

Brian Yang
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Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
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Education

- Ph.D.—In progress University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Slavic Languages and Literatures
Minor: American Indian Studies
PhD Committee: Harriet Murav (chair), David Cooper, Jenny Davis,
Marina Mogilner, Valeria Sobol
- M.A.—2019 University of Toronto
Slavic Languages and Literatures
- B.A.—2017 University of California, Riverside
Languages and Literatures/Languages—Concentrations: Russian and
German, magna cum laude

Research Interests

Indigenous peoples of Siberia and the Russian Arctic; Critical Indigenous theory; Decolonial methods and pedagogy; Indigenous literatures; Late-Soviet literatures; Literatures of contact; (meta)Ethnography; History of anthropology; NAGPRA; Epistemology; Evidence; Dungan peoples and Sinophone diasporas in post-Soviet spaces

Teaching Experience

- 2024 Spring LAS 292, Global Perspectives II, TA—UIUC
2023 Fall LAS 291, Global Perspectives I, TA—UIUC
2022 Spring Russ 102, Introduction to Russian II, TA—UIUC

Assistantships

- Aug 2022–Aug 2023 Editorial Assistant at *Slavic Review*
2021 Fall BCS115, South Slavic Cultures, Grader—UIUC
Sep 2018–Apr 2019 Russ 101, First-Year Russian, Grader—University of Toronto

Invited Presentations

- December 1, 2023 Presidential Plenary Roundtable: “Decolonization in Practice”—
(upcoming) ASEEES Annual Meeting 2023

Conference Presentations

- February, 2024 “Indigenous Siberian Literatures as ‘Tools for Futurity’.” Panel:
(upcoming) Indigenous Theories and Methodologies in Practice in (post-)Russian
Spaces—AATSEEL Conference 2024
- February, 2024 Roundtable: “Why Indigenous Voices Matter in Russian Studies” —
(upcoming) AATSEEL Conference 2024

- December 3, 2023 (upcoming) “Reconceptualizing *Inorodtsy*: Alienhood and Indigeneity in Siberian Literature.” Panel: Not *Inorodtsy*: Anomalous Subjects in Late Imperial Russian Borderlands—ASEEES Annual Meeting 2023
- November 30, 2023 (upcoming) Roundtable: Centering Indigeneity in Russian Studies II: Transdisciplinary Possibilities of Critical Indigenous Theory—ASEEES Annual Meeting 2023
- November 15, 2023 Roundtable: The Anthropology of “Colonial Hoarding”: History, Repatriation, and the Future of Colonial Institutions—AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting 2023
- June 15, 2023 Roundtable: Language Learning and Language Competencies for Field Research in Eurasian Studies Workshop—Summer Research Laboratory Workshop 2023, UIUC
- May 13, 2023 “Reading Through Contexts: Russia and Critical Indigenous Theory.” Panel: Stories and Histories of Russia’s Arctic and Siberian Indigenous—Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) 2023 Conference
- May 5, 2023 “Transnational Research Projects at the University of Illinois.” Roundtable. Central Asia Research Cluster Forum, UIUC
- May 1, 2023 “Reading across the Bering Strait: Decolonizing Land, Love, and Kinship.” Conference: The Imperial Plow: Settler Colonialism in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, Yale University
- March 25, 2023 “The Poetics of Alienhood in Late Soviet Sci-Fi and Indigenous Literature.” Panel: Cultural Collisions in Literature, Music, and Visual Arts—Midwest Slavic Conference 2023, Ohio State University
- March 22, 2023 “Reading across the Bering Strait: Towards a Transdisciplinary Approach to the Study of Siberian and Arctic Literatures”—19v Seminar Series: Emerging Scholars Showcase, NYU’s Jordan Center
- February 17, 2023 “‘Becoming Indigenous?’: Indigenous Possibilities in Indigenous Siberian Literature.” Panel Stream: Indigenous Possibilities in Post-Russian Spaces— American Association of Teachers for Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) 2023 Conference
- April 8, 2022 “Indigenous Discourse as Race Discourse in the Russian Context”—Russia and the Global Color Line pedagogy workshop “Thinking About Race: Perspectives on Pedagogy,” UIUC

- May 19, 2017 “Modernity and Dwelling in Soviet Siberia”— Global Studies Undergraduate Conference, UCR
- May 3, 2017 “Always Dwelling in the Sleeping Land: The Spaces of Modernity in Soviet Siberia”— Undergraduate Research Symposium, UCR
- November 12, 2016 “Soviet Society in Color: The Stilyagi”—Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research

Conference Service: Discussant, Chair, and Organizer

- May 13, 2023 Organizer and chair. Panel: Stories and Histories of Russia’s Arctic and Siberian Indigenous—NAISA 2023
- February 19, 2023 Chair. Panel: Network Analysis of Soviet and Post-Soviet Literature—AATSEEL 2023
- February 17, 2023 Chair. Roundtable: Indigeneity in Post-Russian-Centric Pedagogy—AATSEEL 2023
- February, 2023 Co-organized. Conference Stream: Indigenous Possibilities in Post-Russian Spaces—AATSEEL 2023

Organized Events: Conferences and Forums

- April 15–16, 2022 Shifting Grounds: Changing Models of Nature in the Soviet Sphere—Slavic Graduate Students’ Association (SGSA) Conference 2022, UIUC (co-organized with Sasha Karsavina)

Fellowships and Academic Grants

- 2023 summer Title VIII Fellowship, Kyrgyz, Indiana University Summer Language Workshop (declined)
- 2023 summer Foreign Languages and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Kyrgyz (declined)
- 2022–2023 FLAS Fellowship, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, UIUC
- 2022 Summer Title VIII Fellowship, Russian in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Critical Language Institute of Arizona State University
- 2022 Summer FLAS Fellowship, Yakut, UIUC (program cancelled)
- 2022 Summer Title VIII Fellowship, Russian, Indiana University Summer Language Workshop (declined)
- 2022 Summer Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), Russian (alternate)
- 2021–2022 FLAS, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, UIUC
- 2021 Summer Title VIII Fellowship, BCS, Indiana University Summer Language Workshop
- 2021 Summer FLAS Fellowship, BCS, UIUC
- 2020–2021 FLAS Fellowship, Russian, UIUC
- 2020 Summer Title VIII Fellowship, Russian, Indiana University Summer Language Workshop
- 2019 Summer Title VIII Fellowship, Russian, Indiana University Summer Language Workshop

2018–2019 Fulbright Fellowship, English Teaching Assistant, Russia (alternate)
2017–2018 Fulbright Fellowship, English Teaching Assistant, Russia (alternate)

Travel Grants

2023 ASEES Diversity and Inclusion Travel Grant
2023 NAISA Tkoronto Travel Grant

Honors and Awards

2023 Scott Maltby Fund Award for Scholarly Achievement, UIUC
2023 Conference Presentation Award, UIUC
2022 Departmental teaching award for Introduction to Russian 102, UIUC
2021 Outstanding achievement in Intensive Summer First-Year
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Indiana University
2017 Academic Excellence Award for the Department of Comparative
literature and languages, UCR
2016 Phi Beta Kappa

Service to the Profession

2024–2025 Graduate Student Representative of ASEES (2yr. term)
(elected Sept. 1,
2023)
2023–2024 Treasurer of the Slavic Graduate Students Association (SGSA) at UIUC
2021–2023 President of the SGSA
2022–2023 Faculty liaison for SGSA

Language Knowledge

English	Native	Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe)	Currently learning
Mandarin	Heritage/Advanced	French	Reading
Russian	Advanced	Old Church Slavonic	Reading
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian	Intermediate		
German	Intermediate		

Professional Affiliations

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)
Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEES)
American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL)
American Anthropological Association (AAA)