

MIKHAIL AKULOV, PH.D.

Nazarbayev University

53 Kabanbay Batyr St
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 010000
Email 1: mikhail.akulov@nu.edu.kz
Email 2: akulov@post.harvard.edu

Language Skills:

Native Russian speaker
Fluent in English, German, and
Polish
Intermediate in French and Ukrainian

Employment History

Basel University, Basel, Switzerland

Ukrainian Research in Switzerland Fellow, History Department

Aug 2021 – present

- List of courses taught
 - ✓ Neither the Red, Nor the White: 1917 as the National Moment

Nazarbayev University, Nur-Sultan (Astana), Kazakhstan

Assistant Professor of History, School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Aug 2018 – present

- List of courses taught
 - ✓ History of Kazakhstan
 - ✓ Totalitarian Phenomenon
 - ✓ Eurasian Revolutions, 1905-1979
 - ✓ History of the Soviet Union: Politics, Society, Mass Culture

Harvard University, Cambridge, U.S.A.

Myhaychuk Research Fellow at Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute

Sep 2017 – Jan 2018

Kazakh-British Technical University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Dean of the General Education Faculty

Sep 2015 – Sep 2017

Head of the Department of History

Sep 2013 – Aug 2015

Associate Professor at the Department of History

Jun 2013 – Aug 2017

National Academy of Sciences, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Associate Professor

Sep 2014 – Aug 2015

- List of courses taught
 - ✓ Theoretical and Methodological Problems in History
 - ✓ Europe in the Twentieth Century

Harvard University, Cambridge, U.S.A.

Teaching Assistant at the Department of History

Sep 2008 – May 2012

- List of courses taught
 - ✓ Fascism in Interwar Europe (with Prof. Brandan Karch)

- ✓Russian Revolution: An International History (with Prof. Terry Martin)
 - ✓Reason and Faith in the West (with Prof. Ann Blaire)
 - ✓Junior Seminar: Everyday Life in the Soviet Union (with Prof. Terry Martin)
 - ✓History of Early Modern Eastern Europe (with Prof. Serhii Plokhii)
 - ✓Sophomore Seminar: Sources and Methods (with History Department Faculty Members)
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Academic Credentials

Harvard University, Cambridge, U.S.A.

- *Ph.D. in History*, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences **2008 – 2013**
- ✓ Dissertation title: *War Without Fronts: Atamans and Commissars in Ukraine, 1917-1919*
- ✓ Advisors: Profs. Terry Martin, Steven Zipperstein, Serhii Plokhii
- *M.A. in History*, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences **2006 – 2008**

Middlebury College Language Program, Middlebury, U.S.A.

- *M.A. French Language and Literature* **2010 – 2011**

Dartmouth College, Hanover, U.S.A.

- *B.A. History and Economics*, Class Salutatorian **2001 – 2005**

Academic & Professional Internships

- Democracy and Diversity Institute, The New School of Social Research and Transregional Center for Democratic Studies, Wroclaw, Poland (Jul 2015)
- Academic Leadership Programme, Churchill College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. (Aug 2014 and Jun 2015)
- Sommerakademie, Tübingen University (Aug 2008 and Aug 2010)
- Middlebury College Language Program, French School (Jun-Aug 2005)

Fellowships and Awards

- Title VIII Short-Term Grant (2021)
- Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences Grant (2021-2024)
- Ukrainian Research in Switzerland (URIS) Fellowship, University of Basel (August 2021)
- Mihaychuk Research Fellowship, HURI, Harvard University (Sep 2017)
- Davis Center Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Sep 2012)
- Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute Graduate Research Fellowship (Sep 2011)
- Fulbright-Hays Scholarship (Apr 2009)
- IREX Grant (Mar 2009)
- Title VIII Research Scholar Program (May 2009)
- Harvard Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship (Apr 2009)
- Fainsod Prize (Sep 2006)
- Martin Scholarship (Sep 2006)

Research Interests

- Nationalism and National minorities, Origins of Bolshevism and Fascism, Soviet and post-Soviet Utopias, Politics of Memory

Selected Conference Papers Presented

- "Eurasia and Global Migration," Aleksanteri Institute, Helsinki; working title of the paper: **"Migration before Migration: The German-speaking Colonists in Ukraine and Imperial Germany in 1918,"** October 2021 (forthcoming)
- "Centers and Peripheries in Central European History," seminar at the 2021 German Studies Association, Indianapolis, September 2021 (forthcoming)
- Association for Study of Nationalities, New York, May 2021; title of the paper: **"Crimea between Empire-building and National Mobilization in 1918"**
- "Problem of Historical Memory and Modernization of Mass Consciousness in the Era of Archeomodernity," Online conference, June 2020; title of the paper: **"On the Convergence of Discourse and Structure"** (in Russian)
- "Zhansugurov and His Poem 'Kulager'," Astana, March 2019; title of the talk: **"Kazakhstan and the Great Terror"** (in Russian)
- "Religious [In]tolerance in the Russian Empire," Nazarbayev University, Astana, October 2018; title of the paper: **"Competing Revolutions: the Mennonites and the Makhnovites during the Russian Civil War"**
- Association for Study of Nationalities, New York, May 2018; title of the paper: **"Terror and Survival: Kiev in February 1918"**
- "The Legacy of the Russian Revolution," Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA, November 2017; title of the paper: **"What Went Wrong: Brest-Litovsk and the Interpretation of German Occupation in the Interwar Period"**
- "Centennial Anniversary of the Russian Revolution," Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty, Kazakhstan, November 2017; title of the talk: **"Party Politics Paradigm in the Time of Revolution and Civil War"** (in Russian)
- "Ukraine in the Flames of 1917 Revolution", Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 30, 2017; title of the talk: **"1918: Ukrainian State and the Russian Counterrevolution"**
- "Did Ten Days Shake the World? Centenary Perspectives on the Russian Revolution", Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 6, 2017; title of the paper: **"The impossible Choice: Skoropadsky's Ukraine Between Nation and Empire"**
- "Hope and responsibility. In the circle of utopias: from Stanislaw Lem to Pope Francis", Wroclaw, Poland, August 2016; title of the paper: **"Eternal Futurostan: Myths, Phantasies and the Making of Astana in post-Soviet Kazakhstan"**
- Association for Study of Nationalities, New York, April 2015; title of the paper: **"Mennonites and Makhnovites in the Russian Civil War"**
- The British Council Newton Al-Farabi Program, Almaty, February 2015; title of the paper: **"Russia and Ukraine, Historical Developments and Conflicts and Implications for the Present"**
- Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, New Orleans, November 2012; title of the paper: **"Between Skoropadsky's Ukraine and Bolshevik Russia: Neutral Zone in 1918"**
- Association for Study of Nationalities, New York, April 2012; title of the paper: **"Charisma and the Politics of Proximity: Case of Nestor Makhno"**
- Russian and Eastern European History Workshop, Harvard University, April 2009 title of the paper: **"Problematizing Revolutionary Warlordism"**

Panel Discussions and Round Tables Moderated

- "Countering VERLT," conducting discussions at the OSCE-sponsored annual Central Asian Youth Network (CAYN) camp, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, September 2018
- "The Changing Nature of Power, Governance and Cooperation", panel discussion at the OSCE-sponsored 11th Central Asian Youth Network Seminar, Astana, June 2017

- “Film Goes Global”, panel discussion at the US Consulate-sponsored annual “Go Viral” Festival, Almaty, June 2017

Academic Publications

Akulov M. “The German Riviera: Crimea between Colonization and Self-Determination in 1918” (work in progress)

Akulov M. “The Third Path or An Imperial Roundabout? Skoropadsky’s Ukraine, Technocrats and the ‘Great Russian Lobby’” in *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* (article under review)

Akulov M., Chokobaeva A. “‘Savages’ and ‘Exploiters’: Exploring Anti-Colonial Violence in the Time of War and Revolution” in *Studies in Ethnicities and Nationalism (SENA)*, forthcoming

Akulov M. at al., ed. *Stalinism in Kazakhstan: History, Memory, and Repression*. Lexington Books, 2021

Akulov M., “Paradoksy i povsednevnost’ vechnoi arkhayki Moderna” in *Bilgamesh*, Center for the Rapprochement of Cultures under the Auspices of UNESCO, no. 3 (2020)

Akulov M. et al., ed. *Zhivaia pamat’: Stalinizm v Kazakhstane. Proshloe, pamiat’, preodolenie*. Almaty: Daik-Press, 2019.

Akulov M. “The Revolution Spent: A Commentary to Andrea Graziosi’s ‘A Century of 1917s’” in *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, vol. 36, no. 1-2 (2019)

Akulov M. “Eternal Futurostan: Myths, Fantasies and the Making of Astana in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan” in *Theorizing Central Asian Politics: State, Ideology and Power*, ed. Alessandro Frigerio and Rico Isaacs. Oxford, UK: Oxford Brookes U Press, 2019.

Akulov M. “Playground of Violence: Mennonites and Makhnovites in the Time of War and Revolution and Civil War” in *International Relations and Diplomacy*, no. 7, 2015.

Akulov M. "Charisma and 'Politics of Proximity' in the Time of Revolution and Civil War" in *Otan Tarikhy*, nr. 1, Spring 2014 (pp. 31-43)

Non-academic Credentials/Public Service

Selected Non-academic Publications and Interviews

- «**Про динозавров**» [“On Dinosaurs”], analytical journal *Vlast*, May 2021; electronic link: <https://vlast.kz/avtory/45008-pro-dinozavrov.html>
- «**Победить плохие идеи: как жить в мире, полном принципиальных разногласий**» [“To Defeat Bad Ideas: Living in the World Full of Fundamental Disagreements”], analytical journal *Vlast*, July 2020; electronic link: <https://vlast.kz/avtory/40809-pobedit-plohie-idei.html>
- «**Наше общество равнодушно к истории**» [“Our Society is Indifferent to History”], interview given to the *The Steppe*, Dec. 2019; electronic link: <https://the-steppe.com/lyudi/istorik-doktor-ph-d-garvardskogo-universiteta-mihail-akulov-nashe-obshchestvo-ravnodushno-k-istorii>

- «**Революционный проект себя не исчерпал**» [“The Revolutionary project has not exhausted itself”], interview dedicated to the centennial anniversary of the Civil War in Central Asia, analytical journal *Vlast*, June 2018; electronic link: <https://vlast.kz/civilwar/28488-revolucionnyj-proekt-seba-ne-iscerpal.html>
- «**Приказано зачистить**» [“Cleansing records”], interview dedicated to 80-year anniversary of the Great Terror, analytical journal *Vlast*, May 2017; electronic link: <https://vlast.kz/memorialday/23185-mihail-akulov-istorik-nasa-problema-ne-v-otsutstvii-dekommunizacii-a-v-obsem-provale-liberalnoj-idei.html>
- «**Квартирный вопрос и социальная справедливость**» [“The Housing Problem and the Social Justice”], analytical journal *Vlast*, Sept. 28, 2017; electronic link: <https://vlast.kz/avtory/25005-kvartirnyj-vopros-i-socialnaa-spravedlivost.html>
- «**Post-Human. Гротеск и грядущее.**» [“Post-Human. The Grotesque and the Future”], analytical journal *Vlast*, Dec. 14, 2016; electronic link: <https://vlast.kz/post-nachalo/20833-post-human-grotesk-i-gradusee.html>
- «**Любовь и Капитализм**» [“Love and Capitalism”], article published in the internet analytical journal *Vlast*, July 26, 2016; electronic link: <https://vlast.kz/avtory/18523-lubov-i-kapitalizm.html>

Online Courses, Open Lectures and Public Talks Delivered

- “**Univers Concentrationnaire in the USSR**,” module given at the Young Leadership Program organized by Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Kazakhstan, July 2021
- “**Ethnicities and Nations**”, series of 25 online lectures recorded under the auspices of the Presidential Program *Rukhani Zhangyru* for the first Kazakhstani online university, June 2020 <https://openu.kz/ru/courses/etnicheskoe-proishozhdenie-nacii->
- “**History of Western Historiography**”, series of 25 online lectures recorded under the auspices of the Presidential Program *Rukhani Zhangyru* for the first Kazakhstani online university, September 2019 <https://openu.kz/ru/courses/istoriya-istoricheskogo-znaniya>
- “**World History since 1500**,” series of 25 online lectures recorded under the auspices of the Presidential Program *Rukhani Zhangyru* for the first Kazakhstani online university, June 2018 <https://openu.kz/ru/courses/panorama-istoriya-mira2>
- “**Civil War in Kazakhstan: War of All against All**”, special online project, consultant, June 2018 <https://vlast.kz/civilwar/28215-nakanune-revolucii.html>
- “**Modernity and Anti-Modernity**”, public lectures delivered at the “School of an Artistic Gesture” (an educational event for the Kazakhstani artists), Almaty, May 2017
- “**Stalinism and the Question of Repentance**”, public talk given under the auspices of the Soros Foundation, Almaty, April 2017, link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-446a_pdMY&t=131s
- “**The End of History: Between Superhuman and Superorganism**”, public talk delivered at the annual TEDxAlmaty Conference, October 2016, link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=at5yvdGuQy4>
- “**Legacy of Willi Brandt**”, public talk given under the auspices of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Almaty, October 2016
- “**Cognizance of History: Memory of the Great Terror and the Present**”, public talk given under the auspices of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Goethe Institute, Karaganda, May 2016
- “**The Short Twentieth Century (1914-1991)**”, lecture series given under the auspice of the public platform “Open Mind”, Almaty, February-April 2016
- “**History of Western Thought: From Antiquity till Present**”, lecture series given under the auspices of the public platform “Open Mind”, Almaty, September-November 2015
- “**Digitalization of Archives and the Future of Historical Research**”, public talk given in the Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty, October 2014