

Jesse Mikhail Wesso

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EDUCATION:

- 2019–present University of California, Santa Barbara
Ph.D. in History
- Primary field: History of Soviet Central Asia
Secondary fields: History of Modern Europe, History of the Middle East
Complementary field: Religious Studies
- General Examinations Committee: Adrienne Edgar, Manuel Covo, Janet Afary,
Elizabeth Pérez
Date of advancement to candidacy: July 2023
- 2017–2019 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
M.A. in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Master’s 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
Dissertation topic: Corn, Pigs and Settlers: Alienation and the Opening of Virgin
Lands in Kazakhstan, 1953–1963
- 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.

- 2012 “There’s a Line Somewhere, I Don’t Remember,” *Fifth Wednesday Journal* 12 (Spring 2013): 172–173.
 “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:

- 2019–2023 Graduate Fellowship, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Summer 2020 U.S. Department of Education Title VIII Fellowship (Qazaq)
- 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

EDUCATING:

Qualifications

- 2021–2022 Lead Teaching Assistant, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Summer 2021 Lead Teaching Assistant Institute graduate, Instructional Development, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Fall 2019 Pillars of Teaching Assistantship Certified, Instructional Development, University of California, Santa Barbara

Experience

- taught 12 classes in History and Writing Studies since fall 2019*
- Winter 2023 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Writing 2, Academic Writing, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Fall 2022 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Writing 2, Academic Writing, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Summer 2022 Guest lecture, “Russian Revolutions, 1905-1923,” History 4C with Elizabeth Schmidt, University of California, Santa Barbara
 Guest lecture, “Writing History Papers,” History 4C with Elizabeth Schmidt, University of California, Santa Barbara

	Graduate Teaching Assistant, History 4C with Elizabeth Schmidt, University of California, Santa Barbara
Spring 2022	Lead Teaching Assistant, History 4C with Adrienne Edgar, University of California, Santa Barbara
Winter 2022	Lead Teaching Assistant, History 2B with Luke Roberts, University of California, Santa Barbara
Fall 2021	Guest lecture, "Research Spotlight: Qasym Amanjolov's World War Poetry," History 2C with Jarett Henderson, University of California, Santa Barbara
	Lead Teaching Assistant, History 2C with Jarett Henderson, University of California, Santa Barbara
Summer 2021	Guest lecture, "Russian Revolution: 1905–1922," History 4C with Elizabeth Schmidt, University of California, Santa Barbara
	Graduate Teaching Assistant, History 4C with Elizabeth Schmidt, University of California, Santa Barbara
Spring 2021	Graduate Teaching Assistant, History 2C with Jarett Henderson, University of California, Santa Barbara
Winter 2021	Graduate Teaching Assistant, History 4B, Medieval and Early Modern Europe with Brad Bouley, University of California, Santa Barbara
Fall 2020	Graduate Teaching Assistant, History 2B with Juan Cobo Betancourt, University of California, Santa Barbara
Spring 2020	Graduate Teaching Assistant, History 4C, History of Modern Europe from 1650 to the Present with Manuel Covo, University of California, Santa Barbara
Winter 2020	Graduate Reader, History 133D, The Nazi Holocaust and other European Genocides with Harold Marcuse, University of California, Santa Barbara
Fall 2019	Guest lecture, "What Is Modernity?: The Case of 'Professor Fitrat' in Early Soviet Uzbekistan," History 2C with Jarett Henderson, University of California, Santa Barbara
	Graduate Teaching Assistant, History 2C, World History from 1700 to the Present with Jarett Henderson, University of California, Santa Barbara

WORK EXPERIENCE:

2017–2019	Outreach Assistant, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Edited, published department newsletter ● Managed website, opportunities page ● Assisted with Title VIII Grant reporting ● Graphic design, outreach
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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

2022	Peer reviewer, <i>Undergraduate Journal of History</i> , University of California, Santa Barbara
2022	Webinar host, "Active Educating for TAs," with Dr. Jarett Henderson, University of California, Santa Barbara
2021	Host, Undergraduate Panel for History Department TAs, 8 November, University of California, Santa Barbara
	Peer reviewer, <i>Undergraduate Journal of History</i> , University of California, Santa Barbara
2020	Peer reviewer, <i>Undergraduate Journal of History</i> , 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