

JACOB BELL

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EDUCATION

- PhD** University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 2018-present
Dissertation: “Reproductive Unfreedom and the Making of the North Atlantic World, ca. 750-1050 CE” anticipated completion in summer 2023
Candidacy status achieved April 2021
Fields: Medieval Europe, Russian History, Transatlantic History, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality.
Committee: Carol Symes (chair), John Randolph, Renée Trilling, Verena Höfig (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Yulia Mikhailova (New Mexico Tech).
- MA** University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 2019
- BA** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2018
Graduated with Distinction, History (Highest Honors) and English (Honors)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

The Global Middle Ages	Digital Humanities
Documentary and material culture	Gender and sexuality
Old Norse literature and culture	Global slavery
Cultural history	Religious history

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Textbook:

- 2023 Rhiannon Hein, Mary Ton, and Jacob Bell. *DIY-gitize: A Grassroots Guide to Digitizing Sources* (Under contract at Windsor & Downs Press, Illinois Open Publishing Network).

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

- 2023 “Slavic *Seidr*? Reconsidering the *Volkbry* of Northern Rus’.” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* (Forthcoming, Spring 2023).
- 2023 “*Ok lá þar at óvilja bennar*: A Reconsideration of Sexual Violence in the Old Norse World.” *Journal of Family History* 48, no. 1 (January 2023): 3-29. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03631990211053220>.
- 2021 “Magic, Genderfluidity, and queer Vikings, ca. 750-1050.” *History Compass* 19, issue 5 (May 2021): 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12657>.
- 2019 “‘Я Тожє’: The Rape of Katerina Stepanova and John Paul Jones’s Russian Legacy.” *Past Tense: Graduate Review of History* 7, issue 1 (Spring 2019): 36-57.
- 2018 “Russia’s Empress-Navigator: Transforming Modes of Monarchy during the Reign of Anna Ivanovna, 1730-40.” *Madison Historical Review* 16, article 3 (Spring 2019).

- 2018 “‘To Make my Happiness and His Own’: Male Homosexuality in Catherinian Russia.” *History Matters: An Undergraduate Journal of Historical Research* 15 (May 2018): 1-24.

Book Reviews:

- 2019 “*Retseñiia na Knige*: Franklin S. The Russian Graphosphere, 1450-1850. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2019. 414p.” *Al'manakh severoevropeiskikh i baltiiskikh issledovanii* 4 (2019), DOI: 10.15393/j103.art.2019.1321.

Conference Papers

- 2023 “Vinland and Greenland in the Norse Slave Trade, ca. 950-1050.” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting 2023.
- 2022 “Creating a ‘Free’ Iceland: Erasure of the Enslaved in *Landnámabók*.” Midwest Medieval History Conference 2022.
- 2022 “Race and Slavery in the Stories of Geirmundr Heljarskinn.” 18th International Saga Conference.
- 2022 “The Old Russian Life of St. Niphon of Constantia and Early East Slavic Queer History.” International Medieval Congress 2022.
- 2022 “Norse ‘American’ Slavery: Vinland, Greenland, and the Norse Slave Trade, ca. 950-1050.” Unfreedom in the Premodern World: Comparative Perspectives on Slavery, Servitude & Captivity, Trinity College, Dublin.
- 2021 “Queering England’s Global Middle Ages: Byzantine Connections in Early English Religious Writings.” 40th Annual International Conference of the Haskins Society (Convened virtually due to Covid-19).
- 2021 “Towards a Reoriented Global North Atlantic: Race and Captivity in the Stories of Geirmundr Heljarskinn.” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting 2021 (Convened virtually due to Covid-19).
- 2020 “Religious Mobility: Reimagining the Early Rous’ian Church, 1050-1350 CE.” Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World Regional Colloquium, University of Minnesota.
- 2019 “‘Я Тоже’: The Rape of Katerina Stepanova and John Paul Jones’s Russian Legacy.” 11th Annual Northeastern Conference in World History.
- 2019 “‘A Day of Perfect Metamorphosis’: The Cross-Dressing Balls of Elizabeth Petrovna and Catherine II.” 2019 Women’s and Gender History Symposium, University of Illinois.
- 2019 “God(dess) of War: Poetics, Androgyny, and Performance in the Image of Catherine the Great as Minerva.” The Weight of Antiquity: Early-Modern Classicisms, University of Chicago.
- 2018 “Russia’s Empress-Navigator: Transforming Modes of Monarchy during the Reign of Anna Ivanovna, 1730-40.” 2018 Paul Lucas Graduate Conference, Indiana University.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2022 Conference Travel Grant, University of Illinois, Program in Medieval Studies.
- 2022 Joseph Ward Swain Publication Prize, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- 2021 The Leifur Eiríksson Foundation Fellowship, Republic of Iceland.

- 2021 A.G. Leventis Foundation Scholarship, American School of Classical Studies at Athens.
- 2021 Yaro Skalnik Prize for the Best Graduate Essay in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- 2021 Laurence M. Larson Scholarship for Studies in Medieval or English History, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- 2020 Frederick S. Rodkey Memorial Prize for Most Promising Graduate Student in Russian History, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- 2020 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Year, Russian), U.S. Department of Education.
- 2020 Summer Pre-Dissertation Research Travel Grant, University of Illinois, Department of History.
- 2019 James Madison Award for Excellence in Historical Scholarship, James Madison University (for publication in *Madison Historical Review*).
- 2019 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Year, Russian), U.S. Department of Education.
- 2017 David Anthony Kusa Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of History.
- 2017 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Summer, Russian), U.S. Department of Education.
- 2016 Michael L. and Matthew L. Boyatt Award, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of History.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Instructor of Record, History** Spring 2023
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 HIST/MDVL 247: Medieval Europe

- Teaching Assistant, History** Fall 2022
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 HIST/PSYC 236: Madness and Modern Society, three sections.

- Substitute Lecturer, History** Spring 2019
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 HIST 345: Medieval Civilization, for three class periods (March 7, March 14, and March 26, 2019).

INVITED LECTURES

- “Shell Shock: The Mental Effects of War,” guest lecture for the course “Madness and Modern Society,” Professor Teri Chettiar, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, October 10, 2022.

- “Reproductive Unfreedom and Human Trafficking in the Viking Age,” Program for Medieval Studies Colloquium, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, October 26, 2022.

- “Connections between the Old Norse and Early East Slavic Documentary Traditions,” guest lecture for the course “11th-17th Century Russian Literature and Language,” Professor Laura Davies Brenier, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Spring, 2023.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 2021 Medieval Greek Summer Session of the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.
- 2019 Slavic Digital Humanities Summer Workshop – Princeton University.
- 2017 Summer Language Workshop – Russian, Indiana University, Bloomington.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association of Ancient Historians (AAH)
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
The American Historical Association (AHA)
The Haskins Society
The Medieval Academy of America (MAA)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SourceLab 2018-2023

Managing Editor (2020-2022), Associate Editor (2022-2023), Project Manager (2018-2020)
An academic digital publication of undergraduate students' analyses of primary sources for use in the classroom.

Humanities Research Institute Research Cluster 2022-2023

Co-Convener of monthly research collaborative group "The Social Lives of Digitized Culture"

History Graduate Student Association 2019-2023

President (2022-2023), Library Liaison (2019-2020)

Women's and Gender History Symposium 2019-2022

Co-chair (2021-2022), Programming Committee (2019-2020)

History @ Illinois 2021-2023

Graduate student representative, reviews of new books

Research Assistant

Monograph Support 2022

Compiled bibliographies and annotated articles to support the writing and publication of *Gender History: A Very Short Introduction* by Antoinette Burton, under contract at Oxford University Press.

Center for Global Studies 2022-2023

Organizes panels, brown bag talks, and lectures with focus on globalizing research and classroom curriculums. Coordinates logistics for CGS conferences, MillerComm lectures, and events.

Volunteer-in-Parks 2015-2018

The National Park Service, Cowpens National Battlefield

Managed visitor center desk, interacted with and directed visitors to the different services of the park.

Researched, created, and delivered interpretive programs, using various interpretive methods, to a variety of audiences.

LANGUAGES

English (Native speaker)
Russian (Research and oral proficiency)
French (Research and oral proficiency)
Old Norse/Icelandic (Research proficiency)
Old Church Slavonic (Research proficiency)
Old English (Research proficiency)
Old French (Research proficiency)

Latin (Research proficiency)
Greek/Ancient (Research proficiency)