

LEAH FELDMAN

Curriculum Vitae, 2025

Associate Professor, University of Chicago, Department of Comparative Literature
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WEBSITE:

<https://lmfeldman.com/>

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Comparative Literature, June 2013
C.Phil., University of California, Los Angeles, Comparative Literature
September 2006 – May 2010
B.A., University of Texas, Austin, Russian, French, and Humanities Honors
summa cum laude, August 2002 – May 2006

APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Chicago, 2021-present
Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Chicago, 2015-present
Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, Central European University, 2014-2015
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, 2013-2014

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

20-21st century Russophone Literature, Performance, Art and Film of the Caucasus and Central Asia, 19-20th century Azeri Turkic Literature and Theatre, Orientalism, Islam and Secular Criticism, Anticolonial Literature, Film and Theory, Marxist Aesthetics, Ethno-Nationalisms and Fascisms, Narrative Theory and Semiotics, Queer Theory and Performance studies, Translation

PUBLICATIONS

Azbuka Strikes Back: An Anticolonial ABCs, with Slavs and Tatars, Berlin: König, 2024.

On the Threshold of Eurasia: Revolutionary Poetics in the Caucasus

(Cornell University Press, 2018, winner of Central Eurasian Studies Society Book Award, 2019)

Reviewed in:

Robert Young, “The Soviet Invention of Postcolonial Studies” *boundary 2* 50.2 (2023): 133-156.

Roueché, Thomas. “Boom, Bam, Bang...” *Cornucopia Magazine* 11.63 (2021): 20-21.

Hodgkin, Samuel. *Journal of Ottoman and Turkish Studies* 7.2 (2020): 284-286

Khalid, Adeeb. *Central Asian Survey* 39.3 (2020): 438-439.

Behdad, Ali. “The Afterlife of Orientalism (Review of Leah Feldman’s *On the Threshold of Eurasia*).”

boundary 2 online. 25 August 2020. < <https://www.boundary2.org/2020/08/ali-behdad-the-afterlife-of-orientalism-review-of-leah-feldmans-on-the-threshold-of-eurasia/> >

Suny, Ronald Grigor. *Russian Review* 78.4 (2019): 660-661.

Oldfield, Anna. *Slavic Review* 78.4 (2019): 1103-1105.

DeBlasio, A.J. *CHOICE: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* 56.11 (2019): 1404.

Special Issue:

Critical introduction and co-edited special issue with Aamir Mufti, “From Crisis to Catastrophe: Global Genealogies of the New Right” *boundary 2*, 50.1 (2023).
(with Aamir Mufti) “Introduction: The Returns of Fascism” *boundary 2*, 50.1 (2023): 1-12.

Book Chapters:

(with Aamir Mufti) “From Crisis to Catastrophe: Lineages of the Global New Right” in Ed. Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins. *Did it Happen Here? Fascism and America*. WW. Norton & Co., 2024.

Translations:

Sultan Kazy Girei, “The Valley of Azhitugai” and Celil Memmedquluzadeh, “The Dead,” in *Tulips in Bloom: An Anthology of Modern Central Asian Literature*, Palgrave: 2024.

Anthologies (in progress):

Anticolonial Thought: An Anthology of Manifestos and Other Primary Documents,
with Peter Kalliney and Harris Feinsod, Oxford University Press, *forthcoming 2026*

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

“Goatibexization: The Haunting Modernity of Soviet Hybridity,” *Modernism/modernity* 9.4 (2025)
<https://www.modernismmodernity.org/forums/posts/feldman-goatibexization-modernist-satire-collectivization>.

“That Antiracist Feeling: The Underground Sensorium of Waning Socialist Internationalism,”
Comparative Literature, 75:2 (2023): 172-187.

“Trad Rights: Making Eurasian Whiteness at the ‘End of History’” *boundary 2*, 50.1 (2023): 69-104.

“Embodied Philology: Translating Performance from Tashkent to Chicago,” *The Drama Review* 65.3 (2021): 103-124.

“Global Souths: Toward a Materialist Poetics of Alignment,” *boundary 2* 47.2 (2020): 199-225.

“Strange Love: Parajanov and the Affects of Late Soviet (Inter)nationalisms,” *The Global South* 13.2 (2019): 73-103.

“Hybridity’s Failures: Lessons From the Soviet Empire” *Ab Imperio* 4 (2019): 55-64.

“Reading Gogol in Azeri: Parodic Genealogies and the Revolutionary Geopoetics of 1905,” *Slavic Review* 75.2 (2016): 256-278

“Red Jihad: Translating Communism in the Muslim Caucasus,” *boundary 2* 43.3 (2016): 221-249.

“Orientalism on the Threshold: Reorienting Heroism in Late Imperial Russia,” *boundary 2* 39.2 (2012): 161-180.

Art, Public Humanities and Other Writing:

“Agitation” in Keywords for Postcolonial Thought, *Post45*, <https://post45.org/2024/09/agitation/>

“After Post-: Performance at the End of History,” *Post.MoMA*, 2024,
<https://post.moma.org/after-post-performance-at-the-end-of-history/>

“Conversation: Sovereignty/ Populism” *Critical Productive* 1 2023

“Showing up to Improvisation,” *Cambridge Core blog*, 20 September 2021,

<<https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/2021/09/20/showing-up-to-improvisation/>>

Interviews:

“Slavs and Tatars: Being One with Many, Being One through Many,” Leah Feldman, Kathleen Reinhardt, and Payam Sharifi, *Mousse* 92 (2025): 37-43.

“Eight Phonemes and the State of Children’s Literature” Leah Feldman and Slavs and Tatars, *Portable Gray* 6.2 (2023): 250-258.

“Translate me Over a River” Interview for Artwork by Slavs & Tatars, Izolyatsia Foundation and the Villa Arson, 2020, <<https://www.villa-aron.org/en/2020/11/translate-me-over-a-river/>>

“In Conversation with Leah Feldman” TANK Magazine 10.6 (2020): 246-247.

“Author Interview: On the Threshold of Eurasia: Revolutionary Poetics in the Caucasus,” *The CESS Blog: A Blog of the Central Eurasian Studies Society*, 16 October 2019,

<<http://thecessblog.com/2019/10/author-interview-on-the-threshold-of-eurasia-revolutionary-poetics-in-the-caucasus-by-leah-feldman-university-of-chicago/>>

Encyclopedia Entry:

“Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter.” *Directory of World Cinema: Russia*. 2nd Edition. Birgit Beumers. Ed. Bristol: Intellect, 2014, 181-182

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago, Department of Comparative Literature, 2015-current

Courses Taught:

“Revolutionary Erotics”
“Performance Theory”
“Anticolonial Thought”
“Collapse: The Fall of the Soviet Empire”
“The Rise of the Global Right”
“Theater Adaptation and Translation”
“Islams and Modernities”
“Nowhere Lands: Utopia, Dystopia and the Afterlife of Empire”
“The Politics of Hybridity: Postcolonial Theory and the Cold War”
“Media Aesthetics: Image”
“Media Aesthetics: Text”
“Readings in World Literature: Autobiography”

ACADEMIC HONORS AND GRANTS

2022 “Costumes and Collapse,” Neubauer 3-year fellowship with Slavs and Tatars and Hoda El Shakry
2022 Humboldt Research Fellowship, Berlin, Germany
2022 Artist-Academic Residency, *Propaganda Network*, Tbilisi, Georgia
2021 Artist-Academic Residency, *The Pickle Bar: Slavs and Tatars*, Berlin, Germany
2020 Gray Center Grant, University of Chicago, with artist collective Slavs & Tatars, to fund a course on “Radical Reading” and a co-written radical children’s book
2020 Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago, with Faith Hillis, to fund a series of workshops called “After the ‘End of History’: Reassessing the Communist Collapse”
2019 Center for Disciplinary Innovation, University of Chicago, with Faith Hillis, to co develop a new class on the Soviet collapse
2019 Winner of the Central Eurasian Studies Society Book Award in History and the Humanities
2019 Summer Research Grant, American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC)
2019 Delhi Global Center Grant, University of Chicago
2019 Franke Institute Event Grant, University of Chicago, for support for organizing a conference called “Race in the Russian and Soviet Empires”
2018 Signature Course Grant, University of Chicago, to develop a course on the Rise of the Global New Right

2018 Franke Institute Event Grant, University of Chicago, with Leslie Buxbaum Danzig, for “Adaptation and Translation in Theatre-Making,” to organize a collaboration with theater artists and musicians from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, a workshop with faculty and students, and a student practicum

2018 Gray Center Grant, University of Chicago, with Leslie Buxbaum Danzig, for “Adaptation and Translation in Theatre-Making”

2017 ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Fellow

CURATION AND ART

2025 “A History of Acts and Gestures,” a forum including performances, talks, and roundtables with the Tate Modern and Almaty Museum of Arts, Almaty, KZ, <https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/almaty-museum-of-arts/a-history-in-acts-and-gestures>

2025 “Supra-national” performance with Uta Bekaia, Almaty Museum of Arts

2025 “Revolutionary Erotics,” An interdisciplinary study abroad for PhD and MA students in the Arts and Humanities with Slavs and Tatars in Berlin

2025 “Embodying Transition: Performing the 1990s Today,” performances and roundtable, Center for Contemporary Art and Goethe Center, Tbilisi, Georgia
<https://lmfeldman.com/embodying-transition-performing-the-1990s-today/>

2025 “Revolutionary Frequencies” exhibition roundtable and dance party, Gray Center,
<https://lmfeldman.com/revolutionary-frequencies-exhibition-roundtable-performance-and-dance-party/>

2025 “Costumes and Collapse” Residency and Exhibition with Slavs and Tatars, Uta Bekaia, Levani, Selin Davasse, Aiganym Mukhamejan, Aziza Shadenova, GOD ERA, Silk Museum, Tbilisi, Georgia, April 14-28, exhibition 4.26.2025, with support from Neubauer Collegium and Ria Keburia Foundation,
<https://lmfeldman.com/costumes-and-collapse-2/>

23-24 Costumes and Collapse Series at UChicago, with performances and talks by artists Nick Cave, Uta Bekaia, Levani, Lucas de Lima, Alia Ali, Gluklya, Rufina Bazlova, 2023-2024

2024 “Anticolonial Thought” Workshop, Azbuka Strikes Back Public Program, Tselinny, Almaty, KZ

2018 “Mobilizing through Improvisation: A Global South and Southside Chicago Collaboration,” with the Ilkhom theater of Tashkent and Brother El, The Gray Center UChicago, November 2018,
<https://lmfeldman.com/mobilizing-through-improvisation-a-global-south-and-southside-chicago-collaboration/>

SELECTED TALKS, CONFERENCE PAPERS AND ORGANIZATION

Keynote Lectures:

2024 “In Queer Times” *Parajanov Centennial*, USC, Los Angeles

2017 “Toward an Ethno-Futurist Poetics: Queer Temporalities and Late Soviet (Inter)nationalisms in the Caucasus and Central Asia,” *Russia and the Muslim World Symposium*, Tucson

Invited Talks:

2025 “Azbuka Strikes Back,” *Experiments in Listening* conference at Cal Arts and USC, Los Angeles

2024 “The Global Rise of the Right Returns,” Johns Hopkins University

2023 “Feeling Collapse: Nomad Aesthetics,” Freie University, Berlin

2023 Anticolonial Thought Workshop, Tselinny Center, Almaty (Kazakhstan)

2023 “Costuming Collapse,” Pickle Bar Art Gallery, Berlin

2023 “Narva 88: Unruly Collectivities and the Last Soviet Festival for Unofficial Art,” Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), NY

2022 Roundtable for closing of Slavs and Tatars “MerczBau” Show

2022 Hamid Ismailov Symposium, Yale University

2022 “Feeling Worthless: Narva and the Value of Art during the Soviet Collapse,” Humboldt University, Berlin

2022 “The Eurasian Postscript: New Right and Ukraine,” University of Pittsburgh

2021 “Feeling Stateless: Nomad Aesthetics and the Collapse of the Soviet Empire,” NYU

2020 “The Precarious State: NeoEurasianism and the Rise of the Global New Right”
NYU

2019 "On the Threshold of Eurasia: Intertextual Encounters in the Caucasus"
Humboldt University, Berlin

2019 "Assemblages of Collapse: The Affective World of Parajanov and the Fall of the Soviet Empire"
Ilia State University, Tbilisi

2019 "On the Threshold of Eurasia: Revolutionary Poetics in the Caucasus"
Northwestern University

2018 "Strange Love: Sergei Parajanov's Ethnofuturism"
Yale University

2017 "Staging the Revolution in the East: Theatre in the Caucasus"
Stanford University

2017 "The Strange Lover: The Anti-Nationalist Politics of Sergei Parajanov's *Tableaux-vivants*"
Pennsylvania State University, State College

2016 "On Global Souths," University of Chicago, Franke Institute

2015 "Reading on the Threshold: A Russian Prophet in Azeri Translations"
University of Chicago

2015 "Empire and the Dialogic Imagination: Reading Russian Literature in Azeri Translation"
Central European University, Budapest

2014 "Soviet Orientalism: The Making of a "Second" World Literature"
University of Chicago, Chicago

2014 "The Communist Yigit: Agitational Propaganda in 1920s Baku"
Central European University, Budapest

2014 "On the Threshold of Eurasia: Heterodoxy and Heterology in the Soviet Caucasus"
PIIRS Empires Research Group, Princeton University, Princeton

2013 "Modernism on the Threshold: The Russian and Azeri Avant-Gardes"
Towson University, Baltimore

Invited Colloquia:

2021 "Reimagining the Global in Post-Soviet Eurasianist New Right Networks"
Deglobalization and Anti-Globalism in Central Europe, UChicago

2019 "Toward Global Souths," Global South Roundtable, UChicago Global Center in Delhi

2018 "The Poetics of Alignment: Cold War Humanism across Global Souths"
boundary 2 anniversary conference, Dartmouth

2018 "Sergei Parajanov's Strange Love and Late Soviet (Inter)nationalisms"
Creative Ecologies: Workshop in Russian Modernism, UIC

2017 "Post-Soviet, Neoliberal, New Right Formations"
boundary 2 conference, Pittsburgh

2015 "Socialist Humanism: The Image of the Human and Soviet World Consciousness"
The Arts of Bandung Humanism, UCLA

2013 "Imagining the Caucasus in Revolutionary Politics and Poetics"
25th Anniversary of the UC Humanities Initiative: Humanities in Circulation, UCLA

Conference and Panel Organization:

2023 "Waning Internationalisms," ACLA

2020/1 "After the 'End of History': Reassessing the Communist Collapse"
Year-long zoom series, UChicago Neubauer Collegium

2020 "Race in the Russian and Soviet Empires"
UChicago and UIC

2017 "Afro-Asian Solidarities"
NYU, New York

2016 "The Organization of the Arts in the Soviet "East" 1917-1941"
In Empire's Long Shadow: Modern Constructions of Central Eurasia, 1900-1941, UChicago

Selected Conference Papers:

2024 "Nomad Aesthetics," Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, Boston

2023 "Narva 1988: The Last Soviet Festival," American Comparative Literature Association, Chicago

2019 “Staging Translations of Race in Post-Soviet Tashkent,” Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, San Francisco

2018 “The Ethno-Poetics of Eurasianism,” American Comparative Literature Association, Los Angeles

2018 “The Global New Right Commune: Eurasianism and ‘Conciliary’ Authoritarianism” Modern Language Association, New York

2016 “Eurasian Colonialities: Origins, Histories, and Afterlives,” Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, Washington DC

2016 “Eurasian Geopoetic Returns: the Film of Sergei Parajanov,” Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies

2016 “Socialist Realism Between the Soviet and Non-Aligned Souths,” American Comparative Literature Association, Boston, Spring

2014 “‘Give us Oil from Baku!’: The Aesthetics of Muslim Communism in the Capital of the Soviet East,” American Comparative Literature Association, New York

2013 “Mistaken Guests of the Russian Empire: Revelation and Revolution in “Revizor”’s Journey to the Caucasus,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Boston

SERVICE

Interim Director of the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, UChicago, 2024-2025

Translation Studies, UChicago 2024

Arts Steering Committee, UChicago, 2024-2025

MAPH Faculty Board, UChicago, 2024-2025

Director of Graduate Study, Comparative Literature and Theater and Performance Studies, 2023-2024

boundary2, editorial collective, 2015-2022
coeditor, 2022-present

Pozen Center for Human Rights Board Member, 2021-present

ACLA Tatar Award Committee, 2021

Director of Graduate Study, Department of Comparative Literature, 2020-2022, 2023-2024

Diversity Committee, University of Chicago, 2018-2020

Experimental Performance Committee, 2020-present

Director of Undergraduate Study, Department of Comparative Literature, 2016-2017

Russian/Eurasian Executive Committee Forum Member, Modern Language Association, 2016-present

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Exam committee for Vlad Zeminkov

Exam committee for Wafa Asher Syeda

MA advisor for Isabelle Davis (CMES)

Exam Committee for James Nee (PhD candidate in History)

Dissertation Committee for Kara Peruccio (PhD Candidate in Islamic History, NELC), “Womanhood Mediterranean Style: Authoritarianism and the Politics of Fiction in Italy and Turkey 1919-1935”

Dissertation Committee for August Samie, PhD Candidate in Islamic and Central Asian History, NELC

Advisor for Niko Shahbazian, MA, CMES, “Here, There, Not (T)here: Armenian Queerness in between Diasporicity and Locality”

Advisor for Krishna Kulkarni, MA, CMES

Advisor for Ryan Cole (MAPH) “Political Marginality and the Construction of a Modern Lumpenproletariat”

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Modern Language Association (MLA)
- American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL)
- Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
- American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
- American Research Institute of the South Caucasus (ARISC)
- Phi Beta Kappa, member since 2004

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- English: Native speaker
- French: Advanced Proficiency
- Russian: Advanced Proficiency
- Azeri: Intermediate Proficiency
- Georgian: Basic Reading proficiency
- Spanish: Basic Reading Proficiency