

Nikolay Smirnov
Brown University
Slavic Studies
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Education

Brown University - PhD in Slavic Studies, Aug 2023 - Present

- Dissertation Advisor: Michał Okłot
- Preliminary dissertation topic: The Influence of Canon and Literary Tradition on Venedikt Erofeev and his *Moskva Petushki*.

Brown University - MA in Slavic Studies, Aug 2023 – May 2025

Emory University – BA, Aug 2019 – May 2023

- Major: English & History (Concentration: Russian History & Literature)
- Minor: Francophone Studies
- Advisor: Elena Glazov Corrigan

Academic Interests

- Late Soviet Modernism and Its Propensity for Intertextuality in the works of Venedikt Erofeev and Abram Terz.
- The Role of Ideas and Ideals for the Development of Selfhood in the Oeuvre of Fyodor Dostoevsky.

Languages

- Russian: Native
- English: Native
- Polish: Near Fluency (C1)
- French: Advanced Proficiency (B2)

Teaching Experience

- Teaching Fellow, Brown University, RUSS 100, Introductory Russian, Slavic Studies Department, August 2025 - Current
- Teaching Fellow, Brown University, RUSS 200, Introductory Russian, Slavic Studies Department, January 2025 – May 2025.
- Teaching Fellow, Brown University, RUSS 100, Introductory Russian, Slavic Studies Department, August 2024 – January 2025.

- Worked as a primary lecturer for undergraduate students at Brown University, with no experience in the Russian language. Held full responsibility for the students' advancement through the curriculum and their demonstration of progress by the end of the academic semester.
- Teaching Assistant, Emory University, RUSS 401, Russian Literature in the Original, Department of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, January – May 2023.
 - Worked with students who have taken Russian language courses throughout their four years at Emory and have exhausted the list of courses offered by the REES department. In this position, I aimed to develop the students' understanding of literary Russian, focusing on the deviations between everyday Russian speech and the Russian literary style.
- Russian Language Tutor, Emory University, Department of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, August 2022 – May 2023.
 - Held ten hours of tutoring sessions per week with students coming from different areas of Russian language experience. Focused on honing grammatical skills with heritage speakers and phonetic, speech skills with first-time learners.

Editorial Experience

- Intermittent Fact-Checker for *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*
 - Worked on fact-checking accepted articles and getting their content and formatting ready for publication in the journal.

Publications

Works in Progress

- “How the *Skaz* Narrative Style in Venedikt Erofeev’s *Moskva-Petushki* Aids in Disassembling the Myth of the Soviet Intellectual.”
- “The Significance of Internal Ideas and External Ideals for Character Development in Fyodor Dostoevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov*.”

Fellowships and Awards

- Joukowsky Institute Research Grant, Brown University 2025
- Joukowsky Institute Research Grant, Brown University 2024
- NAWA Language Learning Fellowship, Ministry of Education of Poland, July 2024, Wrocław, Poland.
 - Completed 100 hours of Polish language courses, attaining a B2 level in Polish.
- NAWA Language Learning Fellowship, Ministry of Education of Poland, August 2025, Katowice, Poland.
 - Completed 60 hours of Polish language courses, attaining a C1 level in Polish.

Conference and Invited Presentations

- “The Significance of Internal Ideas and External Ideals for Character Development in Fyodor Dostoevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov*.” NESEES, NYU, New York City, NY, April 2024.
 - Brown University Interdepartmental Symposium, Providence, RI, March 2024.
- “Synthesis of Literary Styles in Evgeny Vodolazkin's 'Lavr'.” ASEES, Boston, MA, October 2024, (Online).
 - NADS (North American Dostoevsky Society), January 2025. (Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuEOQ0Urayo&list=PLB5AH7j0gmyTruw2H8-UqUYx0Kf53lYoA&index=4>. Minute 1-25.)
- “Temporal and Spatial Belonging in the Poetry of Vladimir Mayakovsky and Sergei Esenin.” NEMLA, Philadelphia, PA, March 2025.
- “Narratives and Counter-Narratives to the Validity of Russian Conquest in the Caucasus.” Critical Approaches to Russia’s Engagement with the Caucasus (Organized by Slavic Studies at Brown University and American University of Armenia), Yerevan, Armenia, June, 2025.
- “The Portrait of The Child in Krzysztof Kieślowski’s ‘Dekalog 1’: A Terrible Fate for The Gifted and Kind-Hearted?” ASEES, Washington, DC, November 2025

Memberships in Associations and Institutional Affiliations

- ASEES (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies).
- NADS (North American Dostoevsky Society).