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Elizabeth A. Wood

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Employment

Professor, Russian and Soviet History, History Faculty, M.I.T.
Assistant to Associate to Full Professor (1990-)
Co-Faculty Director, MIT Eurasia Program (2011-)
Founding Director, MIT Ukraine Program (2022-)
Director, Harvard Summer School Program in St. Petersburg, Russia (2009, 2010)
Visiting Professor, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France (May 2007)

Education

Ph.D. The University of Michigan, Russian and Soviet History, 1991
A.B. Harvard-Radcliffe College, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1980

Fellowships and Awards

D'Arbeloff Fund for Excellence (MIT, 2019 and 2023)
Academic Visitor, Balliol College, Oxford, UK (fall 2021)
Research Award, "Collaborative Russian-U.S. Science Projects: An Analysis of Best Practices" (MIT-Skoltech agreement, 2018)
Levitan Teaching Award (MIT, 2018)
Research Award, School of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences (SHASS), MIT (2016-17)
Policy grant, International Policy Lab (IPL), MIT (2016-17)
Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Jan.-June 2015)
Provost Research Grants, MIT (1991, 1998, 2015); Dean's Research Grant, MIT (2012)
Alumni Class Funds, "Bringing Russian and Soviet History into the Digital Age" (2009-11)
MIT nomination, New Directions Fellowship of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2002)
National Research Grant, National Council for Eurasian & E. European Research (2000-2)
International Research and Exchanges Board Fellowship (1996)
Levitan Prize (research grant), MIT (1996)
Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies Research Fellowship (spring 1993)
International Research and Exchanges Board Fellowship (fall 1992)
National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend (1992)
American Association of University Women Foundation American Fellowship (1989-90)
Harvard University, Russian Research Center, Postdoctoral Fellowship (1989-90) (declined)
Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Fellowship (1988-89)
Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan (1987-88)
Social Science Research Council Dissertation Fellowship (1987-88)
International Research and Exchanges Board Fellowship (1986-87)
Social Science Research Council Graduate Fellowship (1984-85)
Humanities and Slosson Fellowships, University of Michigan (1983-85)

Books

Roots of Russia's War in Ukraine (co-authored with William E. Pomeranz, Wayne Merry, Maxim Trudolyubov). Introduction & ch. 4, "A Small Victorious War? The Symbolic Politics of Vladimir Putin" (Woodrow Wilson Center Press/Columbia Univ. Press, 2016)

Performing Justice: Agitation Trials in Early Soviet Russia (Cornell Univ. Press, 2005)

The Baba and the Comrade: Gender and Politics in Revolutionary Russia (Indiana University Press, 1997)

Articles and Book Chapters

"Gender Systems in the Putin Autocracy," *Frontiers in Sociology* 9 (2024)

"Crimea in My Heart: Visualizing Putin's Resurgent Empire in 2014," in Valerie A. Kivelson, Sergei A. Kozlov, and Joan Neuberger, eds., *Picturing Russian Empire* (Oxford University Press, 2023)

"U.S.-Russian Partnerships in Science: Working with Differences," *Post-Soviet Affairs* 38, 5 (2022): 349-365.

Response to Andrea Graziosi, "The Weight of the Soviet Past in post-1991 Russia," *Journal of Cold War Studies*, 24, 2 (2022): 141-146.

"Performing Memory and its Limits: Vladimir Putin and World War II in Russia" in David L. Hoffmann, ed., *The Memory of the Second World War in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia* (Routledge, 2021), pp. 249-275

"Paradoxes of Gender in Soviet Communist Party Women's Sections (the Zhenotdel), 1918-1930," *The Routledge International Handbook of Gender in Central-Eastern Europe and Eurasia*, eds., Katalin Fábíán, Janet Elise Johnson, and Mara Lazda (Routledge 2021): 219-226

"Gender and Imagination during the Russian Civil War in Russia: Backwards Women and Forward Men in Iconographic Perspective, 1917-1922" (in Russian) in *Гражданская война в России: Жизнь в эпоху социальных экспериментов и военных испытаний, 1917-1922* (St. Petersburg: European University of St. Petersburg Press 2020), pp. 223-237

"Right-Wing Populism as Gendered Performance: Janus-faced Masculinity in the Leadership of Vladimir Putin and Recep T. Erdogan" (coauthored with Betül Ekşi), *Theory & Society* 48, 5 (2019): 733-751

"February 23 and March 8: Two Holidays that Upstaged the February Revolution, 1917-1923," *Slavic Review* 76, 3 (2017): 732-740

"Hypermasculinity as a Scenario of Power: Vladimir Putin's Iconic Rule, 1999-2008" *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 18, 3 (2016): 329-350

"Performing Memory: Vladimir Putin and World War II in Russia," *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review* 38, 2 (2011): 172-200

"The Woman Question in Russia: Contradictions and Ambivalence" in Abbott Gleason, ed., *A Companion to Russian History* (Blackwell Publishing, 2009), pp. 353-67

"Who Leads Russia?" *Audit of the Conventional Wisdom*, M.I.T. Center for International Studies (June 2008); http://web.mit.edu/cis/editorspick_wood08_audit.html

“Zhenotdel, the Women’s Section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union,” and “Civil War: Russia” in Bonnie G. Smith, ed., *Encyclopedia of Women in World History* (Oxford University Press, 2008)

“Inessa Armand,” “Nadezhda Krupskaya,” and “Zhenotdel” in James R. Millar, ed., *Encyclopedia of Russian History* (MacMillan, 2003)

“The Trial of Lenin: Legitimizing the Revolution through Political Theater, 1920-1923,” *The Russian Review* 61, 2 (2002): 235-48

“The Trial of the New Woman: Citizens-in-Training in the New Soviet Republic,” *Gender & History* 13, 3 (2001): 524-45

“Class and Gender at Loggerheads in the Early Soviet State: Who Should Organize the Female Proletariat and How?” in Laura L. Frader and Sonya O. Rose, eds., *Gender and Class in Modern Europe* (Cornell University Press, 1996), pp. 294-310

“Prostitution Unbound: Representations of Political and Sexual Anxieties in Post-Revolutionary Russia” in Jane Costlow, Stephanie Sandler, and Judith Vowles, eds., *Sexuality and the Body in Russian Culture* (Stanford University Press, 1993), pp. 124-35

“The Trial of a Prostitute: Theater and Political Ritual in Post-Revolutionary Russia, 1920-1928,” *Cultural Studies Working Papers*, M.I.T. (May 1992)

Book Reviews

Dan Healey, *Russian Homophobia from Stalin to Sochi* in *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* 68 (3-4) (2020): 637-638.

Luciana M. Jinga, ed., *History of Communism in Europe: Vol. 8 / 2017: The Other Half of Communism: Women's Outlook in Aspasia: The International Yearbook of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European Women's and Gender History* 14 (2020).

Maya Eichler, *Militarizing Men: Gender, Conscription, and War in Post-Soviet Russia*. *Russian Review* 71, 4 (October 2012)

Featured review of Michael Urban, *Cultures of Power in Post-Communist Russia: An Analysis of Elite Political Discourse* in *Slavic Review* 70, 4 (Winter 2011): 898-901

Marianne Kamp, *The New Woman in Uzbekistan: Islam, Modernity and Unveiling under Communism* in *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 51, 4 (December 2009)

Frances Lee Bernstein, *The Dictatorship of Sex: Lifestyle Advice for the Masses* in *The Journal of Social History* (March 2009)

Frederick C. Corney, *Telling October: Memory and the Making of the Bolshevik Revolution* in *Russian Review* 64, 4 (October 2005): 703-4

Victoria E. Bonnell, *Iconography of Power: Soviet Political Posters under Lenin and Stalin* in *The American Historical Review* 103, 5 (December 1998)

Barbara Alpern Engel and Anastasia Posadskaya-Vanderbeck, eds., *A Revolution of Their Own: Voices of Women in Soviet History* in *Slavic Review*, 57, 4 (Winter 1998): 921-22

Barbara Evans Clements, Barbara Alpern Engel, and Christine Worobec, eds., *Russia's Women* in *The Women's Review of Books* (April 1992)

Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, *Feminists Despite Themselves: Women in Ukrainian Community Life, 1884-1939* in *Slavic Review* 49, 3 (Winter 1990): 477-78

Editorials and articles in the press

- 2022
“[The Ghosts of History Haunt the Russia-Ukraine Crisis](#),” *Broadstreet Blog*, March 7, 2022
“Q&A on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine,” March 2, 2022, <https://news.mit.edu/2022/elizabeth-wood-ukraine-invasion-0302>
“Advice to President Biden: [For better rivalry with the Russians, rebalance US economic priorities](#),” MIT Center for International Studies (fall 2020/winter 2021)
[3 Questions: Historian Elizabeth Wood on election interference](#), *MIT News*, Oct. 17, 2019
“[The Memorialization of WWII in Russia](#),” *Sean’s Russia Blog Podcast*, May 7, 2015 (33 minutes)
“[Putin's War of Words, Decoded](#),” *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)*, February 25, 2015
“[Putin in July \(or the Fight for Putin’s Soul\)](#),” *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)*, July 25, 2014
“[History in the Crimea and Ukraine Today](#),” *Russian History Blog*, March 23, 2014
“[A Tangled Ball’: Homophobia in Russia](#),” *Women’s Review of Books*, January 2014
“[How Two Centuries of Conflict Shaped the Tsarnaev Brothers](#),” *The Atlantic*, May 5, 2013
“[Russia's anti-Putin protests are more than just a generational temper tantrum](#),” op-ed, *The Boston Globe*, Jan. 18, 2012
“Who Leads Russia?” *Audit of the Conventional Wisdom*, M.I.T. Center for International Studies (June 2008); http://web.mit.edu/cis/editorspick_wood08_audit.html

Work in Progress (articles and chapters)

- “Gender and Imagination in the Russian Civil War: Forward-Looking Men and Backward Women in Iconic Perspective, 1919-1924,” *The Russian Revolution of 1917: Memory and Legacy*, eds. Carol S Leonard, Daniel Orlovsky, and Yury Petrov (forthcoming, Routledge University Press, 2024)

Recent Conference Papers and Lectures

- “*Gendered Bodies on Soviet Posters, 1917-1924: The Visual Representation of Backwardness*” (Berkshire Conference on Women’s History, June 2023)
“*Putin and the Baba Commissars in the Duma: Co-Dependence and Domination in Russian Politics on the Eve of the War in Ukraine*” (Northeast Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies Conference, April 2023 and ASEES, December 2023)
“*Underestimating, Overestimating and Misjudging: Russia’s War against Ukraine in Historical Perspective*” (American Historical Association, January 2023)
“*Early Warning Signals for the War in Ukraine: Gender Systems in the Putin Autocracy*” (Keynote talk, “Gender and Sexual Dissent in Russia Today,” conference, University College London, June 15-16, 2022)
“*Five Faces of Putin: How Masculine Image-Making has Served the Russian President*” (Oxford, Russian & East European Studies, December 2021)

“Crimea in my Heart: Vladimir Putin and Russia’s Resurgent Empire” (Oxford Modern History Seminar, October 2021; Cambridge UK, Faculty of Modern Languages, Nov. 2021)

“The Limits of the Past in Vladimir Putin’s Political Image Making” (Conference “Re-Imagining the Past,” Duisburg University, Germany, June 2021)

“Gender and Imagination in the Russian Civil War: Backward Women and Forward Men in Iconic Perspective, 1917-1922” (Conference on the Russian Civil War, European University of St. Petersburg, Russia, June 2019; Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, MA, November 1920)

“NATO, the Balkans and Ukraine” Starr Forum, MIT (January 2019)

“When Emotions Become Sacred: Moving Beyond the Instrumental in Studying WWII and Memory” (Memory & History, Kennan Alumni Conference, Sarajevo, Bosnia, October 2018)

“Toward a Theory of Populism & Gender: The Janus-Faced Masculine Performance of Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan” (NYU, September 2018)

“Putin, Erdogan and Politicized Masculinity in a Global Context” (UMass-Boston, Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights, March 2018)

“Masculinism as a Political Strategy of Governance: Order and Chaos in the 21st Century Turkey and Russia” (Northeastern conference on “Gender and the Global Right,” March 2018)

“U.S.-Russian Relations: Beyond Reciprocity” (Boston College Law School, March 2018)

“Mobilizing, Silencing, and Exploiting Women after the Russian Revolution: Ambivalence about Gender Difference” (Barnard, January 2018)

“Vladimir Putin’s Image and Russian National Interests” (keynote speech at the Aspen Leadership Conference for Members of Congress, Berlin, Germany, June 2017)

“Wives, Mistresses, and Women Commissars: Gender and the Deep State in Russia Today” (Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, March 2017)

“March 8 and the Unfinished Gender Revolution in Russia: One Step Forward and Two Steps Backward, 1917-2017” (Keynote, University of Michigan, March 2017)

“Vladimir Putin and the Masking of Politics” (Keynote, Swiss Slavists’ Association, Zurich, Switzerland, November 2016)

Panelist, *“Russia Expertise in American Foreign Policy”* (Russia-Direct, May 2016)

“The Russian Marlboro Man: Vladimir Putin and the Crisis in Ukraine and Crimea” (U.S. Naval Academy, October 2015)

“The Origins of the War in Ukraine: The Symbolic Politics of Vladimir Putin” (Woodrow Wilson Center, March 2015), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Okjr9vMDiw>

“Power and Performance in Putin’s Russia” (Woodrow Wilson Center, January 2015)

“The New Facade of Autocracy: Vladimir Putin’s Hypermasculinity as a Form of Ideology” (First International Men and Masculinities Symposium, Izmir, Turkey, Sept. 2014)

“The Clash of State and Society in Russia Today: Masculinity as Performance and Counter-performance” (Northeastern University, March 2014)

“Putin and the Construction of Charisma” (Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, Grinnell College, February 2014)

“Homophobia in Russia: A Tangled Knot” (Harvard University, November 2013)

Foreign Languages

Russian and French: near-native fluency

Select Service to the Profession

- Vice-Chair, the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research [NCEEER] (May 2013-); Member of the Board (2012-)
- Editorial Board, *Problems of Post-Communism* (2013-18)
- Ed. board, *Krytyka Feministyczna: E. European J of Feminist & Queer Studies* (2015-)
- Editorial board, *Gender and History* (2002-2012)
- Prize Committee for best article, *Journal of Modern History* (1997-1998)
- Member, International Council, St. Petersburg University of Information Technology, Mechanics and Optics (ITMO) (2014-2016)
- Co-Chair, Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies (1998-2000, 2011-2013); Board representative (1994-1996, 2013-2014); Curriculum Committee member (2001-2002)
- Program Chair, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies [AAASS] (2008-2009); Program Committee member, AAASS (2007-2010) and ASEEEES (2012)
- Tucker/Cohen Prize Committee for an outstanding doctoral dissertation in Political Science and political history of the Soviet Union, AAASS (2006-2008)
- W. Bruce Lincoln Prize Committee for the best first book manuscript published in 2002 or 2003, AAASS (2004)
- Co-organizer, *Gender, Socialism and Post-Socialism* Speaker Series, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University (2011-)
- Manuscript reviews for a wide range of journals and presses

Selected Professional Responsibilities at MIT and Memberships

- Co-Director, MIT-Eurasia and MIT Ukraine Programs (2011-)
- Co-organizer, *Focus on Russia*, lecture series, MIT (2013-)
- Coordinator, Russian & Eurasian Studies, MIT (1993-)
- Supervisor, Russian Language Program in Global Languages Program, MIT (2012-)
- Secondary appointment, Global Studies and Languages, MIT (2014-2018)
- Director, MIT Program in Women's and Gender Studies (Jan. 2002-Jan. 2007); Interim Director (2018-19);
- Steering Committee, Women's and Gender Studies, MIT (1990-92, 1993-1996, 1998-2012, 2022-)
- Associate, Davis Center for Russian Studies, Harvard University (1993-)
- Associate, Center for International Studies, M.I.T. (1990-)
- Member, Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) (1985-)