

DEVIN MCFADDEN (she/they)
Program of German, Russian, and Hebrew
School of World Languages and Literatures
University of Vermont
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WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

August 2022- Present

- Lecturer of Russian language, literature, and culture in the Program of German, Russian, and Hebrew
- Co-Director of World Language Scholars in the Liberal Arts Scholars Program for the academic year of 2026-2027
- Interim Director of World Language Scholars in the Liberal Arts Scholars Program for the academic year of 2024-2025

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

June 2018- May 2022

- Graduate Teaching Assistant: Beginning Russian, Intensive Beginning Russian, Introduction to Slavic Folklore, and Graphic Novels

EDUCATION

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

August 2016- September 2022

- Dissertation: *Queering the Early 20th Century Russian Novel*, passed with honors (August 2022)
- Hall Center for the Humanities Dissertation Fellow
- *Master of Arts* in Slavic Languages and Literatures (May 2018): comprehensive exams passed with honors (Spring 2018)

New York University, New York, NY

August 2014- January 2016

- *Master of Arts* in Russian and Slavic Studies (January 2016)
- Stephan Cohen Fellow
- Recitation Instructor for Cultures and Context: Russia between East and West
- Thesis: Selfhood and Sociality in *The Master and Margarita*

Smith College, Northampton, MA

August 2010- May 2014

- *Bachelor of Arts* in Russian Civilization, double major in Anthropology

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- **College of Arts and Sciences Travel Study Course**, “Memory, Monuments, and Artistic Representation of the Holocaust in Berlin, Krakow, and Warsaw,” Summer 2025, *University of Vermont*.
- **Honors College Call for Course Proposals on Contemporary Challenges**, Fall 2023; *University of Vermont, Honor’s College*.
- **Graduate Research Assistant Merit Salary Promotion**, Fall 2019; *University of Kansas, Tuition Advisory Committee*.
- **Norman E. Saul Travel Award**, Fall 2019; *University of Kansas, Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies*.
- **Joseph L. Conrad Memorial Award**, Fall 2019; *University of Kansas, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures*.
- **ASEEES Diversity & Inclusion Travel Grant**, Fall 2019; *Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies*.
- **Joseph L. Conrad Memorial Award**, Fall 2018; *University of Kansas, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures*.
- **Title VIII: Building National Expertise in East European and Eurasian Less-Commonly-Taught Languages**, Summer 2017; *Arizona State University, The Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European Studies*.
- **Joseph L. Conrad Memorial Award**, Fall 2017; *University of Kansas, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures*.
- **Hall Center for the Humanities Dissertation Fellow**, Fall 2016- August 2022, received full funding, remission from teaching; *University of Kansas, The Hall Center for the Humanities*.
- **Stephen Cohen Fellowship** 2014- 2015, received full funding 2014 - 2015, teaching assistantship Fall 2015; *New York University, Department of Russian and Slavic Studies*.
- **Nucor Foundation Scholarship** 2010- 2014, partial scholarship for undergraduate study at Smith College; *Nucor Corporation*.

PUBLICATIONS

Chernetsky, Vitaly and **Devin McFadden**. “Queer Underground Subcultures Outside the Capitals: Provincial Centers, Ukrainian and Baltic Subcultures, and the Fergana School,” *Soviet Underground Culture (1932-1992)*. Oxford University Press, 2024. Ed. Mark Lipovetsky.

Scollins, Kat and **Devin McFadden**. “[In Praise of Old Tech: Digital Detox for the Classroom.](#)” *FLTMAG*, International Association for Language Learning Technology, 2023.

Kokobobo, Ani, and **Devin McFadden**. “The Queer Nihilist – Queer Time, Social Refusal, and Heteronormativity in Goncharov's *The Precipice*,” *Ivan Goncharov in the 21st Century*. Academic Studies Press, 2021. Eds., Ingrid Kleespies, Lyudmila Parts.

McFadden, Devin. Review of *Adulterous Nations: Family Politics and National Anxiety in the European Novel*, by Tatiana Kuzmic, *Northwestern University Press*, 2016, p. 188.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Article: “Queer Horizons: Eco-Deviance and Homosociality in Platonov’s *Chevengur*”

- Article is near completion.
- Will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal by the end of March 2026.

Book Project: *The Politics of Queer Russian Art from the Twentieth Century*

- Investigates how early twentieth-century queer writers reaffirmed and reimagined the role of literature as a space for experimenting with identity, belonging, and modernity to counter and renovate the Soviet Project.
- Demonstrates how queer artistic expression, long pushed to the margins, nonetheless offered radical visions of community and social order that helped shape the intellectual and cultural currents of modern Russia.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record:

Advanced Russian: Prison Literature: University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, School of World Languages and Cultures; Spring 2026.

Advanced Russian: Media: University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, School of World Languages and Cultures; Fall 2025.

Queer Russia: University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, School of World Languages and Cultures; Spring 2023 and Fall 2025.

Elementary Russian I and II: University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, School of World Languages and Cultures; 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026.

Memory, Monuments, and Artistic Representation of the Holocaust: University of Vermont, GO Abroad in Germany and Poland; planned for Summer 2026.

Constructing Nations: Fairytales: University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, LASP, Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.

Gender and Sexuality in Slavic Folklore: University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, School of World Languages and Cultures Spring 2025.

The Ideological War in Ukraine: First year writing-intensive seminar in the Honor’s College, University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, School of World Languages and Cultures; Fall 2023 and 2024; Spring 2025.

Russian Experience: University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, School of World Languages and Cultures; 2023-present.

Graphic Novels from WWII and the Eastern Bloc: First year writing intensive seminar, University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, School of World Languages and Cultures; Fall 2022, Fall 2023.

Graphic Novel and Memoir: Honors College and LASP, University of Vermont, Program of German and Russian, School of World Languages and Cultures; Spring 2023 and 2024.

Teaching Assistant:

Online Elementary Russian: University of Kansas, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures; Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. Lead Instructor.

Graphic Novels as Memory: University of Kansas, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Spring 2022; Lead Instructor.

Intensive Intermediate Russian: University of Kansas, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures; Summer 2022, lead instructor.

Introduction to Slavic Folklore: University of Kansas, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures; Fall 2021.

Elementary Russian I and II: University of Kansas, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures; 2018-2019.

Intensive Elementary Russian: University of Kansas, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures; Summer 2018, Summer 2019. Lead Instructor Summer 2020.

Cultures and Context: Russia Between East and West: New York University, The Core College Curriculum; Fall 2015.

Research Assistant:

Museum of Russian Icons, Clinton, MA

Summer 2013

- Conducted analytical and historical research for the museum; wrote a comprehensive paper on the Sophia, Wisdom of God icon and the school of sophiology, specifically focusing on the theorists: Vladimir Soloviev, Sergii Bulgakov, and Ivan Florensky.
- Assembled the museum's winter exhibit, which included over 20 icons that focused on the symbolism of colors in Russian icons by working with the museum's curator, registrar, and two fellow interns.
- Collaborated with the museum's adjunct professor on a project to translate part of an online Russian Orthodox dictionary from Russian to English.

CONFRENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Otherness in Early Soviet Culture: Gender, Ethnicity, and Eccentricity”
 - Panel organizer and discussant, ASEEES Conference, Washington D.C., November 2025
- “Exile Memory and the Connection to the Homeland through Narratives of Displacement and Return”
 - Discussant, ASEEES Conference, Washington D.C., November 2025
- “Towards a Queer Planet: Eco-Deviance and Homosexuality in Platonov’s *Chevengur*”
 - Panelist, ASEEES Conference, Boston, November 2024
- “Russian Dissent in Social Media – Protest Against the Totalitarian State”
 - Discussant, ASEEES Conference, Boston, November 2024
- “Saying What You Mean: A Case Study for Teaching Directness and Implicature in First-Year Russian”
 - Panelist, ASEEES Conference, Philadelphia, December 2023
- “Queer Time and Space in Andrei Egunov-Nikolev’s *Beyond Tula*”
 - Panelist, ASEEES Conference, Chicago, November 2022
- “Gaining an Education in the Bathhouse: An Exploration of Homosexuality and Gay Culture in Kuzmin’s *Wings*”
 - Panelist, Queer and Gender Studies in the Slavic Context, March 27th, 2022
- “Russia’s Gay History: A Narrative of Body Politics”
 - KU, Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures (SELL) Colloquium, December 2021
- “An Introduction to Russia’s Marginalized History: Queers Across Time and Space”
 - KU, SELL’s “Russia Week,” July 2021
- “Introducing Traditional Russian Cuisine”
 - KU, SELL’s “Russia Week,” July 2021
- “Public Intellect and Literary Realist: Reading Sofya Kovalevskaya in *Nihilist Girl*”
 - KU, CREES Research Lecture Series, October 22nd, 2020
- “Uncovering the Queer: An Exploration of Gender and Sexual Relations in the Early 20th Century Novel”
 - Panelist, Modern Language Association (MLA) Conference, Seattle, January 2020
- “Queering the Russian Novel”; roundtable participant

- Panelist, ASEEES Conference, San Francisco, November 2019
- “From Anna’s Despair to Dionysus’ Wrath: Queering the Adulterous Woman from Tolstoy to Nagrodskaia”
 - Panelist, ASEEES Conference, San Francisco, November 2019
- “Mobilizing Gender: Public Intellectualism and *Nihilist Girl*”
 - The Expansive Embrace: Gender, Sexuality, and Identity in Russian Realism, KU, April 5th 2019
- “Public Intellectualism and Sofya Kovalevskaya’s *Nihilist Girl*”
 - Panelist, ASEEES Conference, Boston, December 2018
- “Gender Roles and the Soviet Imaginary in Gladkov’s *Cement*”
 - KU, CREES Brown Bag Series, March 27th 2018
- “Parlez-vous по-русски: A Digital Analysis of the Role of French and Russian in Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*.”
 - Panelist, ASEEES Conference, Chicago, November 2017
- Introduction to film screening of Chekhov’s *The Black Monk*
 - KU, October 27th 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Curriculum Co-Developer, Russian Major Track in Cultural Studies

University of Vermont, Program of German, Russian, and Hebrew; Summer 2025

- Collaborated with the Russian Language Coordinator to design and launch a new track in the Russian major focusing on Russian and Eastern European politics, society, and culture.
- Integrated interdisciplinary coursework and faculty from across the College of Arts and Science to expand program offerings and attract students interested in politics, history, and cultural studies.

Faculty Advisor for Incoming First-Year Students

University of Vermont, College of Arts and Science; June-July 2025

- Advised first-year students on academic planning, major selection, and transition to university life, fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment.
- Guided students in navigating curricular requirements and campus resources, helping them set academic goals and engage with co-curricular opportunities.

Director of the World Language Scholars (WLS) Program

University of Vermont, Liberal Arts Scholars Program; July 2024-July 2025

- Ran logistics for the WLS program, including scheduling courses, advising students, and planning activities.
- Created and taught a special topics first-year seminar on nation building and European fairytales.

UVM GO Faculty Advisor*University of Vermont, Liberal Arts Scholars Program; August 2023, 2024, and 2025*

- Helped develop and lead a pre-orientation program for first-year students of LASP that focused on the intersection of intercultural knowledge of VT within our global network.
- Led and supervised the two-day orientation program for 20+ students.

“The U.S. Russia Foundation Grant Project” Project Manager*University of Kansas, SELL; Summer 2021-Spring 2022*

- Recruitment of over 100 high-school students across the state of KS to participate in an online elementary Russian course to receive 3 college credits.
- Worked with KU’s admissions and local high schools to personally enroll all students in courses.
- Organized and lead KU’s “Russia Week” during July 2021 to formally introduce students to the program, the Russian language, and Slavic culture.
- Designed the online language program for students both semesters.
- Performed as academic advisor to all students.
- Supervised all sections of the Russian language course.

Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian (SEEEES) Club Advisor*University of Kansas; August 2020 – May 2022*

- Organized KU students to plan events for students and the public related to Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian studies.

Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian (SEEEES) Department Social Media Manager*University of Kansas; June 2020 – May 2022*

- Lead social media projects related to departmental news and coursework.

Project GO Selection Committee*University of Kansas; January 2021*

- Ranked candidates for scholarship selection.

“The Cold War in the Heartland” Graduate Student Collaborator*University of Kansas; June 2020- August 2020*

- Interviewed former citizen of the Soviet Union and wrote an essay on our discussion.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Provost Symposium: Teaching in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*University of Vermont, August 14-15, 2025*

- Nominated by the Director of the School of World Languages and Literatures to represent our school at the university-wide symposium.
- Attended a two-day faculty seminar on pedagogy and AI that explored the intersection of pedagogy and technology in the age of artificial intelligence.

Middlebury's Russian Immersion Program

Middlebury College; Summer 2023

- 8-week intensive Russian language program at level 7.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workshop

University of Vermont; Spring 2023

- Workshop for the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences on DEI.

ACTFL 2-Day MOPI Workshop

University of Kansas; May 2018

- Workshops on how to administer and evaluate Oral Proficiency Interviews.

Project GO Intensive Teaching Training

University of Kansas; May 2018, 2017

- Workshops on Communicative Language Teaching and using technology in the foreign language classroom.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
- Modern Language Association (MLA)

SKILLS

- Language: Advanced Russian, Intermediate Czech, reading knowledge of German
- Working knowledge of RStudio; Voyant; StorymapJS; TimelineJS; Quizlet