

Edward D. Cohn

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Grinnell College

Professor of History	August 2022–Present
Director, Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights	begins July 2024
Associate Professor of History	August 2015 – July 2022
Assistant Professor of History	August 2009 – July 2015
Visiting Assistant Professor of History	August 2007 – July 2009

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, the University of Chicago	August 2007
Dissertation: “Disciplining the Party: The Expulsion and Censure of Communists in the Post-War Soviet Union, 1945-1961”	
Committee: Sheila Fitzpatrick (advisor), Richard Hellie, Ronald Grigor Suny, and Jan Goldstein	
M.A. in History, the University of Chicago	December 2001
B.A. with High Honors, Swarthmore College	May 1999
with a major in history and a minor in political science	

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph (peer-reviewed)

The High Title of a Communist: Postwar Party Discipline and the Values of the Soviet Regime.
DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University Press, 2015.

Reviewed in *The American Historical Review*, *The Journal of Modern History*, *Slavic Review*,
The Russian Review, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review*, *Jahrbücher für
Geschichte Osteuropas*, *Cahiers du Monde russe*, *Canadian Slavonic Papers*, *Laboratorium:
Russian Review of Social Science Research*, and H-Net.

Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

“A Soviet Theory of Broken Windows: Prophylactic Policing and the KGB’s Struggle with
Political Unrest in the Baltic Republics.” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian
History* 19:4 (Fall 2018), 769-792.

“Coercion, Reeducation, and the Prophylactic Chat: *Profilaktika* and the KGB’s Struggle with Political Unrest in Lithuania, 1953-64.” *The Russian Review* 76:2 (April 2017), 272-293.

“Policing the Party: Conflicts between Local Prosecutors and Party Organs under Late Stalinism.” *Europe-Asia Studies* 65:10 (December 2013), 1912-1930.

“Sex and the Married Communist: Marital Infidelity, Family Troubles, and Communist Party Discipline in the Post-War USSR, 1945-1964.” *The Russian Review* 68:3 (July 2009), 429-450.

Book chapters (peer-reviewed)

“Recidivism, Prophylaxis, and the KGB.” In *The Political Police and the Soviet System: Insights from Newly Opened KGB Archives in the Former Soviet Republics*, ed. Michael David-Fox, *Kritika Historical Studies* (Pittsburgh: the University of Pittsburgh Press, 2023), 328-348.

“Prophylactic Policing and the Epidemiology of Dissent in the Soviet-Era Baltic States.” In *Transforming Contagion: Risky Contacts among Bodies, Nations, and Disciplines*, ed. Breanne Fahs, Annika Mann, Sarah Stage, and Eric Swank (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2018), 189-203.

“The Paradox of Party Discipline in the Khrushchev-Era Communist Party.” In *Communist Parties Revisited: Socio-Cultural Approaches to Party Rule in the Soviet Bloc, 1956-1991*, ed. Rüdiger Bergien and Jens Gieseke (New York: Berghahn, 2018), 23-45.

Editorially reviewed articles for academic journals

“Teaching Historical Thinking through a Primary Source Database: Everyday Life under Stalin.” *The American Historical Review*, forthcoming in June 2025.

Writing for a non-specialist audience

“What ‘The Americans’ Gets Wrong about the Cold War.” Entry on the *Washington Post*’s “Made by History” blog, March 28, 2018.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

National Council for Eurasian and East European Research. Research Grant (\$18,000), awarded 2023

Title VIII Research Associateship at the Summer Research Laboratory on Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2023

Workshop grant from the Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges (AALAC) for the proposal “The Future of History in the Liberal Arts” (\$20,000, with Ernesto Capello of Macalester

College and Leslie Offutt of Vassar College), awarded 2018

Fellowship-in-Residence at the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, the University of Iowa, Spring 2017

Short-Term Fellowship. Awarded by the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia at New York University, March-April 2016

Summer Stipend. Awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2015

Franklin Research Grant. Awarded by the American Philosophical Society, 2015

Emerging Scholar Research Grant. Awarded by the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 2013

Tucker-Cohen Dissertation Prize, Honorable Mention, 2008. An annual prize for “an outstanding doctoral dissertation in the tradition of historical political science and political history of the Soviet Union,” awarded by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies

Kennan Center Research Scholarship, 2008-2009 and 2009-10 academic years (declined both times)

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship. Awarded April 2004

INVITED TALKS

“The Admonitory State: KGB Surveillance, Prophylactic Policing, and Political Control in the Baltic Republics and Beyond.” The MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University, December 2023.

“KGB Prophylaxis in the Soviet Baltic Republics, 1954-1991.” Guest lecture for History 3381: Russian and East European Secret Intelligence Services, the University of New Haven, December 2023.

“The Admonitory State: KGB Surveillance, Prophylactic Policing, and Political Control in the Late Soviet Union.” Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Stanford University, May 2023.

“The KGB’s Struggle with Anti-Soviet Activity Among Baltic Youth, 1951-1991.” Guest lecture for History 222: The Baltic World, Stanford University, May 2023.

“The Admonitory State: KGB Surveillance, Prophylactic Policing, and Political Control in the Late Soviet Union.” AfterWars seminar, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, October 2021.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS (SINCE 2014)

- “The ‘Conversation’ as an Instrument of Soviet Power.” Midwest Russian History Workshop, University of Notre Dame, April 2024.
- “The ‘Conversation’ as an Instrument of Soviet Power: KGB ‘Chats’ in Their Broader Context.” KGB Archives Workshop held online from the University of Melbourne (Australia), February 2022.
- “Big Questions, Small Answers: Revitalizing the Intermediate History Course.” American Historical Association webinar on “The Futures of History from the Liberal Arts College Perspective,” January 2021.
- “Recidivism, Prophylaxis, and the KGB.” Paper for “The Political Police and the Soviet System: Insights from Newly Opened KGB Archives in the Former Soviet Republics,” originally planned as an international conference at Georgetown University but turned into an online conference/webinar (sponsored by the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) because of the coronavirus pandemic, April 2020.
- “The KGB’s Struggle with Anti-Soviet Activity among Youth in the Baltic Republics.” Symposium on “KGB Surveillance in the Soviet Baltic Republics: Documentary Evidence and Coping with the Past,” Yale University, February 2020.
- “The KGB as Vice Squad: *Profilaktika* and the Struggle with Antisocial Behavior in Baltic Port Cities.” The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies annual convention, November 2019.
- “Did *Profilaktika* Work? Prophylactic Chats and the KGB’s Struggle with Unrest in the Baltic Republics.” Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe; the University of Gdansk, Poland; June 2019.
- “Did *Profilaktika* Work? Prophylactic Chats and the KGB’s Struggle with Unrest in the Baltic Republics.” The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies annual convention, December 2018.
- “The KGB’s New Look: Prophylactic Policing and the Transformation of the Soviet Secret Police in the Baltic Republics, 1953–1964.” International workshop at the University of Tartu, Estonia, on the topic “From Destalinization to the Global Sixties: The Baltic Union Republics in the 1950s–1960s,” November 2018.
- “Intimidation, Reeducation, and the Management of Dissent: The KGB’s Use of ‘Prophylactic Measures’ in the Baltic Republics.” The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies annual convention, November 2017.
- “Intimidation, Reeducation, and the Management of Dissent: The KGB’s Use of ‘Prophylactic

Measures' in the Baltic Republics." Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe, the University of Latvia, June 2017.

"A Soviet Theory of Broken Windows: Prophylactic Policing and the KGB's Struggle with Political Unrest in the Baltic States." Midwest Russian History Workshop, Northwestern University, March 2017.

"Prophylactic Policing and the KGB's Struggle with Foreign Influence in Lithuania, 1959-1991." Vilnius Symposium on Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Issues (Vilnius, Lithuania), December 2016.

"Prophylactic Policing and the KGB's Struggle with the Baltic Dissident Movement in the 1970s and 1980s." The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies annual convention, November 2016.

"Prophylactic Policing and the KGB's Struggle with the Baltic Dissident Movement in the 1970s and 1980s." Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies conference, the University of Pennsylvania, May 2016.

"A Soviet Theory of Broken Windows: Prophylactic Policing and the KGB's Struggle with Political Unrest in the Baltic States." Colloquium presentation at the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, New York University, April 2016.

"Prophylactic Policing and the Epidemiology of Dissent in the Soviet-Era Baltic States." Interdisciplinary symposium on "Transforming Contagion," Arizona State University, October 2015.

"Containing the Foreign Threat: The KGB's Use of *Profilaktika* to Fight Foreign Influence in Lithuania from the 1950s to the 1980s." The Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe, Marburg, Germany; September 2015.

"Containing the Foreign Threat: The KGB's Use of *Profilaktika* to Fight Foreign Influence in Lithuania in the 1960s and 1970s." The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies annual convention, November 2014.

"*Profilaktika* and the Struggle with Political Unrest in Brezhnev-Era Lithuania." Yale Conference on Baltic and Scandinavian Studies, March 2014.

COURSES OFFERED AT GRINNELL COLLEGE

First-Year Tutorial: The Life and Times of Nikita Khrushchev

First-Year Tutorial: The History of Reading

First-Year Tutorial: The Liberal Arts as a Force for Evil

History 100: Introduction to Historical Inquiry: Europe under the Great Dictators

History 100: Introduction to Historical Inquiry: How History Works

History 105: Cultural Encounters in History

- History 241: Origins of Modern Russia
 History 242: The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union
 History 244: Ivan and Fritz Go to War: The Nazi-Soviet Conflict on World War II's Eastern Front
 History 284: From the KGB to the Elf on the Shelf: Surveillance in Modern History
 History 295: Who Killed Kirov? Understanding Soviet History through an Assassination of the 1930s
 History 342: Stalinism
 History 352: Film and Historiography
 History 382: Advanced Tutorial: Modern Classics of Historical Writing

SERVICE

Service to Grinnell College

- Social Studies division chair (and elected representative to Executive Council), 2017-2019, 2022-2023
- Director-designate, Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights (term to begin July 1, 2024); acting director, Spring 2015; committee member, 2011-2016
- Co-PI of a \$1 million dollar grant to Grinnell College from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the project "The Humanities in Action," 2019-2022
- Chair of the Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies Concentration (RCEES), 2009-2012; 2014-2016; 2018-2019
- Curriculum Committee member (elected by social studies division), 2015-2016
- Faculty Organization Committee member (elected by social studies division), 2013-2014
- College parliamentarian, 2020-2022
- Alternate college parliamentarian, 2019-2020
- Faculty representative to the Audit and Assessment Committee of the Grinnell College Board of Trustees, 2021-2023
- Scholars' Convocation Committee member, 2014-2017, 2023-
- Faculty Salary Committee member, 2017-2019, 2022-2023
- Writing Advisory Committee member, 2014-2016, 2018-2020
- Scholarship Selection Committee, Spring 2010, 2011-2013
- Faculty Handbook Revision Committee, 2018-2019
- Mellon Grant Planning Committee, 2018-2019
- International Curriculum Planning Group, 2017-2018
- Chrystal Fund for Distinguished Foreign Visitors steering committee, 2014-2016
- Equity advocate on tenure-track faculty searches
 - Two librarian searches, 2015-2016
 - Computer science search, 2019-2020
- Search committees
 - faculty advisory committee, Dean of the College search, 2018
 - search committee, Director of Academic Support for Writing and Speaking, 2018

- search committee for tenure-track position in East Asian history, 2017-2018
- search committee for tenure-track position in medieval or early modern European history, 2016-2017
- search committee for tenure-track position in 20th-century US Gender and Women's History, 2012-2013

Service to the profession (selected)

American Historical Society

- Co-chair, Working Group on Small Liberal Arts Colleges, 2024–
- Nominee for Councilor in the Teaching Division, 2024
- Program Committee member (for the 2023 annual meeting), 2021-2022
- Steering committee, #AHRsYllabusProject (a project of *The American Historical Review*), 2022–2023

Association for Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies

- Selection committee for the Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowship, 2022–
- Mentor to an early-career scholar, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2019-2020

Article reviewer

- *Cahiers du monde russe*
- *Contemporary European History*
- *Europe-Asia Studies*
- *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*
- *The Russian Review*
- *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review*
- *The Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society*

Book manuscript reviewer

- Berghahn
- Bloomsbury
- Cambridge University Press
- University of Chicago Press

Dissertation defense committee

- for Elisha Henry, Georgetown University department of history, 2024

External service for Swarthmore College

- honors examiner, 2016
- evaluator of papers from History 91 (senior research seminar), 2022

LANGUAGES

Russian, proficient; Lithuanian, elementary-to-intermediate; German, reading knowledge