

Flora J. Roberts

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- August 2020 - Lecturer in Environmental History, Cardiff University (permanent position)
- 2018-2020 Visiting Fellow at LIAS & LUCSoR, Leiden University
- 2016-2020 (held concurrently) Postdoctoral Fellowship: Member of the Junior Research Group on Society and the Environment in Central Asia, led by Dr Jeanne Féaux de la Croix, Tübingen University, Germany
- Three research trips to archives and libraries in Moscow, 2016-2018
 - Three research trips to Tajikistan: 2017, 2018, 2019
- 2007-2015 PhD research at the department of History, University of Chicago
- Archival research and oral history fieldwork in Tajikistan, 2011
 - Archival research in Moscow archives: 2009, 2010-2011
- 2003-2005 Reporting Officer / Base Manager for ACTED: Direction of OSCE-funded research project into inter-ethnic tension on the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border in the Ferghana Valley, management of team of 35+, grant applications and donor relations.

EDUCATION

- 2016 PhD in History, University of Chicago, IL, USA
- 2007 MA in History, University of Chicago
- 2001 BA in Literae Humaniores (Classics), University of Oxford, UK

Dissertation Title: "Old Elites under Communism: Soviet Rule in Leninobod"

Research interests: Soviet Central Asia in the Global Cold War, modern environmental history, Comparative Study of Empire, nature writing, comparative river histories, Persophone Jewish communities, migration and climate change, environmental humanities.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cardiff University, Lectureship

- 2020-21 *A Global History of Rivers: from Sumer to the Anthropocene*, 2nd year history module, taught over two semesters (single taught course I designed and developed).
- 2020-21 Seminar leader for two sections of Making of the Modern World, 1st year history module, team-taught over two semesters.
- 2020-21 Seminar leader for section of *Exploring Historical Debate*, team-taught 2nd year module, supervising student projects on African decolonisation, the Soviet-Afghan War, Islam in Soviet Central Asia, Sexual Violence in WW2, etc.

2020-21 Supervision of BA dissertation (thesis) on the Soviet wartime deportations of the Crimean Tatars and Volga Germans.

Leiden University, lectureship (6 months contract)

2019 BA thesis seminar International Studies, Russia and Eurasia. Den Haag campus, Leiden University.

University of Chicago, lectureships:

2015 Academic and Professional Writing (graduate section, for M.A. and Ph.D. students)

2014 Central Asia in the Modern Era: Between Empire and Nation

2012-13 Bessie Pierce Prize Preceptorship in History

2012 History of European Civilization from the French Revolution to the European Union

2011 Introduction to Russian Civilization from the early days of Rus' to the nineteenth century

2009-2015 Various **Teaching Assistantships** at the University of Chicago, in 'Human Being and Citizen,' 'Academic and Professional Writing' (MA & PhD students), 'The Russian Empire: 1700-1917,' 'History of European Civilisation parts 1 and 2,' 'Ancient Mediterranean World-1: Greece,' 'Ancient Empires 3: The Roman Empire'

Guest lectures:

2021 Central Eurasian Workshop of the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris. Graduate seminar Patricians of Leninabad: Lineage, charisma & knowledge production

2020 Naples University, L'Orientale. Graduate seminar. Patricians of Leninabad: Urban Elites in Soviet Central Asia

2018 Leiden University, Netherlands. "The collapse of the USSR and the emergence of nation states in Central Asia," for BA-level course on the History of Central Asia

2017 Leiden University. "The Russian Conquest of Central Asia," for BA-level course on the History of Central Asia

2017 Tübingen University, Germany. "Editing and revising: Academic Writing in English for speakers of other languages," MA students

2017 University of Central Asia, Naryn campus (Kyrgyzstan). "Introduction to the Environmental History of Central Asia." BA class.

2015 Colby College, Maine USA. "The experience of Colonialism in the Islamic World." BA-level class on the History of Islam.

STUDENT MENTORING EXPERIENCE

2020-2021 Cardiff University, Personal tutor to around forty BA students studying history or joint honours with history.

2011-2015 University of Chicago, College Housing: Resident Head in Halperin House, South Campus Residence Hall.

2007-10 University of Chicago, College Housing: Resident Head in Rickert House, Max Palevsky Residential Commons

2005-06 New York University, Office of Student Life: Community Resource Assistant for NYU Study Abroad Program in Florence, Italy

PUBLICATIONS & CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021 'Dam builders of the Naryn – Syr Darya: Memories of Social Mobility and Environmental Change,' co-authored with Gulzat Baialieva, in *Global Environment* 14:2 (2021).
- 2021 'Tajikistan: From Reconciliation to Post-Reconciliation,' co-authored with Edward Lemon, in Izquierdo-Brichs F., Serra-Massansalvador F. (editors), *Political Regimes and Neopatrimonialism in Central Asia*. The Steppe and Beyond: Studies on Central Asia. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore.
- 2020 'Of rivers and dams in Central Asia,' in Biasillo, Roberta, and Claudio de Majo, eds. *Storytelling and Environmental History: Experiences from Germany and Italy*, RCC Perspectives: Transformations in Environment and Society 2020, no. 2. doi.org/10.5282/rcc/9116
- 2018 "A controversial Soviet dam: rivalry and "fraternal cooperation" on the Syr Darya," [*Ab Imperio* 2/2018](#), 117-143.
- 2018 Tajikistan: Kleptocracy, Elite-Pact Consolidation and Authoritarianism in post-war Tajikistan," chapter co-authored with Edward Lemon, in Serra Massansalvador, Francesc and Izquierdo Brichs, Ferran (editors), *Poder y regímenes en Asia Central*. Barcelona: Bellaterra.
- 2017 "A time for feasting? Autarky in the Tajik SSR at war, 1941-45" [*Central Asian Survey*](#) (Vol. 36, issue 1, 2017) special issue on "Stalinism and Central Asia: Actors, Projects and Governance."
- 2017 Review of *Afghan Modern*, by Robert Crews, in [*Central Asian Survey*](#) (Vol.36, issue 2, 2017).
- 2011 Contributed to: Robert Bird (editor), *Adventures in the Soviet Imaginary: Children's Books and Graphic Art*, University of Chicago Library – exhibition and catalogue

Accepted Manuscripts, forthcoming:

- "Big Dam Biographies in Central Asia: Tracing Goals, Actors and Impacts between 1945 and 2015," co-authored with Jeanne Féaux de la Croix, in Stefan Dorondel and Stelu Serban (editors), *Planning Development, Changing Nature in Eastern Europe*, Pittsburgh University Press (forthcoming, 2021).
- "Dam panegyric: poetry for environmental engineering in Soviet Tajikistan," in *Water and Culture in Eurasian History*, edited by Nicholas Breyfogle, planned for the series 'Intersections: Histories of Environment, Science, and Technology in the Anthropocene,' Pittsburgh University Press, scheduled for release Spring 2022.

Article manuscripts in preparation:

- 'Rival anxieties: environmental problems and the Soviet legacy of water management in the Syr Darya river basin,' article commissioned for a special issue on Central Asia (Q2 2001) of the *Security and Human Rights Monitor*, published by the imprint Brill/Nijhoff under the auspices of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC),
- 'Mourning Atomabad: afterlives of privileged Soviet industrial towns in the Ferghana Valley,' article commissioned for a special issue on Uncertain Post-Socialist Ecologies, for the journal *Emotion, Space and Society* (peer-reviewed)

- The Molybdenum Moment: extractive peripheries of the Soviet home front in the Second World War, written for submission to Europe-Asia Studies journal (peer-reviewed)

Monograph manuscripts in preparation:

- *Patricians of Leninabad: Lineage and social mobility in Soviet Central Asia*
- *A Sea for the Valley: Water and Power in Soviet Central Asia*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS (selection)

- 2019 Invited speaker at LUCIS What's New Lecture Series, Leiden University (NL). Eight papers presented at venues including the ASEES annual convention, San Francisco; Oxford University (UK); ESEH bi-annual conference in Tallinn, Estonia; Rachel Carson Center workshop at Villa Vigoni (Italy); the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris.
- 2018 Four papers presented at venues including the ASEES annual conference, Boston; CEES annual conference, Pittsburgh; the EHESS, Paris; and the German Historical Institute, Kolkata (India).
- 2017 Invited talks given at the University of Amsterdam, Instituts für Osteuropäische Geschichte, University of Tübingen, and EHESS, Paris. Three other papers presented at the European Society for Environmental History, Zagreb; The Merishon Center at Ohio State University, and the American Society for Environmental History conference, Chicago, IL
- 2016 Invited lecture given at the History of Eastern Europe Colloquium, Humboldt University, Berlin. Six other papers presented at venues including the University of Manchester (UK), Lingnan University and The University of Hong Kong, and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Cardiff University

- Academic Misconduct Officer, responsible for investigating cases of potential plagiarism and poor academic practice for students across the School of History, Archaeology and Religion. 2020-

University of Tübingen

- Organizer of yearly 'Central Asianists in the Making' workshop, 2016-2020
- Organizer of regular Junior Research Group discussion sessions
- Convener of yearly meeting of Central Asianists at the ASEES Annual Convention, since 2013

University of Chicago

- Planning committee for *In Empire's Long Shadow* conference, 24-26 February, 2016. Invited external speakers, designed thematic panels.
- Central Eurasian Studies Center, University of Chicago, 2012-2015
- Central Asian Studies Society Treasurer, 2011-14

LANGUAGES

English native speaker.

Dutch: reading intermediate, basic conversational.

French: reading fluent, conversational.
German: reading intermediate, conversational.
Italian: as native.
Latin, Ancient Greek: reading knowledge.
Persian/Tajiki: reading fluent, writing basic, conversational.
Russian, reading fluent, writing intermediate, conversational.
Uzbek, reading intermediate, basic conversational.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Environmental History
Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies
Central Eurasian Studies Society
European Society for Environmental History

REFERENCES

Jeanne Féaux de la Croix, Junior Research Group Leader, Cultural History of Water in Central Asia,
Raum 134, Asien-Orient-Institut, Abteilung Ethnologie, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen,
Burgsteige 11, Schloss Hohentübingen, D-72070 Tübingen. Email: jfeaux@posteo.net

Sheila Fitzpatrick, Bernadotte E. Schmitt Professor of Modern Russian History and the College,
Department of History, University of Chicago (emerita) and Professor of History, University
of Sydney. Email: sheila.fitzpatrick@sydney.edu.au