

MARA V. KOZELSKY
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Professor of History
mkozelsky@southalabama.edu

University of South Alabama
Mobile, AL 36688

Education

University of Rochester, PhD West Virginia University, MA Appalachian State University, BA

Administrative Experience

Director, Digital History Lab, Department of History 2021-Present

Graduate Coordinator, Department of History 2022-Present

Academic Program Reviewer

A&M University of Central Texas 2024

Clemson University (in process) 2025

Recent Teaching Experience

Professor, History Department, University of South Alabama (Fall 2016-Current)

Associate Professor, History Department, University of South Alabama (Fall 2011-Current)

Assistant Professor, History Department, University of South Alabama (Fall 2005-Current)

Lecturer, Writing Program, Northeastern University (Fall 2003– Spring 2005)

Part-time Lecturer, Writing Program, Northeastern University (Fall 2002-Spring 2003)

Consulting Experience

McNair Preservation, Nomination of Wilmer Hall to the National Historic Register 2024-2025

Publications

Books

Crimea in War and Transformation. Oxford University Press, 2019.

(co-editor with Lucien J. Frary) *Russian-Ottoman Borderlands: the Eastern Question Reconsidered*, Madison: Wisconsin University Press, 2014.

Christianizing Crimea: Shaping Sacred Space in the Russian Empire and Beyond. Northern Illinois University Press, 2010.

(co-editor with Philip L. Kohl and Nachman Ben-Yehuda). *Selective Remembrances: Archaeology in the Construction, Commemoration, and Consecration of National Pasts*, University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Digital Projects

Mara Kozelsky, Clayton Vaughn-Roberson, Vicki Graham, Shawn Graham, and Patrick Willoughby, [We are Here: African American History and Historical Sites on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay Alabama](#) NEH/AHA (ArcGIS)

Oral History

Mara Kozelsky, Clayton Vaughn-Roberson, Vicki Graham, Shawn Graham, and Patrick Willoughby, [We are Here](#), 7 Interviews

Articles and Chapters in Anthologies

Kozelsky, Mara (2024). Soldiers, Civilians, and Supply: Lessons from Sevastopol. *War and Society*, 43.2 127-144.

“The Crimean War,” *Handbook on the History and Culture of the Black Sea Region*. Edited by Ninja Bumann, Kerstin S. Jobst, Stefan Rohdewald, Stefan Troebst. De Gruyter, final copy submitted, forthcoming.

“Crimean civilians and the Crimean War.” *The Routledge Handbook of the Crimean War*. Edited by Candan Badem. Routledge, 2022, 371-382.

“Structural violence in the confessional state: the creation of a Crimean diocese, 1768–1860,” *Canadian Slavonic Papers* (2020) 62:3-4, 271-295, DOI: [10.1080/00085006.2020.1800561](https://doi.org/10.1080/00085006.2020.1800561)

“Religion and the Crisis in Ukraine,” *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church*. 14:3 (2014): 219-241.

“Sermons of the Crimean War” (Introduction to and translation of) in *Orthodox Christianity in Imperial Russia: A Sourcebook on Lived Religion*. Indiana University Press, 2014.

“A Borderland Mission: The Russian Orthodox Church in the Black Sea Region,” *Russian History* 40 (2013): 111-132.

“Bishop in the Borderland: Archbishop Innokentii (Borisov), 1800-1857,” *People of Empire: Lives of Culture and Power in Russian Eurasia, 1500-Present*, edited Stephen M. Norris and Willard Sunderland. Indiana University Press, 2012.

“Casualties of Conflict: Crimean Tatars during the Crimean War,” *Slavic Review* 67.4 (2008): 862-891.

“Ruins into Relics: The Monument to St. Vladimir on the excavations of Chersonesos, 1827-1857,” *Russian Review* 63.4 (2004): 655–672.

Featured Reviews

Kozelsky, Mara. “Official Education as Counter-Revolution,” Featured Review of Sergei Uvarov: Minister of Darkness by Leslie Chamberlain. *Russian Review* 80.3 (2021): 506-09.

“The Crimean War, 1853-1856,” *Kritika* 13.4 (2012): 903-917.

Book Reviews

Kozelsky, Mara (Spring 2025) *A History of Tatarstan: The Russian Yoke and the Vanishing Tatars*. By Kees Boterbloem. New York: Lexington Books, 2023. 313pp. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Chronology. Glossary. Index. Paper. Slavic Review.

Kozelsky, Mara (Summer 2025) Catriona Kelly, *Russian Food Since 1800: Empire at Table*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2024. H-Environment.

Kozelsky, Mara (May 2020). [Review of the book *Russia's Military Revival* by Bettina Renz]. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018] H-War.

Kozelsky, Mara (2019). [Review of the book *Claiming Crimea: A History of Catherine the Great's Southern Empire*]. H-War.

Kozelsky, Mara. (2018). [Review of the book *Arms and Armor of Caucasus*]. *H-War*, 11-23-18.

Kozelsky, Mara (2018). [Review of the book *Crimea A History*] *H. War*. 09-28-18.

Andrew Rath, *The Crimean War in Imperial Context, 1854-1856*. New York. Palgrave McMillan, 2015. *Journal of Military History* (July 2016): 894-895.

A.N. Biktasheva. *Kazanskie gubernatory v dialogakh vlastei: Pervaia polovina XIX veka*. Kazan, 2008. *Slavic Review* 70.4 (2011): 927-928.

Marina Mogil'ner. *Homo imperii: Istoriia fizicheskoi antropologii v Rossii*. Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie. 2008. *Slavic Review*, 69.1 (March 2010): 997.

Laurie Manchester. *Holy Fathers, Secular Sons*. Northern Illinois University Press, 2008. *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, 51.1 (March 2009): 158-159.

Francine Hirsch. *Empire of Nations: Ethnographic Knowledge and the Making of the Soviet Union*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005. Published on H-Nationalism (April, 2007).

Institute of Classical Archaeology and the National Preserve of Tauric Chersonesos, *Crimean Chersonesos: City, Chora, Museum and Environs*. University of Austin, Texas. 2003.
Russian Review vol. 64, April 2005, 331-332.

Media

"South Alabama History Professor Responds to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine." Interview with Typhani Gray.

<https://www.wkrg.com/mobile-county/south-alabama-history-professor-responds-to-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/>

"University of South Alabama History Professor Weighs in on Putin Invading Ukraine." Interview with Ken McGrath, Channel 15 NBC News.

<https://mynbc15.com/news/local/univ-of-south-alabama-professor-weighs-in-on-putin-invading-ukraine>

"War and Memory Episode #4: Mara Kozelsky and the Russian Revolution," Podcast for University of South Alabama War and Memory,

<http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/research/warandmemory/news/news028.html> .

Contributing writer for "Support is needed for Higher Education in Alabama."

http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/02/support_is_needed_for_higher_e.html .

Kozelsky, Mara (March 14, 2014). "Don't Underestimate Importance of Religion for Understanding Russia's Interest in Crimea." Monkey Cage in the *Washington Post*.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/03/13/dont-underestimate-importance-of-religion-for-understanding-russias-actions-in-crimea/>

Kozelsky, Mara (March 10, 2014) "Why the Crimea Crisis Matters to Alabama." Al.com

http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/03/why_the_crimea_crisis_matters.html

Kozelsky, Mara (Interview Fox 6 Birmingham, March 3, 2014).

<http://www.myfoxa1.com/category/240204/video-landing-page?clipId=9906764&autostart=true>

Kozelsky, Mara (Interview Fox 10 Mobile, March 1, 2014) "USA Professor Talks about the Crisis in Ukraine and Crimea,"

<http://fox10tv.com/2014/03/01/usa-associate-professor-talks-about-the-crisis-in-ukraine-and-crimea/>

Presentations, Public Lectures, and Other Conference Activity

"History as Policy in the Construction and Promotion of the Kerch Bridge," ASEES Paper Presentation, November 23, 2024.

"Kerch (Crimean Bridge in Historic Context)," Invited paper presented at the United States Air Force Air War College in Montgomery, November 12, 2024.

"Ivan Nikitin's Kulak," Paper presented at the Southern Conference for Slavic Studies, March 16, 2024.

"Teaching with Integrity: Challenges and Opportunities for Civics General Education," Conference on Teaching and Learning, May 2023.

"Migrant Identity and Odessan Culture in the 1800s," Invited keynote speaker at the International Workshop at the Finnish Institute of Athens, "Places and Canvases of Communication: Altering Walls," June 8, 2023.

"Religion and the Crimean War," Southern Conference for Slavic Studies, March 30-April 1, 2023.

"New Regulations, Old Practices: Requisitions during the Crimean War," ASEEES, November 10, 2022.

"Russian Aggression, the War in Ukraine, and Impacts for Europe and the United States," Public Lecture for the Fairhope World Affairs Roundtable, March 16, 2022; and April 27.

Kozelsky, Mara. Kulaks and the Crimean War. February 25, 2022. SCSS. Richmond VA.

Kozelsky, Mara. Soldiers and the Crimean War. Presentation. ASEEES. November 18 - 21, 2021, New Orleans.

---- Also, session chair for the Virtual ASEEES conference. December 1 - 3, 2021.

Kozelsky, Mara. Crimean War and the Black Sea Region. Invited Workshop. University of Vienna. February 28, 2020.

Kozelsky, Mara. Chair, The Performance of Poddanstvo [Subjecthood] in Russia's Empire, Boston, December 7, 2018.

Kozelsky, Mara. Crimean War Translation Project. Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Conference for Slavic Studies, March 16, 2019.

Kozelsky, Mara. From Sevastopol: A Philosophy of Food and War, Society for Military History, Columbus, OH. May 10, 2019.

"Crimean War and Recovery," Crimea Matters Workshop, Columbia University, April 27-28, 2018.

"F. K. Zatler on Food and War," Southern Conference for Slavic Studies, March 23-24, 2018, Charlotte, NC.

"Russia, the Ottoman Empire, and the Last Crusade," Holy War: Comparative Perspectives, November 15-16, Bochum Germany.

"Crimea in War and Transformation," *Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies*, Chicago, IL, November 12, 2017.

"Russian Population Management in Crimea during the Crimean War," *Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies*, Washington DC, November 19, 2016.

"The Painful Process of Peace: Crimea after the Crimean War," Waging Peace/ Dale Center for the Study of War & Society at the University of Southern Mississippi, New Orleans, September 9, 2016.

"Evacuation, Forced Migration and Deportation during the Crimean War," Southern Slavic Studies Conference, Tuscaloosa, March 18, 2016.

"Civilian Experience of the Crimean War," ASEEES, Philadelphia November 19, 2015.

"The End of Toleration: Russian Islamic Policy and the Crimean War," Conference on Islam, Harvard Davis Center, October 16, 2015.

"Bible as Parable: New Pedagogy in the Kyiv Spiritual Academy, 1830-1840," ASEEES, San Antonio, November 20, 2014.

Co-Organizer and presenter for panel, "Ukraine, the Separatists, and Russia," September 11, University of South Alabama.

Invited Lecture, "Why Russia Wants Crimea (It's Not Just the Black Sea Fleet)," Wellesley, April 1, 2014.

Moderator, "War, Gender and Memory Conference," Mobile AL, March 27, 2014.

"The Crimea Referendum," University of South Alabama, March 19, 2014.

"The Ukraine Crisis," University of South Alabama," February 12, 2014.

"WWI and the Russian Revolution," Odyssey Lecture Series, Mobile, AL, February 8, 15, 22, and March 1, 2013.

Chair and Discussant, "Inventing Tradition, Mastering Modernity: Russia and the Ottoman Empire, 1700-1914," American Historical Association, January 6, 2013.

"The Orthodox Quest for the Historical Jesus," American Society for Church History, New Orleans, January 4, 2013.

Roundtable Discussion Organizer, "The Eastern Question in the Borderlands," ASEEES, New Orleans, November 15-18, 2012.

"Russia and the Ottoman Empire," Odyssey Lecture Series, Mobile, AL, March 30, April 6, 13, and April 20.

"Russian Population Policy during the Crimean War," Southern Conference for Slavic Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville Florida, March 25, 2010.

"Archbishop Innokentii (Borisov) and Russian Moral Theology," Association for the Study of Eastern Christianity, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. October 2, 2009.

"Christianity in Crimea in the Nineteenth Century and Today," Philadelphia, PA, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, November 2008.

"Spreading Orthodoxy in New Russia: Different Strokes for Different Folks," Association for the Study of Eastern Christianity," The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. October 6, 2007.

- "Eastern Christian Refugees on the Eve of the Crimean War," American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, November 18, 2006.
- "The Last Crusade: Russia and the Ottoman Empire during the Crimean War," American Historical Association, January 8, 2006.
- "The Last Crusade? Orthodox Sermons and the public Perception of the Crimean War," Paper presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Salt Lake City, November 6, 2005.
- "There is Honor in Death: Patriotic Sermons during the Crimean War," American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, December 4, 2004.
- "Is There a "Transcendent Critical Thought?" A Cross-Disciplinary Analysis," Paper Presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communications, San Antonio March 26, 2004.
- "Christianization through Church Archeology: Re-discovering Christian Antiquity in Muslim Crimea, 1844–1853," Paper Presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, November 22, 2002.
- "Making Muslim Crimea Orthodox: Archbishop Innokentii and the Creation of a Holy Place in Crimea, 1848–1857," Paper Presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, November 17, 2001.
- "Religious Processions and the Spread of Orthodoxy in the Black Sea Region, 1848–1853," Paper Presented at the Mid-Atlantic Slavic Conference, March 31, 2001.
- "Writing Across the Curriculum: Composition Methods for the History Classroom," History Department Teacher's Conference, University of Rochester, Fall 1999.
- "The Vorontsov Women: Gender and Power in Eighteenth Century Russia," Southern Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Spring 1996.

Courses Taught (Recent)

University of South Alabama (Fall 2005-Present)

History 101	Western Civilization I
History 102	Western Civilization II
History 246	History of the USSR
History 305	History of Military Thought (Upper Level, Writing Intensive)
History 337	History of Eastern Europe
History 338	History of Russia
History 401	History of Holy War, from Early Times to the Present
History 442	History of War in Russia (Upper Level Research)

History 442	History of Holy War	(Upper Level Research)
History 442	Dictators and Dictatorships	(Upper Level Research)
History 444/544	Digital History	(Upper Level, Graduate Combined)
History 444/544	Digital History: Historic Preservation	(Upper Level, Graduate Combined)
History 451W	States, Nations, and Nationalism	(Upper Level writing intensive)
History 457	Stalin's Russia	(Upper Level variable content course)
History 457	History of Eastern Christianity	(Upper Level variable content course)
History 457	Digital Crimean War	(Upper Level variable content course)
History 540	Modern European Historiography	(Graduate Level)
History 541	European Thinkers	(Graduate Level)
History 542	World Historiography	(Graduate Level)
History 590	Europe and Empire	(Graduate Level)

Grants, Awards, and Recognition

2023-24	We are Here Digital Story Mapping African American Communities on the Eastern Shore. Alabama Humanities Alliance. \$38,424
2020-21	Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Grant, [Dr. Christine Rinne, PI] awarded \$19,500 in support of new digital humanities computer lab
2019	Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Grant, [Dr. Christine Rinne, PI] \$1000 for the Digital Humanities Oxford Summer School Program
2022	Book Award, Southern Conference for Slavic Studies
2020	Honorable Mention, Marshall Shulman Book Prize, ASEES
2016	Seed Grant in Support of the Arts and Humanities
2016	Outstanding Professor in the Department of History Award
2015	Featured in the Member Spotlight for Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies http://www.aseees.org/membership/mara-kozelsky
2013	College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award
2013	Outstanding Professor in the Department of History Award
2012	University of South Alabama Faculty Development Award

2011	Mortar board "Top Prof"
2006	University of South Alabama Research Council Award
2006	University of South Alabama College of Arts and Sciences Professional Summer Development Award
2006	University of South Alabama College of Arts and Sciences Support and Development Award
2002	Willson Coates Book Prize for historical imagination and the capacity for research in British History, European Intellectual History or Philosophy of History, University of Rochester
2000-2001	American Councils for International Education, Regional Scholar Exchange Program Fellowship
2000	Eggon-Berlin Prize to support travel and research in European History, University of Rochester
2000	Friends of the University of Rochester Libraries Graduate Dissertation Fund Award
1999	Salomone Prize for Work in Intellectual and Cultural History, History Department, University of Rochester
1998	Skalny Summer Study Scholarship for Poland, Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies, University of Rochester
1998	Tomaskiewicz-Florio Scholarship for Study in Poland, Kosciuszko Foundation
1997	Robert and Wynona Wilkins Scholarship for Outstanding Graduate Student at the M. A. Level, West Virginia University

University Service

University and College

Chair, College Tenure Committee	2020-2021
University Writing Committee	2012-2015
Russian Language Job Search Committee	2012-2013
College Tenure Committee	2011-2012; 2017-2018
Truman Scholarship Committee	2011-2012
QEP Proposal Committee	2011-2012
University International Education Committee	2014-2016
College International Studies Committee	2011-2016, 2019

University Library Committee	2010-2019
Support and Development Award Committee	2010
College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Committee	2007
Undergraduate Academic Standards Committee	2006
University Policy Committee	2019
Academic Affairs Policy Committee	2019
University of South Alabama Faculty Development Council	2018-2019

Department of History

Administration Committee	2014-2015
	2019-2022
Assessment Committee	2021-2022
Chair	2014-2016
Member	2005-2013
Retention and Recruitment, Chair	2017-2019
Scholarship Committee	2014-2018
Search Committee for Visiting Professor of Jewish History, Chair	2014
Merit and Promotion Committee	2011-2012
Search Committee for a new hire in the History of France	2011-2012
Graduate Program Committee, Member	2009-2013
Mahan Lecture Committee	2006, 2009, 2016, 2019
Search Committee for a new hire in Jewish Studies	2016
Search Committee for a new hire in the History of Latin America	2008
Search Committee for a new hire in the History of Early Islamic Civilization	2007
Tenure Review, Chair	2019, 2021
Pre-tenure review, Member	2019

Faculty Senate

Secretary	2016-2018
Executive Committee	2014-2019
Handbook Committee	2014, 2019
Caucus Leader	2012-2013
Salary and Benefits Committee	2012-2013
Faculty Senate Mentor Program	2012-2013

Professional Affiliations and Memberships

American Historical Association	
Association for Women in Slavic Studies (2019-Present)	
Southern Conference for Slavic Studies (1996 and 2010, lifetime member from 2016)	
American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (From 2001)	
Center Associate, Harvard Davis Center for Russian Studies (2005-2011)	
Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture (2005-2014)	
Conference on College Composition and Communication (2004)	

Service to the Profession

- Manuscript Reviewer: *Acta Slavica Iaponica*, *Ab Imperio*, *Canadian Slavonic Review*, *Kritika*, *Nations and Nationalism*, I. B Tauris, Unicopli, Toronto University Press, Bloomsbury Publishing, *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*
- Chair of Local Arrangements: Southern Conference on Slavic Studies and Association for Women in Slavic Studies March 14-17 2018
- Webmaster, Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, 2022-Present

Selected Community/Volunteer Service

- Member, Alabama Historic Commission, 2024-Present
- Chair, Fairhope Historic Preservation Commission, 2024-Present
- Member, Fairhope Historic Preservation Committee, 2020 - 2024
- Volunteer, Blithewold, 2021
- Volunteer, Newport Mansions Preservation Society, 2019
- Guest Lecture series at Fairhope World Affairs Roundtable, 2017, 2019, 2022
- Guest Lecture Eastern Shore Institute of Learning, 2018
- Guest Lectures at the Unitarian Fellowship of Mobile and of Fairhope, 2015
- Odyssey Lecture Series, 2006, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
- International Festival, Mobile AL 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013
- Volunteer for the New Russian Families Program, Jewish Families and Children's Services, Boston, MA, 2003-2005
- Peace Exchange Volunteer, Vladimir Region, Russia, Summer 1994

Travel Experience

Russia

1994, summer, Vladimir region, Moscow region, peace-exchange volunteer

1999, summer, St. Petersburg University

2000, St. Petersburg, archival research

2012, summer, St. Petersburg, archival research

2015, summer short visit, St. Petersburg

2017, summer short visit, St. Petersburg and Moscow, archival research

Ukraine

2001, summer, Odessa and Crimea, archival research- Odessa and tours of holy places-Crimea

2006, summer, Simferopol and Kyiv, archival research and tours of holy places

2009, summer, Simferopol, archival research

2012, fall, Simferopol, archival research

Poland

1998, summer, Krakow, Jagiellonian University, Summer language program and tour of historic sites

Other locations

Venezuela (1981)

Austria (2001, 2020)

Italy (2004, 2012)

France, Switzerland (2004)

Czech Republic (2005, 2011)

England (2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022)

Germany (2005, 2011, 2018)

Turkey (2008, 2009, 2012)

Greece (2023)