

## ***ANA SILJAK***

Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education  
University of Florida  
432 Newell Drive  
Gainesville, FL 32611

### ***Employment:***

Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education, August 2023-present.

History Department, Queen's University, 2004-2023. Courses: Intellectual Origins of the Contemporary West; The Russian Novel in Russian History; Imperial Russian History; Radicalism, Revolution, and Religion in Russian History and Literature; European Thought and Culture; Conceptual History of Terrorism

Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Toronto (Visiting Professor), 2008, 2015, 2018.

History and Slavic Departments, Northwestern University (Visiting Professor), 2002-2004.

Division of the Humanities, University of Chicago (Lecturer), 2001-2004.

### ***Books:***

Editor, *Religion and Secular Modernity in Russian Christianity, Judaism, and Atheism*. Cornell University Press, 2024.

Editor, *Nikolai Berdyaev and Jacques Maritain: An Exceptional Dialogue (1925-1948)*, by Bernard Hubert. Translated by Christopher Jon Delogu. McGill Queen's University Press, 2025.

*Angel of Vengeance: The "Girl Assassin," the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia's Revolutionary World*. Martin's Press, 2008, paperback edition 2009.

*Visions of the West*, with Eric Robinson and Heather Weidner. New York: Oxford, forthcoming 2026.

Editor, *Redrawing Nations: Ethnic Cleansing in East-Central Europe, 1944-1948*, with Philipp Ther. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001.

### ***Work in Progress:***

"The Forgotten Dissident: The Personalist Philosophy of Nikolai Berdiaev." Book, under consideration at Princeton University Press, projected completion date: October 2025.

"The Serpent in the Garden: Lev Shestov and Leo Strauss's Theologico-Political Problem," under consideration at *Political Theory*.

"The Art of Life: The Russian Renaissance, 1890-1917." Book project, funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada Insight Grant, projected completion date: January 2027.

Nikolai Berdyaev Library Project. Catalogue of new materials found in the Nikolai Berdiaev House Museum, Clamart, France. Project funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Institutional Grant. Website at <https://berdyaev.omeka.net/>.

***Articles and Book Chapters:***

“The Hidden Russia in Western Philosophy: An Outline for Future Research,” *Northwestern University Studies in Russian Philosophy, Literature and Religious Thought*, 3 (forthcoming 2026)

“A New Christian Humanism: Nikolai Berdyaev and Jacques Maritain.” In Bernard Hubert, *An Exceptional Dialogue, 1925–1948: Nikolai Berdyaev and Jacques Maritain*, edited by Ana Siljak. McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2025.

“Zinaida Gippius and Christian Infatuation,” in *Religion and Secular Modernity in Russian Christianity, Judaism, and Atheism*, edited by Ana Siljak. Cornell University Press, 2024.

“The Personalism of Nikolai Berdiaev,” In *The Oxford Handbook of Russian Religious Thought*, edited by George Pattison, Caryl Emerson, and Randall Poole, 309-326. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

“‘The Beauteous Terrorist’: Russian Women and Terrorism in Literature at the Turn of the Century.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Terrorism*, edited by Carola Dietze and Claudia Verhoeven, 275-291. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

“Sigmund Freud, Sublimation, and the Russian Silver Age.” *Modern Intellectual History* 15, no. 2 (August 2018): 443–70.

“Friedrich Nietzsche, Dmitrii Merezhkovskii, and the Russian Renaissance.” *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 60, no. 1-2 (May 2018): 236-255.

“Nikolai Berdiaev and the Origin of Russian Messianism.” *The Journal of Modern History* 88, no. 4 (December 2016): 737-763.

“Controversies over Nationalism: The Teaching of Russian History, 1890-1904.” In *Rossiia i SSHA na stranitsakh uchebnikov: opyt vzaimnykh representatsii*, edited by Victoria Zhuravleva and Ivan I. Kurilla, 106-140. Volgograd: Volgograd State University Press, 2009.

“The Trial of Vera Zasulich.” In *Russian and Soviet History: From the Time of Troubles to the Collapse of the Soviet Union*, edited by Steven Usitalo and William Benton Whisenhunt, 147-161. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008.

“Between East and West: Hegel and the Origins of the Russian Dilemma.” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 62, no. 2 (April 2001): 335-358.

“Christianity, Science, and Progress in Sergei M. Solov'ev's History of Russia.” In *Historiography of Imperial Russia: The Profession and Writing of History in a Multinational State*, edited by Thomas Sanders, 215-238. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe Press, 1999.

Book reviews in *Slavic Review*, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, *Democratization*, and *Journal of Cold War Studies*

***Lectures and Papers:***

“The Culture of Nothingness in Russian Religious-Philosophical and Artistic Traditions”, Roundtable Presentation, ASEEEES conference, Washington, DC, November 25, 2025.

Invited Speaker, “Nikolai Berdyaev, Human Rights, and Human Dignity,” Havighurst Center, Miami University of Ohio, Oxford, Ohio, October 2, 2025.

“The Serpent in the Garden, Evil and Knowledge in Lev Shestov and Leo Strauss,” Evil in Russian Thought and Literature, St. John’s College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, July 31, 2025.

“Lev Shestov and the Absurd,” Krakow Conferences of Russian Philosophy: “Lev Shestov: Religious Existentialism in Russian and European Thought,” Krakow, June 3, 2025.

“K 150-I letiu Nikolaia Berdiaeva: novye istochniki i novye materialy.” III Mezhdunarodnaia nauchnaia konferentsiia: “Filosofia religii na vostoke i zapade,” Joint Conference of the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow and the Tashkent Orthodox Seminary, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, May 1, 2025.

“Nikolai Berdyaev at 150: New Sources and New Perspectives,” Roundtable presentation, ASEEEES conference, Boston, November 22, 2024.

Introductory Speaker, “The Hidden Russia in Western Philosophy,” at the Hamilton Center Conference, “Religion, Human Dignity, and Human Rights: New Paradigms for Russia and the West (A Conference in Honor of Nikolai Berdyaev at 150, University of Florida, Gainesville, November 1, 2024.

Plenary Speaker, “The Hidden Russia in European Continental Philosophy,” at the Pontifical University of John Paul II Conference: “Nikolai Berdiaev and Russian Philosophy in the West,” Krakow, Poland, June 12, 2024.

“Russian Thought in Interwar Europe: A Reconsideration,” Independent Institution of Philosophy, Sorbonne University, Paris, June 17, 2024.

“Starting Small: Morson’s Prosaics and the Person,” Paper presented at “Celebrating Gary Saul Morson: Humanistic Traditions in Russian Thought and Literature,” Northwestern University, Evanston, April 19, 2024.

“Nikolai Berdiaev, Personalism, and Human Rights.” Paper presented at the ASEEEES Conference, New Orleans, November 2021 (read in absentia).

“Theocracy or Anarchy? Religion and the State in Russian Philosophy (Vladimir Soloviev and Nikolai Berdiaev).” Paper presented to the Russian and East European Studies Network, March 2021 (virtual).

“Friedrich Nietzsche, Dmitrii Merezhkovskii, and the Russian Renaissance.” Paper presented at the International Congress of Slavists, Belgrade, Serbia, August 2018.

“Nikolai Berdiaev and the Russian Origin of Human Rights.” Paper presented at the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University, May 2017.

“Personalism and the Silver Age: A Religious Revolt Against the Collective.” Paper presented at the ASEEEES Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2016.

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“The Influence of Nikolai Berdiaev on the Development of Western Personalist Philosophy.” Paper presented at the Canadian Association of Slavists Annual Conference, University of Calgary, May 2016.

“Zinaida Gippius and ‘Christian Infatuation,’ with an Addendum on Sigmund Freud.” Paper presented at the conference, “Varieties of Russian Modernity,” Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow, Russia, July 2013.

“Reconsidering the ‘Third Rome’: The Origin of Russian Messianism in the Work of Nikolai Berdiaev.” Paper presented to the Cambridge University Committee for Russian and East European Studies. Cambridge, United Kingdom, February 2011.

“Socialist Eschatology and Russian Terrorism.” Paper presented at the American Historical Association Mini-Conference: “From Religious Self-Sacrifice to Suicide Terrorism: Martyrdom in the West during the Nineteenth Century Compared with the Middle East Today.” Boston, MA, January 2011.

“Nikolai Berdiaev and the Origin of Russian Messianism.” Paper presented to the Washington Russian History Seminar. Georgetown University, February 2010.

“Russian Messianism: A Reconsideration.” Paper presented at the ASEES conference, Boston, November 2009.

“Earthly Kingdom: Socialist Eschatology in Nineteenth-Century Russia.” Paper presented to the CERES Faculty Speakers' Series: Crossdisciplinary Discussion in Area Studies at the Munk Center for International Studies, Toronto, Ontario, September 2008.

### ***Dissertation:***

“Rival Visions of the Russian Nation: The Teaching of Russian History, 1890-1917” (Harvard, 1997)

### ***Popular Contributions:***

Podcast, with Matthew Miner, American Maritain Association. August 22, 2025.

“We're All George Smiley Now,” *Mere Orthodoxy*, March 10, 2025. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/were-all-george-smiley-now>

“‘Herald of a Restless World’ Review: Henri Bergson’s Intuition,” *The Wall Street Journal*, October 24, 2024.

“The Golden Calf,” *Mere Orthodoxy*, October 2, 2023. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/the-golden-calf>

“There is no materialist path to the promised land.” *Mere Orthodoxy*, November 7, 2022. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/chekhov-cherry-orchard/>

“Atheist Nones and the Problem of Soviet Atheism.” *Mere Orthodoxy*, November 5, 2021. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/atheist-nones-and-the-problem-of-soviet-atheism/>

“Purity Culture.” *Mere Orthodoxy*, April 13, 2021. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/purity-culture/>

“D.B. Hart’s Inquisitor.” *Mere Orthodoxy*, July 1, 2020. <https://mereorthodoxy.com/db-harts-inquisitor/>

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“The New Edwardians: Jennifer Welsh’s *The Return of History*, and the Limits of Progress,” *Literary Review of Canada*, October 2016.

“A Strange Road to Hell: Technology, Culture, and the March to World War One,” *Literary Review of Canada*, January-February 2014.

“The Enigmatic Monarch: A Novel Brings Catherine the Great to Life but Leaves Unanswered Questions,” *Literary Review of Canada*, May 2012.

Adventure and Empathy: One of the World’s Leading Historians Reflects on Her Craft,” *Literary Review of Canada*, May 2011.

“Can Sociology Save Us: His Faith in Reason Unshaken, One Academic Argues Yes,” *Literary Review of Canada*, September 2010.

Interview, Charles Taylor Prize Finalists, Rita Celli, CBC Ontario Today, February 9, 2009

Talk on *Angel of Vengeance*, *Globe and Mail*/Ben McNally Books and Brunch, February 8, 2009.

Contribution to “Q&A: Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. Pulling Readers into History,” *Toronto Star* (February 7, 2009), p. E12.

Interview with Steve Paikin, “Using and Abusing the Past,” *The Agenda*, TV Ontario, February 6, 2009.

Interview with Karin Wells, *Sunday Edition*, CBC Radio One, August 31, 2008.

### ***Selected Reviews of My Work:***

Morrissey, Susan K. “Terrorism, Modernity, and the Question of Origins,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 12, no. 1 (2011): 213-226.

McDermid, Jane. Review of *Angel of Vengeance: The “Girl Assassin,” the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia’s Revolutionary World*, in *Slavic Review* 68, no. 3 (2009): 697.

Scott, Chris. “When Nihilists Threatened the World” [review of *Angel of Vengeance: The “Girl Assassin,” the Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia’s Revolutionary World*], *Globe and Mail*, Books Section (May 3, 2008), pp. D8-D9.

Paul E. Richardson. “Angel of Vengeance,” *Russian Life* (May/June 2008).

### ***Other Positions:***

Coordinator, Russian and East European Studies Network at Queen’s, 2019-2020.

Visiting Scholar, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Stanford University, 2010. 2016-2017.

### ***Awards and Grants:***

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Institutional Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada 2022-2023  
Insight Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2018-2023  
Hoover Institution Grant, 2016  
Fund for Scholarly Research and Creative Work, Queen's University, 2016  
History Department Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2013  
Insight Development Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, 2012-2014  
Finalist, Charles Taylor Prize, 2009  
Advisory Research Committee Grant, Queen's University, 2008  
Fund for Scholarly Research and Creative Work, Queen's University, 2006  
Fund for Scholarly and Professional Development, Queen's University, 2005

### ***Education:***

Ph.D.	Harvard University	History	1997
A.B.	Stanford University	Political Science	1990