

## **Amber N. Nickell**

Ph.D. Candidate, Purdue University  
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### **Education**

#### **Ph.D., European History, 2020**

Purdue University—West Lafayette, IN

*Dissertation Title:* “Brotherlands to Bloodlands: Ethnic Germans and Jews in Southern Ukraine, Pre-revolution to Postwar”

*Committee:* Rebekah A. Klein-Pejsova (Chair), Michael G. Smith, William G. Gray

#### **MA, American History, 2013**

University of Northern Colorado—Greeley, CO

*Thesis Title:* “Diaspora Evolved: The Germans from Russia, 1919-Present”

*Committee:* Nicholas L. Syrett (Chair), Steven Seegel, Aaron Haberman, Joan Clinefelter

#### **BA, European History & Political Science, 2011**

University of Northern Colorado—Greeley, CO

*Thesis Title:* “Starvation, Heresy, and Diaspora: The Pacification of Ethnic German Enclaves in the Soviet Union, 1921-1949”

*Supervisor:* Steven Seegel

#### **AA, Liberal Arts, 2006**

Aims Community College—Greeley, CO

### **Areas of Specialization**

Modern Central and Eastern Europe (Major Preliminary Exam Field)

Transnational Germany (Minor Preliminary Exam Field)

Late Imperial and Soviet Borderlands (Minor Preliminary Exam Field)

Modern America (M.A.)

The Holocaust and Genocide

Diaspora and Migration

National and Transnational Theory

The Spatial Humanities and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

### **Publications**

- Amber N. Nickell, “‘Time to Show the Kremlin America’s Full House’: The Committee for Human Rights in The Soviet Union, Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, and their Refusenik Adoptees, 1977-1992,” In *Transnational Yearbook, Volume 1* (Vancouver: Farleigh Dickenson University Press, 2018): 189-216.
- Amber Nickell, “‘The Evil Itself... Descended on the Earth’: Mapping Manmade Famines and Ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union, 1921 and 1932-33,” Purdue University Electronic Publications, 2015. (Published Conference Poster)  
<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1062&context=purduegisday>.
- Amber Nickell, review of *Stepmother Russia, Foster Mother America: Identity Transitions in the New Odessa Jewish Commune, Odessa, Oregon, New York, 1881-1891* by Theodore H. Friedgut, *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 34, no. 1 (Fall 2015): 136-138.

- Amber Nickell, “Cultivating ‘Roots’: Towards a Diasporically Imagined Transnational Community: The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1968-1978,” *Traversea: Journal of Transatlantic History* (2013): 4-16.

## **Awards**

### ***Fellowships & Scholarships***

- Purdue Research Foundation Fellowship, Purdue University, 2018-2019
- United States Department of State Title VIII Fellowship for Research and Training, University of Illinois’ Open Research Laboratory at the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, 2018
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program Research Fellowship, Ukraine, 2017-2018
- United States Department of State Title VIII Fellowship, Indiana University’s SWSEEL Summer Language Workshop, Ukrainian, 2017
- Auschwitz Jewish Center Fellowship, Poland, 2016
- United States Department of State Title VIII Fellowship, Indiana University’s SWSEEL Summer Language Workshop, Ukrainian, 2016 (Declined)
- Ross Fellowship, Purdue University, 2014-2015
- Graduate Dean’s Scholarship, University of Northern Colorado, 2011-2013
- Oliver M. Dickerson Memorial Scholarship, University of Northern Colorado, 2011-2012

### ***Research & Teaching***

- George Mayer award for History Leadership and Teaching, Purdue University, 2017
- M.L. Flaningam Graduate Scholarship for “‘Time to Show the Kremlin America’s Full House’: The Committee for Human Rights in the Soviet Union, Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, and their Refusenik Adoptees,” Purdue University, 2017
- Graduate Dean’s Citation for Excellence, University of Northern Colorado, 2013
- Texas Tech’s Annual Graduate Student Conference, awarded “Best M.A. Paper, Honorable Mention” for “Organizing Diaspora: The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia,” 2013
- Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, Awarded “Best Overall Paper” for “Starvation, Heresy, and Diaspora: The Pacification of Ethnic German Enclaves in the Soviet Union, 1921-1949,” 2011

### ***Travel & Research Funding***

- Lotte Hirsch Grant, Purdue University, 2017-2018
- College of Liberal Arts Promise Grant, Purdue University, 2017-2018
- Woodman Graduate Research Award, Purdue University, 2017
- College of Liberal Arts Promise Grant, Purdue University, 2016-2017
- PGSG Research Grant, Purdue University, 2015-2016
- College of Liberal Arts Promise Grant, Purdue University, 2015-2016
- Graduate Student Conference Award, Midwestern World Historian’s Association, 2015
- Graduate Student Incentive Grant, Purdue University, 2015
- Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, University of Northern Colorado, Spring 2013

- Graduate Student Association Research Grant, University of Northern Colorado, Summer 2012
- Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, University of Northern Colorado, Spring 2012

### **Languages**

- German: Limited Working Proficiency, Reading, Writing, and Speaking
- Russian: Limited Working Proficiency, Reading, Writing, and Speaking
- Ukrainian: Limited Working Proficiency, Reading, Writing, and Speaking
- Yiddish: Limited Working Proficiency, Reading, Writing, and Speaking

### **Conferences**

#### ***Panel & Roundtable Presentations***

- “‘The Other Side’: Ethnic Germans and their Neighbors in Southern Ukraine during the Russian Revolution and its Aftermath, 1917-1925,” The 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern Historical Association, 2018, Birmingham, Alabama
- “Mapping ‘No Place’: Eastern and Central Europe’s Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Phantom, Indifferent, and Alternative Geographies,” Spatial Humanities Roundtable, Purdue University’s GIS Day Conference, 2018, West Lafayette, Indiana
- “Islands of Germandom on the Eve of Revolution?: Ethnic Germans and their Jewish Neighbors in Southern Ukraine,” European Studies Conference, 2018, Omaha, Nebraska
- “White Town, Normal School: The Colorado State College of Education’s Study in Intergroup Relations, 1946-1949,” Purdue HGSA’s Seventh Biennial Conference, “Crafting Mosaics: Contextualizing Diversity across Space and Time,” 2017, West Lafayette, Indiana
- “Around the Curtain: Human Rights, Soviet Jews, and the Greater Lafayette Community, 1977-1992,” Human Rights in the Atlantic World Conference, 2016, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- “‘Beloved Brothers in America’: Transnational Famine Relief and the Soviet Germans, 1919-1922,” The Indiana Academy of Social Sciences Annual Meeting, 2016, Westville, Indiana
- “‘Time to Show the Kremlin America’s Full House’: The Committee for Human Rights in the Soviet Union, Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, and their Refusenik Adoptees, 1977-1992,” The Indiana Association of Historians’ “1816 and All That: History/Memory/ Commemoration” Conference, 2016, Bloomington, Indiana (Panel Organizer)
- “‘The Evil Itself... Descended on the Earth’: Manmade Famines and Ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union, 1921 and 1932-33,” The Midwestern World Historian’s Association’s “Feast and Famine” in World History Conference, 2015, Crawfordsville, Indiana
- “‘The Evil Itself... Descended on the Earth’: Mapping Manmade Famines and Ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union, 1921 and 1932-33,” GIS Day, 2015, West Lafayette, Indiana
- “Starving America, Feeding Europe: An Analysis of Herbert Hoover’s Legacy,” The Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery’s Image of the Hero Conference, 2014, Colorado Springs, Colorado (Panel Organizer)

- “Starvation Bound: Towards a Diasporically Imagined Transnational Community,” Western Social Science Association Annual Conference, 2013, Denver, Colorado
- “Circle of Readers: Towards a Diasporically Imagined Transnational Community,” Purdue University’s “Crooked Lines: Connection and Conflict in History, Past and Present” Conference, 2013, West Lafayette, Indiana
- “Bordering on Outside: Organizing White Ethnic Diaspora in America,” The Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery’s Image of the Outsider Conference, 2013, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- “Organizing Diaspora: The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia,” Texas Tech University’s Annual History Graduate Student Conference, 2013. Lubbock, Texas
- “Mobilizing a Network: Organizational Roles in Diaspora Development,” University of Toronto’s Annual Ethnic and Pluralism Studies Graduate Research Conference, 2013, Toronto, Canada
- “The Hunger Connection: Towards a Diasporically Imagined Transnational Community,” University of Northern Colorado’s Research Day, 2013, Greeley, Colorado
- “Establishing ‘Roots’: The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1968-1978,” University of Texas at Arlington’s Graduate Student Conference on Transatlantic History, 2012, Arlington, Texas
- “Starvation, Heresy, and Diaspora: The Pacification of Ethnic German Enclaves in the Soviet Union, 1921-1949,” Twenty-First Annual Kentucky Bluegrass Symposium, 2012, Lexington, Kentucky (Panel Organizer)
- “Establishing ‘Roots’: The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1969-1979,” University of Northern Colorado’s Research Day, 2012, Greeley, Colorado
- “Starvation, Heresy, and Diaspora: The Pacification of Ethnic German Enclaves in the Soviet Union, 1921-1949,” Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, 2011, Grand Junction, Colorado

#### ***Invited & Public Lectures***

- “‘Wine is Culture’: The Shabo Winery & Centuries of Ethnic Coexistence, Confluence, and Conflict on the Black Sea,” History on Tap Public Lecture Series, 2018, West Lafayette, Indiana
- “Brotherlands to Bloodlands: Jews and Ethnic Germans in Southern Ukraine, Pre-Revolution to Postwar,” The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center’s Noontime Lecture Series, 2018, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois
- “From Babi Yar to Bogdanovka: Encounters with the Holocaust in Contemporary Ukraine,” Purdue Human Rights Lab, 2018, West Lafayette, Indiana
- “The Cartographic and Methodological Challenges of ‘Southern Ukraine’: Mapping Ethnic Germans and Jews in the Region from the late 19<sup>th</sup>-mid Twentieth Century,” Fulbright Retreat, 2018, Kyiv, Ukraine
- “What do Historians Do?: An Introduction to the Historical Method and the Archives,” Next Generation Scholars, 2016, West Lafayette, Indiana
- “The Holocaust in the Soviet Union,” Jewish Studies Noon Lecture Series, 2016, West Lafayette, Indiana

### ***Workshop Participation & Presentations***

- University of Illinois Russian, East European, and Eurasian Centers' Open Research Laboratory, 2018, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois (Funded)
- "Rethinking the 'Ethnic German Enclaves' of Ukraine's Southern Borderlands on the Eve of Revolution," Summer School, "Borderlands Studies in East Central Europe and the Black Sea Regions," 2018, Kharkhiv, Ukraine (Funded)
- "Brotherlands to Bloodlands: Jews and Ethnic Germans in Southern Ukraine, Pre-Revolution to Postwar," "Graduate Research Workshop in Human Rights," 2018, Budapest, Hungary
- "International Academia as a Contact Zone" Roundtable, Winter Academy, "Revisiting the Nation: Transcultural Contact Zones in Eastern Europe," 2018, Bucharest, Romania (Funded)
- "'We Wander' Together: Jews and Ethnic Germans in Southern Ukraine, Pre-Revolution to Postwar," Winter Academy, "Revisiting the Nation: Transcultural Contact Zones in Eastern Europe," 2018, Bucharest, Romania (Funded)
- "A Dissertation Prospectus: Journeys into the Whirlwinds: Ethnic Germans and Jews on the Eurasian Steppes, 1917-1979," Indiana University & Purdue University Joint Jewish Studies Workshop, 2017, West Lafayette, Indiana
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's "Holocaust in the Soviet Union" Seminar for Advanced Students, 2016, Washington D.C. (Funded)
- Third Midwest Historians of East Central Europe Workshop, 2015, Chicago, Illinois
- Teaching the Past: Dissenting Histories in the Classroom, 2014, West Lafayette, Indiana
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Belfer First Step: A Workshop for Teaching about the Holocaust, University of Northern Colorado, 2012, Greeley, Colorado

### ***Workshop, Panel, and Event Organization***

- Co-Organizer, "Teen Talk" English Language Club, Window on America, 2017-2018, Odesa, Ukraine
- Organizer, The Human Rights Program's Refugee Symposium, Purdue University, 2016-2017, West Lafayette, IN
- Chair, 2017 HGSA Conference Planning Committee, Purdue University, 2016-2017, West Lafayette, Indiana
- Organizer, "Glass House" Job Application Workshop for History PhDs, Purdue University, 2015, West Lafayette, Indiana
- Organizer, Geographic Information Systems Mini-Series for Historians, Purdue University, 2015, West Lafayette, Indiana
- Co-Organizer, National History Day, Northern Colorado Regional Competition, 2012, Greeley, Colorado
- Presenter and Organizer, Phi Alpha Theta Workshops for History Students, "Read What You Need," "How to Write a History Paper," and "How to Take a History Exam," University of Northern Colorado, 2011-2012, Greeley, Colorado
- Discussion Facilitator and Organizer, Public Discussions about History "Never Again?," "History and Memory," "Space and Identity," "Diaspora and Migration," "Identities across Borders," and "Do Well Behaved Women Really Ever Make History?," University of Northern Colorado, 2012-2013, Greeley, Colorado

### **Teaching Experience**

- Instructor of Record, History Department, Purdue University, Summer 2018
  - HIST 105: Introduction to Global History (Online)
- English Language Instructor, Dyvosvyt Tsentr Detskoho y Yunosheskoho Tvorchestva, Odesa, Ukraine, 2017-2018
- Instructor of Record, History Department, Purdue University, Spring 2017
  - HIST 105: Introduction to Global History
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Jewish Studies and History Departments, Purdue University, 2014-2017
  - JWST 330: Introduction to Jewish Studies
  - HIST 104: Introduction to the Modern World
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, History Department, University of Northern Colorado, 2011- 2013
  - HIST 120: Western Civilization from Ancient Greece to 1689
  - HIST 121: Western Civilization from 1689 to Present
  - HIST 100: Survey of American History from Its Beginnings to 1877
  - HIST 101: Survey of American History from Reconstruction to Present

### **Professional Experience**

- Archival Researcher, Neil Armstrong Film, Steve Rotfeld Productions, 2018
- Translation and Editing Assistance, *Strategic Culture and the Foreign Policy of Ukraine* (Odesa, Ukraine, 2018), 2017
- Research Assistant, History Department, Dr. Jennifer Foray, Purdue University, Summer 2017
- Research Assistant, Human Rights Program, Purdue University, 2015-2016

### **Professional Service**

- External Reviewer, Ukrainian Fulbright Graduate Student Program Review Committee, 2018
- Judge, Odesa Region Olympiad Competition, English, Form 11, Odesa, Ukraine, 2018
- External Reviewer, Ukrainian Fulbright Faculty Development Program Review Committee, 2017
- Member, Greater Lafayette Holocaust Remembrance Conference Planning Committee, Lafayette, Indiana, 2015-Current
- President, History Graduate Student Association, Purdue University, 2016-2017
- Chair, Graduate Student Government Social Committee, Purdue University, 2016-2017
- Member, Graduate Student Government Executive Board, Purdue University, 2016-2017
- Member, Graduate Student Library Advisory Council, Purdue University, 2015-2017
- History Senator, Graduate Student Government, Purdue University, 2014-2017
- Member, University Library Committee, Purdue University, 2015-2017
- Member, Human Rights Curriculum Development Committee, Purdue University, 2015-2016
- Member, Graduate Student Government Social Committee, Purdue University, 2014-2016

- Representative, History Graduate Student Association, Purdue University, 2014-2016
- Volunteer, High School GIS Day, Purdue University, 2015
- Panel Judge, History Day, Northern Colorado Regional Competition, Greeley, Colorado, 2014
- Graduate Student at Large, Graduate Academic Appeals Committee, University of Northern Colorado, 2013
- Panel Judge, National History Day, Northern Colorado Regional Competition, Greeley, Colorado, 2013
- Member, Provost Curriculum Series Committee, University of Northern Colorado, 2012-2013
- Member, Library Advising Committee, University of Northern Colorado, 2012-2013
- Representative of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Graduate Student Association, University of Northern Colorado, 2011-2013
- President, History Club, University of Northern Colorado, 2012-2013
- Secretary, German Club, University of Northern Colorado, 2012-2013
- Treasurer, History Club, University of Northern Colorado, 2012
- Volunteer, University District Oral History Project, City of Greeley Historic Preservation, 2012

### **Professional Memberships and Honors**

- Member, The Association for the Study of Nationalities, 2018-Current
- Member, The Southern Historical Association, 2018-Current
- Member, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, 2017-Current
- Member, American Historical Association, 2011- Current
- Lifetime Member, Phi Alpha Theta, Inducted in 2010
- Member, Indiana Academy of the Social Sciences, 2016-2017
- Member, Indiana Association of Historians, 2015-2016
- Member, Midwestern World Historians Association, 2015-2016
- Member, Organization of American Historians, 2014-2016
- Member, Western Social Sciences Association, 2012-2014

### **References**

- Rebekah A. Klein-Pejsova, Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies, Director of the Human Rights Program, Purdue University
- Steven Seegel, Professor of History, University of Northern Colorado
- Michael G. Smith, Professor of History, Purdue University
- William G. Gray, Associate Professor of History, Purdue University