

Olga Litvak

- Education
- Columbia University, PhD with distinction, Jewish History, May 1999.
DISSERTATION: "The Literary Response to Conscription: Individuality and Authority in the Russian-Jewish Enlightenment."
- Dissertation advisor, Professor Michael F. Stanislawski, Nathan J. Miller
Professor of Jewish History, Columbia University.
- Columbia University, MPhil with distinction, Jewish History, minor Russian History, 1995.
- Columbia University, MA, History, 1994.
THESIS: "The Language of Enlightenment: N. H. Wessely's *Words of Peace and Truth*."
- Columbia College, BA, History, *Magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, 1992.
HONORS THESIS: "Reckoning with the Historical Self: Simon Dubnow's *Book of Life*."
- Midreshet Lindenbaum, Jerusalem, Israel, 1987-1988
- Employment
- DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Department of Judaic Studies, University at Albany (SUNY), 2007-present.
- ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Department of History/Program in Judaic Studies, Princeton University,
1999-2007.
- EDITOR
"Sculpture and Painting," Jews in Eastern Europe: The YIVO Encyclopedia,
2002-present.
- PRECEPTOR
"Contemporary Civilization," Columbia University, 1997-1998.
- VISITING LECTURER
"Modern Jewish History, 1870-present," Moscow State University for the
Humanities, Moscow, Russia, 1996.
- Honors and Fellowships
- Philip and Beulah Rollins Bicentennial Preceptorship, Princeton University, 2002-2005.
- Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2003.
- Gillian R. Whiting Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 1998-1999.
- National Foundation for Jewish Culture Dissertation Grant, 1997-1998.

- Richard Hofstadter/President's Fellow, Columbia University, 1992-1997.
- The Elsberg Prize for Excellence in Modern History, Columbia College, 1992.
- Publications
- "Art Criticism for the Blind: New Approaches to the Life and Work of Marc Chagall," *Ars Judaica* 3 (2007): 101-110.
- Military Conscription and the Search for Modern Russian Jewry* (Indiana UP, 2006).
- "Rome and Jerusalem: The Figure of Jesus in the Creation of Mark Antokol'skii," in *The Art of Being Jewish in Modern Times*, ed. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Jonathan Karp (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007): 441-496.
- "The Poet in Hell: H. N. Bialik and the Cultural Genealogy of the Kishinev Pogrom of 1903," *JSQ* 12:1 (2005): 101-128.
- "Urban Diaspora: The City in Jewish History," *JSQ* 12:1 (2005): 1-7.
- "You Can Take the Historian Out of the Pale But Can You Take the Pale Out of the Historian? New Trends in the Study of Russian-Jewish History," *AJS Review* 27:2 (2003): 301-311.
- "Me and Marjorie," *Princeton University Library Chronicle* 63 (2001-2002): 159-167.
- Reviews
- Henry Abramson, *A Prayer for the Government: Ukrainians and Jews in Revolutionary Times* (Cambridge, 1999), *AJS Review* 26 (2002): 157-59.
- Gabriella Safran, *Rewriting the Jew: Assimilation Narratives in the Russian Empire* (Stanford, 2000), *Jewish Quarterly Review* 92 (2001): 243-246.
- Mikhail Krutikov, *Yiddish Fiction and the Crisis of Modernity, 1905-1914* (Stanford, 2001), *AJS Review* 27:2 (2003): 349-351.
- Zvi Gitelman, ed., *Bitter Legacy: Confronting the Holocaust in the USSR* (Indiana, 1997), *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* 30 (2003).
- Recent lectures and talks
- "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man: Marc Chagall's Experiments in Russian-Jewish Self-Fashioning," COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, HARRIMAN INSTITUTE, 30 November, 2006.
- "The Eye and the Hand: Jewish Artists and the Politics of Representation in Russia," EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWISH MODERNITY: LEGACIES, DIALOGUES, COMPARISONS, Journal of Israeli History/Tel Aviv University, 5-6 June, 2006.
- "On the Virtues of Backwardness: The Jewish Romance with Pre-reform Russia," Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, 13 May, 2004.
- "The Way of Return: Nationalism and the Persistence of Enlightenment

in Russian-Jewish Culture," Department of History/CREES, Stanford University, 6 May, 2004.

"Novel Misreadings: The Jewish Recruit as Reluctant Bourgeois," JEWISH LITERATURE AND HISTORY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONVERSATION, University of Maryland, April 25-26, 2004.

"War, Migration and the Discovery of Yiddishland," FIRST ANNUAL BERKELEY CONFERENCE ON YIDDISH CULTURE, University of California, Berkeley, 28-29 May, 2003.

"Writing Jewish History Out of 1492: The Russian Jew as Marrano," JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY HISTORY COLLOQUIUM, 20 March, 2003.

"Martyrs for the Empire: Russia's First Jewish Soldiers and the Southern Origins of Russian-Jewish Culture," CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES, University of Pennsylvania, 22 January, 2003.

"The Dairyman's Daughters: Sholem-aleichem and the Jewish Anti-Novel in Russia," COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SEMINAR IN SLAVIC STUDIES, 7 November 2001.

"From 'State within a State' to State of Mind: The *Shtetl* in Russian-Jewish Historiography," THE SHTETL: NEW EVALUATIONS OF ITS HISTORY AND CHARACTER, Boston University, 31 October-2 November 2001.

"To Set in Stone: The Archeology of Memory in Russian-Jewish Culture," CARVED MEMORIES: TOMBSTONES OF THE RUSSIAN-JEWISH PALE, Exhibition lecture, Brooklyn Museum of Art, 20 February, 2000.

Languages

Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish and Polish. Reading proficiency in German, French and Ukrainian.