Dr. Michael A. Pesenson

11313 Bastogne Loop Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies

Austin, TX 78739 The University of Texas, F3600

512-551-2095 Austin, TX 78712

484-557-5724 (cell) 512-232-9132

Email: [mpesenson@utexas.edu](mailto:mpesenson@utexas.edu)

## EDUCATION

# Yale University, New Haven, CT

* Ph.D., M. Phil., Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Dissertation: “Visions of Terror, Visions of Glory: A Study of Apocalyptic Motifs in Early East Slavic Literature.” (2001)

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

* B.A. (with Honors): Double Major in Russian Studies and Biology (1991)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**The University of Texas, Austin, 2009 - Present**

**•** Assistant Professor, Slavic and Eurasian Studies

**•** Russian Language Coordinator

**•** Madness and Madmen in Russian Literature and Culture (graduate)

**•** Christ and Antichrist: Visions of the Apocalypse in Russian Literature and

Culture

**•** The Russian Short Story (in Russian)

**•** Contemporary Russia through Literature and Film

**•** The Russian Novel

**•** Terror in Russia: Method, Madness, and Murder

**•** The Icon and the Sword: An Introduction to Medieval Russian Literature and

Culture

**•** Introduction to Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies

**•** War and Peace in Russian Literature and Culture

**•** Russia and the West: Obsession and Discord

**Swarthmore College, 2004 - 2009**

**•** Assistant Professor of Russian, Modern Languages and Literatures (non-tenure track)

**•** Russian Section Head, 2005-2006

* First Year and Second Year Russian
* Terror in Russia: Method, Madness, and Murder
* The Russian Novel
* War and Peace in Russian Literature and Culture
* Antichrist and Apocalypse in Russian Literature and Culture
* Seminar on Dostoevsky (in Russian)
* Dostoevsky in Translation
* Seminar on the St. Petersburg Myth in Russian Culture (in Russian)

**Bowdoin College, 2001 - 2003**

• Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian

• Faculty Director of Bowdoin-Nevsky Institute Spring Semester in St. Petersburg, 2003

* Russian Language Instruction: All levels
* Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature (in Russian)
* Fantasy and Realism in Russian Literature
* History of Russia to 1881
* St. Petersburg: Mecca of the Arts

**Bates College, 2002 - 03**

**•** Lecturer in Russian

**•** First and Second Year Russian

**•** Fantasy and Realism in Russian Literature

**•** The Russian Short Story (in Russian)

**Trinity College, Hartford, 1998 - 2001**

• Graduate Fellow (Instructor) in Russian

* Russian Language Instruction: All levels
* Fantasy and Realism in Russian Literature
* Old Church Slavonic
* History of Russia to 1881

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE**

**The University of Texas at Austin**

**•** Texas Language Center Advisory Council, 2010 – present

**•** COLA Language Policy Advisory Committee, 2010 – present

**•** Graduate Advisor, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, 2012 – present

**•** Graduate Admissions Committee, Comparative Literature, 2012 – present

• Undergraduate Awards Committee, Slavic and Eurasian Studies, 2013

**Swarthmore College**

* Coordinator, Comparative Literature Program, 2007-2009
* Foreign Study Committee, 2005-2007

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION**

**•** ACTFL Fully Certified Russian OPI Tester (2013 - 2017)

## RECENT FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

**•** College Research Fellowship for Fall 2013, UT Austin, received 12/12

**•** Texas Language Center Curriculum Advancement Grant, UT Austin, 2012

**•** Summer Research Assignment Award, UT Austin, 2010

**•** Swarthmore College Research Fellowship, 2007

**•** ACTR/ACCEELS Title VIII Grant for Research in Russia, 2005

**•** Swarthmore College Research Fellowship, 2005

**•** Middlebury College Center for Educational Technology Faculty Fellowship, 2000-01

## PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

**Books**

* *Antichrist in Russia: The Changing Face of Apocalyptic Evil in Russian Literature and Culture from the Middle Ages to the ‘Silver Age’.* Under review by Yale University Press.

**Articles and Book Chapters**

**•** “The Writings of Boris Savinkov and their Literary Antecedents.” In preparation for

*Slavic and East European Journal*.

**•** “Re-Imagining the Past: The Dystopian Visions of Tatyana Tolstaya’s *Slynx* and

Vladimir Sorokin’s *Day of the Oprichnik*.” In preparation for *Russian Review*.

**•** “Francesco Araia and the Development of *Opera Seria* in Eighteenth-Century

Russia.” In preparation for *Early Music* for submission in Spring, 2013.

**•** “Russian Historical Writing, 1400-1800.” *Oxford History of Historical Writing,*

*Volume 3, 1400-1800*. Co-authored with Jennifer Spock. Oxford: Oxford University

Press, 2012, pp. 282-301.

**•** “The Sibylline Tradition in Medieval and Early Modern Orthodox Slavic Culture.”

*The Old Testament Apocrypha in the Slavonic Tradition: Continuity and Diversity*. Ed. L. DiTommaso and C. Boettrich. Tuebingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2011, pp. 353-372.

**•** “Nicolae Milescu Spafarii’s ‘Khrismologion’ and ‘Skazanie o Sivillakh’: Prophecies

of Power in Late Seventeenth Century Russia.” *Religion and Identity in Russia and the Soviet Union: A Festschrift for Paul Bushkovitch*. Eds. Nikolaos Chrissidis, Cathy Potter, David Schimmelpenninck van der Oye, Jennifer Spock. Bloomington, IN: Slavica, 2011, pp. 59-76.

**•** “Antichrist at the Gates: Apocalyptic Discourse in Russia Surrounding the

Napoleonic Invasion of 1812.” *Russian Review*, July 2006.

## Book Reviews

**•** Roland John Wiley, *Tchaikovsky*, SEEJ 55:3 (Fall, 2011).

**•** Christine Ruane, *The Empire’s New Clothes: A History of the Russian Fashion*

*Industry 1700-1917*, SEEJ 55:2 (Summer, 2011).

**•** Marie-Pierre Rey, Alexandre 1er, Russian Review 69:3 (July, 2010).

**•** Olga Dmitrieva and Natalya Abramova, eds. *Britannia and Muscovy: English Silver*

*at the Court of the Tsars*. Sixteenth Century Journal (2009).

**•** Mark D. Steinberg and Heather J. Coleman, eds. *Sacred Stories: Religion and*

*Spirituality in Modern Russia.* SEEJ 53:3 (Fall, 2009).

**•** Stephen Press, *Prokofiev’s Ballets for Diaghilev*. SEEJ 51:4 (Winter, 2007).

**•** Julia Gerasimova, *The Iconostasis of Peter the Great*. SEEJ 50:4 (Winter, 2006).

* Roy Robson, *Solovki: The Story of Russia Told Through its Most Remarkable*

*Islands*. SEEJ 49:3.

* Paul Bushkovitch, *Peter the Great: The Struggle for Power*. SEEJ 47:2*.*
* Isolde Thyret, *Between God and Tsar: Religious Symbolism and the Royal Women of Medieval Russia.* SEEJ 47:1*.*
* Michael Stone, *Adam’s Contract with Satan*. Russian Review, 62:3 (October, 2003).

## Selected Scholarly Presentations

**•** “*Kirillova Kniga* and the Literary Culture of Slavia Orthodoxa,” Roundtable in

Honor of Riccardo Picchio, ASEEES Conference, New Orleans, 2012.

## • “The Operas and Festive Cantatas of Francesco Araia: Italian Baroque Spectacle in

Russian Guise.” ASEEES Conference, Washington, DC, 2011.

**•** “The Writings of Boris Savinkov and their Literary Antecedents.” ACLA Conference,

Vancouver, 2011.

**•** “Imagining the Holy Land: Accounts of Pilgrimage to Jerusalem in Early East Slavic

Literature.” ASEEES Conference, Boston, 2010.

**•** “Re-imagining the Past: The Dystopian Visions of Tatyana Tolstaya’s *Slynx* and

Vladimir Sorokin’s *Day of the Oprichnik*.” ACLA Conference, New Orleans, 2010.

**•**  “The Historical Writings of Nicolae Milescu Spafarii and Seventeenth Century

Russian Political Ideology.” AATSEEL Conference, San Francisco, 2008.

**•** “Eighteenth-Century Russian Opera and the Demands of Court Culture and Politics.”

AAASS Conference, Philadelphia, 2008.

**•** “Nicolae Milescu Spafarii’s ‘Khrismologion’ and ‘Skazanie o Sivillakh’: Prophecies

of Power in Late Seventeenth Century Russia.” Presented at a Conference in Honor

of Professor Paul Bushkovitch, Yale University, New Haven, April 2008.

**•**  “The Concept of the Jewish Antichrist and the rise of Anti-Semitism in Russia at the

Beginning of the Twentieth Century.” AATSEEL Conference, Chicago, 2007.

**•** “Nicolae Milescu Spafarii and the Culture of Moscow Baroque.” AAASS

Conference, New Orleans, 2007.

**•** “Responses to Apocalyptic Evil in Medieval Rus’.” The 43rd International Congress

on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, 2007.

**•** “Changing Perceptions of the Antichrist in Russian Literature and Culture from the

Middle Ages to the Silver Age.” Slavic Historical Mythologies: A Symposium.

University of Pennsylvania, April 2007.

* “The Antichrist Myth in Russian Literature and Culture From the Middle Ages to the Silver Age.” Kenyon Institute, Jerusalem, March 2007.
* “Francesco Araia and the Development of Russian Opera.” American Association

for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) Conference, Washington DC, 2006.

* “Representation of Divine Judgment in Early East Slavic Literature.” British

Association of Slavic and East European Studies Conference, Cambridge, 2006.

* “Trials of the Soul: Depictions of *Mytarstva* in Early East Slavic Literature.”

AAASS Conference, Salt Lake City, 2005.

* “Antichrist at the Gates: Apocalyptic Discourse in Russia Surrounding the Napoleonic Invasion of 1812.” AATSEEL Conference, Philadelphia, 2004.
* “Old Believer Calculations of the Endtime and their Response to Frustrated Apocalyptic Expectation.” Seventh Annual International Conference on Millennial Studies, Boston University, 2002.
* “Milescu-Spafarii’s ‘Khrismologion’ and the Concept of Four Kingdoms.” AAASS Conference, Pittsburgh, 2002.
* “Representations of Heaven and Hell in Early East Slavic Literature.” AATSEEL Conference, New Orleans, 2001.
* “Devilish Pranks in East Slavic Saints’ Lives.” AAASS Conference, Washington, 2001.
* “Confronting Apocalyptic Evil in Medieval and Early Modern Rus’.” International Conference on Utopian Visions in Russian Literature and Culture, Exeter University, Exeter, England, 2001.
* “Stefan Zyzanii and the Introduction of the Papal Antichrist in Ruthenian Orthodox Polemics.” AATSEEL Conference, Washington, 2000.
* “*Imperator Babyloniae*: The Image of Peter the Great as Antichrist in Old Believer Literature.” AAASS Conference, Denver, 2000.
* “Eschatology and the Transcendence of Death in the Works of Dostoevsky.” International Conference on Dostoevsky and the Problem of Dialogue in Modern European Thought, St. Petersburg, 2000.
* “The Sibylline Tradition in Medieval and Early Modern Orthodox Slavic Culture.” AATSEEL Conference, Chicago, 1999.
* “Imagined Universes in Old Believer Polemical Discourse.” AAASS Conference, St. Louis, 1999.
* “In Search of God’s Truth: Russia and the Culture of Apocalypse.” Trinity College Millennialism Lecture Series, 1999.
* “The Time of the End and the End of Time in Old Russian Apocalyptic Literature.” Third Annual International Conference on Millennial Studies, Boston University, 1998.
* “The Apocalyptic Symbolism of Rome and Jerusalem in 15th-17th Century Russia.” AATSEEL Conference, San Francisco, 1998.
* “A Short History of Medieval East Slavic Apocalypticism.” Mellon-Sawyer Seminar on Millennialism, Yale University, 1998.
* “The Gallic Beast: The Image of Napoleon Bonaparte as Antichrist in Early Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature.” AATSEEL Conference, Toronto, 1997.
* “Apokalipticheskie volneniia na Rusi v sviazi s ozhidaniem kontsa sveta v 7000 (1492) godu.” Gorky Institute of World Literature, Old Russian Section, Moscow, 1996.
* “Towards the Study of Apocalyptic Motifs in Old East Slavic Literature.” University of Chicago Slavic Forum, 1996.
* “The *Fifteenth Catechesis* of Cyril of Jerusalem and its Place in the Development of Late 16th-Century Ruthenian and 17th-Century Russian Apocalyptic Thought.” AAASS Conference, Washington, 1995.
* “Journey to the Spiritual Center of Orthodoxy: Personal Reflections on a Visit to Mt. Athos.” Yale University Slavic Department Lecture Series, 1995.
* “The Reception and Influence of the Mystical Writings of Pseudo-Dionysius Areopagite among the Orthodox Southern Slavs in the Middle Ages.” Sixth International Colloquium on Old Bulgarian Literature and Culture, Sofia, 1994.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

* Medieval and early modern Slavic literature, history, and culture
* Apocalyptic motifs in Russian literature and culture: medieval to modern
* Nineteenth and twentieth century Russian literature and culture
* Post-Soviet Russian literature and film
* Russian baroque literature, opera, and music

**PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS**

• Teaching Russian language at all levels; coordinating language programs

• Teaching Russian literature and culture

• Developing and coordinating study-abroad programs and academic exchanges

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

* American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies
* American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages
* American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

**LANGUAGES**

**•** Russian, Native Fluency

**•** Reading knowledge**:** French, German, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Serbian/Croatian,

Greek, Latin