

Aram G. Sarkisian

John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis
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Education

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Ph.D. in History, 2019

Dissertation: *The Cross Between Hammer and Sickle: Russian Orthodox Christians in the United States, 1908-1928*, advised by Robert A. Orsi.

Awarded the Harold Perkin Prize for best History Department dissertation, 2018-19

The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

A.M. in Social Sciences, 2011

Awarded the inaugural Raymond D. Fogelson Prize for thesis achieving the highest distinction in the field of ethnology or history, 2011

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

B.A. in Russian and East European Studies, 2008

Employment

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri

Postdoctoral Fellow, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, 2022-

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, 2021-22

Instructor, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and School of Professional Studies, 2020

National Louis University, Chicago, Illinois

Instructor of History, 2020-2021

Scholarly Work-in-Progress

Monograph Manuscript:

A Helper and Protector: Russian Orthodox Christianity in the United States, 1893-1924

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

“Their Daily Dread: Russian Orthodox Christians in Red Scare Detroit, 1918-1920.”

Journal of American Ethnic History 41, no. 4 (Summer 2022), 37-73.

“‘We go fearlessly into the maw of death:’ The Influenza Epidemic of 1918 in American Orthodox Rus’.” *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies* 4, vol. 2 (Fall 2021), 211-237.

Book Reviews:

Review of Carel Bertram, *A House in the Homeland: Armenian Pilgrimages to Places of Ancestral Memory* (Stanford University Press, 2022). *Material Religion* (Spring 2023, forthcoming).

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Review of Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, *Between Heaven and Russia: Religious Conversion and Political Apostasy in Appalachia* (Fordham University Press, 2022). *American Religion* (Fall 2022, forthcoming).

Review of Scott M. Kenworthy and Alexander S. Agadjanian, *Understanding World Religion: Russia* (Fortress Press, 2021). *Reading Religion*, <https://readingreligion.org/9781451472509/understanding-world-christianity-russia/> (March 2022).

Review of George Anton Kiraz, *The Syriac Orthodox in North America (1895-1995): A Short History* (Gorgias Press, 2019). *Church History* 89, vol. 3 (September 2020), 743-745.

Encyclopedia Entries

Co-author, “The Magnificat” (Primary author of “Orthodox Christianity” subsection), in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, Volume 17 (de Gruyter, 2019), 509-10.

Author of entries “African Orthodox Church,” “Armenian Apostolic Church,” “Tikhon Bellavin,” “Alexander Hotovitzky,” “George Alexander McGuire,” “John Maximovitch,” “Moscow Patriarchate USA,” “Seraphim Rose,” “Platon Rozhdestvensky,” “Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia,” “Russian Orthodox Missions to Alaska,” and “Leonty Turkevich,” in *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016).

Selected Public Scholarship

“God’s Controversy with the United States: Rod Dreher and the Orthodox Jeremiad.” *Public Orthodoxy*, blog of the Fordham University Orthodox Christian Studies Center, <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2022/10/19/gods-controversy-with-the-united-states/> (October 19, 2022)

“Blessed are the Peacemakers: Thinking Historically about Russian Orthodox Soft Diplomacy.” *Public Orthodoxy*, <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2022/03/17/thinking-historically-about-russian-orthodox-soft-diplomacy/> (March 17, 2022)

“What Happens When Scholars of Orthodoxy Write About White Christian Nationalism.” *Public Orthodoxy*, <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2022/02/04/what-happens-when-scholars-of-orthodoxy-write-about-white-christian-nationalism/> (February 4, 2022)

“Orthodox America Has a Lost Cause Problem.” *Public Orthodoxy*, <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2021/12/03/orthodox-lost-cause/> (December 3, 2021).

“Selling Splitnik; or, Aunt Olga Goes to Moscow.” *Contingent Magazine*, <https://contingentmagazine.org/2020/08/08/selling-splitnik/> (August 8, 2020).

“When Do ‘Firsts’ Really Matter? Thoughts on Orthodox History in the Americas.” *Orthodox History* blog, <https://orthodoxhistory.org/2019/09/05/when-do-firsts-really-matter-thoughts-on-orthodox-history-in-the-americas/> (September 5, 2019).

“From Kedrovsky to Kedroff: The St. Nicholas Cathedral Cases in Their Historical Context,” *Teaching Law & Religion Case Study Archive*, <https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/sites.northwestern.edu/dist/c/1549/files/2019/08/Sarkisian-Analysis.pdf> (August 2019).

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“Whose Cathedral? Russian Orthodoxy in the Supreme Court.” Curated online teaching module, *Teaching Law & Religion Case Study Archive*, <http://sites.northwestern.edu/lawreligion/project/whose-cathedral/> (2018-19).

“For you were aliens in the land of Egypt:’ Why Orthodox Christians Cannot Remain Silent on United States Immigration Policies,” *Public Orthodoxy*, <https://publicorthodoxy.org/2018/07/06/for-you-were-aliens-in-the-land-of-egypt-why-orthodox-christians-cannot-remain-silent-on-united-states-immigration-policies/>, (July 6, 2018).

Papers and Presentations

Keynote Address, “What are you going to do about it?’ Excavating *Histories* of Orthodox Christianity in North America,” to be presented at the Ninth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture, “Eastern Christianity in New Worlds” (Columbus, OH, November 2022, forthcoming)

Invited Book Panel Discussant on *The Flag and the Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy* by Philip S. Gorski and Samuel L. Perry. Social Science History Association Annual Conference (Chicago, IL, November 2022, forthcoming).

“You can always recognize a Russian man in America:’ Toward a Transnational Framing of the Late Imperial Russian Orthodox Church,” presented at the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies Annual International Young Researchers’ Conference, “New Perspectives in Russian, European, and Eurasian Studies” (Oxford, OH, April 2022)

“For as a Member of an Oppressed Race:’ New Interpretations of Eastern Orthodox Involvement in the Early African Orthodox Church,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion (San Antonio, TX, November 2021).

“How can he see a schism?’ Disruption and Discontinuity in American Orthodox Rus', 1923-1928,” presented at the 17th Annual Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (Tartu, Estonia, June 2019).

Invited panel discussant, “Teaching Law & Religion,” at “Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad” project capstone conference (Bloomington, IN, May 2019).

“I guess they could have got me’: Storying Russian Orthodox Christian Migration to the United States, 1900-1920,” presented at Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies graduate conference, “Walls and Bridges: Migration and Its Histories” (Evanston, IL, April 2019).

“As Christ had Judas:’ Federal Surveillance of Russian Orthodox Christians in Red Scare Baltimore, 1919-1920,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Denver, CO, November 2018).

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“‘Subject is an Attorney’: The Investigation of Lazarus Davidow in Red Scare Detroit,” presented at Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies graduate conference, “Punishment and Its Discontents” (Evanston, IL, May 2017).

“The Cross Between Hammer and Sickle: Excavating the Russian Orthodox Experience During America’s First Red Scare,” presented at the Seventh Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture, “Eastern Christianity, Reformation, and Revolutions” (Oxford, OH, March 2017).

“‘These Radicals’: Surveillance and Hysteria in Russian Orthodox Detroit, 1918-1920,” presented at University of Michigan graduate conference, “Power, Politics, and Social Change: The Turbulent History of America’s Present” (Ann Arbor, MI, May 2016).

“Searching for St. Ilya: Historical Memory in the Making (and Forgetting) of Orthodox Saints in North America,” presented at Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies graduate conference, “Tradition, Myth, and History: The Power of the Past” (Evanston, IL, April 2016).

“‘These Radicals’: Russian Orthodox Christianity and 100-percent Americanism in Red Scare Detroit, 1917-1912,” presented at graduate student exchange conference “Negotiating Relationships: Analysing connections (and divisions)” (London, UK, March 2016).

“Icons of Lenin, or Prayers for the Tsar? Russian Orthodoxy in Red Scare Detroit, 1917-1924,” presented at “Ways of Knowing: The 4th Annual Graduate Conference on Religion” (Cambridge, MA, October 2015).

“My Best Friend, Fr. Ilya Zotikov: Historical Memory in the Making (and Forgetting) of Orthodox Saints in North America,” presented at the Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (Ada, OH, April 2013).

“‘If Such a Slander Has Been Filed’: Holy Transfiguration Chapel and the Americanization of the Russian Orthodox Church in New York City in 1920,” presented at the symposium “Pilgrims and Pioneers: The Growth of Orthodox Christianity in Twentieth Century America” (Princeton, NJ, October 2011).

Teaching

Undergraduate course taught at Washington University in St. Louis, 2023-

Religion and Politics 225: Religion and Politics in United States History (Forthcoming)

Undergraduate courses taught at Northwestern University, 2016-2022

History 392: 1917: One Year that Shook the World

History 250-A: Global History: Early to Modern Transition

History 210-2: History of the United States, Reconstruction to the Present

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History 200: Re/Intro Seminar: One Nation Under God?
History 200: History of the Present (co-taught with Professor Lauren Stokes)

Undergraduate course taught at National Louis University, 2020 and 2021

History 103: History Across the Globe

Undergraduate courses assisted at Northwestern University, 2014-2017

History 360: Tudor and Stuart Britain
Religion 265: American Religious History from World War II to the Present
Religion 264: American Religious History from the Civil War to the Great Depression
History 210-2: History of the United States, Reconstruction to the Present
History 203: Jewish History, 1789-1948

Grants and Fellowships

T.H. Breen Graduate Fellowship, Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University (2018-19)

NEH Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Fordham University Orthodox Christian Studies Center and the National Endowment for the Humanities (2017-18)

Summer Research Grant, “Politics of Religion at Home and Abroad” project, Buffett Institute for Global Studies and the Henry R. Luce Initiative on Religion and International Affairs (2017)

Northwestern University Graduate Research Grant (2017)

Middlebury College Language Schools Tuition Grant (2016)

Daughters of Vartan Merit Scholarship (2016)

Alseth Language Study Grant, Northwestern University Department of History (2015, 2016)
Northwestern University Summer Language Study Grant (2014, 2015)

Northwestern University Graduate Fellowship (2012-2017)

Professional Experience and Service

Temporary Curriculum Coordinator, Augusta Webster, MD, Office of Medical Education, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University (2020).

United States History Grader, OnRamps, University of Texas at Austin (2019-2021).

Convener and organizer, Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies graduate conference “Walls and Bridges: Migration and Its Histories,” Evanston, IL, April 12, 2019.

Business Strategy Grader, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management (2018-)

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Research Assistant, Northwestern University Department of History (2018)

Co-Convener/Convener, Newberry Library Urban History Dissertation Group (2015-18)

Work-Study Intern, Museum Archives and Digital Collections, University of Chicago Oriental Institute (2010-11)