

DAVID I.L. BEECHER

International & Area Studies (IAS)

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University of California, Berkeley

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EMPLOYMENT

University of California, Berkeley

Fall 2014–Present

Lecturer in International and Area Studies, an academic program for undergraduates from 6 different majors, fostering interdisciplinary approaches to the study of international and global concerns: <http://live-international-area-studies-academic-program.pantheon.berkeley.edu/people/faculty/david-beecher/>

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

PhD, History, December 2014

DISSERTATION

- “Ivory Tower of Babel: Tartu University and the Languages of Two Empires, a Nation-State, and the Soviet Union”
- Berkeley Committee: Yuri Slezkine (Chair); Margaret Anderson; Irina Paperno
- Informal Advisor at Tartu University History Department: Aigi Rahi-Tamm
- UC Berkeley History Department Prize for Best PhD Dissertation (May 2015)

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FIELDS

- The Soviet Union & the 20th Century
- Europe & the 19th Century
- Early Modern Western Europe
- Early Modern Eastern Europe
- Russian and Soviet Literary Theory

Passed with Distinction

Yuri Slezkine
Margaret Anderson
Carla Hesse
David Frick
Irina Paperno

INTERESTS

- By PLACE: Russia & the USSR, Europe (esp. Germany, France, Britain & the Baltic Sea Region), Eurasia, the World
- By TOPIC: languages & literatures, cities & states, nations & empires, universities & dissidents, centers & peripheries of power and culture.
- By APPROACH: cultural & intellectual history, transnational & international history, sociology of knowledge, political economy, linguistic & literary theory

University of Tartu, Estonia

Fulbright Scholar, 2007–2008

University of California, Berkeley

MA History May 2005

Harvard University

AB Magna Cum Laude, June 2000

- History and Literature of France and America; John Harvard Scholarship.
- Violinist in Harvard Pops (Concertmaster), Bach Society Orchestra, and Harvard Baroque Ensemble; Editor and Cartoonist for *Harvard Crimson*; Intercollegiate JV Division 1 Soccer.
- Writer-researcher for travel guides *Let's Go Eastern Europe* and *Let's Go France*.

Languages

Estonian (bilingual/native)
French (excellent)
German (excellent)
Russian (very good)

Intensive Language Study

- Russian at Russian State University of the Humanities (Moscow 2007) and Middlebury Summer Language School (2004).
- German at Goethe Institutes of Bonn and Berlin (2001, 2003).

Academic Organizations

EÜS Veljesto (Tartu University Academic Society) since 2008. Elected chairman in 2010-2011 and organized public discussions and conferences with various Estonian scholars, politicians, and public figures on themes of dictatorship, democracy, and civil society.
AHA, ASEES (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies), AABS (Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies)

Grants, Fellowships, and Honors

UC Berkeley History Department Prize for best PhD dissertation awarded May 2015
UC Berkeley History Department Dissertation Fellowship (2012)
UC Berkeley Institute for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Fellowship (2012)
John L. Simpson Memorial Research Fellowship in International and Comparative Studies. IIS. UC Berkeley (2010-11)
DoRa Archimedes European Union Grant for Academic Collaborations Between Doctoral Students and Estonian Scholars (2009 and 2010-11)
Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies Dissertation Fellowship (2009)
Fulbright IIE Student Grant to Estonia (2007-8)
Fulbright Language Grant to Moscow, Russia, (Summer 2007)
UC Berkeley Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Grant for Estonia (Summer 2005)
FLAS Fellowship for Intermediate Russian (2005-6)
FLAS Fellowships for Advanced German (2003-4)
IES (Institute of European Studies) Fellowship (2003-4)

CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS

Academic Appearances by Special Invitation

Presented paper (“The ‘Holy Fool’ of Tartu State University: Villem Ernits and the ‘Tartu Spirit’ in Late Soviet Socialism”) & taught seminar (“Soviet Linguistic, Educational, and Foreign Policy After 1956”) as one of 20 international instructors to 50 doctoral students from around the world at *Late Socialism Symposium and Summer School* (Tallinn, Estonia: July 21–30, 2015).

Delivered Keynote address (“Third Worlds in Third Languages: Yuri Lotman, Paul Ariste, and the Soviet Union’s Most European University”) at 5th Annual Vilnius Symposium on Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Issues (Vilnius, Lithuania: December 2014).

Presented paper (“A Tale of Two Scholars: Paul Ariste & Yuri Lotman”) at Stanford Baltic Studies Conference, *War, Revolution, and Freedom: The Baltic Countries in the 20th Century* (Stanford: October 2014).

Delivered lecture (“The Soviet Union as a Special Kind of World Empire”) at World History Teacher’s Conference (UC Berkeley: June 2014).

Presented paper (“In Search of a Usable Past: Memory and Forgetting in Post-Soviet Estonia”) at annual Berkeley-Stanford Conference on Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, *The Politics of History in the Wake of Socialism* (UC Berkeley: April 26, 2013). Repeated at Anthropology Center at Stanford University (April 30, 2014).

Presented paper (“A Tale of Two Tartus: the Soviet Empire in the Estonian Nation”) at Symposium: *Citizenship, Modernisation and Dissent: The Soviet Nationalities Question after 1945*. Munk School of Global Affairs (Toronto: April 2012).

Presented paper (“The University of Western Minorities and the Sovietization of Estonian Elites”) at 1st Annual Symposium on Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Issues: *In the Soviet Network* (Vilnius, Lithuania: November 2010).

Other Academic Conference Presentations

Presented paper, “Tartu University as an Observatory on Europe and Russia” at the First Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies: “Europe Under Stress: The End of a Common Dream?” (Tartu: June 2016).

Presented paper on Soviet Tartu (“Third Worlds in Third Languages”) at interdisciplinary workshop, *Cultural Orders*, featuring literary scholars and historians studying the Soviet Union from UC Berkeley in conversation with scholars from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (UC Berkeley: April 2016)

Participated in Roundtable “Teaching the Multiethnic Soviet Union” and delivered comment on panel “Internet, Museum, Family: Contesting Historical Facts in Ukraine and the Baltic States” at ASEES (Philadelphia: November 2015).

Organized conference Panel, *Cultural Intermediaries Between the Soviet Center and National Periphery* and presented paper, “Third Worlds in Third Languages,” at ASEES (San Antonio: November 2014).

Delivered Comment on Panel “‘Singing Nomenclatura’ during the Baltic Revolutions” at ASEES conference (Boston: November 2013).

Presented paper, “Persian Studies at Tartu University Under Soviet Rule” at *Beyond National Borders: The Persianate World Then and Now* (UC Berkeley: January 2013).

Presented paper, “Escapism and Linguistic Self-Preservation at Tartu University in Soviet Estonia” on panel *Peripheral Plotlines: New Stories about Being Soviet Inside the Union and Out* at ASEES conference (Washington DC: November 2011).

Participated in Roundtable, *The Friendship of Peoples: Soviet Policies, Popular Meanings, and Contemporary Legacies* at ASEES conference (Los Angeles: November 2010).

Presented paper, “Generation of Strangers at the Soviet University of Tartu” on panel *Cultural Producers in the Soviet National Satellites* at AAASS Conference (Boston: November 2009).

- Presented paper, “Ümmargusest kandiliseks: Nõukogude keele- ja rahvusteadus Tartu Ülikoolis” [“From Round to Square: Ethno-Linguistic Scholarship at Tartu University in the Soviet Period”] at Veljesto Academic Society (Tartu, Estonia: June 2009).
- Delivered presentation “Mineviku ehk Looduse varjud keelelisel sajandil” [“Shades of the Past and Nature in the Linguistic Century”] at Bio-Semiotic Summer School (Soomaa, Estonia: August 2009).
- Presented paper, “Tartu University and the Transformation of Soviet Multiculturalism” at Baltic Studies conference: *The Baltic as an Intersection of Civilizational Identities* at Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania: June 2009).
- Presented paper, “Tartu University’s Informal Institute of the East: The Place of a Non-Ideological ‘Other’ in Soviet Modernity” at Conference: *Revisiting Modernity, A Conversation Across Disciplines* (UC Berkeley, January 2009).
- Presented paper, “When Stalin Died: The Role of Tartu University in the Making of Soviet Estonia” at Cambridge Conference: *Beyond the Lecture Hall: Universities and Community Engagement* (Cambridge, England: September 2008).
- Presented paper “Stalini surm ja selle vastukaja TRÜ akadeemilises kultuuris.” [The Death of Stalin and Its Resonance in the Academic Culture of Tartu University] at Tartu University Doctoral Student Conference (Tartu, Estonia: May 2008).

Publications

- “Tõotatud maa Ameerika lastekirjanduses” [“The Promised Land in American Children’s Literature”] in *Mõtteid Valminud Intelligentsist [Ideas of a Mature Intelligentsia]*. Tartu: Veljesto Kirjastus, 2015, pp. 23–29. Also published in *Õnne kogum: artiklid, esseed, pildid õnnest [The Happiness Collection: Articles, Essays, and Pictures on the Subject of Happiness]*. Tartu: Greif, 2014, pp. 54–58.
- “Kalevipoeg’s Mistake.” *Lituanus: The Lithuanian Quarterly Journal of Arts and Sciences*. Volume 47:3 (Fall 2001) pp. 58-76.
- “The Southwest.” *Let’s Go France 2001*. (St. Martin’s Press, 2001). pp. 630-730. Revised and Reprinted in *Let’s Go Europe 2001* and *Let’s Go Western Europe 2001*.
- “Estonia,” “Latvia,” and “Lithuania.” *Let’s Go Eastern Europe 2000* (St. Martin’s Press, 2000). pp. 234-262, 341-359, and 360-380. Revised and reprinted in *Let’s Go Europe 2000*.

Translations

ESTONIAN TO ENGLISH—

- Kersti Lust, “The Impact of the Baltic Emancipation on Peasant-Landlord Relations: A Historiographical Survey,” *Journal of Baltic Studies* 44, 1 (2013), pp. 1–18.

FRENCH TO ENGLISH—

- Stéphane Van Damme, “Philosophical Mobility and Urban Space in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Paris,” and Pierre-Yves Beaurepaire, “The Universal Republic of the Freemasons and the Culture of Mobility in the Enlightenment,” in special issue on “Mobility in French History,” *French Historical Studies* XXIX, 3 (Summer 2006), 379–431 (with Peter Sahlins).

TEACHING

UC Berkeley Lecturer in International and Area Studies (IAS) Program

Russia & Europe Since 1848: From the Making of the Soviet Union to the Crisis of the European Union (PE 160—taught 2x since Fall 2015; 50+ students). This historical context course for Political Economy majors traces the common political, economic, social, and cultural roots of the Soviet Union & European Union back to the Revolutions of 1848.

World History (IAS 45—taught 4x since Fall 2014; 150+ students). This thematic survey follows the interaction of five protagonists—merchants, soldiers, sages, workers, and the environment—in the transformation of the world from Ancient Mesopotamia to the present.

Contemporary Theories of Political Economy (PE 101—Spring 2016; 150+ students): This course introduces students to some of the major questions and theories of political economy and economic development from the heyday of the Postwar Keynesianism to the rise of Neoliberalism and the Global Recession of 2008.

Universities & Dissidents (PE 133—Spring 2015; c. 10 students). This junior seminar explores the dual role of universities in inculcating languages of authority and challenging received wisdom from the medieval scholasticism of Peter Abelard at the Cathedral School of Paris to the Free-Speech Movement at UC Berkeley.

Nations & Empires in the Global 20th Century (IAS 194—taught 2x since Fall 2014; 20 students). This senior seminar investigates the role of nations and nationalism in the decolonization of traditional empires and integration of the three great ideological empires of the twentieth century: (1) Nazi Germany, (2) the USSR, and (3) the USA.

Words & Numbers: Critical Thinking & Research Methods in the Human & Social Sciences (IAS 102—Fall 2016; 20 students). This seminar prepares students to write a senior thesis in International and Area Studies by introducing the epistemological possibilities and pitfalls of quantitative and qualitative methods of research in fields such as history, literature, political science, sociology, and anthropology.

UC Berkeley Graduate Student Instructor (GSI)

Awards and Honors

UC Berkeley Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, 2006-2007

Guest Lectures in UC Berkeley Courses

“Empires & Nations in Eastern Europe, 1848–1948.” Lecture delivered in Alan Karras’s “World History” (IAS 45) (April 2013 and November 2011).

“What is Stalinism?” Two lectures delivered in John Connelly’s “Europe in the Twentieth Century” (HIS 158C) (October 2009).

Courses and Tutorials in UC Berkeley's History Department

Advised senior thesis on "The Transformation of German Königsberg into Russian Kaliningrad" (HIS 100) (Spring 2010).

Designed seminar on "The University in Modern Europe" (HIS 101) (Fall 2008).

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) in UC Berkeley Lecture Courses

"World History" (IAS 45) with Alan Karras (Spring 2014)

"Classical Theories of Political Economy" (PE 100) with Alan Karras (Fall 2013)

"International & Global History Since 1945" (HIS 186) with Daniel Sargent (Spring 2012)

"World History" (IAS 45) with Prof. Alan Karras (Fall 2011)

Head GSI for "Europe Since 1500" (HIS 5) with Thomas Laqueur (Fall 2006)

"The Making of Modern Europe" (HIS 5) with Tyler Stoval (Fall 2004)

Reader-Grader for UC Berkeley Lecture Courses

"Europe in the Twentieth Century" (HIS 158C), with John Connelly (Fall 2009).

"The Word, the Picture, and the Page: The Revolution in European Culture Since the Late 18th Century" (HIS 165b) with Susanna Barrows (Spring 2007).

Other Teaching & Employment

Seminar Instructor at Tartu University

Taught historiography seminar to Masters Students in the History Department of Tartu University: "What is Cultural History? (And Why Is It So Popular at UC Berkeley?)"
Taught in Estonian. Tartu University, Estonia (Spring 2008).

Teacher in France and Germany

Taught high-school European history and English to international students at Erasmus International School, Potsdam Germany, 2002-2003.

Taught EFL to the members and employees of various organizations, including a geological think tank (*GeoForschungZentrum*), a biomedical research facility (*Planttech*), and *CargoLifter*, a company located on a defunct East German airbase and dedicated to reviving the blimp as a viable means of international cargo transport. Phoenix International Center, Potsdam Germany, 2002-2003.

Taught EFL at Lycée François Premier, Le Havre, France, 2000-2001.

Travel Writer

Researcher-Writer for travel guides *Let's Go Eastern Europe 2000* (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) and *Let's Go France 2001* (The Southwest, including Basque Country, Catalan Country, and the Pyrenees).

REFERENCES

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