

## Felix Cowan

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Department of History  
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### EDUCATION

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- 2022 (expected)      PhD in History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Dissertation title: “On the Path of Truth and Progress: The Imperial Russian Penny Press, 1908-18.”
- Dissertation committee: Mark D. Steinberg (chair), Diane P. Koenker, John Randolph, Eugene M. Avrutin.
- Examined fields: Russian and Soviet History, Modern European History, Global Urban History; all three passed with distinction.
- 2015                    MA in European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, University of Toronto
- 2013                    BA (Honours) in History and Political Science, conferred with high distinction, University of Toronto

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- Forthcoming            “‘Everyone is a Citizen, Everyone is a Revolutionary!’: Citizenship and Democracy in the Odessa Penny Press.” In *Imagining the Future in Russia’s February Revolution: Instant Voices in the Press Across the Empire*, edited by Franziska Schedewie and Dennis Dierks (forthcoming).
- 2020                    “The Democracy Versus Democracy: Representation and Politics in Odessa During the 1912 State Duma Election.” *Revolutionary Russia* 33, no. 2 (2020): 172-196. DOI:[10.1080/09546545.2020.1821439](https://doi.org/10.1080/09546545.2020.1821439).
- 2017                    “Popular Liberalism: Vladimir Anzimirov and the Influence of Imperial Russia’s Penny Press.” *Past Tense: Graduate Review of History* 5, no. 1 (2017): 8-28.

## Working Papers

- 2016 “Primary or Secondary?: Regionalism’s Multiple Roles in Brazil’s International Emergence.” With Stephen Clarkson et al. KFG Working Paper Series No. 69, *Kolleg-Forschergruppe (KFG)* “The Transformative Power of Europe.” Freie Universität Berlin, January 2016.

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

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- 2019 Conference Travel Grant, Department of History, University of Illinois
- 2019 Davis Graduate Student Travel Grant, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
- 2019-20 Illinois Distinguished Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Illinois
- 2019 Conference Travel Grant, Graduate College/Department of History, University of Illinois
- 2019 Conference Travel Grant, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC), University of Illinois
- 2018-19 ABD Research Fellowship, Department of History, University of Illinois
- 2018 Ranked as “excellent” on the University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, Spring 2018.
- 2018 Frederick S. Rodkey Memorial Prize for Most Promising Graduate Student in Russian History, Department of History, University of Illinois
- 2017 Ranked as “outstanding” on the University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, Fall 2017.
- 2017 Yaro Skalnik Prize for Best Graduate Essay, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC), University of Illinois
- 2017 Summer Pre-dissertation Travel Grant, Department of History, University of Illinois
- 2015-16, 2016-17 Illinois Distinguished Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Illinois
- 2016 AGHS-Past Tense Best Paper Award for “Popular Liberalism: Vladimir Anzimirov and the Influence of Imperial Russia’s Penny Press,” 12<sup>th</sup>

	Annual Graduate History Symposium, University of Toronto
2016	Conference Travel Grant, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC), University of Illinois
2014-15	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Graduate Scholarship, Master's
2013-14, 2014-15	Graduate Fellowship, Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (CERES), University of Toronto
2013	Louis Savloc UC '37 Scholarship, University of Toronto
2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13	Howard Ferguson Scholarship, University of Toronto
2011, 2012	Moffatt and Eleanor Woodside Prize for History, University of Toronto
2011	Canadian International Council Book Prize, University of Toronto
2010	Alen Milne McCombie Award, University of Toronto

#### **CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED**

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2020	"Exploring Print and Visual Culture in Russian History." Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention, online, 6 November 2020.
2019	"The Russian Press Across the Revolutionary Era." Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, 24 November 2019.

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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2020	"Drawing the News: Illustrations and Editorial Cartoons in Late Imperial Russian Kopeck Newspapers." Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention, online, 6 November 2020.
2020	"How Large was the Late Imperial Russian Public Sphere? Assessing the Audience of the Penny Press." Midwest Russian History Workshop (MRHW), online, 18 April 2020.

- 2020 “Gender Non-Conforming Lives in the Late Imperial Russian Press, 1911-14.” 20<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Women’s and Graduate History Symposium (WGHS), Urbana, IL, April 2020. Conference cancelled.
- 2020 “Women’s Rights and Emancipation in the Russian Penny Press, 1908-1917.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Feminist inter/Modernist Association (FiMA) Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2020. Conference postponed to April 2022.
- 2019 “How Large Was the Late Imperial Russian Public Sphere? An Investigation into the Audience of the Penny Press.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, 24 November 2019.
- 2019 “Social Reform in the Kopeck Newspapers of Imperial Russia.” British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) Annual Conference, Cambridge, UK, 13 April 2019.
- 2017 “‘Russia is Dying’: Political Polarization and Liberal Discourse in the 1917 Penny Press.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, 12 November 2017.
- 2017 “Reading Past the City: Global Narratives in an Urban Russian Newspaper.” Osaka City University-University of Illinois Symposium, Urbana, IL, 7 March 2017.
- 2016 “Beyond Urban Boundaries: The Penny Press and Lower-Class Integration in the Russian Empire.” Midwest Popular Culture Association (MPCA) Annual Conference, Urban Studies area, Chicago, IL, 8 October 2016.
- 2016 “Popular Liberalism: Vladimir Anzimirov and the Influence of Imperial Russia’s Penny Press.” University of Toronto 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate History Symposium, Toronto, Canada, 6 May 2016. Winner of the AGHS-Past Tense Best Paper Award.
- 2014 “Historical Narratives of Stalinism in Post-Soviet Russia and Ukraine.” University of Toronto Slavic Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada, 24 April 2014.

## INVITED TALKS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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- 2021 “Narratives of Backwardness and Modernization in the Late Imperial Russian Penny Press.” Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC) Noontime Scholars Lecture, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, 2 March 2021. Talk conducted online.
- 2019 “Coalition-Building and Identity Politics: Representation and Democracy in Odessa during the 1912 State Duma Election.” European University at Saint Petersburg, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 29 May 2019.
- 2019 “Gazety kak istochniki dlia istoricheskogo issledovaniia” (“Newspapers as Sources for Historical Research”). National Research University Higher School of Economics, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 24 January 2019. In Russian.
- 2017 “The Russian Revolution.” Guest lecture for the course “Western Civilization Since 1660,” Professor Mark Micale. University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, 31 October 2017.
- 2017 “Professor Panel: The Russian Revolution.” Invited panelist. Phi Alpha Theta, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, 19 October 2017.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Fall 2020,  
Spring 2021 Instructor of record, HIST 259: Global History of the Cold War
- Fall 2017,  
Spring 2018 Teaching Assistant, HIST 143: Western Civilization Since 1660, Advanced Composition.
- Ranked as “outstanding” (Fall 2017) and “excellent” (Spring 2018) on the University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students.

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

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- 2019-20 Illinois Promise mentor, University of Illinois
- 2018 Research Assistant for Mark D. Steinberg, reading digitized newspapers

from colonial India for a research project comparing 20th-century Odessa, New York, and Mumbai.

- 2017-present      Blog Contributor, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC), University of Illinois
- 2016-17            SourceLab Research and Development Committee, Department of History, University of Illinois
- 2015-16            SourceLab Working Group, Department of History, University of Illinois
- 2014                Research Intern, Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies (UCRS; now the Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies, IRES), Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.

Assisted organization of two academic conferences, “Translation in Russian Contexts” (3-7 June 2014) and “Kazakhstan: Beyond Economic Success” (13-14 June 2014).

Edited book chapters for *Punishment as a Crime? Perspectives on Prison Experience in Russian Culture*, ed. Julie Hansen and Andrei Rogachevskii (Uppsala: Uppsala University Press, 2014).

## **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

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- 2013-15            Information and Privacy Analyst, Archives of Ontario, Toronto, Canada

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

## **LANGUAGES**

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Russian (Advanced)

French (Intermediate reading, basic spoken)

## **REFERENCES**

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**Mark D. Steinberg**  
Professor of History  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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810 S Wright St.  
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**Diane P. Koenker**

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**John Randolph**

Associate Professor of History and Director of the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center  
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