OLGA AKSAKALOVA

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Education

Ph.D. in English, The Graduate School and University Center, CUNY. 2012 Certificate Program in Film Studies, The Graduate School and University Center, CUNY. 2012

B.A. in English and Sociology, Queens College, CUNY. Magna Cum Laude. 2001

Fields of Professional Interest

20th Century American and European Literature
Autobiography
Trauma Theory
Film Studies
Writing Center Pedagogy
Writing across the Curriculum (WAC), Writing in the Disciplines (WID)

Professional Memberships

Modern Language Association (MLA) International Writing Centers Association (IWCA)

Honors and Awards

Phi Beta Kappa
Golden Key National Honor Society
Slavic Honor Society, *Dobro Slovo*University Tuition Awards
CUNY Writing Fellowship

Publications

"With 'the hand, fastidious and bold': Bridging Walter Pater's Aestheticism and Willa Cather's Modernism." In *Willa Cather and Aestheticism: From Romanticism to Modernism.* Eds. Sarah Cheney Watson and Ann Moseley. Madison: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. Co-published with The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc. 2012. 169-181.

Conference Presentations

- "Absolute Breakdown of Private Communications': Alfred Kazin's Route from Private Journal to Published Autobiography *A Walker in the City*." Writings of Intimacy in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Loughborough University, UK. September 2010.
- "Supporting a Communication-Intensive Curriculum in Great Works of Literature Courses." Biennial CUNY WAC/WID Conference. New York. May 2009.
- "Multiple Acts of Translation: The Treatment of Personal and Collective Memories in Andrey Tarkovsky's *Mirror*." 6th Biennial Conference of the International Autobiography and Biography Association. Honolulu. June 2008.
- "Bridging Walter Pater's Aestheticism and Willa Cather's Modernism." American Literature Association, Annual Conference. Boston. May 2005.
- "Jerzy Kosinski's *The Painted Bird*: Reenactment of Personal Trauma as a Cure for Collective Amnesia." American Comparative Literature Association, Annual Meeting. PennState University. March 2005.
- "Gertrude Stein's *Q.E.D.*: The Ty/o/pography of Silence as a Venue for Direct Interaction between the Reader and the Text." International Conference on Silence and Laughter in Literature and the Visual Arts. State University of West Georgia. Atlanta. October 2003.

Teaching and Related Experience

2011 - Present New Economic School, Moscow, Russia

Director, Writing and Communication Center

Founded the Center. Develop professional bilingual tutoring program for the School's undergraduate and graduate students. Hire and train consultants. Design and lead workshops for students and faculty. Develop the writing and communication materials for courses across disciplines. Assist faculty and staff with their writing needs. Perform administrative duties.

Lecturer, English Department

Created and taught The Modern Short Story course in English for the BA program. Develop curriculum for the BA and MA English programs.

2011 Higher School of Economics, National Research University Moscow, Russia

Lecturer, Faculty Professional Development Program

Created and taught an intensive 3-day long course Academic Writing in English to HSE faculty from across disciplines.

2007-2011 Baruch College, CUNY, New York, NY

CUNY Writing Fellow and Communication Fellow (WAC/WID), Bernard L. Schwartz Communication Institute

Conducted workshops and tutorials for students undertaking writing and communication projects in Great Works of Literature and Management courses. Developed and facilitated faculty development roundtables. Conducted in-class workshops that illustrate effective strategies to teach communication in a content-driven course. Helped to design assessment program for the Great Works of Literature curriculum. Contributed posts to the web blog Conversations in Communication Across the Curriculum (www.cac.ophony.org). Participated in the Institute's annual Symposium on communication in academic and business environments. Attended WAC/WID seminars and developed workshops for CUNY WAC/WID faculty and Fellows (2007-2009).

2004 – 2007 Baruch College, CUNY, New York, NY 2010 – 2011

Consultant, Writing Center

Conducted one-on-one and online consultations with undergraduate and graduate students. Completed session reports for students and their professors after each consultation. Completed and responded to peer consultants' session observations. Led workshops. Provided in-class tutorials in ESL sections of College Composition and Introduction to Literature courses (2006-2007). Helped to develop a peer tutoring program (2004-2006). Created resources for faculty, students, and fellow consultants (2007). Collaborated with consultants and Director to assess the Writing Center's role in the development of undergraduate studies (2007). Helped to compile Writing Center Handbook (2007).

2008 - 2010 Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ

Adjunct Lecturer, College of Arts and Letters

Taught Basic English Skills: an intensive written and oral communication course for international students (Fall 2008).

Writing and Communication Specialist, Writing and Communication Center

Assisted undergraduate and graduate students in writing humanities essays, engineering reports, articles for publication, Masters/Ph.D. theses, personal statements for graduate and professional programs, resumes, and cover letters. Prepared students for oral presentations and interviews. Engaged ESL students in conversation practice. Developed and ran a weekly series aiming to foster creativity and develop close reading techniques through appreciation of literature. Designed and led workshops on writing and communication topics. Selected appropriate literature. Developed supplemental materials and web content.

2007 Baruch College, CUNY, New York, NY

Adjunct Lecturer, Student Academic Consulting Center

Taught basic writing courses with the ESL emphasis in the Summer Immersion Program. Participated in weekly professional development meetings.

The Graduate School and University Center, New York, NY

Adjunct Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Studies

Taught Effective Academic Writing course to Masters and Ph.D. students (ESL and native speakers) in various disciplines.

2002 – 2005 Queens College, CUNY, Flushing, NY

Adjunct Lecturer, Academic Support Center Adjunct Lecturer, English Department Taught basic writing in the Summer Immersion Program, freshman composition, and introduction to literature. Participated in and led faculty development meetings. Developed interdisciplinary assignments with faculty teaching social sciences in the same freshman learning community.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, New York, NY

Adjunct Lecturer, English Department

Taught freshman composition courses. Completed Teaching Practicum.

2000 – 2002 Queens College, CUNY, Flushing, NY

Peer Tutor, Writing Center

Conducted one-on-one tutoring sessions on steady basis. Prepared students for writing skills examinations. Assisted instructors in Writing Immersion classes.

Experience in Advisement and Administration

Hunter College, CUNY, New York, NY

Counseling Assistant, "Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge" (SEEK) Department

Devised and executed a project aiming to disclose correlation between academic performance and English proficiency. Created and completed databases that recorded all findings. Collaborated with ESL and English faculty to enhance support services for the College's ESL population.

Queens College, CUNY, Flushing, NY

Advisement Coordinator, Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Retention

Coordinated *The Prelude to Success* Program for conditionally admitted students. Identified and monitored progress of "at-risk" and ESL students. Assisted the Dean of Undergraduate Studies in devising and completing

longitudinal studies concerning the academic progress of continuing students.

Publishing Experience

2004- 2005 Accents and Voices, Online Literary Magazine

Managing Editor

Selected and edited manuscripts. Assisted in designing the website.

2001 Zoetrope: All Story Literary Magazine, New York, NY Intern

Assisted in editing. Participated in editorial and circulation meetings. Handled subscriptions and renewals

Lukeman Literary Management, Ltd. New York, NY *Intern*

Read and evaluated fiction and non-fiction queries and manuscripts. Performed general office work.

Languages

Fluent Russian, reading knowledge of French.