

Paula Chan

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2026-present Assistant Professor of Modern European History, North Carolina State University

2023-2026 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, All Souls College, University of Oxford

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Department of History, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., 2023 (with distinction)
- M.A. Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., 2015
- M.S.L.I.S. School of Information, Pratt Institute, New York, New York, 2011
Advanced Certificates in Archives and Museum Libraries
- B.A. Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, The New School, New York, New York, 2003

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2026 “A People’s Census: Soviet War Crimes Documentation and the History of Information.” *Journal of Modern History* 98, no. 4 (December 2026): forthcoming.
- 2026 “Digital Access to the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission: Archives of War.” *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* Special Issue “Digital Humanities in Holocaust and Genocide Studies,” published online March 10, 2026, forthcoming in print.
- 2026 “The Enemy of My Enemy: Jewish Contributions to Soviet War Crimes Investigations.” *Information & Culture* 61, no. 1 (2026): 1-19.

- 2025 “Europe by Numbers: Soviet Investigators Count the Dead during World War II.” *Journal of Slavic Military Studies* 38, no. 1 (2025): 82-100.
- 2024 “Refractions of Katyn: Photography and Witnessing in Soviet Investigations of Mass Atrocities.” *Slavic Review* 83, no. 2 (Summer 2024): 211-31.
- 2022 “Patterns of Silence: French Witnesses of Nazi Crimes in Occupied Ukraine.” *Journal of Contemporary History* 57, no. 3 (2022): 597-620.
- 2021 “Documents Accuse: The Post-Soviet Memory Politics of Genocide.” *Journal of Illiberalism Studies* 1, no. 2 (2021): 39-57.
- 2019 “Red Stars and Yellow Stars: The Soviet Investigation of Klooga Concentration Camp.” *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 33, no. 2 (Fall 2019): 197-224.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- 2026 “Informants into Defendants: Soviet Repression of Holocaust Survivors in Riga.” In *Soviet Wartime Lives in State Archives: Between Experience and Record*, edited by Irina Makhalova. London: Bloomsbury Academic, forthcoming.
- 2026 “A Tale of Two Perpetrators: Forced Perspective in Stalinist War Crimes Documentation.” In *Interrogating the Interrogators: History, Politics, and the Opening of Secret Police Archives in Ukraine*, edited by Michael David-Fox and Vanessa Voisin. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, forthcoming.
- 2025 “The First Voices from the Shoah in the East: Integrating Soviet Records into Holocaust Studies.” In *Holocaust Testimonies: Reassessing Survivors’ Voices and Their Future in Challenging Times*, edited by Boaz Cohen, Wolf Gruner, Miriam Offer, and Thomas Pegelow Kaplan. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2025.

Peer-Reviewed Edited Volumes

- 2026 *Defining Soviet Antisemitism: Everyday Jewish Experiences in the USSR* (co-editor with Irina Rebrova, Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung, Technische Universität Berlin; in production, Bloomsbury Academic).

Manuscripts in Review

- 2026 *Eyes on the Ground: Soviet Investigations of the Nazi Occupation* (revised full manuscript under review, reports expected September 2026, Oxford University Press).

Manuscripts in Preparation

- 2026 “Choices for Others: Individual Agency under Mass Repression” (in preparation for submission to *American Historical Review*).

2026 “Seeing Like a Citizen: Naturalization Exams in France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States” (in preparation for submission to *Comparative Studies in Society and History*).

2026 *Between Us: Jewish Survival and Betrayal in Soviet Riga* (monograph project).

Non-Refereed Publications

2026 Jervis Forum Roundtable Review of Jochen Hellbeck, *World Enemy No. 1: Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, and the Fate of the Jews* (New York: Penguin Press, 2025), in *H-Diplo*, forthcoming.

2026 “Außerordentliche Staatskommission [Extraordinary State Commission].” *Enzyklopädie des NS-Völkermords an den Sinti und Roma in Europa* [*Encyclopedia of the Nazi Genocide of the Sinti and Roma in Europe*], forthcoming (co-author with Martin Holler, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg).

2025 Review of Klas-Göran Karlsson, *Lessons of History: The Holocaust and Soviet Terror as Borderline Events* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2024), in *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 24, no. 3-4 (2025): 884-5.

2025 Review of Martin C. Dean, *Investigating Babyn Yar: Shadows from the Valley of Death* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2024), in *Slavic Review* 84, no. 1 (Spring 2025): 196-7.

2024 “Recent Digital Humanities Projects in Russian and Eastern European Studies.” *Canadian-American Slavic Studies* 58, no. 3 (July 2024): 339-48.

2020 “Connecting the Records of the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission.” *European Holocaust Research Infrastructure Document Blog*, September 28.

EXTERNAL AWARDS

2024 Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen Dissertation Prize, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

2024 Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem Grant for Young Scholars

2023 Google Cloud Program Academic Research Grant

2023 American Association for Ukrainian Studies 2021-2022 Best Article Prize for “Patterns of Silence: French Witnesses of Nazi Crimes in Occupied Ukraine”

2023 Southern Conference on Slavic Studies Conference Award

2019-2021 Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies, Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany

2018-2019	Robert A. Savitt Fellowship, Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
2018	Davis Graduate Student Travel Grant, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
2011	Archives Fellowship, Institute of Museum and Library Services

INTERNAL AWARDS

2024	Harold N. Glassman Dissertation Award in the Humanities, Georgetown University
2016-2023	History Doctoral Fellowship, Georgetown University
2022	Royden B. Davis Teaching Fellowship, Georgetown University
2022, 2019	Conference Travel Grant, Georgetown University
2019-2021	Piepho Travel and Research Grant, Georgetown University
2020	Doctoral Student Writing Grant, Georgetown Institute for Global History
2018	Dissertation Research Travel Grant, Georgetown University
2017	Jacques Rossi Gulag Research Fund Award, Georgetown University
2014-2015	Academic Merit Scholarship, Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies, Georgetown University
2011	Pratt Circle Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Pratt Institute
2010	First Year Merit Scholarship, Pratt Institute

INVITED TALKS

2027	“Miscommunications: Translating for the Germans as a War Crime.” Second World War Research Group, North America Virtual Workshop “Endgames: The Long Process of Ending the Second World War,” February 26-27.
2026	“Between Us: Jewish Survival and Betrayal in Soviet Riga.” “Ambivalent Enmity” Research Colloquium, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, January 26.
2025	“Under Interrogation in Riga: The Mass Arrests of Jews during Stalin’s Final Years.” Centre d’études russes, caucasiennes, est-européennes et centrasiatiques (L’École des hautes études en sciences sociales), November 3.
2025	“Life after Death: Soviet Investigations of the Nazi Occupation.” East European History Colloquium, Humboldt University of Berlin, June 11.
2024	“A People’s Census: Soviet War Crimes Documentation and the History of Information.” Russian and Eurasian Studies Centre Monday Seminar, University of Oxford, October 28.

- 2023 “The Enemy of My Enemy: Jewish Contributions to Soviet Investigations of Nazi Crimes.” Holocaust and Memory Seminar, Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, October 9.
- 2023 “Seeing Like the Stalinist State: Soviet Investigations of Nazi Crimes, 1942-1946.” Eastern European History Colloquium, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, June 6.
- 2022 “‘For a Complete Record’: Photography in Soviet Investigations of Nazi Crimes.” Documenting Nazi Crimes through Film: Soviet Union, 1942-1945, Centre d’études des mondes russe, caucasien et centre européen and Mémorial de la Shoah, November 24.
- 2022 “Seeing Like the Stalinist State: The First Wave of War Crimes Investigations in Krasnodar, Stavropol, and Orel.” Russian History Seminar, Georgetown Institute for Global History, February 11.
- 2021 “Eyes on the Ground: Integrating Soviet Records into Holocaust Studies.” Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena Monday Seminar, April 26.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2023 “Know Your Enemy: Stalinist Information Gathering on the Holocaust in Latvia, 1941-1953.” Lessons and Legacies Conference, Prague, November 6-9 (with Paula Oppermann, Historical Commission of Berlin).
- 2021 “Seeing Like a State: Soviet Information Gathering during Late Stalinism.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 18-21, December 1-3 (with Irina Makhalova, Higher School of Economics).
- 2020 “Postwar Crime and Punishment: Soviet Investigations and Trials during Late Stalinism.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 5-8, 14-15.
- 2019 “Seeing is Believing? Witnessing the Holocaust in the Soviet Union.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 23-26.

Papers Presented

- 2026 “Prove You Are Not a Camel: Prosecuting Jews in Late Stalinist Riga.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 12-15.

- 2025 “Secrets, Lies, Mistakes: AI and Network Analysis of Late Stalinist Antisemitic Prosecutions.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 20-23.
- 2025 “Informants into Defendants: Soviet Repression of Holocaust Survivors in Riga.” (Un)Recorded Experiences and Postwar Trauma of World War II in the Soviet Union and Its Former Republics, Berlin, June 12-13.
- 2024 “Patriots into Traitors: Late Stalinist Prosecutions of Holocaust Survivors in Riga.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 21-24.
- 2024 “A Tale of Two Perpetrators: Soviet War Crimes Prosecutions from Local to Digital.” Researching the NKVD/KGB and the Opening of Soviet Secret Police Archives in Ukraine, 2014-2024, Prague, June 20-22.
- 2024 “Accounting for the Holocaust: Soviet Death Tolls as Wartime Methods of Understanding.” Quantifying the Holocaust. Classifying, Counting, Modeling: What Contribution to Holocaust History?, Paris, May 14-16.
- 2023 “Jewish-Chekist Cooperation in the Wake of Nazi Rule.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 30-December 3.
- 2023 “Choices in Soviet Riga.” Lessons and Legacies Conference, Prague, November 6-9.
- 2023 “Jewish Post-Survival in Soviet Riga.” Southern Conference on Slavic Studies Annual Conference, March 30-April 1.
- 2023 “Lost in Translation: French Witnesses of Nazi Crimes in Soviet Ukraine.” Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current International Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution, Birkbeck, University of London, and The Wiener Holocaust Library, January 4-6 (postponed from January 6-8, 2021, due to the pandemic).
- 2022 “Extraordinary Measures in Wartime: Using Stalinist Interrogation and Trial Documentation for Study of the Holocaust.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 10-13.
- 2022 “Repurposing Judeo-Bolshevism: Jewish Survivors in Soviet Investigations of Nazi Crimes.” Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena Annual Conference, June 15-17.
- 2022 “Echoes from Below: The Roles of Jewish Survivors in Soviet Investigations of Nazi Crimes.” Knowledge on the Move: Information Networks during and after the Holocaust, University of Southern California, April 4-5.

- 2022 “Digitally Reconstructing the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission.”
Georgetown University Digital Humanities Symposium, March 24-25.
- 2021 “From Total War to Fractured Source Base: Putting the Soviet Extraordinary
State Commission Back Together Again.” Association for Slavic, East European,
and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 18-21, December 1-3.
- 2020 “Human Resources: The Soviet Extraordinary State Commission and Secret
Police Investigate Babi Yar.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian
Studies Annual Convention, November 5-8, 14-15.
- 2019 “A Reputable Source: French Witnesses in the Soviet Investigation of Nazi
Crimes in Lviv.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Annual Convention, November 23-26.
- 2018 “Red Stars and Yellow Stars: Soviet Investigations of Nazi Crimes in the Baltic
Republics.” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual
Convention, December 6-9.

Discussant

- 2026 “The Algorithms of Atrocity: Holocaust Studies in the Age of Generative AI.”
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention,
November 12-15.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

North Carolina State University

Modern Europe 1815-Present (fall 2026)

Seminar in History: Nazi and Soviet Camps (fall 2026)

University of Oxford

Archives and Historical Methods (fall 2025, fall 2024)

A People’s History of the Soviet Union (co-lecturer with Zbigniew Wojnowski, spring 2025)

The Global Twentieth Century (spring 2025)

Undergraduate Thesis Supervision (spring 2025)

The USSR and the Second World War (spring 2024)

Georgetown University

Atrocities on Trial (fall 2022)

Nazi and Soviet Camps: History and Memory (spring 2022)

United States Naval Academy

The West in the Modern World (spring 2021)

SERVICE

Member, Research Committee, North Carolina State University, 2026-2027

Member, Wardenship Steering Group, All Souls College, University of Oxford, 2025-2026

Member, Domestic Committee, All Souls College, University of Oxford, 2025-2026

Panel Chair, “New Technologies,” Decolonial Perspectives across Disciplines: Data, Research and Teaching, All Souls College, University of Oxford, February 26, 2026

Confirmation of Status Co-Assessor, Faculty of History, University of Oxford, 2026

Roundtable Member, “Recording the Memory of the Eastern European Archive,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention, November 20-23, 2025

Assistant Examiner for History, Prize Fellowship Exam, All Souls College, University of Oxford, 2025

Panel Chair, “Making and Breaking Borders: An Actor-Centered Approach to Disruption in East Central Europe (1900-1934),” International Council for Central and East European Studies World Congress, July 21-25, 2025

Roundtable Member, The Art Theory and Beyond Summer Programme, University of Oxford, 2025

Member, Selection Committee for Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Modern Languages, All Souls College, University of Oxford, 2024-2025

Member, European Holocaust Research Infrastructure Holocaust Photographs Expert Group, 2022-2025

Chair, American Association for Ukrainian Studies Best Article Prize Committee, 2024

Co-Chair, Russian History Seminar, Georgetown Institute for Global History, spring 2023

Peer reviewer: *American Historical Review*, *Journal of Genocide Research*, Routledge Books

SPECIAL TRAINING

Mathematical Humanists Graphs and Networks Workshop, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, 2024

Apprenticeship in Teaching Certificate, Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship, Georgetown University, 2022

Russian Language and Culture Institute, St. Petersburg State University, 2013

XML in Action: Creating TEI Texts, Rare Book School, University of Virginia, 2012

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

LANGUAGES

Russian: Fluent reading, proficient speaking and writing

French: Proficient reading and speaking

Latvian: Intermediate reading

Ukrainian: Intermediate reading

German: Basic reading