

Timothy D. Sergay

Assistant Professor of Russian, Slavic and Eurasian Studies
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
University at Albany
State University of New York
Humanities 214
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12222
tsergay@albany.edu

194 Best Luther Road
East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-442-4227 (office)
518-283-3289 (home phone/fax)
614-599-3061 (mobile)
tsergay@nycap.rr.com

EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, CT, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (1988–92): MPhil 2005; PhD awarded 26 May 2008 in Russian language and literature. Dissertation title: “Boris Pasternak’s ‘Christmas Myth’: Fedorov, Berdiaev, Dickens, Blok.”

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, Horace Rackham School of Graduate Studies (1984–88): MA in Russian Language and Literature from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Pushkin Institute of Russian Language, Moscow, USSR (1986–87): Certification of completion of 10-month course of study in practical aspects of the Russian language (including language pedagogy). Independent research in methodology of teaching Russian phonetics to English-speakers.

Middlebury College Russian School, Middlebury, VT (summer sessions, 1984–86): MA in “Practical Mastery of the Russian Language” (a joint program with the Pushkin Institute).

University of Michigan, Honors College within the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Ann Arbor, MI (1979–83): BA (May 1984) with Highest Honors, in an independent major, “Critical Literary Theory.”

TEACHING

Currently an assistant professor of Russian, Slavic and Eurasian studies at UAlbany’s Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures: Current courses (2007-9): sequence of third-year Russian language and courses in specialized translation. (See following table of courses taught at UAlbany. Earlier graduate student teaching fellowships in 3d-year Russian language at Yale University; in both first-year Russian language and classical literature in translation at the University of Michigan. Private tutoring in Russian at the University of Michigan and Yale University.

Courses taught at UAlbany (excluding independent studies)

ARUS 301	Advanced Russian I (Third-Year Russian)
ARUS 302	Advanced Russian II (Third-Year Russian)
ARUS 547	Russian Language Through Film (conducted in Russian)
ARUS 501	Translation into English
ARUS 502	Translation into Russian (conducted in Russian)
ARUS 603A and B	Specialized Translation (Russian to English)
ARUS 605	Literary Translation (Russian to English)
ARUS 480	Senior Seminar on the Language, Society and Culture of Contemporary Russia

WORK EXPERIENCE

Translation, Internet-based terminological research, and digesting of Russian media coverage (In-house from June 1997-September 2001; freelance from December 2002 to 2005): Staff translator and editor for the academic weekly journal *The Current Digest of the Post-Soviet Press*. Duties included selecting and abridging articles in culture, religion, history, media and Internet affairs, human rights and post-Soviet science.

Bilingual administrative and editorial work (1995–97): special project assistant at Yale University Press for the Annals of Communism series; duties included long-term multiple project management, writing grant applications, conducting Russian business e-mail, translating contracts into Russian, tracking performance of contract terms, travel and itinerary arrangements and interpreting for visiting Russian colleagues; evaluating sample translations and consulting on translation issues.

Freelance translation, interpreting and editing (1987–present):

Subject areas: business and government correspondence, contracts, reports; information technology; Russian politics, esp. media affairs; history; economics; culture, esp. literature and film; military affairs; science and technology.

Correction of draft translations (from Russian to English and from English to Russian) and of wiretap transcripts for ASIST Translation Services in Columbus, OH, and other clients (2003-06).

Conference interpreting (consecutive) for visiting high-school and university economics instructors (March 2003); for Russian historians and archival officials (Yale University Press, July 1995); for artistic staff of the Moscow Art Theater (Yale Repertory Theater, May 1990 to Feb. 1991); Russian physicians attending the Soviet/American Conference on Alcoholism, Part II, in Connecticut (28 Nov. 1900–4 Dec. 1989); a Russian forestry expert visiting Yale University (Oct. 1989).

Stylistic editing of Russian-produced English translations of scientific articles for Interperiodika in Moscow (November–December 1992).

Copyediting of linguistics articles for the academic journal *LANGUAGE* (2003); copyediting and indexing of humanities dissertations for book publication for the Research Press Division of University Microfilms (1983–84).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Major supporting grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for the translation of Aleksandr Chudakov's *A Gloom Is Cast Upon the Ancient Steps* (*Lozhbitsia mгла na starye stupeni*), awarded Oct. 25, 2005. Final Status Report: 31 March 2009.

Two-week fellowship to the Ledig House International Writers' Residency to work on the translation of Aleksandr Chudakov's *A Gloom Is Cast Upon the Ancient Steps* (*Lozhbitsia mгла na starye stupeni*), awarded by the PEN Translation Fund (summer 2005).

PEN Translation Fund award for an English translation (in progress) of Aleksandr Chudakov's *A Gloom Is Cast Upon the Ancient Steps* (*Lozhbitsia mгла na starye stupeni*), April 21, 2004.

Sterling Prize Fellowship for Beginning Graduate Students, Yale University, New Haven, CT, for academic year 1988–89.

Fulbright-Hayes scholarship for advanced study of Russian language and Russian language pedagogy at the Pushkin Institute, Moscow, in a cooperative program administered by the Pushkin Institute and Middlebury College Russian School, Middlebury, VT, for academic year 1986–87.

University of Michigan Hopwood Award for Creative Writing, Major Essay category, 1984, for essay on Joyce and Nietzsche, "Amid a crowd of stars': Stephen Dedalus and the Art of Metaphysical Sacrifice."

University of Michigan Hopwood Award for Creative Writing, Minor Essay category, 1983, for essay on Romantic critical theory, "The Nineteenth-Century Quest for Community: Romantic Transcendentalism and the Masters of Discourse."

ARTICLES

"Byvaiut li u Pasternaka 'chetvertye stroki'? 'Temnye stikhi' Pasternaka v svete 'nauki ponimaniia' M.L. Gasparova. (Vzgliad inostrannogo perevodchika)." *Voprosy literatury* №. 2 (2009) 69-85.

"Zametki o trudnostiakh perevoda na angliiskii romana A.P. Chudakova 'Lozhitsia mгла na starye stupeni.'" In M.O. Chudakova et al., eds., *Tynianovskii sbornik. Trinadtsatye tynianovskie chteniia* (Moscow: Vodolei, 2009), 412-20.

"*V stikbakh ros i tvorilsia svoi London...*': Stikhovoe 'dikkensianstvo' u rannego Pasternaka." In V.V. Abashev, ed., "*Liubov' prostranstva*": *Sbornik materialov mezhdunarodnoi nauchnoi konferentsii v Permi, 2-6 iuliia 2006* (Moscow: Yazyki slavianskoi kul'tury, 2008), 95-104.

"On Glossism" and other entries in a *New York Times* discussion, "The Art of Translation," hosted by Sam Tanenhaus, 2-8 Nov. 2007, at <http://readingroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/10/29/the-art-of-translation>. (Contributions to a discussion of Pevear and Volokhonsky's retranslation of Tolstoy's *War and Peace*.)

Five entries for the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Russian Culture* edited by Tatiana Smorodinskaya, Karen Evans-Romaine, and Helena Goscilo (NY: Routledge, 2007): "Ernst, Konstantin L'vovich," "Kim, Iulii Chersanovich," "Neologisms," "Science and Technology," and "Slang."

"Translation and the Individual Talent: The Splendid Isolation of Our Retranslators of Russian Classics." *Translation Review* № 71 (2006) 37-40.

“Isaac Babel’s Life in English: The Norton *Complete Babel* Reconsidered.” *Translation and Literature* Vol. 15, Part 2 (Autumn 2006), 238-53.

“Dve skoropostizhnye smerti potriasli rossiiskuiu slovesnost’.” *Novoye Russkoye Slovo*, Oct. 8-9, 2005. (On the untimely deaths of the linguist Sergei Starostin and the literary scholar and author Aleksandr Chudakov). Abridged English-language version published in *Johnson’s Russia List* No. 23, JRL 9269, as “RUSSIAN LITERATURE AND HUMANITIES SCHOLARSHIP SUFFERS TWO SUDDEN LOSSES,” 14 Oct. 2005, full text at <http://www.cdi.org/russia/johnson/9269-23.cfm>.

“‘*Blizhe k suti, k miru Bloka...*’: The Mise-en-Scène of Boris Pasternak’s ‘Hamlet’ and Pasternak’s Blokian-Christological Ideal.” *The Russian Review* Vol. 64/3 (July 2005), 401-21.

“‘*Prorok*’ Sevenfold: Some Recent and Not-So-Recent Translations of Pushkin’s ‘The Prophet.’” *SlavFile*, Newsletter of the Slavic Languages Division of the American Translators Association. Summer, 2001, Vol. 11, No. 3, pp. 11-13. Full text at <http://www.ata-divisions.org/SLD/PDF/SlavFile-Summer-01.pdf>.

“Russkaia avtorskaia pesnia na angliiskom: zametki o ‘poiushchemsia’ perevode.” In *Mir Vysotskogo: Issledovaniia i materialy*, vol. 3, ed. V.F. Shcherbakova et al. Moscow: The V.S. Vysotskii State Cultural Center-Museum, 1999. Pp. 347-79. (On isometrical, “singable” translation into English of Russian “guitar verse.”)

“Durable Tales.” Review of *The Gospel According to Chegem: Being the Further Adventures of Sandro of Chegem*, by Fazil Iskander, trans. Susan Brownsberger. *The Nation* 239, no. 11 (13 Oct. 1984): 363–5. Reprinted in the Winter 1982–Winter 1983 edition of Gale Research Company’s *Contemporary Literary Criticism*.

“The Russia That Wasn’t.” Review of *The Island of Crimea*, by Vassily Aksyonov, trans. Michael Henry Heim. *The Nation* 238, no. 4 (4 Feb. 1984): 135–8.

NONFICTION AND SCHOLARLY TRANSLATIONS (select list)

Kantor, Maksim. “I am an artist...” Autobiographical and art-historical essay by the artist, novelist and playwright Maksim Kantor (b. 1957). Supervision and correction of translation by Loren Tretyakov (November 2008).

Sinelnikov, Vladimir, writer and director. *World War Three Has Begun. Film Two: The Terror Casino*. Kloto Television Studios, 2008. Translations of narration and interview transcripts for the soundtrack of the English-language release (September 2008).

Rubinshtein, Lev. “Pulp Nonfiction About the Communal Apartment.” Annotated translation on the NEH-supported website *Communal Living in Russia: A Virtual Museum of Soviet Everyday Life*, by Ilya Utekhin, Alice Nakhimovsky, Slava Paperno and Nancy Ries. 2 June 2008. Full text at http://kommunalka.colgate.edu/cfm/bilingual_view.cfm?ClipID=731&TourID=0&Format=fromBooks.

Sulkin, Oleg. “Identifying the Enemy in Contemporary Russian Film” (The Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University, 1 April 2004). Full text at <http://casnov1.cas.muohio.edu/havighurstcenter/symposia.htm>.

- Banac, Ivo, ed. *The Diary of Georgi Dimitrov, 1933-1949*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003. (The 1,200-page Russian diary of Comintern General Secretary Georgi Dimitrov.)
- Huchthausen, Peter, USN captain, ret., ed. *K-19: The Widowmaker. The Secret Story of the Soviet Nuclear Submarine. Featuring the Memoirs of K-19 Captain Nikolai Zateyev*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Books, 2002. (Hundred-page excerpt from Capt. Zateyev's handwritten memoir.)
- Tolstaya, Tatyana. Introduction to *Broken Empire: After the Fall of the Soviet Union*, photographs by Gerd Ludwig, text by Fen Montaigne. Washington, DC: National Geographic Books, 2001.
- Zukerman, V.A. and Z. M. Azarkh, *Arzamas 16: Soviet Scientists in the Nuclear Age: a Memoir*, edited by Michael Pursglove. Nottingham, England: Bramcote Press, 1999. Russian edition: *Liudi i vzryvy. Arzamas-16, 1994; 157 pages*.
- Kozlov, Vladimir A. and Vladimir M. Khrustal'ev, eds. *The Last Diary of Tsaritsa Alexandra*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997. (Editing and supplementing of historical commentary to primary document; correction of translations.)
- Klehr, Harvey, John Earl Haynes and Fridrikh Igorevich Firsov, *The Secret World of American Communism*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1995. (Soviet-period historical documents.)
- Steinberg, Mark D. and Vladimir M. Khrustal'ev, *The Fall of the Romanovs*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1995. (Glossary, capsule biographies.)
- Stankiewicz, Edward. Translations into Russian of five of the author's English-language synopses of articles on linguistics and poetics for a Bulgarian edition of his selected essays. (July-Aug., 1989.)
- Trubetzkoy, N. S. *The Legacy of Genghis Khan and Other Essays on Russia's Identity*, ed. by Anatoly Liberman, Michigan Slavic Materials, No. 33. Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan Slavic Publications, 1991. Three essays: "The Tower of Babel and the Confusion of Tongues," "Pan-Eurasian Nationalism" and "On Racism." (These texts were misattributed in print to other translators; a publisher's letter acknowledging and correcting the error is on file.)

LITERARY TRANSLATIONS

- Translations of verse by Aleksandr Blok in Galina Rylkova, *The Archeology of Anxiety: The Russian Silver Age and Its Legacy* (Pittsburgh: Univ. of Pittsburgh Press, 2008.)
- Akhmatova, Anna, Aleksandr Blok, Aleksandr Galich, Boris Pasternak, Vladimir Vysotskii, Katia Yarovaia et al. Translations of 28 "bard" songs and literary poems (in full or in part) for the DVD and companion volume of Sophia Lubensky's and Slava Paperno's *From Reading to Speaking: An Advanced Russian Course* (Ithaca, NY: Lexicon Bridge Publishing, 2007-2009).
- Bukhin, Yevgenii. "Three Goes" (short story, under review at *The Journal of Jewish Identity*).
- Kachanov, Roman. Film treatment for a black-comic version of Dostoevsky's *The Gambler* set in modern-day Las Vegas. (Project in development.)

Kantor, Maksim. Translation of excerpt from novel *Uchebnik risovaniia [A Drawing Textbook]* (Moscow: OGI, 2006) in *Words Without Borders: The Online Magazine for International Literature* (special issue on new Russian literature.) 31 July 2007. Full text at:
<http://www.wordswithoutborders.org/?lab=KantorDrawing>.

Chudakov, Aleksandr. "Claimants to the Inheritance." Chapter 2 of Chudakov's *A Gloom Is Cast Upon the Ancient Steps (Lozhitsia mgla na starye stupeni)*. Pen American Center website. 25 Feb. 2007. Full text at <http://www.pen.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/1257/prmID/1408>.

Chudakov, Aleksandr. "Arm Wrestling in Chebakhinsk." Chapter 1 of Chudakov's *A Gloom Is Cast Upon the Ancient Steps (Lozhitsia mgla na starye stupeni)*. *Words Without Borders: The Online Magazine for International Literature*, August 2004. Full text at <http://www.wordswithoutborders.org/article.php?lab=ArmWrestling>. Chapters 2-20 and 37-38 are also translated.

Several unpublished equirhythmic verse translations: Aleksandr Blok's "*Begut nevernye, dnevnnye teni...*" ("The day's false shadows scatter in the dusk") and Bulat Okudzhava's "*V ziat'sia za ruki ne ia li prizyval vas, gospoda?*" ("You all heard me, men, I urged you – take each other by the hand!").

Alo, Vincent R. *Hippolyta's Belt*. Science-fiction novel translated in collaboration with author in 1992 (230,000 words).

LECTURES, CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION, APPEARANCES, INTERVIEWS

"Intertext as Translation: A Verse Reminiscence of Flaubert's Correspondence in Aleksandr Blok's Poem 'Retribution.'" Power-Point presentation at "Texts on Texts," Third Annual Research Conference, held at UAlbany, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, 2 April 2009.

"What's Fowler to Us? Russian-English Translators and the Heritage of English Usage Dictionaries." Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of AATSEEL, The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, San Francisco, 29 Dec. 2008.

"Foreign Languages for a Changing World," letter to the editor of *The Chronicle of Higher Education (Chronicle Review)*, vol. 54, issue 44, page A24, 11 July 2008.

Chaired panel, "The Silver Age and the West," at the Annual Meeting of AATSEEL, The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, San Francisco, 29 Dec. 2008.

"Roman A.P. Chudakova 'Lozhitsia mgla na starye stupeni' kak utverzhdienie 'samotsennoi veshchi' (Zametka o proze literaturovede)." Lecture delivered at the "professors' section" of the Graduate School Symposium of Middlebury College Russian School, Vermont, 26 July 2008.

"Byvaiut li u Pasternaka 'chetvertye stroki'? Vzgliad perevodchika na osobo zatrudnennye sluchai." Paper delivered at Gasparovskie chteniia 2008, held at the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow, 10-12 April 2008.

"Note-to-Syllable, Idea-to-Idea: Forging the 'Singable' Translation." Lecture at the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures SUNY Albany, 29 March 2007.

"*V stikhakh ros i tvorilsia svoi London...?* Stikhovoe 'dikkensianstvo' u rannego Pasternaka." Paper delivered at international Pasternak conference, "Liubov' prostranstva: Poetika

- mesta v khudozhestvennom mire i sud'be Pasternaka," held in Perm, Russia, 2-6 July 2006.
- Participation in literary translation workshop conducted by Marian Schwartz during conference "Translating Eastern Europe: Art, Politics, and Identity in Translated Literature," held at Ohio State University Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2005.
- "Russian Science Today: Crisis and Reforms." Public lecture for the International Relations Forum at Bristol Village, Waverly Ohio, 11 May 2005.
- "Survival Tales of the Soviet-Period Intelligentsia: Pasternak's *Doktor Zhivago* and the Memoiristic Writings of Aleksandr Chudakov." Lecture at the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures SUNY Albany, 14 April 2005.
- "Perevodchik Timoti Sergei — 'v nature' i 'po-liubomu.'" Interview. *Novoye Russkoye Slovo*, Jan. 8, 2005.
- Radio appearance on the "Pereplet" program of the Russian-language People's Wave Radio, WKDM 1380 AM in New York City, 7 Oct. 2004. (Half-hour live interview on translating literature and contemporary Russian lexicon.)
- "Aleksandr Chudakov's Little-Known Hit Novel: A Translator's Tale." Midwest Slavic Conference, Ohio State University, 28 Feb. 2004.
- Several radio appearances on the "Grey Matters" program of WCBN 88.3 FM in Ann Arbor, MI, to discuss Russian politics and media affairs (2001-2003).
- "Hunting the Goose: Vladimir Gusinsky and the Putin Regime." Public lecture, Ohio State University, 15 Nov. 2000.
- "The Hater of Life and *Eros* in Chekhov's "Unter Prishibeev," "Uchitel' slovesnosti," and "Chelovek v futliare": An Instance of Character Typification in Chekhov." Paper given at the Third International Chekhov Symposium, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 26-28 April 1990.
- "Akhmatova and 'Nevidimyi grad Kitezh.'" Paper given at the annual meeting of the Connecticut and Rhode Island Chapters of AATSEEL, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 21 April 1990.
- Commentator for panel on Russian 19th- and 20th-century prose and poetry at the Fifth Annual Ivy League Graduate Student Conference in Russian and Soviet Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI, 23-24 March 1990.
- "Plot-Construction Parallelism in Pushkin's *Vystrel* and *Metel'*: The Question of Play with *Fabula* as a Unifying Principle in *Povesti Belkina*." Paper given at the Fourth Annual Ivy League Graduate Students' Conference in Russian and Soviet Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT, 7-8 April 1989.

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, the Slavic Languages Division of the American Translators Association, the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, the ProZ.com Translation Workplace, the American Council of Teachers of Russian, and the American Literary Translators Association.