Dina Famin

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Education

PhD, Slavic Studies, Brown University September 2025 – Present

MFA, Literary Translation from Russian, Boston University May 2024
Capstone project: Translation with introduction of "My Lunar Friend: On Blok," Chapter 1 of *Living Faces* by Zinaida Gippius (1925), advised by Professor Yuri Corrigan

BA, History and Biology and Comparative Literature, Boston University May 2023
Cum Laude
Honors in History and Comparative Literature
Comparative Literature Honors Thesis: "Narrative Framework in Kafka's *Ein Landarzt*," advised by Professor Abigail Gillman
History Honors Thesis: "Boris Godunov and the Time of Troubles in Nineteenth Century Russian Literature and Historiography: Creating a National Narrative," advised by Professor Alexis Peri
Minor in Global Medieval Studies

Publications

Book Chapters

"In Scheherazade's Footsteps: The Fictionalization of the Orient in Pushkin's Fairytales," in *1001 Nights in the World Literary Imagination*, ed. Margaret Litvin and Sunil Sharma, Harvard University Press, December 2026.

Articles

Co-author, "Is temporal synchrony necessary for effective Batesian mimicry?" *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 292 (2039), January 2025, https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2024.1737.

Blog Posts

Co-author, "Summer 2026: Highlights from the Team," *Asymptote Blog*, August 3, 2026, https://www.asymptotejournal.com/blog/2026/08/03/summer-2026-highlights-from-the-team/.

Co-author, "Spring 2026: Highlights from the Team," *Asymptote Blog*, May 4, 2026, https://www.asymptotejournal.com/blog/2026/05/04/spring-2026-highlights-from-the-team/.

Co-author, "Summer 2025: Highlights from the Team," *Asymptote Blog*, August 4, 2025, https://www.asymptotejournal.com/blog/2025/08/04/summer-2025-highlights-from-the-team/.

"Synopsis: Sunil Sharma, Lecture in Literary criticism on 'The Episodic Reception of Medieval Persian Women Poets," *BU Center for the Humanities*, March 2024, https://www.bu.edu/lecturesincriticism/past-lectures-2/current-lecture-series/.

"Ferdowsi and Nezami in the Alexander Tradition: A Walk Through 'The Making of a Myth,'" *BU Medieval Studies Student Blog*, December 2022, https://www.bu.edu/medieval/community/student-blog/ferdowsi/.

Student Journals

"The Tale of Tsaritsa Dinara: Military Power and Female Virtue," *Alexanderia: A Journal of the World Languages & Literatures Department at Boston University* 5 (Spring 2023): 31-39.

"You and the Horse You Rode in On: Human-Animal Relationships in *The Poem of the Cid* and *The Song of Roland*," *Alexanderia: A Journal of the World Languages & Literatures Department at Boston University* 5 (Spring 2023): 57-67.

"Translation Excerpt: *Light Steps* by Veniamin Kaverin," *The Journal of the Core Curriculum* 32 (Spring 2023): 29-32, https://www.bu.edu/core/files/2023/08/journal23.pdf.

"Nobody Expects the Mexican Inquisition: The Trial of Donna Doña Teresa De Aguilera y Roche," *Aevum: Boston University's Journal of History* 1 (Winter 2022): 27-34.

"The Yiddish Theater and German Émigré Hollywood," *Alexandria: A Journal of the World Languages & Literatures Department at Boston University* 4 (Spring 2022): 74-88.

Presentations

Conference Presentations

Panelist and organizer: "The Aspen Grove: Retranslation as Literary Persistence," discussion of the socioeducational context in retranslations of Soviet children's literature, ALTA49: Give and Take Conference, October 23, 2026, Portland, OR.

"Tamara and Tamara and Tamara: Lermontov and Bakst's Creation of the Georgian Woman," AWSS Biennial Conference: Creating Under Constraint, May 22, 2026, Riga, Latvia.

Panelist and organizer: "Reading Interstitially: Rethinking World Literature in Translation," discussion of English and Russian Franz Kafka translation traditions, ALTA48: Visions and Versions Conference, November 8, 2025, Tucson, AZ.

Panelist and organizer: "Translation's Voice and its Various Aspects," discussion of illustrations in children's literature as an aspect of voice, ALTA47: Voices in Translation Conference, October 27, 2024, Milwaukee, WI.

Symposium and Colloquium Presentations

"Looking the Gift Horse in the Mouth: The Conspicuous Absence of Bucephalus in the Persian Alexander Romances," Alexander the Great and Iskandar: Dialogues on Medieval Reception, March 20, 2026, Boston, MA.

"Translation with introduction of 'My Lunar Friend: On Blok,' Chapter 1 of *Living Faces* by Zinaida Gippius (1925)," MFA Capstone Presentations, May 6, 2024, Boston MA.

"Pushkin and the *1001 Nights*," Big Fat Books Symposium: The 1001 Nights, April 5, 2024, Boston, MA.

"Looking the Gift Horse in the Mouth: The Conspicuous Absence of Bucephalus in the Persian Alexander Romances," Guest lecture in XL343: Alexander the Great in the East, November 15, 2023, Boston, MA.

"Withholding Narrative Guidance in Kafka's *A Country Doctor*," WLL Senior Capstone Presentations, December 6, 2022, Boston, MA.

"The Theatrical Dimensions of German Émigré Theater in Los Angeles, 1925-1950," Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Symposium, October 21, 2022, Boston, MA.

Translation Readings and Public Speaking

"'She came in from the cold…' by Alexander Blok (Она пришла с мороза…)," Declamación, at ALTA49: Give and Take Conference, October 23, 2026, Portland, OR.

"'Many Good People and One Who Envies' by Veniamin Kaverin (Много хороших людей и один завистник)," Bilingual Reading: Slavic Potpourri, at ALTA47: Voices in Translation Conference, October 28, 2024, Milwaukee, WI.

Graduate program speaker, Department of World Languages & Literatures Commencement, May 19, 2024, Boston, MA.

"'She came in from the cold…' by Alexander Blok (Она пришла с мороза…)," Speaking in Tongues: A Poetry Reading by WLL, April 18, 2024, Boston, MA.

Awards and Grants

Awards

Mouse Magazine Irena C. Katz Translation Prize, Honorable Mention, January 2025: For a translation from Russian of 'Много хороших людей и один завистник' – "Many Good People and One Who Envies" by Veniamin Kaverin

Boston University Robert Fitzgerald Prize in Literary Translation, Second Prize, May 2024: For a translation from Russian of 'Много хороших людей и один завистник' – "Many Good People and One Who Envies" by Veniamin Kaverin (see judging panel feedback here)

Boston University College of Arts & Sciences College Prize for Excellence in World Languages & Literatures, May 2023

Herbert and Mary Greig Scholarship in American History, full tuition, AY 2021–2022, AY 2022–2023

Alice M. Brenner Award in the Humanities from the Boston University Center for the Humanities, Spring 2022

Boston University Medieval Studies Best Undergraduate Essay Prize: First place in Junior/Senior essay category, AY 2021–2022: "Looking the Gift Horse in the Mouth: The Conspicuous Absence of Bucephalus in the Persian Alexander Romances"

Grants

SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) Pitch-Perfect Translation Grant, November 2026: For the translation of *A Fairytale in the Light of Day* (Сказка среди бела дня) by Viktor Vitkovich and Grigory Yagdfeld (Middle Grade)

ALTA (American Literary Translators Association) Work-Exchange Program conference registration grant, October 2024

Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program

- Summer 2022: "The Theatrical Dimensions of German Émigré Theater in Los Angeles, 1925-1950," supervised by Professor James Schmidt (History)
- Summer 2021: "The Artist in Franz Kafka's Fiction," supervised by Professor Abigail Gillman (World Languages & Literatures)
- Spring 2021: "The Plural Self in Franz Kafka's *Contemplation*," supervised by Professor Abigail Gillman (World Languages & Literatures)

Professional Experience

Manuscript Reader, Sarabande Books Fall 2026 Chapbook Prize

Copy and Content Editor

Epic Politics of Masculinity: From Nomadic Sovereigns to Outlaw Bards by Roberta Micallef, Anthem Press, forthcoming 2027.

The Thousand and One Nights in the World Literary Imagination, ed. Margaret Litvin and Sunil Sharma, Harvard University Press, December 2026.

Chief Executive Assistant, *Asymptote Journal*, June 2025 – Present; Executive Assistant, June 2024 – May 2025

Senior Admissions Coordinator, Boston University International Undergraduate Admissions, August 2024 – May 2025

Editor-in-Chief and Head Layout Editor, *Alexandria: A Journal of the World Languages & Literatures Department at Boston University*, September 2021 – August 2023, Copy and Content Editor, January 2021 – August 2023

Treasurer and Editor, *Aevum: Boston University's Journal of History*, March 2022 – May 2023

Teaching Experience

Teaching Fellow, Brown University, RUSS 0100: Introductory Russian, Fall 2026

Professional Development

Sheridan Teaching Seminar, Brown University Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Fall 2026

British Centre for Literary Translation (BCLT) International Literary Translation and Creative Writing Summer School, Literary Non-Fiction Workshop Strand, July 27 – August 2, 2025

Skills

Languages: English, Russian (native fluency); Persian (intermediate)

Editorial: Chicago Manual of Style; institutional style (Boston University)

Audio transcription of dictation and interview recordings; archival research; document digitization

Affiliations

ALTA (American Literary Translators Association)

AWSS (Association for Women in Slavic Studies)

SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators)