoi zhenschiny*” [Komsomol Activist, an Athlete And a Beauty: Constructing the Soviet Woman], Educational Project “Progress school,” Saint Petersburg, June 14, 2017.

“*Boitsy nevidimogo fronta: domashniye rabotnitsy v gody voidy*” [Fighters of the Invisible Front: Domestic Workers During the War], Perm Local History Museum, Perm, March 5, 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Courses

Stalin, University of Pittsburgh (2019-2021)

Soviet Russia, University of Pittsburgh (2020-2022)

Sex and Gender: A Global History of the Modern World University of Pittsburgh (2020-2022)

Graduate Courses

History of Sexuality, University of Pittsburgh (2020)

INTERNATIOANL SUMMER SCHOOLS

Instructor, organizer

Tallinn Summer School “The Soviet Otherwise: Affects, Margins, and Imaginaries in the Late Soviet Era,” Tallinn, July 26- August 2, 2019.

10th Ukrainian International Summer School “War and Society: Making and Experiencing War in the 19th-21st-century Eastern/Central Europe and Eurasia, Kherson, July 1-6, 2018.

9th Ukrainian International Summer School “Memories and Legacies of Revolutions: Continuity and Disruption, 19th-21st centuries, Zaporizhzhya, June 25-30, 2018.

8th Ukrainian International Summer School “War and Violent Conflict in Socialist and Post-Socialist Societies,” Kharkiv, July 4-10, 2016.

7th Ukrainian International Summer School “Borders in Post-Socialist Space: Past, Present, Future,” Chernivtsi, July 3-9, 2015.

6th Ukrainian International Summer School “Embracing the City,” L’viv, July 1-8, 2014.

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, Graduate Committee, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2022-2023

Member, Planning and Budgeting Committee, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh, 2020-2022

Member, Online Teaching Committee, University of Pittsburgh, 2020

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

Association for Women in Slavic Studies

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, member