

Jesse Mikhail Wesso

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EDUCATION:

- 2019–present University of California, Santa Barbara
Ph.D in History (Modern Europe)
Adviser: Adrienne Edgar
Estimated graduation: 2024
- 2017–2019 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
M.A. in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Thesis Advisers: Mark D. Steinberg, Donna A. Buchanan
Graduated *summa cum laude*
- 2009–2013 Bradley University
B.A. in History, minor in English
Graduated *magna cum laude*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- 2019–present University of California, Santa Barbara
Ph.D. dissertation research
Adviser: Adrienne Edgar
Current topic: Cultural geo-histories of the Russian Empire and Soviet Union
- 2021 University of California, Santa Barbara
Graduate research
Adviser: Hilary Bernstein
“Mūhamet Şaiahmetov’s Wartime Odyssey in East Qazaqstan: Jañğyztöbe to Qamysty, 23 December 1944 to 7 January 1945”
- 2020 University of California, Santa Barbara
Graduate research
Adviser: Manuel Covo
“Changing Emotional Connections to Kazakh Spaces during the Great Patriotic War”
- 2017–2019 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
M.A. thesis research
Advisers: Mark D. Steinberg, Donna A. Buchanan
“Identity Politics and Intellectual Trajectories in Bukhara, 1917–1924”
- 2018 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Graduate research
 Adviser: Michael Finke
 "Among the Damned: An Examination of Hellish Motifs in Chekhov's *Sakhalin Island*"

2017 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
 Graduate research
 Adviser: Mark D. Steinberg
 "Reformulating the Muslim Question: The Emergence of Active Islam in Russian Turkestan, 1905–1914"

HONORS/AWARDS:

2013 Sipple Poetry Prize, Third Place
 Academy of American Poets Prize, Honorable Mention
 Suffolk County Community College Creative Writing Award, Honorable Mention
 Mortar Board National Honors Society graduate
 Sigma Tau Delta English honors fraternity graduate
 Phi Alpha Theta History honors fraternity graduate
 Bradley University Honors Program graduate

PUBLICATIONS:

Blogs

2019 "Review, Joint Area Centers Lecture with Jessie Labov, 'The Politicization of Discipline in Central and Southeastern Europe: Humanities under Siege, 22 April 2019,' Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 "The Tallest Tower in the World': A Review of the Recent Performance of "Brooklyn Babylon" and an Interview with Music Director Karen Blackall (DMA candidate, Jazz Studies)," Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 2018 "Why Aren't Russians Studying in the US?," Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 2017 "Revolution and Renewal: a Review of the Revolutionary Poetry Slam," Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Poetry

2014 "Confessions of an Aging Lesbian Poet," *Contrary Magazine* (Spring 2014).
 2013 "Lines from the Desiderata," *Bluestem Magazine* 14 (December 2013 and Spring 2014).
 "Esperanto," *Seldom Review* (Fall 2013).
 "My Blondie—er Debbie Harry—Impression," *Bluffs Literary Magazine* (Spring/Summer 2013): 17–18.
 "East of Eden," *Fifth Wednesday Journal* 12 (Spring 2013): 170–171.
 "There's a Line Somewhere, I Don't Remember," *Fifth Wednesday Journal* 12 (Spring 2013): 172–173.
 2012 "Girl with the Tuna Tattoo Behind your Lower Lip," *Broadside Writers and Artists Literary Arts Mini Journal* 4 (2012–2013): 5.
 "Tori Amos's Plastic Surgery," *Broadside Writers and Artists Literary Arts Mini Journal* 4 (2012–2013): 10.
 "Jesus is a Cigarette," *Broadside Writers and Artists Literary Arts Mini Journal* 3

(2011–2012): 5.

“Ababel,” *Broadside Writers and Artists* 31 (March 2012): 16.

“Strong Shouldered,” *Broadside Writers and Artists* 31 (March 2012): 28.

“Der Fuehrerbunker,” *Broadside Writers and Artists* 31 (March 2012): 70.

“Examples of Communism in Star Trek,” *Broadside Writers and Artists* 31 (March 2012): 73.

2011 “And you don’t even know my name,” *Broadside Writers and Artists* 30 (March 2011): 16.

FUNDING:

Summer 2020 2019–2023	U.S. Department of Education Title VIII Fellowship (Qazaq) Graduate Fellowship, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara
2018–2019	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (Russian), United States Department of Education
2018–2019	Graduate Assistantship, Russian, East European and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2018	AC Study Abroad Need-Based Scholarship, American Councils for International Education
Summer 2018	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (Russian), United States Department of Education
2017–2018	Graduate Assistantship, Russian, East European and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

TEACHING:

Qualifications

Fall 2019 Pillars of Teaching Assistantship Certified, Instructional Development, University of California, Santa Barbara

Experience

Spring 2021	Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara History 2C, World History from 1700 to the Present, Dr. Jarett Henderson
Winter 2021	Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara History 4B, Medieval and Early Modern Europe, Dr. Brad Bouley
Fall 2020	Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara History 2B, World History, Dr. Juan Cobo Betancourt
Spring 2020	Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara History 4C, History of Modern Europe from 1650 to the Present, Dr. Manuel Covo
Winter 2020	Graduate Reader, University of California, Santa Barbara History 133D, The Nazi Holocaust and other European Genocides, Dr. Harold Marcuse
Fall 2019	Guest lecture, “What Is Modernity?: The Case of ‘Professor Fitrat’ in Early Soviet Uzbekistan,” History 2C, University of California, Santa Barbara, Dr. Jarett Henderson, 3 December 2019
Fall 2019	Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara History 2C, World History from 1700 to the Present, Dr. Jarett Henderson

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- 2017-2019 Outreach Assistant, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Edited, published department newsletter
 - Managed website, opportunities page
 - Assisted with Title VIII Grant reporting
 - Graphic design, outreach

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- 2020 Peer reviewer, *Undergraduate Journal of History*, University of California, Santa Barbara
 Roundtable participant, "History Labs for Active Learning," with Jarett Henderson, Giulia Giamboni and Bradford Fried, Engaging Teaching Symposium, Departments of History and Education, University of California, Santa-Barbara
 Fellow, Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute (CESSI), University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2019 Translation (pro bono), Russian and Ukrainian, National Immigrant Justice Center, Chicago, Illinois
 Reader, "Slavic Story Time" series, Urbana Public Library and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
 Master of Ceremonies, "Slavic Students' Talent Show," 16 April 2019, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2018 Study abroad graduate, Summer Russian Language and Area Studies Program in Almaty, Qazaqstan, American Councils for Higher Education
 - 140 contact hours of (Russian) language instruction
 Organizer and proctor, "Olympiada of Spoken Russian," American Council of Teachers in Russian (ACTR), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2017 Intensive Summer Course graduate, Center for Language Studies, Beloit College
 - 200 contact hours of (Russian) language instruction
- 2013 "Poets' Voices," radio interview with Jim Sullivan, 90.7 FM WAZU
 Student representative for Creative Writing concentration and curriculum, Bradley University Board of Trustees meeting
- 2012 "Into Siberia," presentation, Bradley University Fall English Colloquium

VOLUNTEER WORK:

- 2015 GED tutor, Moonlight Coalition for Adult Learning
 Disaster Action Team volunteer, American Red Cross
 Home Fire Preparedness Campaign volunteer, American Red Cross

LANGUAGES:

English	native
Russian	advanced
German	intermediate
Qazaq	intermediate