

# Jessica Rachele Saeli

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## Objective

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First Year student in Boston College's Philosophy MA program. My plans are to graduate in May 2023 and begin a career in teaching.

## Education

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**Boston College**, Chestnut Hill, MA (2021-2023)

(in progress) M.A. in Philosophy, May 2023

Areas of specialization: Russian philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism, psychoanalysis

Qualifying Paper: TBD

Advisor: Vanessa Parks Rumble

**University of Notre Dame**, Notre Dame, IN (2016-2020)

B.A. in Philosophy and Russian, **Phi Beta Kappa**, *magna cum laude*, with honors

Senior thesis: "Eros and Personality: An analysis of Nikolai Berdyaev's philosophy of love through an original translation of his autobiography"

Advisors: Alexander Jech and Emily Wang

## Publications

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"Flowers Invisible" and "In Suffering" by Lidia Berdiaeva. *The Birch*. Spring 2020. 68. (translation of two poems from Russian to English)

"A Small Room Full of Spiders." *The Birch*. Spring 2020. 57-60.

"Annotation on Stalin Test #79 by Rimma Gerlovina (MSE/REE 0006-79)," digital humanities project produced in collaboration with Natasha Lyandres and Emily Wang, forthcoming

## Presentations

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"Lost in Translation: Love, Sex, and Death in the Autobiography of Nikolai Berdyaev" (2019 Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Notre Dame through the Graduate School at the University of Notre Dame's Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP))

"Lost in Translation: Love, Sex, and Death in the Autobiography of Nikolai Berdyaev" (2019 Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement Undergraduate Research and Experiential Learning Showcase)

## **Work Experience**

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### **Center for Mind and Culture**

(September 2020-May 2022)

#### *Religion & Media Fellow*

As a Religion & Media Fellow with the Center for Mind and Culture (CMAC), I work with a team preparing a communications plan for CMAC's work in the scientific study of religion.

- writing, editing, and publishing social media posts on Twitter, Facebook, and Linked-in to promote CMAC and connect with fellow researchers
- writing, editing, and publishing articles on Medium promoting and explaining CMAC's projects and impact
- searching for and compiling lists of viable media contacts, calls for papers, possible research collaborators, and funding sources such as grants and fellowships
- monitoring social media conversations related to demographics, the scientific study of religion, and agent-based system dynamics modeling and simulation
- maintaining communications with and collaborating with coworkers on Microsoft Teams

### **Boston College Office of Global Engagement**

(August 2021- May 2022)

#### *Graduate Assistant*

As a Graduate Assistant for the Boston College Office of Global Engagement, I assist the office in its activities and events

- managing and updating the database of international relations at Boston College
- designing social media and physical promotional materials for lectures, events, and opportunities
- planning, promoting, and overseeing events such as the Welcome Picnic, culture nights, and Visiting Fellows Lectures
- sending email communications regarding programs and meetings
- taking minutes during Global Engagement Committee meetings
- Scheduling meetings by comparing schedules and creating and emailing polls

### **Remote Tutor**

(November 2020- present)

During the past several months, I have been remote tutoring two students with learning disabilities in the Essentials: English Language curriculum through the Classical Conversations program.

- studying teaching methodology of Teaching Writing: Structure and Style (TWSS)
- identifying and meeting students' individual needs
- communicating with parents and teachers regarding curriculum and due dates

### **Boston College Connors Family Learning Center**

(August 2021-December 2021)

#### *Writing Tutor*

As a Writing Tutor at the Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC), I help students become

independent learners by honing their abilities to understand and create their own learning and writing strategies

- Completed Tutor Essentials online training course

### **Quaboag Middle-High School; Warren, MA**

(May 2021)

*Substitute teacher; substitute paraprofessional*

As a substitute teacher, I managed classes of students from grades 7-12. As a substitute paraprofessional, I aided teachers and helped students.

- managing classroom activities
- resolving students' questions and needs
- monitoring hallways and bathrooms
- adapting quickly and efficiently to different lesson plans and schedules

### **Kellogg International Scholars Program; Notre Dame IN**

(2017-2020)

*Kellogg International Scholar*

As a Kellogg International Scholar, I aided Faculty Fellows as a research assistant in order to develop independent research skills.

- translating, summarizing, organizing, and evaluating news and media sources into an easily accessible and organized database on Google Drive
- facilitating regular email communication with Faculty Fellow
- scheduling meetings with Faculty Fellow
- conveying information in a clear, easily-accessible format
- improving proofreading and editing skills

## **Research Experience**

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### **Honor's Thesis in Philosophy and Russian**

(2019-2020)

I created, researched, and wrote a joint senior honor's thesis in Russian and Philosophy on Nikolai Berdyaev's philosophy of love and personalism entitled "Eros and Personality: An analysis of Nikolai Berdyaev's philosophy of love through an original translation of his autobiography"

- created original translations of sections of Berdyaev's autobiography "*Samopoznanie*", including several never-before-translated passages
- analyzed Berdyaev's philosophy, as well as the philosophy of his predecessor, philosopher Vladimir Solovyov, and contemporary thinkers Vyacheslav Ivanov and Vasily Rozanov
- May 15, 2020: successfully defended my thesis

### **Notre Dame Graduate School Summer Research Opportunities Program**

(2019)

Through the Notre Dame SROP, I conducted independent research on the works of Russian

philosopher and theologian Nikolai Berdyaev

- presented research project "Lost in Translation: Love, Sex, and Death in the Autobiography of Nikolai Berdyaev" at the 2019 Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Notre Dame

### **Kellogg International Scholar; Notre Dame IN**

(2017-2020)

Through the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame, I developed my research skills while working for a Faculty Fellow. I worked on three projects during my time in the Kellogg ISP:

1. researched and summarized articles pertaining to patriotic education in Russia, particularly the Youth Military-Patriotic Movement "Yunarmiya" for a faculty member's book project: "Citizens & State in Authoritarian Regimes; Comparing Russia and China" (Fall 2018-Spring 2020)
2. compiled and labeled online documentary footage from the Soviet Era for use in a Soviet History course at the University of Notre Dame (Spring 2018)
3. edited and organized biographies of Ukrainian Greek Catholic clergy and laity from during the time of the Underground Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (Soviet repression) for use in Rare Books and Special Collections at the Hesburgh Library (Fall 2017)

## **Study Abroad Experience**

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### **Mother Russia Calling!**

(May-June 2017)

three weeks in Moscow and St. Petersburg touring historical and cultural sites (museums, churches, etc.) with trips to St. Sergius Lavra, Tsarskoe Tselo, and Vyborg; University of Notre Dame

### **Critical Language Institute 3rd Year Russian in Bishkek**

(June-August 2018)

8-week program containing two semesters' worth of intensive third-year Russian at the London School of Languages and Cultures in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan including local homestay, conversation partners, and cultural excursions; Arizona State University

## **Extracurricular Experience**

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### **Officer of the Japan Club of Notre Dame**

(2017-2020)

As an officer of the Japan Club, I created, planned organized, and hosted educational and entertaining events for students. I served as Treasurer, Vice President, and President of the club at different times

- facilitating communication between club members and officers in person and by email
- assigning responsibilities and deadlines to officers for events
- checking up on officers' progress on event assignments
- checking on officers' wellness

- applying for grants and funding from university bodies; communicating with university staff and faculty in person and by email regarding funding

### **Russian Ensemble of Notre Dame** (2016-2020)

- performed biannual concerts of Russian songs for students at Perely Elementary School in 2016 and 2017
- directed and performed biannual performances of Russian songs at the University of Notre Dame from 2017 to 2019

### **Russian Undergraduate Advisory Council** (2018-2020)

- fostered communication between Russian Faculty and students

### **Philosophy Undergraduate Advisory Council** (2018-2020)

- fostered communication between Philosophy Faculty and students

## **Honors, Grants, and Scholarships**

### **Honor Societies:**

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society	(since 2020)
National Name Exchange	(since 2017)

### **Grants and Awards:**

Title VIII Fellowship	(2021)
Thomas Scholarship, University of Notre Dame	(2020)
Summer Language Abroad Grant from the Center for the Study of Language and Culture, University of Notre Dame	(2018)
Melikian Scholars Award, Arizona State University	(2018)
Case Culwell Award, Arizona State University	(2018)
Batalden Award, Arizona State University	(2018)

### **Honors:**

Russian Graduation Speaker for Class of 2020 Graduation, University of Notre Dame	(2020)
Honorable Mention, ACTR's National Post-Secondary Russian Essay-Writing Contest	(2017, 2019, 2020)
Dean's List, University of Notre Dame College of Arts and Letters	(2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

## **Language Proficiency**

**Russian:** four years of study; Intermediate High score on ACTFL Oral Proficiency Test

**French:** two years of study

**Kyrgyz:** beginner level