# Aaron Michael Thompson

## EDUCATION

**University of Virginia • Charlottesville, VA (2018 – present)**
*Doctor of Philosophy, Slavic Languages & Literatures* (ABD, expected May 2024)
➢ Dissertation: *A Revolutionary Gospel: Secular Transpositions of Orthodox Narrative and the Post-Christian Coming of the New Soviet Person (1892-1917)*
  ⊄ Committee: Edith W. Clowes (adviser, Slavic), Dariusz Tolczyk (Slavic), Ekaterina Dianina (Slavic), Larry Bouchard (Religious Studies), Rafael Alvarado (Data Science)
  ⊄ My analysis of the history, writing culture, and religious sensibilities surrounding the events of Bloody Sunday in 1905 argues that Gor'kii and his Capri circle of writers tried to translate Russians' religious impulses into a force for socioeconomic and structural change in the country. Though unsuccessful ultimately, the method of transposing traditional Christian literature into a secular socialist world is a unique, enlightening window for illuminating humanity's powerful use of narratives and symbols to create communities out of invented realities and identities while speaking to eternal questions of the Russian idea.
➢ Digital Humanities Doctoral Certificate
  ⊄ A digital project complements the dissertation project with a quantitative analysis using Natural Language Processing and Data Science methods to isolate Gor'kii's approaches to transposing Christian literature, especially surrounding human figures and characterization. With the help of neural networks, the digital component will help users discover and examine how Gor'kii and others recreated past ideals in a citizen for a twentieth-century secular and socialist state.
*Masters of Arts, Slavic Languages & Literatures* (2020)

**University of Arizona • Tucson, AZ (2011 – 2015)**
*Bachelor of Arts with Honors*
➢ Magna Cum Laude
➢ Russian & Slavic Studies
  o Thesis: "The Philosophy and Inspired Literatures of Russian Slavophiles, 1839 – 1880"
  o Adviser: Dr. Theresa Polowy
➢ Anthropology

## TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**The University of Virginia (2018 – present)**
*Graduate Teaching Assistant*
' Third-Year Russian Language: RUSS 3010 (2022)

- ○ Instructor for intermediate conversational Russian
- ′ <u>Second-Year Russian Language</u>: RUSS 2010-2020 (2018 – 2019, 2021 – 2022)
  - ○ Sole instructor for three of four weekly lessons
  - ○ Designing flexible, hybrid syllabi
  - ○ Instructing synchronously, asynchronously in digital format
- ′ <u>First-Year Russian Language</u>: RUSS 1010-1020 (2018 – 2019)
  - ○ Sole instructor for three of five weekly lessons
  - ○ Employing interactive communicative methods and designing diverse examinations
  - ○ Planning and executing lessons in multimodal format through UVA's Language Lab

*Graduate Research Assistant*
- ′ <u>Interactive Materials for First-Year Russian</u> (2019 – present)
  - ○ Co-creator of natively digital textbook for first-year Russian language students, an Open Educational Resource)
  - ○ Expected full publication on Pressbooks platform in 2024
- ′ <u>Mapping the Poetry of the Russian Revolution</u> (2019 – present) ([Website](#))
  - ○ Subject biographer
  - ○ Database manager

## Pushkin Summer Institute • Madison, WI (2022)
*Instructor*
- ′ Co-designer and instructor of elementary Russian language and culture for college-bound upper-level high school students at residential program

## Consulting-Educational Agency "Intellect" • Almaty, Kazakhstan (2015 – 2018)
*Educational Director*
- ➢ Designing, executing short- and long-term curriculum approaches, methods for individual and group instruction of all ages
- ➢ Leading search team, mentoring new hires, and acting as an intermediary and advocate between instructors and directors

*English Language Instructor*

## FELLOWSHIPS

The Scholars' Lab, University of Virginia (2020 – 2021)
*Praxis Digital Humanities Fellow*
- ➢ Working collaboratively on year-long project with fellow doctoral students in the Humanities
- ➢ Educating peers on technical knowledge and approaches
- ➢ Developing digital narrative on pandemic experience for reflection ([Website](#))

## PRESENTATIONS

′   November 2020 (roundtable): "Poetic Geographies of Revolutionary Russia: Mapping Russian Place-Based Identity with Digital Humanities" ASEEES, online
′   November 2020 (workshop): "Shredding the Map: Poetic Geographies of Revolutionary Russia (1914-1922)" ASEEES, online
′   February 2020 (paper): "The Fall of the Word: An Aural Reconstruction of Gogol's Oral Narratives in Vechera na Khutore bliz Dikan'ki" Central Slavic Conference, St. Louis, MO
′   March 2019 (paper): "Sophic Windows in A. Blok's Early Poetry"
        Slavic Forum, Charlottesville, VA

## SERVICE

**The University of Virginia (2018 – present)**
➢ Graduate Arts & Sciences Student Council
        ⊄   President
        ⊄   Honor Committee Representative
        ⊄   University Judiciary Committee Representative
        ⊄   Department Representative, Slavic Languages & Literatures
➢ Society of Slavic Graduate Students
        ⊄   President

## LINGUISTIC COMPETENCIES

➢ English, native
➢ Russian, advanced
➢ German, intermediate reading
➢ French, intermediate reading
➢ Polish, intermediate reading
➢ Computer and Programming Languages
        ○   CSS / HTML / Javascript
        ○   Python
        ○   R
        ○   Bash
        ○   C

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

• Association for the Study of Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
• Association for the Study of Eastern Christian History and Culture (ASEC)