

## Victoria Smolkin-Rothrock

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** 2010, European History, University of California, Berkeley  
**M.A.** 2005, European History, University of California, Berkeley  
**B.A.** 2002, European Literature and History, Sarah Lawrence College

### PUBLICATIONS

“The Confession of an Atheist Who Became a Scholar of Religion”: Nikolai Semenovich Gordienko’s Last Interview,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Summer 2014): 596-620.

Guest editor and introduction co-author (with Peter Rutland) of theme issue on "Looking Back at Brezhnev," *Russian History* 41 (2014): 299-306.

“The Ticket to the Soviet Soul: Science, Religion and the Spiritual Crisis of Late Soviet Atheism,” *Russian Review* 73 (April 2014): 171-197. \* Received Honorable Mention for 2015 Distinguished Article Prize from the Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture.

“The Problem with the ‘Ordinary’ Soviet Death: The Material and the Spiritual in Atheist Cosmology [*Problema ‘obyknovennoi’ sovetskoi smerti: Material’noe i dukhovnoe v ateisticheskoi kosmologii*]” *State, Religion, and Church in Russia and Abroad [Gosudarstvo, religiia i tserkov’ v Rossii i za rubezhom]* 3-4, no. 30 (2012): 429-462. In Russian.

“‘Our task is to understand’: The last interview of N. S. Gordienko [*‘Nasha zadacha—poniat’’: Poslednee interv’iu N. S. Gordienko*],” *Vestnik Leningradskogo gosudarstvennogo universiteta imeni A. S. Pushkina: Nauchnyi zhurnal* 4, no. 2 (Winter 2011): 274-286. In Russian.

“Cosmic Enlightenment: Scientific Atheism and the Soviet Conquest of Space,” in *Into the Cosmos: Space Exploration and Soviet Culture in Post-Stalinist Russia*, eds. James T. Andrews and Asif A. Siddiqi (Pittsburg, PA: University of Pittsburgh, 2011), 159-194.

“The Contested Skies: The Battle of Science and Religion in the Soviet Planetarium,” in *Cosmic Enthusiasm: The Cultural Impact of Space Exploration on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe Since the 1950s* (London: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2011), 57-78.

“The Voices of Silence: The Death and Funeral of Alexander Blok,” in *Petersburg/ Petersburg: Novel and City*, ed. Olga Matich (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2010), 305-331. <http://stpetersburg.berkeley.edu/index.html>

“‘A Sacred Space Is Never Empty’: Atheist Education in the Soviet Union, 1964-1968” in

*Reserve Stock: Debates about Politics and Culture* [Neprikosnovennyi zapas: debaty o politike i kul'ture] 3, no. 65 (Summer 2009): 36-52. In Russian.

## **Book Reviews**

Review of Anton Weiss-Wendt, *Small-Town Russia: Childhood Memories of the Final Soviet Decade*, in *The Russian Review*, Volume 71, no. 2 (April 2012): 352-353.

Review of E. B. Ershova, *Skvoz' cheredu vremen (Rossiiskaia sem'ia v XVIII–XXI vv.)* in *The Russian Review*, Volume 74, No. 1 (January 2015), pp. 172-174. Co-authored with Nikolai Mitrokhin.

## **Media**

19 December 2015, Interview on NPR's Weekend Edition, "Don't Call It A Christmas Tree: How Russia's 'Yolka' Survived The Revolution". <http://www.npr.org/2015/12/19/460186573/dont-call-it-a-christmas-tree-how-russias-yolka-survived-the-revolution>

5 November 2014, "What are Russians celebrating when they celebrate National Unity Day?" Editorial on *Open Democracy: Russia and Beyond*. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/victoria-smolkinrothrock/what-are-russians-celebrating-when-they-celebrate-national-unity->

## **FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS**

2015, Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture, Distinguished Article Prize (Honorable Mention)

2014-2015, Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars Kennan Institute Research Fellowship, Washington DC

2014, Center for Humanities Fellowship, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

2013, Princeton University, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies Fellowship

2012-2014, Social Science Research Council Eurasia Post-Doctoral Research Award

2012, Sherman Emerging Scholar Lectureship, UNC-Wilmington (\$5000)

2011, Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson Center Small Research Grant

2010-2011, American Council of Learned Societies Mellon Dissertation Fellowship (declined)

2009-2010, Woodrow Wilson Foundation Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship in Religion and Ethics

2009, UC Berkeley Dean's Normative Time Dissertation Fellowship

2008-2009, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship

2007-2008, American Councils (ACTR/ACCELS) Advanced Research Fellowship

2007-2008, Allan Sharlin Memorial Fellowship, Berkeley Institute of International Studies

2007, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship

2005, Fulbright-Hays Heritage Speakers Summer Program in Pittsburgh and Moscow

2004, George and Ludmilla Patrick Fellowship, Berkeley History Department

2000-2002, Sarah Lawrence College Rosenthal Scholarship for Excellence in the Humanities