

Katherine Lahti

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## EDUCATION

Yale University

Ph. D., Slavic Languages and Literatures, 1991

Dissertation: "Mayakovsky's Dithyrambs"

Dissertation Advisor: Tomas Venclova

Major field: Russian Literature

Minor field: Slavic Linguistics

M.A., Slavic Languages and Literatures, 1983

Wesleyan University

B.A., Russian Language and Literature, 1981

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

September 1990—present

Assistant/Associate/Full Professor of Modern Languages/Language and Culture  
Studies

Department of Modern Languages/Language and Culture Studies, Trinity College

July 2003-July 2006

Director of the International Studies Program, Trinity College

September 1988—May 1990

Instructor of Russian

Russian Department, Bowdoin College

September 1986—May 1987

Special Lecturer

Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, Brigham Young University

Summer 1984, 1985, 1986

Language Course Coordinator

Slavic Department, Yale Summer School

September 1983—May 1986  
Teaching Fellow  
Slavic Department, Yale University

Summer 1981  
Assistant Teacher  
Summer Theater School, The Catlin Gabel School, Portland, Oregon

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*The Russian Revival of the Dithyramb: A Modernist Use of Antiquity*, Evanston: Northwestern University Press: 2018.

Katherine Lahti, Rusty Barrett, and Anthony K. Webster, eds. *Pragmatics and Society. Special Issue: Ideophones: Between Grammar and Poetry* 5 (2014), no. 3.

### Articles

“Priroda i iskusstvennost’ v Mertvykh dushakh” in *N.V. Gogol’ i mirovaia kul’tura XIX-XII stoletii* (Petersburg: Apollon) forthcoming, summer 2022.

“Tiazhelovesie u Maiakovskogo i Meierkhol’da” (“Heaviness in Mayakovsky and Meyerhold”), *Vestnik literaturnogo instituta*, forthcoming. To be published by the Mayakovsky Museum, Moscow.

“‘Kofta fata’: Myth, Ritual, and Labials,” *Slavic and East European Journal* 65 (Spring 2021): 100-18.

“Metafori pis’ma u rannego Maiakovskogo” (“Metaphors of writing in Early Mayakovsky”) *Tvorchestvo Maiakovskogo vypusk 4, kniga 2, β Vladimir Maiakovskii v mirovom kul’turnom prostranstve*, (*The Work of V.V. Mayakovsky*, edition 4, book 2 *Vladimir Mayakovsky in the Context of World Culture*) V chest’ 90-letia so dnia rozhdeniia A.M. Ushakova (To honor the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of A.M. Ushakov) (Moscow: Russian Academy of Sciences, 2020), 1: 273-289. I am also on the editorial board of this publication.

“Vozrozhdenie difiramba v russkom iskusstve nachala XX veka ili ‘Eksport dikosti’” (The Revival of the Dithyramb in Russian Art of the Beginning of the 20th Century or ‘The Export of Wildness’) in *Vladimir Fedorovich Markov: Pervootkryitel’ i romntike* (*Vladimir Fedorovich Markov: Discoverer and Romantic*), edited by Nikolai Firtich and A. Krusanov (Petersburg: Apollon, 2019), 488-97.

“Maiakovskii v Amerike (1993-2018) (Mayakovsky in America 1993-2018) in *Vladimir Maiakovskii v mirovom kul'turnom prostranstve* (Moscow: Russian Academy of Sciences, 2018), 404-416.

“Piknik-Stalker”. (Picnic-Stalker).” In *Kinokartina: Literatura, zhivopis', muzyka v iskusstve kinematografa*, St. Petersburg: Apollon, 2017: 109-114.

With co-author Dominic Yao, “Drevnii Egipet v “Alise” Kerrolla i v “Neznakomke” Bloka” (Ancient Egypt in Carroll’s *Alice* and Blok’s *The Unknown Woman*) in *Mir Alisy: Poetika neobychnogo v literature i iskusstve XIX-XXI vekov*, St. Petersburg: Apollon, 2016: 119-136.

“Ideofony v stikhakh Velimira Khlebnikova” (“Ideophones in the Poetry of Velimir Khlebnikov”), *Tvorchestvo V.V. Maiakovskogo*, Moscow: Russian Academy of Sciences, 2015: 101-108.

“Ideophones in Vladimir Mayakovsky’s Work,” *Pragmatics and Society. Special Issue: Ideophones: Between Grammar and Poetry* 5 (2014), no. 3: 419-430. Translated into Russian as “Ideofony v tvorchestve Vladimira Maiakovskogo” (“Ideophones in Vladimir Mayakovsky’s Work,”) *Slovo, grammatika, rech' vyp. 19* (2019): 259-65.

“Slovo-veshch' v tvorchestve Velimira Khlebnikova i Viacheslava Ivanova” (The Word-Thing in the Work of Velimir Khlebnikov and Viacheslav Ivanov), *Veshch': Metafizika predmeta v literature, izobrazitel'nom iskusstve, muzyke i kino. Sbornik statei.* (Saint Petersburg: Apollon, 2013): 158-165.

“The Animal Mayakovsky” in *Other Animals: Beyond the Human in Russian Culture and History*, Edited by Jane Costlow and Amy Nelson, (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010): 138-163. Translated into Russian as “Zver'e v tvorchestve Maiakovskogo” (“The Animal in the Work of Mayakovsky”), *Tvorchestvo V.V. Maiakovskogo*, Moscow: Russian Academy of Sciences, 2015: 398-418.

“‘Kofta fata’: Mif, ritual i artikuliatsionnaia fonetika” (“The Shirt of the Pop”: Myth, Ritual and Articulatory Phonetics”). *Slovo, grammatika, rech' vyp. 7* (2005): 286-294.

"Vladimir Maiakovsky" in *Russian Writers of the Silver Age. Dictionary of Literary Biography*, vol. 295, edited by Judith Kalb and Alexander Ogden. New York: Bruccoli Clark Layman, 2004: 273-290.

"Matisse ve dans" (Matisse and the Dance). *P Dünya Sanati Dergisi* (Portakal Sanat ve Kültür, Istanbul) 32 (2004): 114-125.

“Odin den' zhizni amerikanskogo studenta” (“A Day in the Life of an American Student”) *Mezhdunarodnye prepodavateli—mezhdunarodnye studentam* (referat), (Moscow: IMLI, Akademiia nauk, 2000).

"On Pandora and Living Statues, *Kammenye baby* and Futurist Aesthetics: The Female Body in Mayakovsky's *Tragedy*." *The Russian Review* 58 (July 1999): 432-55. Translated into Russian by Aleksandr Nikitaev as "Futuristicheskoe zhiznetvorchestvo: 'Zhenskoe telo' v tragedii 'Vladimir Maiakovskii'" ("Futurist Life-Creation: The 'Female Body' in the Tragedy *Vladimir Mayakovsky*"), in *Tvorchestvo V. V. Maiakovskogo v nachale XXI veka (The Work of V. V. Mayakovsky at the Beginning of the XXI Century)*. (Moscow: Russian Academy of Sciences, 2008): 107-114.

"*Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Dithyramb*." *Slavic and East European Journal*. 41 (summer 1996): 251-77.

"Tat'iana Shchepkina-Kupernik." In *The Dictionary of Russian and Soviet Women Writers*. Edited by Marina Ledkovsky, Charlotte Rosenthal, and Mary Zirin. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1994.

"Artificiality and Nature in Gogol's *Dead Souls*." In *Essays on Gogol: Logos and the Russian Word*. Edited by Susanne Fusso and Priscilla Meyer. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1992. Paperback edition: 1994, pp. 143-157.

"Mayakovsky and the Graphic Arts: Intersections." In *Mayakovsky and the Book: Eight Decades*. New York: MJS Graphics, 1989: 14-23.

## Book Reviews

Review of *Bumazhnyi Vertov / Tselluoidnyi Maiakovskii (Paper Vertov/Celluloid Mayakovsky)* by Aleksandr Pronin (Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2019). *The Slavic Review* volume 80, issue 1 (Spring 2021), pp 82-83.

Review of Review of *The Modernist Masquerade: Stylizing Life, Literature, and Costumes in Russia* by Colleen McQuillen (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2013). *Russian History*. Volume 43, Issue 1 (2016), pp 81 –86

Review of *Russkii futurizm: Ideologiya, poetika, pragmatika* by Irina Ivaniushina (Saratov: Izdatel'stvo Saratovskogo universiteta, 2003) *Russian Review*, fall 2004.

Review of *Writing a Usable Past : Russian Literary Culture, 1917-1937* by Angela Brintlinger (Evanston, Illinois, 2000) *Russian Review*, 60 (2001).

Review of *Zhizn' russkoi kubistki (Life of a Russian Cubist)* by Nadezhda Udaltsova (Moscow, 1994) *Slavic Review*. 55 (fall 1996).

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Kofta fata: Myth, Ritual, and Labials” (currently under review at the journal *Slavic and East European Journal*)

“Kofta fata’: mif, ritual, i labial’nye soglasnye” (“The Shirt of a Fop”: Myth, Ritual, and Labial Consonants,”), currently considering different Russian journals to send it to.

"Living Statues: Life, Art, Photograph," rewriting article to prepare for submission to a journal

*Ideophones in Russian Poetry*, two chapters completed, six more to write

#### TALKS AND PAPERS

“Priroda i iskusstvennost’ v *Mertvykh dushakh*” (“Nature and Artificiality in *Dead Souls*) at the conference “N.V. Gogol’ i mirovaia kul’tura XIX-XXI stoletii” (N.V Gogol and world culture of the 19-21<sup>st</sup> Centuries). Petersburg. October 23, 2019. (invited)

“Linguistics in the Undergraduate Curriculum” at the conference “The Power of Language” at Wesleyan University. April 28, 2019. (invited)

“Egyptian Gods in *Alice in Wonderland*,” Curioporum, Hartford, Connecticut. April 25, 2019. (invited)

“Maiakovskii v Amerike 1993-2018” (Mayakovsky in America 1993-2018), Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences. September 18, 2018. (invited)

Discussant for the panel “Florensky and the Problem of Seeing” at the ASEES convention. November 11, 2017

“Icons, Tarkovsky’s ‘Stalker,’ and Strugatskys’ ‘Roadside Picnic’”<sup>[SEP]</sup> at the ASEES convention. November 10, 2017.

“Adaptatsiia ‘Piknika na obochine’ Strugatskikh v ‘Stalkere’ Tarkovskogo. (The Adaptation of the Strugatskys’ *Roadside Picnic* in Tarkovsky’s *Stalker*,” at the conference “Film picture: Literature, Painting and Music in the Art of the Cinematographer” sponsored by Vassar College, Apollo: The Petersburg Society of Music and Art, Association of Contemporary Music and Art SK SPb, and the Museum-Apartment of A.S. Pushkin, Petersburg. October 17, 2016. (invited)

“Drevnii Egipt v *Alise Kerrolla* i v *Neznakomke Bloka*” (Ancient Egypt in Carroll’s *Alice* and Blok’s *The Unknown Woman*) at the conference “The World of *Alice*: The Poetics of the Unusual in Literature and Other Arts of the 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries” sponsored by Vassar College, Apollo: The Petersburg Society of Music and Art, and the Museum-Apartment of A.S. Pushkin, Petersburg. October 13, 2015. (invited)

Discussant for the panel "Expressionism and the Russian Avant-Garde," November 21, 2014 at the ASEEEES Convention in San Antonio, Texas. (invited)

"Tiazhelovesie u Maiakovskogo i Meierkhol'da" (Heaviness in Mayakovsky and Meyerhold) at the conference "V. V. Maiakovsky and V. E. Meyerhold: Two Innovators" sponsored by the State Mayakovsky Museum and the Exhibition Hall "Chekhov's House." September 10, 2014. (invited)

"Ideofony v tvorchestve Vladimira Maiakovskogo" (Ideophones in the Work of Vladimir Mayakovsky) at the conference "Mayakovsky and his Time," Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences. September 19, 2013. (invited)

"Slovo-veshch' v tvorchestve Velimira Khlebnikova" (The Word-Thing in the Work of Velimir Khlebnikov) at the conference "Thing: The Metaphysics of the Object," sponsored by Vassar College, Apollo: The Petersburg Society of Music and Art, and the Museum-Apartment of A.S. Pushkin, Petersburg. October 16, 2012. (invited)

"Ideofony v tvorchestve Velimira Khlebnikova" (Ideophones in the Work of Velimir Khlebnikov) at the conference "Russian Futurism: On the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Almanach 'A Slap in the Face of Public Taste,'" at the Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. September 18, 2012. (invited)

"Ideophones in Vladimir Mayakovsky's Work," January 7, 2012 at the Linguistic Society of America Convention in Portland, Oregon.

"Mayakovsky's Anti-Authoritarian Language: Mayakovsky's Ideophones," November 19, 2011 at the ASEEEES Convention in Washington, D.C.

"Mayakovsky's Ideophones," April 17, 2010 at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

Discussant for the panel "Russian Symbolism II," November 13, 2009 at the AAASS Convention in Boston.

"Mayakovsky's 'Pro eto' as a Buddhist Poem," November 13, 2009 at the AAASS Convention in Boston.

"Discussant for the panel "The Construction of Gender in Early Soviet Literature and Film," November 21, 2008 at the AAASS Convention in Philadelphia.

"Some Thoughts on Psoy Korolenko," read on September 20, 2008 at the conference "Moscow in Russian Culture" held at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut. (invited paper)

"The Dream of a Crime and the Crime of a Dream: The Fantastic in *Crime and Punishment*," read on November 17, 2007 at the AAASS Convention in New Orleans.

“The Animal Mayakovsky,” May 19, 2007 at the conference “The Other Animals: Situating the Non-Human in Russian Culture & History” held at Virginia Tech. (invited paper)

“*Victory over the Sun and Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Tragedy* together as a completion of the ‘Wagner-Nietzsche Project’” with clips from Lahti’s 1988 reconstruction of *Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Tragedy* at Bowdoin College.” Read on May 4, 2007 at the conference “Symposium on Modern Russian Theater” held at Vassar College. (invited paper)

"Dance in the North: Matisse's *The Dance* in the Hermitage," November 1, 2003 at the conference *300 Years of St. Petersburg in the Arts* held at Vassar College. (invited paper)

"Kofta fata': Mif, ritual, i zvukovaia alliteratsiia" ("Kofta fata': Myth, Ritual, and Sound Alliteration") read July 10, 2003 at the international conference "*Tvorchestvo Maiakovskogo v nachale 21 veka: Novye zadachi i puti issledovaniia*" at the Gorky Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. (invited paper)

"Northern Ecstasy: Classical Sources for the Idea of the 'Russian Soul'" at the 2001 AAASS Convention in Crystal City, VA.

"Zagadki Pandory (v tragedii *Vladimir Maiakovskii*)" ("The Riddle of Pandora [in the tragedy *Vladimir Mayakovsky*]), translated into Russian by Aleksandr Nikitaev and read for me by Vera Terekhina on April 12 at the conference *Maiakovskii na rubezhe dvukh stoletii: Opyt istoriko-literaturnogo i tekstologicheskogo prochtenii* (Mayakovsky on the Border of the Centuries: Toward Historical-Literary and Textological Readings), Gorky Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, April 11-14, 2000. (invited paper)

"Odin den' zhizni amerikanskogo studenta" ("A Day in the Life of an American Student") at the conference *International Teachers for International Students*, held at the Gorky Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow on March 21, 2000. (invited paper)

"Linguistics in Undergraduate Education," February 14, 2000 at Wesleyan University. (invited paper)

"The Past into the Future: Russian Avant-Garde Theater of the 1920s," delivered on February 19, 1998 at Wesleyan University. (invited paper)

"Majakovskii's "*Kofta fata*": Myth, Cult and Labials," read on December 30, 1997 at the AATSEEL Convention in Toronto.

"Living Statues: Life, Art, Photograph," delivered at Reed College, Portland Oregon on February 25, 1997. (invited paper)

"Mayakovsky Redux," an invitational roundtable discussion on April 30, 1994 at Lehman College, New York. (invited paper)

"The Erotic Living Statue in Russia," delivered on November 21, 1993 at the AAASS Convention in Honolulu.

"Vladimir Maiakovskii: Zhanr poeticheskogo difiramb," read in the morning of July 20, 1993 at the international conference "Vladimir Maiakovskii: Znakomyi i neznakomyi" at the Academy of Sciences: Gorky Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. By invitation, chaired the afternoon session of the conference on July 20 and the morning session on July 21.

Panel Chair, "Russian Theater, Text and Performance," on December 28, 1992 at the AATSEEL Convention.

"Italian Futurism and Russian Primitivism," on April 3, 1992 at the NEMLA Convention.

"The Well-Known Pandora: Mayakovsky's Female Body," on December 28, 1991 at the AATSEEL Convention in San Francisco.

"Gogol and Schiller" for a graduate seminar on Gogol at Yale on April 11, 1991. (invited paper)

"*Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Tragedy* and *The Birth of Tragedy* at Yale on September 12, 1990. (invited paper)

"*Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Dithyramb*," read on December 2, 1989 at the international symposium "Theater USSR: Revolution and Tradition," held at the University of South Carolina.

"The Reception of Nietzsche in the Russian Theater: The Mayakovsky Connection," read on February 28, 1989 at Bates College. (invited paper)

"*Vladimir Mayakovsky: Tragedy or Error?*," read on November 20, 1988 at the AAASS convention.

"Will the Real Soviet Poet Please Sit Down!: Mayakovsky and His Critics in the Later Years," read on December 30, 1986 at the AATSEEL convention.

#### TALKS AT TRINITY COLLEGE

Panelist "Technology in the Academic Mission," at the symposium *Technology in the Academic Mission* sponsored in part by the CTW Mellon Project and the Learning Technology Project. February 25, 2000.



Translator and Panelist for "Why Chekhov Today: Accounting for his Popularity in the Post-Communist Society," October 30, 1996.

"What Kind of American Student Likes Dostoevsky?" first talk in the Coffee Chat Series at the Underground Cafe, October 29, 1996.

"Experiencing the New Russia," a talk based on my recent year in Russia, October 25, 1995.

"Russians as Archaic Greeks: Historical Extremism in the Shaping of Pre-Revolutionary Ethnic Identity," on March 7, 1992 for the series of colloquia "Imagined Communities: National vs. Ethnic Identity in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States" sponsored by a consortium of colleges and universities in New England.

"Computers in the Classroom: Problems of Technology Transfer," at a conference for high school Russian teachers, "Teaching Russian Today" on April 11, 1991.

"Women as Living Statues: Some Thoughts on a Russian Theatrical Genre," for the lunch lecture series at the Women's Center on February 14, 1991.

Panelist, "Contemporary Theater in the Soviet Union," on December 1, 1990 at the three-day festival and symposium "Contemporary Theater in the Soviet Union," held at Trinity College.

"Ways of Knowing about Russia: My Summer in Moscow," a talk on *glasnost'* and *perestroika* on September 10, 1990.

## THEATER WORK

Produced *Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Tragedy* in Russian on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its premiere. December 2-3, 1988 at Bowdoin College. A video of this production is being used in courses on the Russian avant-garde across the country and is viewable on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4NHq2PpGVc&list=PL4B20022A4C749549>

C.I.K.L.: a cycle of solo performance pieces I had been putting on individually over the 1992-93 academic year. Never Ending Bookstore in New Haven, CT. May, 1993, including "A Recycled Poem," "Cyclone, or Sulking Out Loud and Alone," "The Bicycle Riding Poem," "Rolling Pancakes," "Turn Yourself Off. I'm Reading 'Josephine the Singer' or 'The Mouse Folk,'" and "Checkers Ladue, Wonder Girl of the Twentieth Century, singing 'The Wanderer.'" I was invited to re-perform a number of these pieces in different contexts.

Played Catherine the Great in *Kazan'*, an intellectual opera by Psoy Korolenko and Kiril Bogoliubov performed *a deux* with Psoy, elemental archaic chorus provided by

Kiril. Moscow, Project OGI, July 6, 2003. Videos of this performance are for sale through Julia Ovchinnikova (formerly Art via Video).

Mitch Polin's *Faust* in Moscow. Am involved helping Mitch Polin put on his *Faust* in Russian with Moscow actors.

## COURSES TAUGHT

### LANGUAGE COURSES

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> year Russian  
"Russian Phonetics"  
"The Current Russian Media"  
"Russian Culture and Civilization"  
"19<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Literature"  
"Soviet Literature"  
"Russian through Literature and Film" (a course on Tarkovsky, reading Florensky and *Roadside Picnic* by the Strugatsky brothers)

### LITERATURE AND CULTURE COURSES IN ENGLISH

"Dostoevsky"  
"The Great Tradition of the Russian Novel"  
"Fantasy and Realism in Russian Literature"  
"Russian Theater"  
"Russian Avant-Garde Theater"  
"Circus, Sex, and Sacrifice in the European Theater of the Avant-Garde"

### LINGUISTICS

"Introduction to Linguistics"  
"Morphology" (fall 2018)  
I have also done independent studies on Comparative Slavic Linguistics (a self-designed major), Semiotics and Dance, and the History of Linguistics.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

Council of Independent Colleges to participate in their "Consortium for Online Humanities." With Andrea Lanoux and Laura Little of Connecticut College we won a highly competitive grant to support our teaching advanced Russian courses together through teleconferencing, 2014-2016.

Trinity College, Faculty Research Grant, 1999  
One-year support work on the manuscript of *The Russian Revival of the Dithyramb: A Modernist Use of Antiquity*.

Visiting Scholar, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Columbia University, 1996-97.

IREX Advanced Research Grant for Senior Scholars, 1994-95  
Supporting research for my book *The Russian Revival of the Dithyramb: A Modernist Use of Antiquity*.

St. Anthony Hall Faculty Research Grant, 1994  
Supporting research for the articles "On Living Statues and Pandora, *Kamennye baby* and Futurist Aesthetics: The Female Body in *Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Tragedy*" and "Living Statues: Life, Art, Photograph."

Yale Visiting Faculty Program, 1993-94.

ACLS East European Language Training Grant, 1990  
Study of Serbo-Croatian in Zagreb (I declined this grant.).

Bowdoin College Faculty Research Grant, 1989  
Examining first editions of Mayakovsky's work at the MJS Gallery in New York.

Yale University Fellowship, 1981-1985.

Full Scholarship to the Fourteenth Meeting of Slavists, Belgrade, 1984.

National Resource Fellowship to study Serbo-Croatian, 1982.

Phi Beta Kappa, 1981

B.A. with Honors, 1981

Wesleyan's Scott Prize for excellence in Modern Languages, 1981

## CONSULTANCIES

Member of the editorial board of the journal *Filologicheskie nauki*

Referee articles for the *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Slavic Review* and *Russian Review*.

I have been an outside evaluator for two tenure cases.

Consulting Editor for the literary journal *The Explicator*, 1993—2007. Managed their submissions on Russian literature.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Linguistic Society of America

Society of Historians of East European and Russian Art and Architecture

American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages

American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies

LANGUAGES

Russian: near-native fluency; Russians often take me for a Russian

Bosnian, Croatian, or Serbian; French  
Fluent speaking and reading

Old Slavic  
Fluent reading

Italian, Polish  
Passable speaking and reading

Finnish, German  
Have studied, some working knowledge