

**Michal Oklot**  
**Associate Professor**  
**Department of Slavic Studies**  
**Brown University**

**1. Education**

Magister, University of Warsaw (Poland), 1992  
M.A. in Slavic Literatures, Northwestern University, 2000  
Ph.D. in Russian Literature, Northwestern University, 2005

**2. Professional Academic Appointments**

Lecturer, University of Warsaw (Poland), Department of Applied Social Sciences, 1991 – 1992  
Lecturer, University of Warsaw (Poland), Department of Philosophy and Sociology, 1992 – 1995  
Visiting Lecturer, University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages, 2004 – 2005  
Lecturer, Northwestern University, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, 2005  
Associate Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Slavic Language and Literatures, 2005 – 2006  
Assistant Professor, American University in Cairo, Department of English and Comparative Literature, 2006 – 2007  
Associate Professor, Brown University, Department of Slavic Languages, 2007 – present

**3. Publications**

**a. Books**

2009. *Phantasms of Matter in Gogol' (and Gombrowicz)*. Champaign and London: Dalkey Archive Press.  
Reviewed by *Reference and Research Book News*, vol. 24, May 2009 and *SEEJ* (4:1). December 2011.

In Progress. *Rozanov Effect. A Discreet Presence in European Modernism* (book project to be submitted to Northwestern University Press in May 2023).

In Progress. “Metaphysics of Youth Movements” in Eastern Europe 1914-1929 (working title of a book project).

**b. Chapters in books**

Summitted. “Matter and Materialism” in *Oxford Handbook of the Russian Novel*, ed. Julie Buckler and Justin Weir. Oxford University Press.

In press. “Mirgorod” in *Reading with Eisenstein*, ed. Luka Arsenjuk and Ada Ackerman. Caboose Press.

2023. “Chekhov and Philosophy” in *Chekhov in Context*, ed. Yuri Corrigan. Cambridge University Press.

2018. “‘Kronos’: The Real Life of Witold Gombrowicz” in *Gombrowicz. DÉSEMPARÉ – BEWILDERED*. Publié sous la direction de / edited by Dominique Garand, Agnès Domanski Institut polonais des arts et des sciences au Canada, Polska Akademia Umiejętności Montréal-Kraków.

2018. “Nabokov and Psychoanalysis” (co-author) in *Nabokov in Context*, ed. David M. Bethea and Siggy Frank. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2018. “Nabokov and the Detective Fiction” (co-author) in *Nabokov in Context*, ed. David M. Bethea and Siggy Frank. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2017. “‘Избавь нас от беса полуденна’... и Гоголя: был ли символизм Андрея Белого хорошим средством от меланхолии? [Save Us from the Noonday Demon, Save us from Gogol: Was Andrei Bely’s Symbolism an Effective Cure for Melancholy?]” in *Bely’s Arabesques: Life, Spiritual Searching, Poetics*, ed. Monika Spivak. Moscow-Belgrade: Institute of the World Literature of the Russian Academy of Science, State Museum of Andrei Bely, and University of Belgrade.

2016. “Dostoevsky’s Angel—Still an Idiot, Still Beyond the Story: The Case of Kalganov” in *Dostoevsky Beyond Dostoevsky*, ed. Svetlana Evdokimova and Vladimir Golstein. Boston: Academic Studies Press.

2014. “Apokalipsis levyi i pravyi: ‘Dukh utopii’ E. Blokha i ‘Apokalipsis nashego vremeni’ V. Rozanova. Tezisy in *Ruskaia Slovestnost’ v Mirovom Kul’turnom Kontekste*. Moscow: Dostoevsky Foundation and Russian Academy of Science.

2011. “‘Isteriia, glupost’ i beskonechnost’. Iskushenie sviatogo Khomy” [Hysteria, Stupidity and Infinity: The Temptation of Saint Khoma]” in *Fenomen Gogolia*, ed. M. N. Virolainen and A. A. Karpov. St Petersburg: Russian Academy of Science—Institute of Literature and Institute of World Literature.

2011. “Mezhdru baltovnei i zhestom: Post scriptum k otritsatel’noi poetike Chekhova” [Between Chatter and the Gesture: Towards the Negative Poetics of Anton Chekhov]” in *Obraz Chekhova i chekhovskoi Rossii v sovremennom mire* [The Image of Chekhov and Chekhovian Russia in the Contemporary World], ed. V. B. Kataev and S. A. Kibal’nik. Moscow: Russian Academy of Science—Institute of Russian Literature.

2010. “‘Tree of Life’ and ‘Dead Waters’: Why was Rozanov afraid of Chekhov?” in *Chekhov Through the Eyes of Russian Thinkers. Modern Perspectives*. London: Anthem Press.

2010. “Possibility of Phantasmagoria with Hippopotamuses,” in *Gombrowicz nasz współczesny* [Gombrowicz our Contemporary], ed. Jerzy Jarzębski (Cracow: Jagiellonian University Press: Universitas).

### c. Refereed journal articles

2018. “Apokalipticheskaya ulybka V. V. Rozanova” [V. V. Rozanov’s Apocalyptic Smile]. *Solovyov Studies* (59:3).

2016. "Apocalypse Left and Right: Bloch's and Rozanov's Renunciation of the Future." *Poetics Today* (37:3).
2015. "Poeticheskaia ontologia komentarii. Dialog s Rozanovym v 'Razgovore o Dante' O. Mandel'shtama" [Poetic Ontology of the Commentary: Dialogue with Rozanov in Mandel'shtam's 'Conversation about Dante']. *Literaturevedcheskii zhurnal* (37).
2013. "Gombrowicz's *Kronos*: Pornography of Aging." *Slavonica* (20:2).
2013. "Nabokov, Incestuously." Essay-Review of Eric Neiman's "Nabokov, Perversely." *NOVEL: A Forum for Fiction* (46:1).
2013. "Dissecting the Toad: Unpacking Shestov's Thought on Gogol through Rozanov." *Slavonica* (18:1).
2010. "'Expanding in Blackness': The Concepts of Possibility and Potentiality in Gombrowicz, Nabokov (and Rozanov)." *The Other Shore: Slavic and East European Cultures Abroad, Past and Present* (1:1).
2007. "Maturing into Childhood: Reconstructing Cosmogony in Bruno Schulz." *Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetic* (27). Cairo: American University in Cairo Press.
2005. "The Image of Pain ("Translucent Matter") in Gombrowicz." *Style* (4). Belgrade.
2003. "'Sovremennost' sovremennoi russkoi poezii," [Contemporaneity of Russian Contemporary Poetry]. *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie* [New Literary Review] (61). Moscow.

**d. Non-refereed journal (selected)**

2010. "Czym nas straszy Dostojewski?" [Why Are We Afraid of Dostoevsky?]. *Tygodnik Powszechny*. July 21.
2010. "Osobiscie o ksiazkach" ["Personally About Books"]. *Nowa Res Publika*. No. 214 (8).
2009. "'Spiewak znad dneprowej strony...'. W 200-tu lecie urodzin Mikołaja Gogola" [The Bard from Dniepr Land.' 200-th Anniversary of Nikolai Gogol's Birthday] *Tygodnik Powszechny*. May 3.
2003. "Życie seksualne klonów" [Sexual Life of Clones]. *Przegląd Polski* (Polish Review). February 28.
2003. "Rzeczywistość heksametrowa Stanisława Vincenza" [Hexameter Reality of Stanisław Vincenz]. *Przegląd Polski*. August 29.
2003. "Jerzy Stempowski. Nieco zrozpaczony i przesądny racjonalista" [Jerzy Stempowski: Slightly Desperate and Superstitious Rationalist]. *Przegląd Polski*. February 7.
2002. Debiut, "19", Krytyka i Diabeł [Debut, "19," Critics, and the Devil]. *Przegląd Polski*. November 22.

2002. "Jozef Wittlin: Piekło, słowa i tamaryszki" [Jozef Wittlin: Hell, Words, and Tamarisks]. *Przegląd Polski*. April 5.

2002. "Kapuśniak z siekiery. O Nowej książce Marii Janion *Żyjąc tracimy życie*." [Soup from an axe. About Maria Janion's new book *Living, we lose life*]. *Przegląd Polski*. May 24.

2001. "Geometria bólu. O dwóch powieściach Chrystiana Skrzyposzka" [Geometry of Pain. About Two Books of Christian Skrzyposzek]. *Przegląd Polski*. June 1.

2000. "Źle przyządzone frykasy" [Badly Prepared Gourmet]. *Przegląd Polski*. September 8.

2000. "Zwyczajne arcydzieła, czyli o tym, jak zachęcić do rozmowy z literaturą polską," [Common Masterpieces. How to Encouraging Conversation with Polish Literature]. *Przegląd Polski*. March 17.

2000. "Ostatni człowiek. Listy Jerzego Stempowskiego" [The Last Man. Letters of Jerzy Stempowski]. *Przegląd Polski*. July 28.

#### **e. Book reviews (selected)**

In progress. Matthew Beaumont, *Lev Shestov: Philosopher of the Sleepless Night* (Bloomsbury, 2020). *Slavonic and East European Review*.

In progress. Andrea Oppo, *Lev Shestov: The Philosophy and Works of a Tragic Thinker* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2020). *Russian Review*.

2019. Review of "*The Last Shadow of the World. Space, Time, and Freedom in Interwar Eastern Europe*" by Benjamin Paloff. *Slavic Review*. 77.4. Winter 2018.

2011. "Examining from *Lolita*." Review of *Lolita*. From Nabokov to Kubrik and Lyne, ed. E. Martiny. *SEEJ*. 55.4. Winter 2011.

2002. "Mistycyzm i rytuał. Patrząc w 'Druga Przestrzeń' Czesława Miłosza" [Mysticism and ritual. Looking into 'Second Space' of Czesław Miłosz]. *Przegląd Polski*. April 19.

#### **f. Invited Lectures (selected)**

2019. "Organicism and the Way Out of It: E. M. Cioran's Russian Lesson." Lecture delivered at Northwestern University. Evanston, IL. March 8.

2016. "Panoptic Vision of St Petersburg: The City and the Text." Lecture delivered at Università IUAV di Venezia. Venice, Italy. April 26.

2012. "'Aristotle, like a moth edged by the Arab edge of Averroes': A Commentary on One of the 'Thought-Images' in Mandel'shtam's *Conversation about Dante*." Lecture delivered at the University of Illinois at Chicago, IL. May 21.

2010. "Rozanov's Philosophical Gesture and Russian Modernism." Lecture delivered at Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. December 2.

2010. "The Concept of Potentiality in Rozanov and D. H. Lawrence." Lecture delivered at University of Illinois. Chicago, IL. October 18.

2009. "Rozanov: Between Ideology and Literature." Lecture delivered at Northwestern University. Evanston, IL. March 6.

2008. "Platonic Gogol and Aristotelian Rozanov." Lecture delivered at Sarah Lawrence College. Bronxville, NY. April 10.

2006. "Bakhtin-Kanaev's Hydra: Question of Vitalism in Soviet and Polish Literature." Lecture delivered as part of the Northwestern Slavic Lecture Series, Northwestern University. Evanston, IL. January 10.

2006. "Gogol's 'Portrait' and Raphael's 'Transfiguration'," lecture delivered at University of Wisconsin-Madison. March 3.

2005. Seminar on Gombrowicz's novel *Ferdydurke*. Northwestern University Faculty Seminar, Kraków, Poland. June 21-27.

#### **g. Papers read (selected)**

2019. "Rozanov's 'Apocalypse of Our Times'" a talk delivered at the *Harvard Intellectual History Symposium: Rereading Russian Intellectual History*. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. March 30.

2016. "The Last Saint. E. M. Cioran Reading D. S. Merezhkovsky," a paper delivered at the international conference, *D. S. Merezhkovsky: a writer, a philosopher, and a theologian*, organized by the Institute of the World Literature of the Russian Academy of Science, Moscow State University, The Library of History of Russian Philosophy and Culture – "A. F. Losev's House." Moscow, Russia. December 10.

2016. "The Real Life of Witold Gombrowicz. How to Read Gombrowicz's *Kronos*?", a paper delivered at the international symposium, *Gombrowicz désemparé/Gombrowicz Bewildered* organized by the Université du Québec à Montréal, McGill University, and the Polish Academy of Science, and Polish Ministry of Culture. Montreal, Canada. October 31.

2015. "Andrei Bely and Modernist Reevaluation of Allegory," a paper delivered at an international conference, "Andrei Bely and the Changing World" organized by the Institute of the World Literatures at the Russian Academy of Science and the State Museum of Andrei Bely. Moscow, Russia. October 26-30.

2015. "Rozanov's 'Weak' Messianism and Polemics about Messianism in Russian 20<sup>th</sup>-century Thought," a talk delivered at the *Harvard Intellectual History Symposium: Rereading Russian Intellectual History*. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. April 18-19.

2014. "Bely and Melancholia." Paper delivered at the Fifth International Symposium "Russian Humanities in the World Context" organized by the Dostoevsky Foundation. Moscow. December 18-21.

2013. “*Save Us from the Noonday Demon, Save us from Gogol: Was Bely’s Symbolism an Effective Cure for Melancholia?*” A paper presented at the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies Annual National Convention. Boston, MA. November 22.
2012. “Death and Entelechy: Rozanov’s Greatest ‘Anti-Legend’ and His Last Project ‘Egypt Resurrected’.” A paper delivered at the Fourth International Symposium “Russian Humanities in the World Context” organized by the Dostoevsky Foundation, Moscow, December 14-18.
2012. “Professor Lednicki and Professor anti-Lednicki: Two models of Polish Studies with Russia in the Background.” A paper delivered at “Transmission and Transgression: 4th International Conference in Polish Studies.” University of Illinois Chicago. October 15 – 17.
2011. “Apocalypse as Event in Vasiliï Rozanov’s and Ernst Bloch’s Cosmogonic Perspectives.” A paper presented at International Conference “No Future” organized by the School of Modern Languages of Durham University. Durham (UK). March 25-29.
2010. “‘The Sphinx, a monstrous thing...’: Gogol’s Idea of Nature in ‘The Portrait’ (Shestov’s perspective).” A paper presented at the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies Annual National Convention. Los Angeles, CA. November 17-20.
2009. “Portrait of Vii.” A paper presented at the international conference commemorating 200-th anniversary of Nikolai Gogol’s birthday, Russian Academy of Science, M. Gorkii’s Institute of World Literature and Institute of Russian Literature. National University in St. Petersburg, Moscow – St. Petersburg. October 5 -10.
2008. “*Drugoi: Petr Fomich Kalganov.*” A paper presented at the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies Annual National Convention. Philadelphia, PA. November 20-23.
2008. “Liza’s Bright Diaphanous Scarf: Nabokov’s Commentary on “Ineluctable Modality of the Visible.” A paper delivered at the National Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. Chicago. December 27-30.
2008. “Mezhdû boltovnei i zhestom: Post scriptum k otritsatel’noi poetike Chekhova” [Between Chatter and the Gesture: Towards the Negative Poetics of Anton Chekhov]. International Conference commemorating the 150-th anniversary of Anton Chekhov’s birthday: “The Image of Chekhov and Chekhovian Russia in the Contemporary World,” Russian Academy of Science, Institute of Russian Literature. Moscow, Russia. October 6-8.
2007. “Nihilistic Fulfilling: Poetic Cosmogony of Bruno Schulz.” Annual national meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. Chicago, IL. December 27-30.
2005. “Gombrowicz and Vaginov” (panel: “Inter/Texts: Slavic Modernism in Cross-Cultural Perspective”). American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies Annual National Convention. Salt Lake City, Utah. November 15-18.

2005. "Literary Ornament in Comparative Slavic Perspective." A paper presented at the workshop, *Contemporary Transformations of the Cultural, Social, and Artistic Fabric of Europe* organized by IFK Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften. Vienna, Austria. June 10–11.

2004. "Possibility of Phantasmagoria of Hippopotamuses; or Matter in Gombrowicz." A paper presented at the international conference organized by the Jagiellonian University and the Ministry of Culture of Poland, "Gombrowicz -- Our Contemporary." Krakow, Poland. March 22 –27.

2001. "Analysis of the Publishing Market and Literary Trends in Poland." A paper presented at the seminar as part of the National Endowment for Humanities grant "Remaining Relevant after Communism?" Dubrovnik, Croatia. June 14–18.

2001. "Gogol's "Portrait": Between Coma and Period." National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Crystal City, Virginia. November 15–18.

2000. "Gogol' and Neoplatonism," paper presented at the international conference "Nihil Novum? Nihilistic tendencies in philosophy, throughout the centuries," organized by the Institute of Philosophy of the Polish Academy of Science. Wierzba, Poland. June 3-4.

#### **4. Research Grants and Fellowships**

2017 *Herbert. H. Goldberger Lectureship* (3,000 USD)

2014 Art Initiative Funding by Creative Art Council at Brown (7,000 USD)

2012 Faculty Fellowship at the Cogut Center for the Humanities Research

2008. Brown Curriculum Development Award

#### **5. Service**

##### **a. To the university**

2022 – present. CLS Executive Committee

2016 – present. Director of Undergraduate Studies

2014 – 2015. CFED at Brown University

2013. Preparation of the self-study overview of the Slavic concentration

2012. Conducting search for a position in Polish.

2011. Participating in the departmental committee revising the capstone project requirements for the Slavic Studies concentration.

2008 - 2019. First-Year and Sophomore Undergraduate Advisor.

2008 - 2010. The Nominations Committee, Brown University.

## **b. To the profession**

2022 – present. Member of the Editorial Board: Academic Studies Press: Academic Studies Press editorial series.

2016. Serving as a chair and discussant at the conference *D. S. Merezhkovsky: a writer, a philosopher, and a theologian*. Moscow. December 7-9.

2014. Chair and discussant at the panel “New Theoretical Approaches to Literature” at the Fifth International Symposium “Russian Humanities in the World Context” organized by the Dostoevsky Foundation. Moscow, December 18-21.

2013. Discussant at the panel “Rozanov’s *Fallen Leaves*,” the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies Annual National Convention. Boston, CA, November 20.

2011. Nominated to run for vice-president of American Association for Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

2010. Organized a panel, “‘For the eyes weary...’: Gogol’s ‘Portrait’,” the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies Annual National Convention. Los Angeles, CA, November 20.

2010. Chair of a panel, “Dreams, Illusions, and Modernist Aesthetics,” the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies Annual National Convention. Los Angeles, CA, November 20.

2009. Chair of a panel, “Defining Russianness through Spirituality in Nineteenth-Century Literature,” the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies Annual National Convention. European Languages, Boston, MA, November 14.

2009. Respondent at a conference panel, “Postcolonial Melancholia” Conference, Brown University, March 13-14, 2009.

2007. Chair of a panel, “Intertextual Connections in Central European Literature,” Annual national meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, Chicago, IL. December 28.

## **6. Teaching**

### **a. External examining**

2013. External Examiner at University College London (UK).

### **b. First reader and advisor of doctoral dissertations**

In Progress. Medical Ethics on Russian Culture (1880-1904), Natalia Vygovskaya.

2020. “Dostoevsky’s Oedipal Struggle with Gogol,” Piotr Axer.

2018. “Questioning Active Evolution: Cosmic Themes in the Science Fiction of Arkady and Boris Strugatsky,” Leo Kogan.



2017. "Jesus of Bethlehem: Vasily V. Rozanov and the Discourse of Matrimonial Sexuality in the Russian Orthodox Church," Diana Dukhanova.

2014. "Performing the Communist Myth," Keren Klimovsky.

**c. Honors Thesis First Reader and Advisor:**

2021. "Beyond Satire: Carnival of Horror in Kharms, Bulgakov and Olesha." Melis Gökalp (concentration: Slavic Studies)

2020. "The Question of Freedom in Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Gambler* from the Perspective of Pavel Florensky's Theology of Love," Ella Scholz (concentration: Slavic Studies).

2019. "Laboring Towards the Present: Poetics of Social Critique in Contemporary Russian Literary Studies," Signe Swenson (concentration: Slavic Studies).

2018. "Modernist Visual Rediscovery of Gogol's *Dead Souls*," Sylvia Paul (concentration: Slavic Studies).

2017. "The Concept of Time in Vladimir Nakobov's *Marry* and Bruno Schultz's *The Sanatorium Under the Hourglass Sign*," Alexander Strzelecki (concentration: Comparative Literature and Slavic Studies).

2015. "Dostoevsky against Dostoevsky: Arrival at Apocalypse as a Precursor to Russian Postmodernism. Seen through the Works of Erofeev, Sorokin, Pelevin and Tertz," Natasha Bluth (concentration: Slavic Studies and International Relations).

2015. "Extremism and Existentialism: Brevik in the Context of Dostoevsky," Edle Astrup Tschudi (concentration: Slavic Studies).

2013. "Translation and Commentary of Julian Tuwim's Essay on Adam Wazyk's Translation into Polish of Eugene Onegin," Kelly McKee (concentration: Slavic Studies).

2009. "Play of (Non)existence in Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky's '*Mal mala men'she*,'" Alisa Ballard (concentration: Slavic Studies and Comparative Literature).

2009. "Symbol and the "Dark Figure": on Truth and Figuration in "The Silver Dove" and Andrei Bely's Gogol," David Hock (concentration: Slavic Studies).

2008. "Star Above the Stairs: Remizov's Stalla Maria Maris. An Inspired Translation in Poetry and Prose," Daphne Beers (concentration: Slavic Studies).

**d. Honor Thesis Second Reader:**

2012. "Life and work of H. P. Lovecraft," Andrew Lenoir (concentration: MCM).

2013. "Translation of Dragan Radulovic's *The Knights of Worthlessness: Devil in Transitional Disneyland*," Jelena Jelusic (concentration: MCM).

January, 2022