

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Samuel Proffitt Driver

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Date and Place of Birth 8 February 1991, USA, Texas  
Nationality American  
Work Address 20 Manning Walk, Brown University, Providence, RI  
E-mail samuel\_driver@brown.edu  
Languages English (Native), Russian (Professional Proficiency), Ukrainian (Reading), Bulgarian (Reading), Spanish (Reading), Python Coding Language

### Education

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**Brown University, PhD Candidate** Providence, RI  
Slavic Studies (Completed Exams with Distinction) Sep. 2016 – Pres.  
Committee: Vladimir Golstein, Associate Professor of Slavic Studies; Douglas Nickel, Andrea V. Rosenthal Professor of History of Art and Architecture; Fabrizio Fenghi, Assistant Professor of Slavic Studies

**Middlebury College (Kathryn Wasserman Davis School of Russian), MA Candidate** Middlebury, CT  
Russian July 2021 – Pres.

**American Council: Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program (Online)** Moscow, Russia  
Advanced Russian Language June- August 2020

**School of Russian and Asian Studies: Ukrainian for Russian Speakers (Online)** Kyiv, Ukraine  
Ukrainian and Russian Language June 2020

**Brown University, AM** Providence, RI  
Slavic Studies 2016 – 2018

**Boston College, BA** Chestnut Hill, MA  
Russian Language & Literature (with Honors) 2009 - 2013  
Interdisciplinary Philosophy (with Honors)

### Professional Experience and Fellowships

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**Research Fellow**, Blavatnik Archive New York, NY From Jan-May 2024

**Guest Critic**, "Programming Images" Studio Course Nov. 2023  
Dept. of Computation, Technology, & Culture, Rhode Island School of Design Providence, RI

**Curatorial Research Associate**, "Border Assemblages: Re-collecting Moria" From Oct. 2023 - Jan. 2024  
Brown University, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology Providence, RI

**Core Group Fellow**, Horizon 2045 Pilot Program: The Polycrisis and the Future of Critical Global Relationships From Oct. 2023 - March 2024  
N Square, Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), and Rhode Island School of Design

**Visiting Scholar**, MOMus: Museum of Modern Art - Costakis Collection June 2023  
Thessaloniki, GR

**Research Fellow**, Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives, From Feb. - July 2023  
Central European University Budapest, HU

**Elected Member**, Younger Generation Leaders Network on Euro-Atlantic Security, From Jan. 2023  
European Leadership Network London, UK

**Visiting Scholar**, Institute of World History, Faculty of Arts, Charles University From Sep. 2022-23  
Prague, Czech Republic

**Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellow**, U.S. DOE From Sep. 2022-23  
Prague, CZ; Budapest, HU; Vilnius, LT; Riga, LV

**Russian - English Poetry Translator**, Middlebury Bread Loaf Translators' Conference June 2022  
Middlebury, VT

**Russian - English Translator**, ROAR (Russian Oppositional Arts Review) From April 2022  
Moscow, Russia

**Title VIII Open Research Laboratory Associate**, Illinois Global Institute (REEEC), From Jan. 2022- Aug. 22  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Champaign, IL

<i>Graduate Writing Fellow</i> , Sheridan Writing Center, Brown University Providence, RI	From Sep. 2021-22
<i>Arts &amp; Culture Fellow and Leadership Liaison</i> , Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum Palo Alto, CA	From Nov. 2020-22
<i>Graduate Student Council Finance Committee</i> , Brown University, Providence, RI	From Aug. 2020-22
<i>International Graduate Student Peer Mentor</i> , Brown University, Providence, RI	From Aug. 2020-22
<i>Visiting Scholar on Russian and Soviet Photography</i> , Museum of Nonconformist Art, Pushkinskaya 10 St. Petersburg, Russia	From July 2019-21
<i>Member of Board of Governors</i> , Brown University Faculty-Graduate Student Club Providence, RI	From April 2019-21
<i>Signed Recording Artist &amp; Touring Musician</i> , Netzwerk Music Los Angeles, CA	From March 2019-21
<i>Translator for Fine Art Exhibitions and Catalogues</i> , Manezh Central Exhibition Hall St. Petersburg, Russia	From Sep. 2018-20
<i>Visiting Scholar and Lecturer on Russian and Soviet Photography</i> , Museum of Fine Arts - Houston Houston, TX	From June 2018-19
<i>Slavic Graduate Student Council Representative</i> , Brown University Providence, RI	From Sep. 2017-19

### **Grants and Awards**

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<i>Blavatnik Archive Research Fellowship</i> , Blavatnik Archive	2024
<i>YGLN Annual Meeting Delegate</i> , European Leadership Network	2023
<i>Doctoral Research Travel Grant</i> , Brown University	2023
<i>Davis Graduate Grant</i> , ASEES	2022
<i>Betty &amp; David Jones Scholarship</i> , Middlebury College	2022
<i>Bread Loaf Translator's Conference Scholarship</i> , Middlebury College	2022
<i>Title VIII Open Research Laboratory Associateship</i> , Illinois Global Institute (REEEC) & U.S. Department of State	2022
<i>Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship '21-'22</i> , DOE	2021
<i>Fulbright Research Semi-Finalist '21-'22 (Russian Program Cancelled)</i> , IIE	2021
<i>Writing Fellow Proctorship</i> , Brown University	2021
<i>Berthe O. Normano Scholarship</i> , Middlebury College	2021
<i>Arts &amp; Culture Fellow</i> , Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum	2020
<i>Fulbright-Hays GPA Scholarship</i> , U.S. Department of Education	2020
<i>Title VIII Scholarship</i> , U.S. Department of State	2020
<i>Graduate School Summer Fellowship</i> , Brown University	2020
<i>International Research Grant</i> , Brown University	2018, 2019
<i>Joukowsky Institute Research Grant</i> , Brown University	2017, 2018, 2019
<i>The National Slavic Honor Society</i> , Dobro Slovo	2013
<i>Sr. Thea Bowman Scholar Award</i> , Boston College	2009-2013
<i>Eagle Scout</i> , Boy Scouts of America	2008

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## Conference Presentations and Lectures

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- In February 2024, chosen by the **Cambridge East European History Graduate Workshop** to present the paper "Rethinking the 'Lie': Photography and Truth from Stalin to Putin."
- In November 2023, co-organized the panel "Split Identities in Soviet Visual Nonconformisms" and delivered a presentation on Ukrainian/ Soviet photographer Boris Mikhailov, entitled "Splintered Self and the Enquiring Gaze" at the international Slavic conference **ASEEES**.
- In October 2023, taught invited lecture to an undergraduate seminar, covering the evolution of the photographic image as vehicle for knowledge formation both in the USSR and post-Soviet Russia, entitled "From Stalin to Putin: Photographic Manipulation and its Evolution," at **College of the Holy Cross**.
- In May 2023, invited to teach a graduate-level seminar on semiotics and the photograph, entitled "The Lure of the Index and Dangers of 'Reading': For/Against a Semiotics of the Photograph," at **University of Hradec Králové, Czechia**.
- In October 2022, delivered presentation on Nonconformist art in the USSR, entitled "Blurring Boundaries: Nonconformist Art and the Evolution of the Photographic Image," in the panel "Materiality: Objects, Images, and Place in Soviet and Post-Soviet Space" at the international Slavic conference **ASEEES**.
- In October 2022, served as chair and discussant for the panel "Subverting the Official: Unofficial Russian Art from the 1950s to Present Day" at the international Slavic conference **ASEEES**.
- In June 2022, invited to present at the international photography conference, **After Post-Photography**, delivering the paper "Formation of Reality: Stalinist Photography as Technology."
- In May 2022, invited to deliver a lecture on photography in the Soviet Union, entitled "Rethinking the 'Lie': Photography and Truth in Stalin's Russia," to the **State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia**.
- In November 2021, invited to teach a seminar and workshop on translation praxis theory, entitled "On the Task of the Translator, or the Alterity of Language," at **Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia**.
- In December 2020, presented on dissertation topic, "Rethinking the 'Lie': The Epistemic Function of Photography in the Stalinist Period," at the international Slavic conference **ASEEES**.
- In Spring 2019, delivered a lecture to the course "Russian Cinema" at **Brown University**, entitled "Remaking Film: Exploring the Influence of Dziga Vertov on the French New Wave."
- In January 2019, invited to deliver a lecture to the photography curatorial team at **Museum of Fine Arts-Houston** on Russian & Soviet Underground and Nonconformist Photography and the museum's Russian & Soviet photography collection.
- In December 2018, organized a panel entitled "Music in literature: Passion, Poshlost', and Primitivism" and presented "Chekhov and Schopenhauer: Music as Revelation in Chekhov's Short Stories" at the international Slavic conference **ASEEES (Association for Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies)**.
- In Fall 2017, delivered a lecture on Svidrigailov to the undergraduate course "Crime & Punishment through Literature" at **Brown University**.
- In Fall 2017, delivered a lecture to the undergraduate course "Crime & Punishment through Literature" at **Brown University**, entitled "Suicide & Dostoevsky."

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## Publications and Publications in Progress

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- Driver et al. "Beyond Hacking and Western Hegemony: Russian Youth Culture in the Digital Sphere through the Audio-Visual Art Group, IC3PEAK." *Accepted*, due to be published in **The Stanford US-Russia Journal** in 2024.
- Driver, Samuel. "Blurring Boundaries: The Evolution of Photography after Stalin & Boris Mikhailov's Enquiring Gaze," Requested by Journal **Terra Aestheticae**; *Accepted following Peer-Review, due to be published Jan. 2024*.
- Driver, Samuel. "The Image and Knowledge Creation in Putin's War-time Russia," Requested by organization; *Proposal Accepted*, due to be published by **European Leadership Network** early 2024.
- Driver, Samuel. Review of *Vladimir Nabokov as Author-Translator* by Julie Loison-Charles, Requested by Journal; **Translation Studies** Vol. 16, No. 3, 2023.

- Parnok, Sofia tr. Samuel Driver. "Four Poems by Sofia Parnok 1926-27," Published in **Circumference Magazine**, September 13, 2023.
- Margolis, Katya tr. Samuel Driver. "I often look at this photograph..." **Russian Oppositional Arts Review (ROAR)** No. 5, 2022.
- Zinger, Gali-Dana tr. Samuel Driver. "The earth was made..."; "Trees pass through me..."; "How can they be..."; "The Regulation of the Life of the Lower Classes." **Russian Oppositional Arts Review (ROAR)** No. 4, 2022.
- Hinovker, Ekaterina tr. Samuel Driver. "Spring" & "Mouth." **Russian Oppositional Arts Review (ROAR)** No.2, 2022.
- Fokin, Danil tr. Samuel Driver. "Propagandistic Wartime Lexicon - Shifting Linguistic Norms." **Russian Oppositional Arts Review (ROAR)** No.2, 2022.
- Driver, Samuel. "What Russian Rap Can Teach Us About (Anti-) War Discourse in Russia" - **NYU Jordan Center [online]** NYU Jordan Center, May 17, 2022.
- Stolyar, Roman tr. Samuel Driver. "Libera Me: The Unfinished Story of Two Wars and One Friendship." **Russian Oppositional Arts Review (ROAR)** No.1, 2022.

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### University Teaching Experience

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***Instructor, Teaching Fellow, Teaching Assistant, Graduate Writing Fellow in Russian Language, Literature, Art, & Film***

Brown University  
Providence, RI

**Instructor:** Art from the Underground: Currents of Soviet Nonconformist Art RUSS 1210

Self-designed course, approved by university accreditation body; built novel curriculum around a variety of primary and secondary art historical documents, art objects, theoretical texts, and films; introduces students not only to the world of Soviet Nonconformist visual art, but also to the historical and political context that shaped the period and the artistic movements therein. builds upon foundation concerning what preceded the underground movements, from the Russian and Soviet avant-garde to Stalinist Socialist realism, before examining the development of Soviet Nonconformist art from the mid 1950s to current day Russian art activism; opens up the discourse to the Baltics, Georgia, Ukraine, and Central Asia, moving beyond a Russian-centric approach to Soviet Nonconformist art toward a more comprehensive understanding of what was occurring across the Soviet Union

**Teaching Fellow:** Introductory Russian RUSS 0100, 0200; Intermediate Russian RUSS 0300, 0400

Led classes five days a week as a Teaching Fellow in-person and over Zoom; utilized a variety of language-learning materials, from the textbooks *Mezhdru nami* and *V puti* to contemporary music, films, literature, and internet culture; conducted weekly office hours to work with students individually on their specific needs; completed pedagogical training through Brown for language instruction.

**Teaching Assistant:** Russian Cinema RUSS 1250; Crime and Punishment Through Literature RUSS 0320

Served as the Professor's Teaching Assistant; graded and commented on drafts and final essays; worked with students extensively throughout the semester on writing skills and topics; guest lectured several classes, including on Svidrigailov and Suicide in Crime and Punishment, as well as Dziga Vertov and his influence on the French New Wave.

**Graduate Writing Fellow:** *The Brothers Karamazov*: The Art of the Novel RUSS 0320A

Met with each student several times over the course of each essay during the semester; aided their progression in terms of style, grammar, topic of research, use of outside theoretical sources; Coordinated with the professor throughout semester on progress of students and tailoring meetings and commentary to best meet each student's individual needs.

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### Research Foci

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- Photography and photographic theory in the Soviet and Post-Soviet space
- Ontology and epistemology of photography and its interrelation with state power
- Theory of memory and the image in visual art and literature
- Art and art-activism in the context of contemporary Russian culture
- Questions of objectivity and subjectivity in literature, visual art, and film
- Technology and philosophy of music of the Russian and Soviet avant-garde
- Postmodernist Soviet and Post-Soviet Literature
- Influence of Soviet avant-garde film on the French New Wave