

The Visual Culture of Iconoclasm and Atheism

Friday, June 10 and Saturday June 11, 2022

SPEAKERS



Amy Singleton Adams, College of the Holy Cross

Amy Adams is Professor of Russian Studies at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. She received her B.A. in Russian Language and Literature at Dartmouth College, and her M.A. and PhD in Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. On the topic of Russian icons, she co-edited and contributed to the volume *Framing Mary: The Mother of God in Modern, Revolutionary, and Post-Soviet Russian Culture*. She has also published articles and book chapters on the topic of icons in Russian literature. Her current research includes the creation of iconic space both in Russian literature and in contemporary Russian life.



Clemena Antonova, Eurasia in Global Dialogue Programme at the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna, Austria

Clemena Antonova read art history at the universities of Edinburgh and Oxford. She works on topics relating to the art of the icon, Russian critiques of the image with a focus on Pavel Florensky (1882-1937), and the role of religion in modernity. She has published two books – *Space, Time, and Presence in the Icon: Seeing the World with the Eyes of God*, (Ashgate, 2010) and *Visual Thought in Russian Religious Philosophy: Pavel Florensky's Theory of the Icon*, (Routledge, 2020). Her articles have come out in *Sobornost*, *Cithara*, *Leonardo*, etc. Recently, Clemena guest-curated the exhibition “Icons for Our Time: Orthodox Art from around the World” at the Museum of Russian Icons. At present, she is the Research Director of the Eurasia in Global Dialogue Programme at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Austria.



David Borgmeyer, Saint Louis University

David Borgmeyer is an Adjunct Professor of Russian and Director of Research Development at Saint Louis University. He was the curator of the exhibition *Atheist at the Machine: Early Soviet Anti-Religious Propaganda Posters* and is a specialist in twentieth-century Russian art. His PhD is in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the University of Southern California, and his work has been funded by the Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.



John P. Burgess, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

John P. Burgess (PhD, University of Chicago, 1986) is Professor of Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. His publications include *The East German Church and the End of Communism* (Oxford U. Press, 1997), *Encounters with Orthodoxy* (WJK Press, 2013), and *Holy Rus': The Rebirth of Orthodoxy in the New Russia* (Yale U. Press, 2017). In 2011, Burgess was a Fulbright Scholar at St. Tikhon's Orthodox University in Moscow, Russia, and in 2018-19 a Fulbright Scholar at the State University in Belgorod, Russia. His current research focuses on Russian Orthodox holy elders of the late Soviet period.



Image: Joel Elliott, NHC



J. Eugene Clay, Arizona State University

Trained in history at the University of Chicago, J. Eugene Clay is Associate Professor of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies at Arizona State University, where he writes and lectures about religious movements in Russia and Eurasia, the Eastern Christian tradition, confessional identities, and religious freedom. His work has appeared in *Church History*, *Russian History*, the *Cahiers du monde russe*, and *Arizona Studies in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*. His most recent book is the edited collection *Beasts, Humans, and Transhumans in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance* (Brepols, 2020).



Matthew Fraser, American University of Paris

Matthew Fraser is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, Media and Culture at the American University of Paris. His next book, *Monumental Fury: The History of Iconoclasm and the Future of Our Past*, will be published this fall by Prometheus Books.



Christopher J. Helali, Dartmouth College

Christopher Helali is a PhD candidate in Philosophy at Tongji University and a graduate student in cultural studies at Dartmouth College. He has a master of science degree in southeast European studies: politics, history, economics with the grade *arista* from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; a master of theological studies degree with highest distinction from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology; and a master's degree in Marxist philosophy from Huazhong University of Science and Technology. His current research is focused on a Greek Orthodox monastery on Lesbos. His research interests include modern Greece, Orthodox Christianity, nationalism, politics, and history.

Kevin M. Kain, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Dr. Kevin M. Kain is Senior Lecturer in History, Humanities and Global Studies. Broadly trained in European History, he regularly teaches online sections of Foundations of Western Culture I, Foundations of Western Culture II, Introduction to the Humanities, The Eurasian Frontier. Kain's research interests lie primarily in the cultural history of Russia, especially Russian religious, visual, and print cultures. Together with UWGB technologist Luke Konkol, he created a virtual heritage installation now on view at Museum of Russian Icons.

Luke Konkol, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

Luke Konkol is a graduate student in anthropology at UW-Milwaukee. His pedagogical interests include active learning; culturally responsive/relevant pedagogy (CRP); games, simulations, and reenactment. His thesis explores the emergence of game-like experiences through playfulness among historical reenactors. In merging these interests, Luke remains especially interested in the role of playfulness and consensus-building in a diverse, equitable, and inclusive classroom.



Yelena Lembersky, Author

Yelena Lembersky is a coauthor of two books, Felix Lembersky: *Paintings and Drawings*, a monograph on a Soviet artist and her grandfather (Moscow: Galart, 2009), and *Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour: Memories of Soviet Russia*, a memoir (Boston: Cherry Orchard Books, 2022). After moving to the USA from Leningrad, Soviet Russia, in 1987, Lembersky earned a double Bachelor's in Art and Science from the University of Michigan and a Master's of Architecture from MIT. She serves as project director at the Unitera Foundation, organizing exhibitions and collaborating with the researchers of Felix Lembersky, whose art and archives are now located in Massachusetts. Her writing appeared in *Cardinal Points Literary Journal*, *The Forward*, and *World Literature Today*.



Nancy Norwood, Curator of European Art, Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester

Nancy Norwood has served as the curator of European art at the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester since 2000. She holds a B.A. in Russian and an M.A. in Art History from the University of Texas at Austin and continued her doctoral work in medieval art at the University of California, Berkeley. Ms. Norwood has organized over 20 exhibitions on a variety of topics ranging from ancient to modern. She acquired Cheremnykh's Antireligious Alphabet for MAG, where it was first highlighted in her 2004 exhibition Literacy for Little Comrades.



Vera Shevzov, Smith College

Vera Shevzov is professor of Religion and of Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies Program at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. A graduate of Yale University (BA, Ph.D.), her research and publications have focused on a wide variety of topics in modern and contemporary Russia, including lived Orthodoxy, Orthodox religious thought, Orthodoxy's interface with visual culture (especially icons), canon law, the Bolshevik revolution, and Orthodox Christianity in contemporary Russia as a uniquely post-Soviet phenomenon. Her books include *Russian Orthodoxy on the Eve of Revolution*, and the co-edited volume *Framing Mary: The Mother of God in Modern, Revolutionary, and Post-Soviet Russian Culture*. Her current research projects include: 1) the topic of "rights" in Orthodox discourse in revolutionary Russia (1905-1918); 2) visual violence aimed at religion and faith following the Bolshevik coup (1917); and 3) prayer/liturgy as testimony in Gulag and post-Gulag Orthodox memoir literature.



Maria Silina, Université du Québec à Montréal

Maria Silina, PhD, is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History of Art at UQAM, Montreal. They participate in several research projects that address Communist culture and media, museum studies, and contemporary art activism. Their book *Art History on Display: Soviet Museum Between Two Wars* (1920s-1930s) is forthcoming from Bard Graduate Center.



MODERATORS



Catherine Mannick is an angel investor and former international lawyer with 20 years of experience representing US businesses in the former Soviet Union. She currently chairs the Advisory Board of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University and is a Trustee of the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, Massachusetts. Catherine earned her undergraduate degree in Russian Studies from Yale University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She also earned an M.A. in history from Harvard, where she was a tutor in the History and Literature Department, focusing on early 20th century Russian and Soviet history.



Amy Consalvi is the Director of Interpretation at the Museum of Russian Icons. As an experienced educator that specializes in visitor-centered and object-based learning, she develops engaging programming for a wide variety of audiences and looks for new and exciting ways to connect audiences to the Museum's collection. She received her M.A. in Museum Education from Tufts University, and her B.A. in American Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She previously held positions at the Concord Museum and the Lowell National Historical Park.



Svetlana Nikitina's scholarly and professional interests lie in three areas: new forms of narrative emerging in our multi-media age; comparative and environmental literature; and interdisciplinary pedagogy. Prior to her current post at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA) she served as a senior researcher on the nationwide study of interdisciplinary education conducted by the Harvard Graduate School of Education, evaluating interdisciplinary curricula and learning experiences at the collegiate and professional levels. She earned a PhD in Comparative Literature from Moscow University and an Ed.M in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard University.

CHAIR



Wendy Salmund received her PhD at the University of Texas at Austin and now teaches art history at Chapman University in Orange, CA. Her publications on Russian art include *Arts and Crafts in Late Imperial Russia*, *Treasures into Tractors: The Selling of Russia's Cultural Heritage, 1918-1938*, *Tradition in Transition: Russian Icons in the Age of the Romanovs*, and most recently, "Eternity in Low Earth Orbit: Icons on the International Space Station" <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/11/11/611>. She is also editor of the *Journal of Icon Studies* <https://www.museumofrussianicons.org/jis/> published by the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, MA. Her current book project is *Russian Icons in America. The Fate of Orthodox Painting, 1917-39*.