

Ekaterina Babintseva

Department of History, Purdue University,
University Hall, 672 Oval Drive
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2087
ebabints@purdue.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Purdue University, Department of History. Assistant Professor, 2022 – present.

Stanford University, Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence and History Department. Research Assistant Professor, 2022-2027 (*declined*).

The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, The Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2022 – 2026 (*declined*).

Harvey Mudd College, Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts. Hixon Riggs Early Career Fellow in Science and Technology Studies, 2020-2022.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Sciences. Philadelphia, Ph.D. History and Sociology of Science, May 2020.

Dissertation: “Cyberdreams of the Information Age: Learning with Machines in the Cold War United States and the Soviet Union.”

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“‘Overtake and Surpass:’ Soviet Algorithmic Thinking as a Reinvention of Western Theories,” in *Cold War Social and Behavioral Sciences: International and Transnational Entanglements*, edited by Mark Solovey and Christian Daye. Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.

“Engineering the Lay Mind: Lev Landa’s Algo-Heuristic Theory and Artificial Intelligence,” in *Abstractions and Embodiments*, edited by Janet Abbate and Stephanie Dick. Johns Hopkins University Press.

“The Mind for the Computer Age: Cybernetic Psychology and Artificial Intelligence in the Soviet Union,” *The British Journal for the History of Science* (under review).

Book Reviews

The Power of Systems: How Policy Sciences Opened up the Cold War World by Egle Rindzeviciute for *Technology and Culture* (forthcoming in Summer 2022).

Monograph in Progress

Cyberdreams of the Information Age: Learning with Machines in the Cold War United States and the Soviet Union.

Articles in Progress

“Programmed Minds: the PLATO Computer and the Multiple Attempts to Make Learning Tractable” (to be submitted to *Technology and Culture* in Fall 2022).

OTHER ESSAYS AND BLOG POSTS

“The Development of Computer-Based Education in the Cold War United States and the Soviet Union (Norberg Grant),” in *Charles Babbage Institute Newsletter* 38(2016): 19-22.

“Learning with Machines,” in *Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts Online Blog*, October 21, 2020.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Linda Hall Library Postdoctoral Fellowship. 2021.

Association for Computer Machinery History Committee Fellowship. 2021.

William Helfand Fellow, University of Pennsylvania. 2019-2020.

Dissertation Fellowship, Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine. 2018-2019.

Fellowship in the History of Electrical and Computing Technology, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers History Center. 2018-2019 (declined).

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, National Academy of Education. 2018-2019 (declined).

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania. 2018-2019 (declined).

The Adelle and Erwin Tomash Fellowship in the History of Information Technology, the Charles Babbage Institute. 2017-2018.

Dissertation Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania. 2017-2018.

Fellowship in the History of Electrical and Computing Technology, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers History Center. 2017-2018 (declined).

Teece Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania. 2016.

The Arthur L. Norberg Travel Fund, the Charles Babbage Institute. 2016.

Bers Fund Fellow, University of Pennsylvania. 2015.

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania. 2013-2018.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations and Lectures

“The Mind in a Technological System: Artificial Intelligence in Late Socialism,” AI in Flux, Munich, Germany, December 2021 (*held on Zoom*).

“Developments in Artificial Intelligence across National Contexts,” History of Artificial Intelligence Sawyer Seminar, University of Cambridge, UK, December 2020 (*held on Zoom*).

“Of Minds and Computers: Harnessing Mathematical Creativity during the Cold War,” History and Philosophy of Mathematics Colloquium, Pitzer College, October 2020 (*held on Zoom*).

“Eugenics Movement,” lecture delivered March 2015 for Prof. Jonathan Moreno’s *Bioethics*, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania.

Conferences and Workshops

“Engineering the Lay Mind: Lev Landa’s Algo-Heuristic Theory and Artificial Intelligence.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, New Orleans, November 2022.

“The Mind in a Computer Age: Artificial Intelligence in Soviet Late Socialism.” Special Interest Group for Computing, Information, and Society, New Orleans, November 2022.

“Producing Rule-Based Creativity: Psychology and Artificial Intelligence in Late Socialism and Capitalism.” Joint Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society and the Society for the History of Technology, November 2021 (*held online*).

Panel organizer: “Practicing and Formalizing. Engineering Creativity in the Twentieth Century.”

“Programming the Creative Mind: Cognitive Psychology and the PLATO Computer in the 1960s-1970s.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, Toronto, September 2021 (*held online*).

Panel organizer with Eamonn Bell: “Human-Computer Entanglements:

Psychology, Computing, and Artificial Intelligence in the 20th Century.”

“Engineering Creativity: Cognitive Psychology and Pedagogical Computing at the University of Illinois in the 1960s-1970s,” History of Media Studies Working Group, Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, Medicine, November 2020 (*held on Zoom*).

“Creative Thinking Control: Lev Landa and his Algo-Heuristic Theory,” the 2nd International Conference on Heuristics: Motivation, Orienting, and Modeling Invention (*a cognitive science conference*), Balatonfüred, Hungary, August 2019.

“Soviet Psychology and the Information Age: Algorithms, Creativity, Heuristics,” European Society for the History of the Human Sciences meeting, Budapest, Hungary, July 2019.

“The Cybernetic Effect: Soviet Mind Research in the 1960s and 1970s,” Networks: The Creation and Circulation of Knowledge from Franklin to Facebook, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, June 2019.

“Formalizing Creativity: Teaching Computers and Soviet Research in Artificial Intelligence,” Towards the History of Artificial Intelligence, Columbia University, New York City, May 2019.

“How to Make Learning Rational: Soviet Psychology of Thinking in the 1960s,” Cold War Social and Behavioral Sciences: International and Transnational Entanglements, University of Toronto, May 2019.

“Creativity for the Information Age: Algorithms, Heuristics, and Soviet Psychology of Thinking in the 1960s-1970s,” History of Science Society, Seattle, November 2018.

Panel Organizer: “All Too Human: Formalizations, Models, and Algorithms in the 20th-Century Human Sciences.”

“Technologies of Creativity: Minds, Algorithms, and Education in the Mid-Century Soviet Union,” Society for the History of Technology, St. Louis, October 2018.

“The Cybernetic Effect: The Origins of Soviet Psychology of Thinking,” History of Science Society, Toronto, November 2017.

“Technologies of Creativity: Psychology of Thinking and Computer-Based Education in the Soviet Union,” Special Interest Group for Computers, Information, and Society, Philadelphia, October 2017.

“Trading PLATO: US-Soviet Cooperation in Computer-Based Education,” Society for the History of Technology, Philadelphia, October 2017.

“Mind Management: Soviet Projects in Computer-Based Education,” UCSB/GWU/LSE International Graduate Student Conference, Santa Barbara, April 2017.

“The Management of the Mind: American Influence on the Soviet Psychology of Learning,” Midwest Junto for the History of Science, Bloomington, March 2017.

“From Drills to Critical Skills: The Developments of the PLATO computer in post-World War II United States,” Society for the History of Technology, Singapore, June 2016.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Conference “Sorting Brains Out: Tasks, Tests, and Trials in the Neuro- and Mind Sciences, 1890-2015,” co-organized with Prof. John Tresch, Tabea Cornel, and Matthew Hoffarth, University of Pennsylvania, September 18-19, 2015.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Harvey Mudd College, Department of Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts. Instructor.

Human and Artificial Minds. Spring 2021, Spring 2022.

Data and Society. Fall 2020, Fall 2021.

University of Pennsylvania, College of Liberal and Professional Studies. Instructor.

The Information Age. Summer 2018.

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Sciences and Wharton School of Business. Teaching Assistant.

Value Creation and Value Capture in American Business History, Prof. Daniel Raff. Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, and Fall 2018 (Grader).

Technology and Society, Prof. Etienne Benson. Spring 2016 (Grader).

Comparative Medicine, Prof. Projit Mukharji. Fall 2015

Bioethics, Prof. Jonathan Moreno. Spring 2015.

Science, Technology, and War, Prof. Matthew Hersch. Fall 2014.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

[“The Wired Cold War: A Live Interview with Slava Gerovitch and Ekaterina Babintseva.”](#)

Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Podcast, University of Pittsburg, November 2020.

SERVICE

Harvey Mudd College: Organizer, Interdepartmental Faculty Reading Group on Algorithmic Rationality, 2021.

Peer reviewer of journal articles: *Information and Culture*, *Engineering Studies*, *History of the Human Sciences*, *Isis*, *Technology and Culture*.

Consultant, *The Cybernetics Thought Collective: A History of Science and Technology Portal Project*, the University of Illinois Archives, the British Library, the American Philosophical Society, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2018.

LANGUAGES

Russian (native speaker)

English (fluent)

French (intermediate)

REFERENCES

M. Susan Lindee, Janice and Julian Bers Professor of History and Sociology of Science, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, 303 Claudia Cohen Hall, 249 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA, +1 (215) 898-2271, mlindee@sas.upenn.edu

John Tresch, Mellon Chair in History of Art, Science and Folk Practice, Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Study, University of London, Woburn Square, London WC1H0AB, United Kingdom, +44 (7780) 397-603, john.tresch@sas.ac.uk

Adelheid Voskuhl, Associate Professor, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, 303 Claudia Cohen Hall, 249 S. 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA, +1 (215) 898-5893, avoskuhl@sas.upenn.edu

Stephanie Dick, Assistant Professor, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University, K9671-8888, University Drive, Burnaby BC, Canada, V5A 1S6, +1 (778) 782-4024, stephanie_dick@sfu.ca

Benjamin Nathans, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, College Hall 208, Philadelphia, PA, 19104, USA, +1 (215) 898-4598, bnathans@history.upenn.edu