

ELENA FRATTO

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Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
Princeton University
(2016–present)

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Ph.D., May 2016, Comparative Literature
M.A., May 2013, History of Science

University of Milan, Italy

Ph.D., February 2009, Slavic Languages and Literatures
M.A., April 2004, Modern Languages and Literatures (Russian and English)

DISSERTATIONS

Medicine as Storytelling: Emplotment Strategies in Doctor-Patient Encounters. Advised by William Mills Todd III, Tom Conley, and David S. Jones (Harvard University, 2016).

Boris Ejchenbaum fra teoria letteraria e scrittura artistica: il romanzo Maršrut v bessmertie (1933) (Boris Eikhenbaum between Literary Theory and Creative Writing: The Novel *Marshrut v bessmertie*, 1933). Advised by Ivan Verc (Universities of Milan and Trieste, 2009).

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Medical Story-Worlds: Health, Bodies, and Plot in Russian Literature (1875-1925). New York: Columbia University Press (forthcoming, Fall 2021).

Articles and Book Chapters

“Introduction.” Co-authored with Alisa Ballard Lin. In *SEEJ*, Medical Humanities Forum. Edited by Alisa Ballard Lin and Elena Fratto (forthcoming, Summer 2021).

“Steeped in Contingency? Time Horizon in Long-Course Treatment and Serialized Narratives: Anna Karenina and Masha Gessen.” In *SEEJ*, Medical Humanities Forum. Edited by Alisa Ballard Lin and Elena Fratto (forthcoming, Summer 2021).

“The Medical Science.” In *Tolstoy in Context*. Edited by Anna Berman. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming (Summer 2021).

“Introduction.” Co-authored with Alec Brookes. In *Russian Literature of the Anthropocene*, special issue of *Russian Literature*. Edited by Alec Brookes and Elena Fratto, Volumes 114-115, June-July 2020: 1–22.

“Endocrine Glands and the Anthropocene: Metabolic Storytelling in Mikhail Bulgakov’s *Heart of a Dog*.” In *Russian Literature of the Anthropocene*, double special issue of *Russian Literature*. Edited by Alec Brookes and Elena Fratto, Volumes 114-115, June-July 2020: 45–65.

“Getting the Story Straight: The Poetics of Non-Euclidean Space in Dostoevsky’s “The Grand Inquisitor” and Kaverin’s ‘The Eleventh Axiom’.” *Russian Review* 77 (July 2018): 396–410.

“5=100: Long Live the Filologicheskaiia Revoliutsiia.” *Slavic Review* 76 (2017), Special Issue: 1917-2017, *The Russian Revolution a Hundred Years Later*: 675–682.

“Introduction: Narrative Theories and the Medical Humanities.” In Elena Fratto, ed. *Narrative and Medicine*, special issue of *Enthymema* 16 (2016): 1–5.

“Narrative Time and the Thyroid: Hormone Secretions and Storytelling in Italo Svevo’s *Doctor Menghi’s Drug*.” In Elena Fratto, ed. *Narrative and Medicine*, special issue of *Enthymema* 16 (2016): 60–73.

“The Artifice of Time: On Displacement, Re-Focalization and Experimentation in Lucretius and Calvino through the Lens of Nineteenth-century astronomy.” *Atene e Roma* 4 (2015): 310–320.

“Meditsinskaia praktika kak siuzhetoslozhenie. Interpretatsiia bolezni Ivana Il’icha” (Medical Practice as Plot-Construction. The Interpretation of Ivan Il’ich’s Disease). In *Proceedings of the 2014 International Leo Tolstoy Conference at Iasnaia Poliana*, ed. by Galina Alekseeva, Iasnaia Poliana, 2015.

“Material and Device: Notes on Cinematic Techniques in Iurii Tynianov’s Narrative,” *Toronto Slavic Quarterly* 35, Winter 2011: 21–34.

“Com’è fatto il *Maršrut v bessmertie* di Boris Ejchenbaum,” *Europa Orientalis* 29 (2010): 313–369.

Boris Eikhenbaum mezhdu teoriei i literaturoi: roman “Marshrut v bessmertie.” In Roman Voitekhovich (ed.), *Russkaia filologiiia* 20 (2008): 20–25. Conference proceedings of the Twentieth International Conference on Russian Philology held at Tartu University (Estonia) on April 25-27, 2008.

“Chi vuol essere Jurij Gagarin? Kitsch, icone sovietiche e sottoculture: l’esperienza dei *rejvery*” (Who Wants to Be Yuri Gagarin? Kitsch, Soviet Icons and Underground Culture: the *Rejvery* Phenomenon), *eSamizdat* 1 (2005): 155–160.

Book Reviews

Remo Ceserani. *Convergenze. Gli strumenti letterari e le altre discipline*. Milano: Mondadori, 2010. In *Letteratura e letterature* 6 (2012): 135.

Maria Antonella Pelizzari. *Photography and Italy*. London: Reaktion Books, 2010. Published in *The Romance Sphere. The Online Magazine of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard University*, May 2011.

<http://romancesphere.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k56942&pageid=icb.page414168>

Umberto Curi. *Straniero*. Milano: Cortina, 2010. Published in *The Romance Sphere*. May 2011. <http://romancesphere.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k56942&pageid=icb.page421159>

Marko Juvan, Jelka Kernev Štrajn, eds. *Teoretsko-literarni ibridi: o dialogu literature in teorije / Hybridizing Theory and Literature: On the Dialogue between Theory and Literature*, Ljubljana 2006. In *Studi Slavistici* 4 (2007): 323–327.

GRANTS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowship, 2021-2022, for a residency term at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich to conduct my research project “Metabolic Modernisms: Energy Transformation, The Human Body, and the Making and Unmaking of the World in Early Twentieth-Century Russia.”

Princeton Center for the Digital Humanities Seed Grant (2020-2021), received with Dylan McGagh (Oxford University) to carry out the research project “Networks of Pain: How Chronic Pain is Shared and Shaped in the Twitter Arena.”

Andrew W. Mellon Grant for Faculty Innovation at the Princeton University Art Museum (2020-2021), awarded for “innovative curricular initiatives that use the Art Museum’s collections in a significant way.” My seminar HUM 303 “Seeing Health: Illness, Bodies, and the Visual Arts,” conceived in close collaboration with the PUAM curators, is conceived to take place in the museum galleries.

David Sloane Memorial Prize, awarded by Harvard’s Slavic Department to a recent alum (or Comparative Literature alum who conducts work on Russian Literature) “who shows great promise as scholar and teacher in the field of Russian literature.” Cambridge, MA, September 2018.

David A. Gardner ’69 Magic Project Grant, Princeton’s Council of the Humanities, 2017-2021. The research project, co-led with Tala Khanmalek (2017-18), Amy Krauss (2018-19), Natalie Prizel (2019-20), Franz Prichard and Ryo Morimoto (2020-21), consists of the working group “Bodies of Knowledge,” which aims to explore and expand the intersections between medicine and the human.

Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies Dissertation Completion Grant, Harvard University, 2015-16.

Scholar in Residence at Project Narrative, Ohio State University, Fall 2015.

Thomas T. Hoopes Prize for advising outstanding undergraduate work (Lorenzo Bartolucci’s Senior Thesis on guilt in Hemingway and Primo Levi), Harvard University, Spring 2015.

Harvard GSAS Merit Term-Time Grant, Spring 2015.

Harvard University Derek Bok Center Award for Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2014.

Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies Summer Travel Grant for research in Russia, Harvard University, Summer 2014.

Harvard University Derek Bok Center Award for Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2013.

Susan Anthony Potter Prize for best graduate essay on a comparative topic, Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University, Spring 2012.

Merle Fainsod Prize, awarded by the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies to the most promising incoming graduate student. Harvard University, 2010-11.

Harry Levin Fellowship, Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University, 2010-11.

ICLA grant to attend “Synopsis,” the European Summer School for Comparative Studies at the University of Siena, Pontignano, Summer 2008.

EU Fellowship “Tempus” for an internship at the publishing house OGI, Moscow, Spring 2003.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES, AND INVITED TALKS

“Final Moments: Perspectives on End of Life in Russian Literature.” Panel discussant at ASEES 2020.

“Metabolic Modernities.” Russia | Japan. Residues, Materialities, Environments: Trans-disciplinary Exchanges. Princeton University, October 16-17, 2020.

“Deep Time in Early Soviet Science Fiction.” AATSEEL, San Diego, 2020.

“Food Studies and Russian Modernity: Exercises in Meaning-Making.” Panel discussant at ASEES, San Francisco, 2019.

“The Porosity of the Body: Inside and Outside Stories.” States of Health Symposium, Princeton Art Museum, November 2019.

“The Soviet Body, the Body Soviet, and the Environment: Food and Energy Transformation in the Russian Prose of the 1920s.” ASLE, Davis, CA, June 2019.

“Omnivorous Writers: Shklovskii’s Vitamins, Food Production, and the Literary Imagination.” CAS, Vancouver, June 2019.

“Metabolism, Nutrition, and the Making and Unmaking of the World in Early Soviet Science Fiction and Children’s Literature.” International conference “Making the New Man,” organized by Liubov Bugaeva (SPGU) and Nikolai Kremontsov (University of Toronto), SPGU, May 2019.

“The Soviet Metabolism in the 1920s: Food, Energy, Text.” ASEES, Boston, December 2018.

“Depicting Illness: Epidemics and Storytelling in Carlo Coppola’s painting *The Pestilence of 1656* (ca 1660).” Princeton Art Museum, October 11, 2018.

- “Narrative Agency and Metabolic Storytelling in Early Soviet Prose.” Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, June 2018.
- “The Language of Pain.” University of Pennsylvania Medical School, April 2018.
- “Seeing Health: Hygiene, Nutrition, and the Visual Arts in Russia in the 1920s.” ACLA, Los Angeles, March 2018.
- “Pain and Language in Sophocles’s *Philoctetes*.” Total Pain: Symposium on Antiquity and Palliative Medicine, Princeton Club, New York, December 2017.
- “Frozen Bodies: Anabiosis and Long Time in Beliaev and Pil’niak.” ASEEES, Chicago, November 2017.
- “Thing Theory and Endocrinology in Russian Literature in the 1920s.” ICHST (International Congress of History of Science and Technology), Rio de Janeiro, July 2017.
- “On Machines and Glands: Revolutionary Experiments and It-Narratives.” ACLA, Utrecht, July 2017.
- “The Necropolitics of History.” Panel discussant in the interdisciplinary conference *War Frenzy: Exploring the Violence of Propaganda*, organized by PIIRS at Princeton University, May 2017.
- “Stories from Within: Bodily Organs and Storytelling.” *Text Treatment: Discourses on Literature and Medicine in Russia and Beyond*, University of Illinois in Chicago, April 2017.
- “Bulgakov’s Hypophysis.” *All Things Living and Not*, conference held at Columbia University, February 2017.
- “Narrative Agency and the Pituitary Gland: Metabolic Storytelling in Mikhail Bulgakov’s ‘Heart of a Dog.’” AATSEEL, San Francisco, February 2017.
- “Veiled and Unveiled Ostranenie in (Soviet) Russia.” Panel moderator in the international conference *A Hundred Years of Ostranenie*, organized by the University of Erfurt, Germany, December 2016.
- “Metabolic Constraints: Narrative Time and the Thyroid in Italo Svevo’s Early Prose.” SLSA, Atlanta, GA, November 2016.
- “Time, Agency, and Bodily Glands: Two Case Studies from the Early Twentieth-Century.” Barbieri Endowment Lecture at Trinity College, Hartford, CT, March 2016.
- “Inside Out: Non-Orientable Surfaces in Guy de Maupassant and Veniamin Kaverin.” ACLA, Cambridge, MA, March 2016.
- “Metabolic Storytelling in Mikhail Bulgakov and Italo Svevo.” UC Davis, Department of Comparative Literature, Davis, CA, February 2016.
- “Narrative Time and the Thyroid: Doctor Menghi’s Drug.” Project Narrative, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, December 2015.

“‘Parallels, parallels... I have to make them intersect’. The Poetics of Non-Euclidean Space in Veniamin Kaverin’s *Odinnadtsataia Aksioma*.” ASEEEES, Philadelphia, PA, November 2015.

“A Galaxy-Wide Audience: ‘Distant Reading’ in Italo Calvino and Lee Hae-jun.” ACLA, Seattle, WA, March 2015.

“The Artifice of Time. On Displacement, Re-Focalization, and Storytelling in Lucretius and Calvino through the lens of 19th-century astronomy.” International Society for the Study of Narrative Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2015.

“Medical Practice as Plot-Construction: The Interpretations of Ivan Il’ich’s Disease.” UCLA, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Los Angeles, CA, February 2015.

“The Patient as ‘Unreliable Narrator’ in Nineteenth-Century Russian Prose. Case Studies from Gogol, Tolstoi, and Chekhov.” ASEEEES, San Antonio, TX, November 2014.

“Meditinskaiia praktika kak siuzhetoslozhenie. Interpretatsiia bolezni Ivana Il'icha.” IX International Conference “Leo Tolstoy and World Literature,” Iasnaia Poliana, Russian Federation, August 2014.

“Outer Space as a Literary Warehouse: Time-Lapse and Experimentation in *The Light Years*.” MMLA, Milwaukee, November 2013.

“Getting the Story Straight: The Poetics of Non-Euclidean Geometries in Abbott, Dostoevsky, Kaverin and Calvino.” ACLA, Toronto, April 2013.

“The Element of Water in Lermontov’s *A Hero of Our Time*.” Guest lecture in William Mills Todd III’s course “How and What Russia Learned to Read: The Rise of Russian Literary Culture,” February 2013.

“Boris Eikhenbaum mezhdū literaturoi i kritikoi: roman *Marshrut v bessmertie*.” Konferentsiia molodykh filologov, Tartu University, Estonia, April 2008.

LANGUAGES

Italian (native speaker); Russian, Spanish, French (fluency); German (intermediate); American Sign Language (beginner); Classical Latin; Old Church Slavonic.

CONFERENCE, SYMPOSIA, LECTURE SERIES ORGANIZATION

Russia / Japan: Residues, Materialities, Environments: Trans-disciplinary Exchanges, a conference on literature, media, and the environment in Russia and Japan. Princeton University, October 2020.

Bodies of Knowledge, a lecture series and working group on the human body as a stage for meaning-making, with participants and invited speakers from the humanities, the sciences and the arts. Co-organized with Tala Khanmalek (2017-18), Amy Krauss (2018-19), Natalie Prizel (2019-20), Franz Prichard and Ryo Morimoto (2020-2021), Council of the Humanities, Princeton University.

Workshop “Russian Literature of the Anthropocene.” Co-organized with Alec Brookes

(Memorial University, Newfoundland), July 2017.

“The Russian Lab: Science, Technology, and the Arts,” a year-long lecture series featuring eight talks. Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), 2016-17.

American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)

Conference Organizer. Chair of the Graduate Student Committee for ACLA 2016 at Harvard University. In charge of program, website, logistics, undergraduate panel.

TEACHING

Princeton University

- SLA 531 “**Ecologies of the Body**” – graduate seminar on Russian literature, the visual arts, and the environment (Fall 2019)
- SLA 528 “**The Poetics of Space**” – graduate seminar (Fall 2018 and Fall 2016)
- HUM 597 “**Authorship of the Body: Health, Illness, and Medicine in Russia and Japan**” – one-time only graduate seminar co-taught with Amy Borovoy within the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities (Spring 2018).
- SLA 561 “**Graduate Proseminar**” – team-taught seminar (two-week module; Fall 2018).
- SLA 367 “**On Space in Russian Culture**” – small departmental undergraduate seminar on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian literature and visual arts (Spring 2017).
- SLA 368 “**Literature and Medicine**” – large lecture course (90-100 students) with weekly small-group discussion precepts (Spring 2020, Spring 2018, and Spring 2017).
- HUM 302 “**Medical Story-Worlds**” – one-time only course, co-taught with Tala Khanmalek (American Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies) with guest lecturers from Molecular Biology, Public Health, Dance, and Performing Arts (Fall 2017).
- HUM 303 “**Seeing Health: Illness, the Body, and the Visual Arts**” – small undergraduate seminar in the Princeton Art Museum, sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Innovation Fund (Fall 2021).
- FRS 113 “**Russian and American Science Fiction: Story-Worlds in Dialogue**” – Freshman Seminar (Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016).

Harvard University

2014-15

Departmental Teaching Fellow: ran pedagogy and methodology workshops for Comparative Literature graduate students who were teaching.

Thesis Adviser, Department of Comparative Literature

Advised a Senior thesis on guilt and forgiveness in Ernest Hemingway and Primo Levi. Evaluated other Senior students’ theses. Served on students’ oral exam committees.

2013-14

Comparative Literature Undergraduate Program

Taught Junior Tutorial (Lit 98ab). Created syllabus on the grotesque in early-modern European literature. Evaluated Junior essays, Senior theses, and oral examinations for Senior students.

Spring 2014

Case Studies in the Medical Humanities: On Death and Dying

Offered by Arthur Kleinman and David Jones. Taught 23 students in two sections. Designed midterm and final exam.

Spring 2013

How and What Russia Learned to Read: The Rise of Russian Literary Culture

Offered by William Mills Todd III. Taught 11 students in one section. Co-designed midterm and final exam.

Fall 2013

Narrative and Neurology

Offered by Nate Greenslit. Taught 18 students, designed weekly blog prompts for online discussion.

2012-13

Comparative Literature Undergraduate Program

Taught Junior Tutorial (Lit 98ab). Developed one syllabus on women and madness in 19th- and 20th-century French literature, one on notions of the self in early 20th-century poetry, and one on Cognitive Sciences and Literature. Evaluated Junior essays, Senior theses, and Seniors' exams.

Fall 2012

Literature and Medicine

Offered by Karen Thornber. Head of teaching staff, designed section plans, midterm and final exams.

University of Milan, Italy

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, 2009-2010

Irony and the Comic in Nineteenth-Century Russian Prose

A seminar offered by Damiano Rebecchini. Administered and evaluated oral exams for students both at the undergraduate and at the graduate level.

Language Teaching

Harvard Divinity School

Language Teacher, Spring 2015

Advanced Italian Syntax. One-on-one tutorial with Professor Kevin Madigan on archival documents from the 1940s.

Nieman Foundation for Journalism, Harvard University

Language Teacher, Spring 2015

Advanced Italian Conversation. One-on-one conversation with Nieman Fellow and *Boston Globe* journalist Melissa Bailey on the language of media.

Dudley House, Harvard University

Language Teacher, 2013-14

Intermediate Italian Conversation. Group conversation on literature and film. Grammar review.

Language Teacher, 2012-13

Advanced Italian Conversation. One-on-one conversation on literary topics (Ariosto and the Renaissance, Calvino and the late 20th century) and syntax review with graduate students.

Scuola di Babele, NGO, Milan Metropolitan Area (Italy)

Language Teacher, 2002-2004

Taught Italian as a second language. Levels A2, B1 and B2 (European Framework for Language Acquisition).

Aiutiamoli a vivere, NGO, Milan, Italy

Language Teacher, 2000. Taught elementary Russian.

ADVISING

Dissertations Advised: Jacob Plagmann (Comparative Literature, 2021), in progress.

General Examination Committee Member for 7 graduate students in the department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (Lev Nikulin, Elizaveta Mankovskaia, Massimo Balloni, Gabriella Ferrari, Charles Swank) and Comparative Literature (Jacob Plagmann and Chiara Benetollo).

Senior Theses: Leora Eisenberg, *Finding a Common Language: An Exploration of Language-Based Tropes in Contemporary Ukrainian and Russian Media* (Slavic, 2020; winner of the Monty Raiser Prize, awarded by Princeton's REEES program).

Owen Ayers, *Neurasthenia* (Comparative Literature, 2019).

Victoria Tang, *Interstitial Bodies and the Anatomical Gaze* (Psychology and Humanistic Studies, 2019).

Lorenzo Bartolucci, *Winners Take Nothing: On Guilt and Forgiveness in Ernest Hemingway and Primo Levi*, Harvard University, Comparative Literature, 2015.

Junior Papers: Ivy Truong (Slavic, 2020) Lea Berthiaume (Slavic, 2020), Becca Senatore (Slavic, 2019) and Leora Eisenberg (Slavic, 2019, awarded the first prize by the *Princeton Undergraduate Research Journal* and published in the Spring 2019 issue); Sofia Tancredi (Harvard University, Comparative Literature, 2014), Celena Tyler (Harvard University, Comparative Literature, 2014).

First-Year and Sophomore Adviser at Forbes College (2018-present).

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures (2018-2020).

EDITORIAL AND PEER-REVIEW WORK

Peer Reviewer for *Slavic Review* (since 2018), *Poetics Today* (since 2016), *The New England Journal of Medicine* (since 2017), and *Enthymema*, a European journal of literary criticism, literary theory, and philosophy of literature (since June 2009).

AFFILIATIONS

ASEEES, AATSEEL, ACLA, ASLE, SLSA, ISSN, MLA.