

ALDIS PURS

TEACHING

WRIT 101 courses, HIST 103 J-Term, HIST 329 Spring 2020

- As Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of History, Pacific Lutheran University, 2019- present.

Lectures, roundtables, Advisory work, book launches

- As Affiliate Assistant Professor at the Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Washington, 2012-present.

Western Civilizations to 1648 (HIST 101); Western Civilization 1648-1914 (HIST 102); Twentieth Century World (HIST 103); Asian and African Civilizations (HIST 106); World History to 1500 (HIST 109)

- Lecturer, Department of History and Philosophy, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, 2002-2004.

World Since 1945 (HIS 1400); Europe 1500-1945 (HIS 1300); Europe Between the Wars (HIS 5450/7450)

- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, 2001-2002.

Baltic History and Culture

- Visiting Assistant Professor, Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), University of Iowa, summers 2000, 2001.

Survey of European History; Survey of African History; Survey of Latvian History; History of Local Government

- Lecturer, Political Sciences Department, Vidzeme University College, Valmiera, Latvia, 1998-1999.

Emergence of the Third World; Survey of Russian History

- Teaching Assistant, Department of History, University of Toronto, 1992-1996

INSTITUTIONAL AND DEPARTMENTAL WORK

Organized the 2010 Joint Conference of the Society for the

Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (S.A.S.S.) and the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (A.A.B.S.), held April 22-24, 2010, Seattle, WA

- Organized as Vice President-Conferences for the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies
- The Conference included presentations from more than 420 scholars in more than 120 panels.
- Included the organization of a cultural programme that included a film series with directors and several North America Premier showings.
- Included all of the organizational work from hotel and conference facility negotiations and contracts, to conference program creation and execution.

Research Scholar for a Major International Research Project

- Centered at the School of History and Classics at the University of Manchester, UK from 2000-2007.
- Included in-team conferences, presentations at international conferences in 4 countries, and multiple academic publications.
- Began as the Research Project: Population Displacement, State Building and Social Identity in the Lands of the Former Russian Empire, 1917-1930 (2000-2004), continued in a second research project, Population Displacement, State Practice and Social Experience in the USSR and Eastern Europe, 1930-1950s (2004-2007).

Cross-Cultural Coordinator

- US Peace Corps Baltics, 1998-1999.
- Cross-cultural and diversity training of trainees, volunteers, and staff in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- Included training of in-coming volunteers and on-going instruction of volunteers in field throughout their service.
- Included the creation of an in-house quarterly publication for volunteers, *Language and Culture*.
- Included the creation and organization of training material for in-coming volunteers, and the hiring of training staff.

Supervised a Program for International Students and Conference Development

- Vidzeme University College, Valmiera, Latvia, 1998-1999.

- ERASMUS/SOCRATES Co-ordinator for placing students from European Union countries in the University College.
- ERASMUS/SOCRATES Co-ordinator for placing Vidzeme University College students in universities across the European Union.
- Chief Strategist for the Africa-Baltic Conference, May 1999.

Additional Group Projects of note

- Contributor to “After the Great War. A New Europe 1918-1923” a travelling exhibit of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity Project. Exhibited in Prague, Czech Republic and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, with five more planned cities upcoming (see <https://www.enrs.eu/afterthegreatwar>).
- Research Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies, Washington, D.C., 1999.
- Visiting Historian, Latvia’s Museum of the Occupation, 1940-1991, Riga, Latvia, 1998.
- Intern, Supreme Council and *Saeima* (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia, Riga, Latvia, 1993.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of History, University of Toronto, 1998

M.A. Department of History, University of Toronto, 1992.

B.A. Department of History, University of Florida, 1990.

PUBLICATIONS

Historical Dictionary of Latvia, 3rd Edition.

Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.

- Co-authored with Andrejs Plakans.

Baltic Facades: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania Since 1945

Reaktionbooks, 2012.

- Winner of the AABS Book of the Year 2012-2014.

Latvia: The Challenges of Change

Routledge, 2001.

- Co-Authored with Artis Pabriks (former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defense of the Republic of Latvia, member of the European Parliament, 2014-).

- Re-released as David, J. Smith, Artis Pabriks, Aldis Purs, Thomas Lane, *The Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania*. Routledge: 2002.

“Orphaned Testimonies: The Place of Displaced Children in Independent Latvia.”

- In Nick Baron (ed) *Displaced Children in Russia and Eastern Europe, 1915-1953: Ideologies, Identities, Experiences*. Brill: 2017, pp. 40-69.

“The Unbearable Myth of Convergence: Episodes in the Economic Development of Latvia.”

- In David Smith (ed) *Latvia – A Work in Progress? 100 Years of State and Nation Building*. Ibidem Verlag: 2017, pp. 261-278.

“Official and Individual Perceptions: Squaring the History of the Soviet Deportations with the Circle of Testimony in Latvia”

- In Tomas Balkelis and Violeta Davoliūtė (eds), *Maps of Memory: Trauma, Identity and Exile in Deportation Memoirs from the Baltic States*. Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore: 2013, pp. 29-45.
- Reprinted as Violeta Davoliute and Tomas Balkelis (eds), *Narratives of Exile and Identity: Soviet Deportation Memoirs from the Baltic States*. CEU Press, 2018.

“Tourists in Jūrmala, driven by pleasure and/or purpose?”

- In Karsten Bruggemann (ed), *Tourismus im Ostseeraum/Tourism in the Baltic Region*, Nordost Archiv, XX, 2011, pp. 251-269.

“Soviet in form, local in content: elite repression and mass terror in the Baltic States, 1940-1953”

- In Kevin McDermott and Matthew Stibbe (eds), *Stalinist Terror in Eastern Europe: Elite Purges and Mass Repression*. Manchester University Press, 2010.

‘How those Brothers in Foreign Lands are Dividing the Fatherland’: Latvian National Politics in Displaced Persons Camps after the Second World War

- In Peter Gatrell and Nick Baron (eds), *Warlands: Population Resettlement and State Reconstruction in the Soviet-East European Borderlands, 1945-1950*. Palgrave Macmillan: 2009.

‘Weak and Half-Starved Peoples’ meet ‘Vodka, Champagne, Gypsies and Drozhki’: relations between the Republic of Latvia and the USA from 1918 to 1940

- In Daunis Auers (ed.), *Latvia and the USA: From Captive Nation to Strategic Partner*. University of Latvia: 2008.

‘An unforeseen miracle’: Latvian Refugees in Siberia and the Far East negotiate an independent state, 1918-1945

- Article for a special themed issue of *Contemporary European History* edited by Peter Gatrell CEH, 16, 4, (2007), pp. 479-494.

“One Breath for Every Two Strides:” The State’s Attempt to Construct Tourism and Identity in Interwar Latvia

- In Anne E. Gorsuch and Diane P. Koenker (eds), *Turizm: Leisure*,

Travel, and Nation-Building in Russian, Soviet, and East European History
Cornell University Press, 2006.

“Latvians and Russians in Latvia”

- Karl Cordell, Stefan Wolff (Senior Editors), *Palgrave Encyclopedia of Ethnopolitical Groups in Europe* Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

“‘Unsatisfactory National Identity’: School Inspectors, Education and National Identity in Interwar Latvia”

- *Journal of Baltic Studies*, Vol XXXV, 2, Summer 2004, p. 97-125.

“Building the Nation: Latvia’s Open-Air Ethnographic Museum, ca. 1930”

- In Rebecca Comay, ed., *Alphabet City 8: Lost in the Archives*. House of Anansi Press, September 2002, p. 192-198.

“The Price of Free Lunches: Making the Frontier Latvian in the Interwar Years”

- *The Global Review of Ethnopolitics*, Vol I, 4, June 2002, p. 60-73.

<http://worldhistory.abc-clio.com>

- Wrote the following entries: Egon Krenz, Walter Ulbricht, Maji Maji Revolt, Young Kikuyu Association, Paris Summit of 1960, Vienna Summit of 1961, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

“Towards an Independent Future, The Baltic States Three Years On”

- *Origins, Current Events in Historical Perspective*, II, 3, autumn 1994, p. 23-28.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

This is It! Or Is This It? Baltic Past, Present, Future

- Roundtable participant at the 2018 AABS Conference at Stanford University, June 2018.

The Unbearable Myth of Convergence: Episodes in the Economic Development of Latvia

- Latvia – A Work in Progress? Uppsala University, December, 2013.

The History of the Baltic That’s Not Being Written and Why It Isn’t

- Do the Baltic States Exist? Reevaluations of Europe and the Post-Cold War World at Yale University, April 17, 2013.

‘This Ugly Matter’: The Curious History of the Committee to Protect the Youth from Harmful Literature, Latvia 1926-1937

- 19th Annual Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Conference Northwest Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Youth Orgy in 1929 Jurmala and Future Paths for the Historiography of Latvia

- Joint Conference of AABS and SASS, Seattle, WA, April 22-24, 2010.

Building a Latvian Folk Museum, Modeling from Skansen, Seurasaari, and Others in the 1920s and 1930s

- 99th Conference of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS), Madison, WI, April 30-May 2, 2009.

The Political Development of the Latvian Republic 1918-1940

- at 90 Years Since Independence: Evaluating Latvia's Past and Present, University of Glasgow, November 28, 2008.

Moving Populations, changing states and borders, and social identity: Latgale from 1900-1950

- Latgale as an example of a Border Situation, a Joint Conference of Daugavpils University and LETONICA (The National Library of Latvia).

From Exigency to Policy: Latvian Population Displacement during the Era of Two World Wars

- VII World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies, Berlin, Germany, July 2005.

Ethnicity, Exile, and Refugee Subjectivities in Latvia

- American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Toronto, Canada, November 2003.

Displacement IN Childhood: Social Catastrophe and Child Homelessness in post WWI Latvia

- British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies, Cambridge, United Kingdom, April 2002.

“Every trip around the Native Land must begin with certain spiritual values:” The State’s Attempt to Construct Tourism and Identity in Interwar Latvia

- Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 18th Conference, Baltimore, MD, June 2002.

The Price of Free Lunches: Making the Frontier Latvian in the Interwar Years

- American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 2002.

An Enigmatic Guard: Degrees of Guilt and Compassion and the Limits of Archival Evidence

- Testimony and Historical Memory Project Research Seminar, Toronto, Canada, January 2001.

Building a Museum, Building a Nation: the Life and Times of Latvia's Open-Air Ethnographic Museum before World War Two

- Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 17th Conference, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, June 2000.

'Unsatisfactory National Identity': School Inspectors, Education and National Identity in Interwar Latvia

- Association for the Study of Nationalities, 5th Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 2000.

The Lessons of Interwar Independence for Contemporary Latvia

- Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies, Washington, DC, November 1999.

Herberts Cukurs, Josephine Baker and the 'Negro Tribes': Africa's Furtive Hold on Latvians' Imaginations, 1920-1940

- Africa Baltic Conference, Vidzemes Augstskola, Valmiera, Latvia, May 1999.

Monumental Failures or Monuments to Failures: The Politics of Memory in Inter-War Latvia

- Association for the Study of Nationalities, 4th Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 1999.

The Ulmanis Regime's Purge of Local Governments

- Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 16th Conference, University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN, June 1998.

Latvians as an 'Imagined Community'

- Association for the Study of Nationalities, 3rd Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 1998.

Chaos and Terror: Latvians in Soviet Administration, 1940-1941

- American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Boston, MA, November 1996.