

AGATA ANNA CHMIEL

Curriculum Vitae

Department of History
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
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Education

PhD Candidate | Ottoman History, with a focus on conversion to Islam (1400-1600) August 2019

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

Thesis title: The Geography of Conversion: Religious Change and the Ottomanization of Space in the Early Ottoman Balkans, 1450-1600.

Advisor: Prof. Maria Todorova

Committee: Prof. Keith Hitchins, Prof. Ken Cuno, Prof. John Randolph

Master of Arts | Ottoman History June 2012

Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey

Thesis Title: Religious and Demographic Development in the South-Western Rhodope Mountains in the Second Half of the Fifteenth Century: A Case Study

Advisor: Prof. Evgeni Radushev

Master of Arts | History June 2009

Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Thesis Title: Becoming Socially Conscious: Examining the Process of Conversion to Islam in the Ottoman Balkans

Bachelor of Art (Honours) | History Major, Development Studies, Minor June 2006

Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

International Baccalaureate and O.S.S.D. Highschool Diplomas June 2002

St. Francis Xavier Secondary School, Mississauga, Canada

Publications & Presentations

Presentations:

“Self-Conversion in the Balkans: A Micro-History of 15th Century Çeç and Divoçane in the Rhodope Mountains”. 20th CIEPO Symposium, July 2012.

“Beyond the Timar: The “Ottomanization” of Space in the Western Rhodopes during the 15th Century” in *23th CIEPO Symposium*. September 2018.

Publication:

“Self-Conversion in the Balkans: A Micro-History of 15th Century Çeç and Divoçane in the Rhodope Mountains” in *20th CIEPO Symposium proceedings*: October 2014.

Research Grants and Awards:

Chester G. Starr Award for Graduate Dissertation Research Travel, 2018

University of Illinois, Department of History 9-month Research Fellowship, 2016-2017

University of Illinois, Department of History 9-month Fellowship, 2018-2019

Teaching Experience:

Instructor:

HIST 100 *Global History of Islam, 1240-1800*

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 8-week Spring 2020

HIST 100 *Global History of Islam, 1240-1800*

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Summer I (May 13-June 7) 2019

HIST 100 *Global History of Islam, 1240-1800*

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Summer I (May 14-June 8) 2018

HIST 100 *Global History of Islam, 1240-1800*

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Summer I (May 16-June 9) 2016

Teaching Assistant:

HIST 141: *Western Civilization until 1660*, Fall 2019, University of Illinois

Grader: HIST 241: *History of Ancient Rome*, Spring 2018, University of Illinois

HIST 142: *Western Civilization after 1660*, Spring 2016, University of Illinois (on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students)

HIST 141: *Western Civilization until 1660*, Spring 2015, University of Illinois (on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students, score 4.4/5)

HIST 142: *Western Civilization until 1660 - Advanced Writing Composition*, Fall 2014, University of Illinois (on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students, score 4.6/5)

HIST 100: *Global History*, Spring 2014, University of Illinois (on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students, score 4.3/5)

HIST 141: *Western Civilization until 1660*, Fall 2013, University of Illinois, rated 4.3 out of 5 (on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students)

HCIV: *History of Civilization*, Fall-Spring 2011-2012, Bilkent University

HIST 250: *The Middle Ages*, Fall-Spring 2006-2007, Queen's University

Research Experience

Research Assistant

May 2015-January 2016

To Professor John Randolph

Department of History

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Compiling relevant notes from primary sources concerning the project (travel accounts of the Russian Empire from 1700-1825, particularly in regards to the postal system)
- Summarizing historiography of British, French, Ottoman and Polish postal systems (including translations from Turkish and Polish)
- Locating and mapping villages involved in the Postal System in Imperial Russia on GIS software
- Managing new and old data in existing Excel database and QGIS program

Service:

History Graduate Student Association (HGSA)

May 2018 – May 2019

Position: President

Department of History

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Organize and manage meetings to address issues affecting History graduate students across all years
- Conveyed concerns to faculty at department and committee meetings, and consistent meetings with the Director of Graduate Studies
- Participated and advised in the direction and development of the graduate program in the department
- Envisioned, managed, developed, organized and conducted events concerning specific issues in the graduate program, such as preparing for preliminary examinations and conducting research abroad
- Initiated a fund-raising campaign and helped to promote a congenial atmosphere among graduate students in the department
- Compiled, developed and presented relevant information now available to students at the History Department website

Work Experience:

Free-lance Editor/Translator

2017-present

- Promoted and self-advertised services to non-English speakers
- Dealt exclusively with non-native speakers and materials written in English by non-native speakers
- Edited articles, applications, Master and PhD theses written in English by Turkish students in Turkey
- Edited works of fiction written in English by a Turkish author
- Edited works for tourist activities translated from Italian
- English conversation practice teacher

English Conversation Practice Tutor/Teacher

November 2011-June 2012

Positive English/Private Lessons, Ankara, Turkey

- Taught classes of students the conversation portion of various English proficiency exams
- Prepare lesson plans based on exam materials to prepare the students for the exams

Private English Tutor

November 2011-June 2012

- Research, compile, plan and execute exercises in speaking English, aimed at a native Turkish speaker, aged 5 and below.

Bureau Veritas Certification

December 2007-August 2009

Toronto, ON., Canada

Position: Client Services Representative

- Responsible for the management of all accounts located in the United States, primarily Michigan
- Responsible for contacting clients and auditors in order to schedule audits, managed the collection and completion of all relevant documentation and delivery of certification on time
- In charge of the migration of files from one database to another; then from one office to another, using various programs
- Train new employees in other Bureau Veritas offices
- Knowledge of standards and certifications rules; able to help any client in any situation; must know how to research material

- In charge of large accounts, and their maintenance of TS/ISO and ISO certifications

Administrative Assistant to Professor Emily Hill

May 2005 – September 2005

Queen's University, Kingston, ON.

- Organizing files for various courses and projects within the office
- Organizing computer and email files and writing and sending memos
- Transcribing documents onto the computer
- Transferring course material onto PowerPoint, including scanning images and articles and summarizing course notes, creating PowerPoint presentations for entire courses
- Research – finding relevant information in books and on microfilms, compiling and presenting the information

Languages

Bilingual in English/Polish (Dual Canadian and Polish/EU citizenship)

Proficient in Turkish and Ottoman Turkish

Moderate knowledge and understanding of Bulgarian, Italian and French

Coursework:

Introduction to Italian, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Ten-month individual lessons in Bulgarian (2013, 2016-2017)

Completion of Level IV Turkish language course Active English in Turkish, Ankara, Turkey (2009-2010)

Completion of Level II and III in Turkish language course at University of Toronto (2009)

Completion of Level I and II intensive Turkish courses offered by TÖMER, at Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey (2007)

Completion of Highschool and university level French

Technical Skills

Microsoft Office (Excel, Access, Word, Publisher and Outlook)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Programming (QGIS & ARCS Map)

Social Media management (Facebook, Instagram, GoFundMe)

Compass 2G

Adobe Photoshop Elements

Web Tools/Wix website management

Other

Freelance Photography

Instagram: @countessaga

- Photography exhibit, 'Centro Storico con i miei occhi', at *Aliment Art Festival*, in Vico del Gargano, Italy, July 2018
- Photography exhibit, 'San Valentine e la Settimana Sant', at *Aliment Art Festival* in Vico del Gargano, Italy, July 2019