**Danielle Ross**

Associate Professor

History Department

Utah State University

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Logan, UT 84322-0710

**Education**

2011 Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison*,* History

Comprehensive Exam Fields: Central Asia, Russian Empire, Soviet Union, Islamic history

2007 M.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, History

2003 B.A., Arizona State University, History and Russian Language and Literature majors,

with a certificate in Russian and East European Studies

**Employment**

*Academic*

Associate Professor, Utah State University-Blanding Campus, UT

August 2023 to present

Associate Professor of Asian and Islamic History, Utah State University, Logan UT

August 2020 to July 2023

Assistant Professor of Asian and Islamic History, Utah State University, Logan, UT

August 2014 to July 2020

Assistant Professor of Central Asian History, Nazarbayev University, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

August 2011 to August 2014

Instructor of Elementary and Intermediate-Advanced Tatar Language, Critical Languages

Institute, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, Summer 2006

Instructor of Elementary Tatar Language, Critical Languages Institute, Arizona State

University, Tempe, AZ, Summer 2005

*Non-Academic*

Senior Social Media Analyst / Leader of Central Asia Analysis and Operations Team,

Concepts and Strategies (CENTCOM, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL)

December 2010 to August 2011

**Publications**

*Books*

*Tatar Empire: Kazan’s Muslims and the Making of Imperial Russia* (Bloomington: Indiana

University Press, 2020).

Translated into Turkish as *Tatar İmparatorluğu: Kazan Tatarları ve Çarlık*

*Rusyası’nın Oluşumu*, trans. Kadri Mustafa Orağlu (Ötüken, 2020).

*Shari’a in the Russian Empire:* *The Reach and Limits of Islamic Law in Central Eurasia,*

*1550-1900*, co-edited with Paolo Sartori (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020).

*Authored Chapters*

Introduction, pp. 1-37 (co-authored with Paolo Sartori)

Chapter One “Islamic Education for All: Technological Change, Popular

Literacy, and the Transformation of the Volga-Ural Madrasa, 1650s-1910s,” pp. 38-80

Chapter Three, “Debunking the ‘Unfortunate Girl’ Paradigm: Volga-Ural

Muslim Women’s Knowledge Culture and its Transformation across the Long Nineteenth Century,” pp. 120-55

*Voices from the Steppe: A Thematic Sourcebook on the History of the Kazakh Steppe and the*

*South Urals* (co-edited with Meiramgul Kussainova) (Vienna: Austrian Academy of

Sciences Press, in press; forthcoming in 2024).

*Refereed Journal Articles*

“Copying Islam: Constructing a New Soviet Islam through the Re-production of Religious

Texts in the South Urals,” *Anzeiger* 157-158 (2022/2023): 51-81.

“Complex Legal Lives: Separated Muslim Women’s Financial Rights in Russia (1750s-

1820s),” *Genealogy* (Special Issue: *Separated and Divorced Wives in the Early Modern*

*World*) 6 (3) (2022) <https://www.mdpi.com/2313-5778/6/3/72>

“Retelling Mecca: Shifting Narratives of Sacred Spaces in Volga-Ural Muslim Hajj Accounts,

1699-1945,” *Religions* (Special Issue: *Telling and Interpreting* Sacrum*: Challenges and*

*Current Issues of Storytelling and Interpretation in Religious Dialogue*) 12 (8) (2021)

<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/12/8/588/htm>.

“The Promiscuous Life of a Genre for the Dead: The *Marthiya* as an Instrument of

Community Construction in Muslim Russia,” *Journal of Economic and Social History of*

*the Orient* 64.4 (2021): 343-376.

“The Age of the ‘Socialist-Nationalist-Wahhabi Revolutionary’: The Fusion of Islamic

Fundamentalism and Socialism in Tatar Nationalist Thought, 1898-1917,” *Genealogy*

(Special Issue: *For God and Country: Essays on Religion and Nationalism*) 3 (4) (58)

(2019) <https://www.mdpi.com/2313-5778/3/4/58/pdf>

“Making Muslim Women Political: Imagining the Wartime Woman in the Russian Muslim

Women’s Journal *Suyumbika*,” *Revue des mondes musulmans et de la Méditerranée*

(2018):139-53.

“Muslim Charity Under Russian Rule: *Waqf*, *Sadaqa*, and *Zakat* in Late Imperial Russia”

*Islamic Law and Society* 24 (2017): 77-111.

“Caught in the Middle: Education Reform and Youth Rebellion in Russia’s Madrasas, 1900-

1910.” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, 16/1 (2015): 58-89.

“The Nation that Might Not Be: The Role of Iskhaqi’s *Extinction after Two Hundred Years* in

the Popularization of Kazan Tatar National Identity among the ‘Ulama Sons and Shakirds

of the Volga-Ural Region, 1904-1917,” *Ab Imperio* 3 (2012): 341-369.

*Refereed Book Chapters*

“A Collateral Cultural Revolution: Russia’s State-Driven Papermaking and Publishing Efforts

and their Effects on Volga-Ural Muslim Book Culture, 1780s-1905” in *Publishing in*

*Tsarist Russia: A History of Print Media from Enlightenment to Revolution*, eds. Yukiko

Tatsumi and Taro Tsurumi (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020), 141-70.

“Domesticating 1916: The Evolution of Amangeldi Imanov and the Creation of a Foundation

Myth for Kazakh SSR, 1916-1939” in *The Central Asian Revolt* *of 1916*. eds. Aminat

Chokobaeva, Cloé Drieu, Alexander Morrison (Manchester: Manchester University Press,

2019), 325-53.

“From Dublin to Turgai: Discourses on Small Nations and Violence in the Russian Muslim

Press in 1916,” in *1916 in a Global Context: An Anti-Imperial Moment* (London:

Routledge, 2017), 131-145.

“Fighting for the Tsar, Fighting against the Tsar: The Use of Folk Culture to Mobilize the

Tatar Population during the Great War and the Russian Revolution, 1914-1921” in *Small*

*Nations and Colonial Peripheries in World War I*. eds. Gearoid Barry et. al. (Leiden: Brill,

2016), 211-29.

“Gog, Magog and the Aeroplane: Tatar Folk Literature as a Vehicle for Responding to the

First World War, (1914-1917)” in *Malen’kii chelovek i bol’shaia voina,* (St. Petersburg:

Nestor-Istoriia, 2014), 87-102.

*Other Refereed Publications*

“What Does a Decolonized Field Look Like and How Do We Get There?” Study of Islam in

Central Eurasia, Blog <https://www.oeaw.ac.at/sice/sice-blog/what-does-a-decolonized-field-look-like-and-how-do-we-get-there>

“Kazan” in *The Encyclopaedia of Islam, Third Edition Advance Online* (Leiden: Brill, 2020),

<http://referenceworks.brillonline.com/browse/encyclopaedia-of-islam-3>

“Back to Stalinism and its Tropes? Islam and Europe in *Zuleikha Opens her Eyes*” Study of

Islam in Central Eurasia, Blog, <https://www.oeaw.ac.at/sice/sice-blog/back-to-stalinism-and-its-tropes-islam-and-europe-in-zuleikha-opens-her-eyes>

*Book Reviews*

“*Along the Silk Roads in Mongol Eurasia: Generals, Merchants, and Intellectuals*. Edited by

Michal Biran, Jonathan Brack, and Francesca Fiaschetti. Oakland: University of California

Press, 2020. xv. 335 pp. ISBN 9780520298750 (paper). *The Journal of Asia Studies* 80-3

(2021): 821-23.

“Nile Green, ed. *The Persianate World: The Frontiers of a Eurasian Lingua Franca*,” *Journal*

*of World History* 32-1 (March 2021): 161-163.

“*Imperial Russia’s Muslims: Islam, Empire, and European Modernity, 1788-1914* by Tuna,

Mustafa,” *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 52, no. 1 (2018): 474-477.

“*The Russo-Turkish War, 1768-1774: Catherine II and the Ottoman Empire* by Brian L.

Davies,” *Mediterranean Studies*, 26, no. 1 (2018): 128-130.

“*Russian Hajj: Empire and the Pilgrimage to Mecca* by Eileen Kane,” *Central Asian Survey*,

37, no. 1 (2018): 187-189.

**Invited Presentations**

*Paid*

“Like Baku…in 300 Years: The Lehman Oil Company, the Kazakhs, and Tatar Diaspora in

Gur’ev, 1899-1917,” International Symposium: Muddying the Waters: Toward a History

of the Caspian,” Austrian Academy of Sciences, September 13-14, 2023.

“Mullah Songatullah’s Children: Religious and Secular Narratives of Self and Family across

Three Soviet Generations,” Secularism and Religion in the USSR: Comparative

Perspectives on Islam and the Eastern Orthodox Church (an International Workshop).

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, July 2023.

“Warrior Goats, Witchy Women, and Horny Forest Sheep: The Woods in the Works of

Gabdulla Tuqay,” Summer School: The Archives of Islam in the Russian Empire (16th-

Early 20th Centuries). Study for Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences,

Vienna, June 2023.

“When Muslim Charity Met Capitalism: The Roots of Muslim Corporate Philanthropy in

Russia,” The 6th Annual Symposium on Muslim Philanthropy & Civil Society (Indiana

University-Purdue University Indianapolis), October 31-November 4, 2022.

“Singing Down the Tsar: Volga-Ural Madrasa Musical Culture and its Adaptation for

Translating and Disseminating Radical Ideologies,” Workshop: Russia’s Muslims and

Global Radicalism, Commission of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of

Sciences, Vienna, September 2022.

“What Does a Decolonized Central Eurasian History Field Look Like and How Do We Get

There?” Summer School: The Archives of Islam in the Russian Empire (16th-Early 20th

Centuries). Study for Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna,

June 2022.

“Russia’s First Muslim Print Revolution: The Effects of the Asiatic Press on Popular Reading

Habits, (1780s-1880s),” Japanese Society for the Study of Russian History, Tokyo

University of Foreign Studies, September 2017.

“Secularization or Religious Revival: Reconsidering Muslim Education Reform in 19th and

Early 20th-century Russia,” Religion, Education, and Literacy in Modernization Workshop,

University of Tokyo, September 2017.

“National Resistance across Borders: Parallel Depictions of the Easter Rising and the

Turkestani Uprisings in Russia’s Muslim Newspapers,” 1916 in Global Context:

Connections and Comparisons, National University of Ireland, Galway, June 2016.

“The Production and Use of Law Books in the Volga-Ural Madrasas,” Sharia in the Russian

Empire: An International Workshop, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna, Austria,

November 2015.

“Muslim Charity under Russian Rule: Defining and Regulating *Waqf,* *Sadaqa* and *Zakat* in the

Early Twentieth-Century Volga-Ural Region,” Sharia in the Russian Empire: An

International Workshop, Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna, Austria, December 2014.

*Unpaid*

“Domesticating 1916: The Evolution of Amangeldy Imanov and the Creation of a Foundation

Myth for Kazakh SSR, 1916-1939,” Ch.Ch. Valikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology

of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, April 27, 2021.

“The Husaynov Brothers and Muslims in Russia’s Livestock Sector, (1860s-1920s)” Tatarstan

Institute of History, Kazan, Russia, June 2018.

**Conference Presentations**

“Building *Baraka* and Empire: The Construction of a Rural Community as a Muslim Sacred

Space in Imperial Russia (1800-1922),” Association of Slavic, East European, and

Eurasian Studies, Annual Conference, Chicago, November 2022.

“Copying Islam: The Soviet-era Reproduction and Transmission of Islamic Knowledge as

Viewed Through a Collection of Bashkir Manuscripts” in Soviet and Post-Soviet Islam:

State of the Field and New Directions, Study of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian

Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria, December 2021.

“Neravnye poddannye: chto kriticheskaia rasovaia teoriia mozhet prinesti v izuchenie

tatarskoi istorii” (“Unequal Subjects: What Critical Race Theory Can Bring to Tatar

History”) at Tatarovedenie v situatsii smeny paradigm: teoriia, metodologiia, praktika

(Tatar Studies in a Situation of Paradigm Shift: Theory, Methodology, Practice)

Republic of Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, Kazan, December 2021.

“A Vernacular Century: Tatarskii/Bulgarchi as a Language of Bureaucracy and Local Literary

Culture in the Eighteenth Century,” Turkic: Probing the Frontiers of a Lingua Franca,

Study of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria,

November 2021.

“How Violent Should a Man Be?: Turko-Mongol Masculinity in *Qahraman the Slayer*,”

Toronto Renaissance and Reformation Colloquium. Masculinities in the Premodern

World: Continuities, Change, and Contradictions, University of Toronto, November 2020

“Queering Jadidism: Exploring Models of Male Friendship and Masculinity in Muslim

Cultural Reform, 1890s-1910s,” Association of Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian

Studies, November 2020

“Walking the Long Road to *Maʿrifa*: Spiritual Journeys in Imaginary Spaces in Majlīsī’s

*Qiṣṣa-i Sayf al-Mulūk*,” E-Atlas Conference on Sacred Geography, Nazarbayev

University, Nur-Sultan, September 2020

“Who Gets Father’s Pasture?: The Persistence of Chinggisid Inheritance Practices in the

Kazakh Steppe, 1730s-1910s,” Association for Asian Studies Conference, Boston, March

2020 (Canceled due to COVID-19)

“Where Two Nations Met: The Steppe Livestock Industry and its Impact on the Tatar and

Kazakh National Movements, 1880s-1922” Association of Slavic, East European and

Eurasian Studies Annual Conference, San Francisco, November 2019.

“Defining Censorship and Freedom of Expression: Regulating Arabic-script Print in Russia

after the 1905 Revolution, 1905-1914” Nihil Obstat: Reading and Circulation of Texts

after Censorship, New York University Global Institute, Prague, October 2019.

“From Public Servants to Community Leaders: The Evolving Role of Veterinarians in

Russia’s Steppe, 1860s-1920s,” Agricultural History Society, June 2019.

“Lusty Women Eating: Food, Power, and Sexual Morality in Early Modern Turkic Poetry,

1500s-1700s,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, Toronto, March 2019.

“Remembering the Dead, Linking the Living: The Functions of *Marthiya*s in Volga-Ural

Tatar Sufism,” Asia in the Russian Imagination Conference, University of Utah, Salt Lake

City, UT, March 2018.

“Domesticating 1916: The Evolution of Amangeldi Imanov in Kazakh Oral Literature, (1919-

1939),” British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies Annual Conference,

Cambridge University, UK, March-April 2017.

“Wives, Mothers, Believers: Recovering Russian Muslim Women’s Rights, Obligations, and

Knowledge in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries,” Desert Workshop in Russian

History, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, March 2017.

“Making Revolution, De-Constructing Empire: Four Tatar-Language Russian History

Textbooks (1912-1919).” Conference of the Association for Slavic, East European and

Eurasian Studies, Philadelphia, PA, November 2015.

“Fighting for the Tsar, Fighting against the Tsar: The Use of ‘Folk’ Songs to Mobilize the

Volga Muslim Population for or Against Military Service, (1914-1921),” International

Conference on Small Nations and Colonial Peripheries in World War I: Europe and the

Wider World, Galway, Ireland, June 2014

“Covering ‘the Most Important Question of our Time’: The National Question, Empire and

Three Turkic Newspapers’ Reaction to the 1916 Easter Uprising,” Joint Conference of the

Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies and Central Eurasian Studies

Society, Astana, Kazakhstan, May 2014.

“Breeding Revolutionaries or Providing Stability Amid Chaos?: Tatar Nationalist Materials in

Rural Volga Maktab and Madrasa Curriculum, (1907-1922), Conference of the

Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, Boston, MA, November 2013.

“The Other Colonizers: The Students of Kazan *‘Alim* Mortaza as-Simeti and their Adventures

in the South Urals, (1731-1789).” Conference of the European Society of Central Asian

Studies, Astana, Kazakhstan, August 2013.

“The Private Lives of Muslim Revolutionaries: Public and Private Performances of Muslim

Social Reform in the Volga-Ural Region,” presented at the Central Eurasian Studies

Society, Bloomington, IN, October 2012.

“Warrior-Scholars and Loyal Rebels: The Islamic Clergy of 18th-Century Russia,” presented at

The World History Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, June 2012.”

“At War with the Tatar Kingdom: The Genealogy of a Pan-Islamic Conspiracy Theory, or the

Izh-Bubi Trial Re-examined,” presented at the Central Eurasian Studies Society,

Washington, DC, September 2008.

**Awards, Fellowships, and Honors**

2023 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend

2022 Norm Jones Faculty Fellow

2021 USU Creative Activity and Research Enhancement Grant

2019 USU CHaSS Small Grant Development Award

2019 USU Creative Activity and Research Enhancement Grant

2018 USU Creative Activity and Research Enhancement Grant

2015 USU Mountain West Regional Studies Grant

2014 Award for Outstanding Research, SHSS-Nazarbayev University

2012-2014 Nazarbayev University Seed Grant

2007-2008 IREX Individual Advanced Research Opportunity

2006-2007 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-

Madison (Arabic)

2005-2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-

Madison (Arabic)

2003-2004 Fulbright Student Award (Almaty, Kazakhstan)

2002-2003 National Security Education Program Boren Fellowship (Kazan, Russia)

2003 Phi Beta Kappa member

**Courses Taught**

*Utah State University*

HIST 1500: Pre-Modern World (to 1500) (BHU)

HIST 1510: Modern World History (since 1500) (BHU)

HIST 2018/ANTH 2018: Native American History and Culture (BSS)

HIST 3030/RELS 3030: Introduction to Islam (DHA)

HIST 3330: Modern Russia and the Soviet Experiment

HIST 3450: Asian Gender History

HIST 3460: Comparative Asian History (DHA)

HIST 3270/RELS 3270: Crusades (DHA)

HIST 4560/RELS 4560: Women in Islam (DHA)

HIST 4565/RELS 4565: Medieval Islam (DHA)

HIST 4566/RELS 4566: Modern Islam (DHA)

HIST 6010: History and Theory (MA level)

HIST 6200: Comparative World History (MA level)

*Nazarbayev University*

Central Asia to 1700

Central Asia since 1700

History of Kazakhstan

Russian Intellectual History

Crusades

Rise of Islam

**Committee Service**

*Utah State University Committees*

History Department Awards Committee (2023-2024)

Director of Medieval and Early Modern Studies Certificate Program (2021-2023)

Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee (2021-present)

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (2021-present)

Faculty Senator for CHaSS (2019-present)

Graduate Program Committee (2015-2017, 2018-2019)

History Department Scholarship Committee (2017-2018)

World History Postdoc Search Committee (2018)

Public History Search Committee (2016)

Modern European Search Committee (2015-2016)

CHaSS Scholarship Committee (2016-2017)

Phi Alpha Theta Advisor (2014-2015)

*Nazarbayev University Committees*

Kazakh-Russian-English Interpreter and Adviser for the integration of NU’s Kazakh

Language Department into the Social Sciences and Humanities School, (2011-2013)

Arabic Club Faculty Advisor and Elementary-Level Language Teacher, (2012-2013)

Running of SHSS departmental job search interviews (2013)

SHSS Curriculum Committee (2012-2013)

SHSS Hiring Committee (2011-2012)

SHSS Library Committee (2011-2012)

University Library Committee (2011-2012)

Faculty Senator (2011-2012)

**Outreach**

*Utah State University*

Presentation “In Search of Fairy Princesses and Divine Love”, for Cache Valley Unitarian

Universalists, (2020)

Outreach to the Al-Mustafa Foundation, Salt Lake City (2019)

Outreach to the Khadeeja Islamic Center, Salt Lake City (2018)

Presentation “Scars of the Red Scare,” 29th Annual Language Conference, 300th Military

Intelligence Brigade, Draper, UT, March 2018

Presentation “Islam and Democracy in Post-Soviet Central Asia” for Utah’s Bennion High

School Teachers’ Workshop, Summer, 2015

*Nazarbayev University*

Hosting of village and provincial high school teachers, (2012-2013)

Presentation at the 300-year Anniversary of Abylai Khan’s Birth, Kostanay, Kazakhstan,

(2011-2013)

Liaison between NU and Kazakhstan’s Institute of History in Astana, (2011-2013)

Outreach to Eurasian National University, (2011-2012)

**Professional Service**

Peer reviewer foracademic journals *Ab Imperio*, *Die Welt des Islams*, *Journal of Economic*

*and Social History of the Orient*, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, *Kritika: Explorations in Russian*

*and Eurasian History*, *Revolutionary Russia*, *Slavic Review*, *HTS Theological Studies*, *Journal*

*of World History*, *Youth*, *Religions, Arabica, Journal of Women’s History*

Member of the Presiding Committee of the Commission of the Study of Islamic in Central

Eurasia of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

**Professional Organizations**

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

Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS)

European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS)

Agricultural History Society (AHS)

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

Renaissance Studies Association (RAS)

**Languages**

English: Native

Volga Tatar: Fluent

Russian: Fluent

Kazakh: Advanced reading knowledge

Chagatay: Advanced reading knowledge

Classical Arabic: Advanced reading knowledge