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 the reception of Venedikt Erofeev and his *Moskva Petushki* in Western Tamizdat publications (1972-1989).

Brown University - AM 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, Postmodernism and Its Propensity for Intertextuality in the works of Venedikt Erofeev and Abram Terz. Reception theory/Reader-response theory.
- 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 Assistant to Professor Vladimir Golstein, Brown University, **RUSS 1290**, Survey of 19th Century Russian Literature, Slavic Studies Department, January 2026 – May 2026
- Teaching Assistant to Professor Vladimir Golstein, Brown University, **RUSS 1250**, Russian Cinema, Slavic Studies Department, September 2026 – January 2027
- Instructor for Summer@Brown (Pre-College Courses at Brown University), June-July 2026.

- Taught an intensive auteur course titled "Growing up in the Soviet Union" (**CEHI0993**), which focused heavily on interdisciplinary exposure and introduction to literary and film analysis for a total of 18 students between the ages of 15 and 18. The course met daily for 2 weeks, totaling 30 hours of classroom instruction. Download syllabus.

- Teaching Fellow, Brown University, **RUSS 100**, Introductory Russian, Slavic Studies Department, August 2025 – January 2026
- 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 as well as phonetic and speech skills with first-time learners.

Work Experience

- Intermittent Fact-Checker for *Novel: A Forum on Fiction,* Brown University, January 2024-August 2025.
  - Fact-checked accepted articles and prepared their content and formatting for publication in the journal.
- Russian Language Material Cataloger, Woodruff Library of Emory University, June-September 2026.
  - Cataloged Professor Emeritus Mikhail Epstein's collection of literature for the Emory Library. Learned and executed advanced cataloging tasks, such as creating records for NIDB and No Call materials. Cataloged over 300 materials in Cyrillic script and in Russian, Ukrainian, and Polish languages. Organized large book donations of duplicates to local libraries in the Atlanta area and the library at the Georgia Department of Corrections. Developed expertise in OCLC and Alma library databases. Completed several training sessions with the Area and Subject studies librarian teams as well as with the Rose Library Special Collections team to develop a holistic understanding of librarianship across the board.

- **https://www.instagram.com/p/Dbvk8IhFTxl/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsi=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==**

Translation Work

- Volunteer translator and researcher for public scholarship initiative *The Tamizdat Project*: https://tamizdatproject.org/volunteers/nikolay-smirno/

  - "Passions for Erofeev" by Petr Vail and Alexander Genis. (Страсти по Ерофееву, *Эхо,* 1978).

  - The Conversations of Those Fleeing: Polina Barskova on Linor Goralik's book "Exodus 22". (Разговоры Бегущих: Полина Барскова о книге Линор Горалик "Исход 22").

Fellowships and Awards

- NADS (North American Dostoevsky Society) Deborah Martinsen Conference Travel Award 2025.
- Doctoral Research Travel Grant, Brown University, 2026
- 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*." NESEEES, NYU, New York City, NY, April 2024.
  - Brown University Interdepartmental Colloquium, Providence, RI, March 2024.
  - NADS (North American Dostoevsky Society), January 2025. (Online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuEOQ0Urayo&list=PLB5AH7j0gmyTruw2H8-UqUYx0Kf53lYoA&index=4. Minute 1-25.)
- "Synthesis of Literary Styles in Evgeny Vodolazkin's 'Lavr'." ASEEES, Boston, MA, October 2024, (Online).
  - Brown University Slavic Studies Inter-Departmental Colloquium, September 2024.
- "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?" ASEEES, Washington, DC, November 2025.
    - Brown University Slavic Studies Inter-Departmental Colloquium, October 2025.
- Invited lecture "Destroying Myth in Erofeev's *Moskva-Petushki*" at the Russian department of Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, November 10th, 2025.

Memberships in Associations and Institutional Affiliations

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