Curriculum Vitae of Eren Tasar

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**A. Personal**

Full Name: Eren Murat Tasar

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B. Education

2010 (May 1). Ph.D in History, Harvard University.

2006 (May 1). A.M. in History, Harvard University.

2001 (May 1). A.B. in International Relations (Honors), Stanford University.

High School: Phillips Exeter Academy (cum laude).

C. Professional Experience

2023-present. Interim Director, Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, UNC Chapel Hill.

2022-present. Director of Graduate Studies. Department of History, UNC Chapel Hill.

2019-present. Associate Professor, Department of History, UNC Chapel Hill.

2013-2019. Assistant Professor, Department of History, UNC Chapel Hill.

2012-2013. Assistant Professor, Department of History, Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI).

2011-2012. ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, Washington University in St. Louis.

2010-2011. Postdoctoral Fellow, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University.

2003-2004. Program Manager, Cultural and Religious Pluralism in Uzbekistan and the United States. International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

D. Honors

2022. American Philosophical Society, Franklin Grant.

2019. American Philosophical Society Franklin Grant.

2019. UNC Provost’s Office Reynolds Junior Faculty Development Award.

2016. American Philosophical Society Franklin Grant.

2015. UNC Junior Faculty Nominee for Carnegie Fellowship.

2012. SSRC Transregional Inter-Asian Connections and Contexts Fellowship.

2011. ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship.

2008. Fulbright-Hays Fellowship.

2001. Fulbright Cultural Exchange Fellowship.

E. Bibliography

Books and Edited Volumes

*Central Asia from Ancient Times to the Present* (under review)

*Muslim Atheism in Central Asia* (in progress, completion Fall 2024)

*From the Khan’s Oven: Studies on the History of Central Asian Religions in Honor of Devin DeWeese.* Edited by Eren Tasar, Allen Frank, and Jeff Eden.Leiden: Brill, 2021. 438 pages.

*Soviet and Muslim: The Institutionalization of Islam in Central Asia.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. 432 pages.

Digital Scholarship  
*Central Asia: Crossroads of Civilization.* The Great Courses.24-lecture video course on Central Asian history from prehistoric times to the present, scheduled for release in 2024.

Book Chapters

Atheist and Muslim: Soviet Islamic Dictionaries from the 1980s and 1990s. In *From the Khan’s Oven: Studies on the History of Central Asian Religions in Honor of Devin DeWeese.* Edited by Eren Tasar, Allen Frank, and Jeff Eden.Leiden: Brill, 2021: 323-357.

Pious Lives of Soviet Muslims. In *The Routledge Handbook to Islam in Asia.* Edited by Chiara Formichi. New York: Routledge, 2021: 296-309.

Sufism on the Soviet Stage: Holy People and Places in Central Asia’s Sociopolitical Landscape after World War II. In *Sufism in Central Asia: New Perspectives on Sufi Traditions, 15th-21st centuries.* Edited by Devin DeWeese and Jo-Ann Gross. Leiden: Brill, 2018: 256-283.

Unregistered: Gray Spaces in the Soviet Regulation of Islam. In *Islam, Society, and Politics in Central Asia.* Edited by Pauline Jones Luong.Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017: 127-148.

Soviet Policies Toward Islam: Domestic and International Considerations. In *Religion and the Cold War: a Global Perspective.* Edited byPhilip Emil Muehlenbeck.Nasheville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2012: 151-181.

Journal Articles

A Question of Texture: “Getting Religion” in a Bashkir Antireligious Text from the 1950s. *Anzeiger: Zeitschrift der philosophisch-historischen Klasse der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften* 157/158 (2022-2023): 25-50.

*Mantra:* A Review Essay on Soviet Islam. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient,* 63:3 (2020): 389-433.

Islamic Media in Soviet Central Asia. Special issue of *Central Asian Affairs* 6:2-3 onThe Islamic Mediascape in Central Asia (2019): 95-112.

The Official Madrasas of Soviet Uzbekistan. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient,* 59 (2016): 265-302.

Islamically Informed Soviet Patriotism in Postwar Kyrgyzstan. *Cahiers du Monde Russe,* 52, No. 2 (2011): 387-404.

The Central Asian Muftiate in Occupied Afghanistan, 1979-1987. *Central Asian Survey,* 30, No. 2 (2011): 213-26.

Other Publications

Louw, M., Sartori, P., and Tasar, E. Book Forum on Eren Tasar, *Soviet and Muslim: the Institutionalization of Islam in Central Asia*, *Central Asian Affairs,* 8 (2020): 357-375.

Encylopaedia Entries

Central Asia, Islamic History during the Soviet Period. *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*.

Book Reviews

Review of *Islam,* *imeiushchii mirnuiu i dobruiu sushchnost*: *diskurs o traditsionnom islame v srede tiurok-musul’man evropeiskoi chasti Rossii i Kryma* edited R. I. Bekkin. *Slavic Review* 82: 2 (2023): 541-543.

Review of *The Bleeding Wound: The Soviet War in Afghanistan and the Collapse of the Soviet System. Journal of Interdisciplinary History,* 53:4 (2023): 653-655.

Review of *Voices from the Soviet Edge: Southern Migrants in Leningrad and Moscow* by Jeff Sahadeo. *American Historical Review,* 127:2 (2022): 1048-1049.

Review of *Spiritual Subjects: Central Asian Pilgrims and the Ottoman Hajj at the End of Empire* by Lale Can. *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association,* 8:2 (2021): 358-361.

Review of *Gulag Miracles: Sufis and Stalinist Repression in Kazakhstan* by Allen J. Frank. *Russian Review,* 81:1 (2022): 186-187.

Review of *Polymaths of Islam: Power and Networks of Knowledge in Central Asia* by James Pickett. *Russian Review,* 80:3 (2021): 529-530.

Review of *Islam in Central Asia and the Caucasus since the Fall of the Soviet Union* by Bayram Balci. *Russian Review,* 78:3 (2019): 529-530.

Review of *The Origins of the Civil War in Tajikistan: Nationalism, Islamism, and Violent Confict in Post-Soviet Space* by Tim Epkenhans. *Europe-Asia Studies,* 70 (2018): 145-146.

Review of *Making Uzbekistan: Nation, Empire, and Revolution in the Early USSR* by Adeeb Khalid. *Central Asian Affairs,* 4 (2017), 83-96.

Review of *Reassessing Orientalism: Interlocking Orientologies during the Cold War.* Edited by Michael Kemper and Artemy M. Kalinovsky. *Europe-Asia Studies,* 68 (2016): 937-939.

Review of *Becoming Muslim in Imperial Russia: Conversion, Apostasy, and Literacy* by Agnès Nilüfer Kefeli. *Canadian Slavonic Papers,* 58 (2016): 102-103.

Review of *Soviet Society in the Era of Late Socialism, 1964-1985.* Edited by Neringa Klumbyte and Gulnaz Sharafutdinova. *Europe-Asia Studies,* 66, No. 4 (2014): 682-684.

Review of *The Heritage of Soviet Oriental Studies.* Edited by Michael Kemper and Stephan Conermann. *Central Asian Survey,* 32, No. 2 (2013): 233-235.

Review of *Islamic Education in the Soviet Union and its Successor States.* Edited by Michael Kemper, Raoul Motika, and Stefan Reichmuth*. Ab Imperio,* 4 (2011): 45-51.

Review of *Tashkent: Forging a Soviet City, 1930-1966* by Paul Stronski*. Social History,* 36, No. 4: 526-528.

F. Teaching Activities

*Ph.D Students Supervised: 8*

* Abdul Basith Basheer. 20th century Muslim American religious history
* James Britt. 19th century Afghanistan
* Caleb Luck. 18th century Central Asia
* Alexander Shtumpf. 19th century Central Asia
* Nurlan Kabdylkhak: Russian empire-building and the Kazakh kinship system: the Chala-Qazaqs of the Kazakh Steppe
* Kara Irvin: Third Reich Colonialism and Islam
* Frederick Cochran: Grave Matters: Funerary Labor in Soviet Kazakhstan, 1955-1991
* Nicole Harry: Atheism in Soviet Lithuania

*Ph.D Committees Served On: 13*

* Rachel Cochran. Intellectual History of the Persian Cosmopolis.
* Zardas Shukman Lee: Surviving in Great Power Politics: Transnational Anticolonialism of British Malaya. Defended Spring 2023.
* Baiquni: Reforming the Unequal International Order: Three Stages of Indonesian World Making Visions (1873-1949). Defended Spring 2023.
* Samee Siddiqui: A Religious History of Pan-Asianism: South Asia, Japan, and Anti-Colonial Nationalism. Defended Spring 2023.
* Yusuf Sezgin: Modern Liberationist Religious Thought: Social Justice and Liberation in Catholic and Muslim Thought in the 1960s and 1970.
* Mira Markham. Power in the Village: Rural Politics in Postwar Czechoslovakia, 1945-53.
* Luke Jeske. Twenty-Four Years an Orthodox Pilgrim: Vasilii Grigorovich-Barskii’s Explorations of the Eighteenth- Century Orthodox World.
* Rose Horswill. For Life and Longing: How the People of Eastern Anatolia and Transcaucasia Navigated the Interwar, as Witnessed by the 1919 American Military Mission to Anatolia. Completed Spring 2023.
* Turgay Akbaba. From the “Terrible Turk” to the “Incredible Turk”: Reimagining Turkey as an American Ally, 1919-1960. Defended Spring 2020.
* Virginia Olmstead. Soviet by Design: Fashion, Consumption, and International Competition during Late Socialism, 1948-1982. Defended Spring 2020.
* Dakota Irvin. Revolving Doors of Power: How Revolutionary Ekaterinburg Became Sverdlovsk, 1917-1924. Defended Spring 2020.
* Louis Porter: Cold War Internationalisms: the USSR in UNESCO, 1945-1967. Defended Spring 2018.
* Gary Guadagnolo: Creating a Tatar Capital: Cultural, National and Linguistic Space in Kazan, 1920-1941. Defended Spring 2017.

*MA Theses Supervised: 8*

* Alexander Weber: Georgian and Armenian Perceptions of the US. Defended Fall 2022.
* Salim Fayeq. The Turkish “New-Wave” Migrant Community: An Intelligentsia-in-Exile and Superdiversity amid the Proliferation of Recent Migrant Pathways. Defended Spring 2022.
* Nicole Harry. Negation to Fulfillment: The Development of a Soviet Atheist Worldview in the 1970s. Defended Spring 2022.
* Frederick Cochran. [Again They Broke the Elderberry and Shit at the Grave: The Moral Economy of the Late Soviet Funerary Sphere](http://libproxy.lib.unc.edu/login?url=http://unc.summon.serialssolutions.com/2.0.0/link/0/eLvHCXMwpV1NS8NAEB2sXsSCiooftQzoNZovmsaLWE0qWPGQ3st2s9FS2NSYHvLvnVkTzakXz0PCwOzOvtmdNw_gWqShZ9vCtXyZhVygSGvoBIKqFF-JeRbYWWqm64-8yUsQjfxp3U3IXJg6vk1aNLk6zSVfk9-63L8REiB271efFgtH8QNrraLRgR3Gyrw3x20E1BTs3TAIh96AG9edWtutnXnNcRLvg24cMb3UN786CWZuk5atNutmXuO_vD6AvafWu_shbCl9BMuHd7HQSAulQqrGlwoJDGLEst1zVRQVCp1i8rEoUZTGNGapojv-AF-Z2I8_rOYK88zYJ4RbMcnJnxLjtTbUZkx4boE6hqs4mj4-W43zs3oRf83-PPdOoCu4416XhpmXngIOKPhU4IaKIB-jOiFpOxN-sf3AdjKZnUFv0y_PN5svYNdlooG57OjBdlms1SUd_1r2oWO_RX0T5m-pErm-). Defended Spring 2022.
* Alexander Weber. Why Georgians consider the European Union more Favorably than Armenians. Defended Spring 2023.
* Samuel Barber. A Collective Response or Collective Negligence? The EU-Turkey Statement and the Externalization of EU Migration Policy. Defended Spring 2020.
* Alison Tomas: Legitimacy, Success and Rebellion in Chechnya. Defended May 2017.
* Carissa Landes: Legitimacy and Islamic Symbols in Contemporary Tajikistan. Defended 2016.

*MA Committees Served On: 5*

* Alstair Fehrenbach: Transnational Diffusion and Postcommunist Protest Model. Defended Spring 2023.
* Haley Anna Morris: Russian Interference in Ukraine. Defended Spring 2023.
* Della Huffines: Ukrainian Jew and Stalin’s Deputy: An Examination of Soviet-Jewish Relations through the Life of Lazar Moiseyevich Kaganovich. Defended Spring 2023.
* Phillip Kiffer. Actors in a “Cheap Comedy”: Dissidents in Soviet Psychiatric Hospitals, 1968-1974. Defended Spring 2015.
* Zach Tewell. Digital Discourse, Online Repression, and Cyberterrorism: Information Communication Technologies in Russia’s North Caucasus Republics. Defended Spring 2014.

*Undergraduate Honors Theses Supervised: 2*

* Daniel Harrell, A Man Alone: Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the All-India Muslim League’s Support for the British during World War II, 2018-2019. Defended Spring 2019.
* Luke Kessel: Russian Identity and Mongol Rule. Defended Spring 2019.

G. Grants

2019: American Philosophical Society Franklin Grant: $6,000 (PI)

2019: UNC Provost’s Office Reynolds Junior Faculty Development Award: $10000

2019: UNC Institute for Arts and Humanities Schwab Academic Excellence Award: $3000

2017: Carolina Digital Humanities Initiative Course Development Grant: $5000

2017: UNC Center for Faculty Excellence Large Course Redesign Grant: $3000

2015: American Philosophical Society Franklin Grant: $6,000 (PI)

2014: SSRC Inter-Asian Connections and Contexts Conference Grant: $7000 (PI)

2012-2013: SSRC Inter-Asian Connections and Contexts Postdoctoral Fellowship: $40,000 (PI)

H. Professional Service

* Convener, Carolina Seminar on Russia and its Empires, 2016-present
* Convener, Central Asia Working Group, 2017-present
* Advisory Board, Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (2017-present)
* Title VI Advisory Committee, Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (2016-present)
* Editor, *Department Historian*, 2019-present.
* Undergraduate Data Science Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, 2021-2022.
* Undergraduate Studies Committee, History Department (2013-2018, except Fall 2016)
* Persian Studies Committee, 2014-2021.
* Executive Committee, Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations (2014-2015)
* Book Prize Committee, Central Eurasian Studies Society (2015)

I. Conferences Organized

* Eurasia’s Islamic Socialist Ecumene. Vietnam Academy of Sciences. December 3-7, 2018. Funded by the InterAsia Program of the Social Science Research Council.
* Interrogating Change: Central Asia between Timelessness and Continuity. UNC Chapel Hill. October 17, 2014. Funded by the InterAsia Program of the Social Science Research Council.

J. Selected Lectures and Conference Presentations

* Keynote Address. Religion under Communism: What the Future Could Hold. Workshop on Secularism and Religion in the USSR, Sitzungssaal of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, July 4, 2023.
* Seminar on Islam and Politics at the Defense Institute for Security Cooperation, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, 6-7 times annually, 2012-present.
* “Getting Religion” in a Bashkir Antireligious Text. Presentation to the Carolina Seminar on Russia and its Empires, December 1, 2022.
* Muslim Atheism before the War and After. Presentation at Workshop of the Commission on the Study of Islam in Central Eurasia, Austrian Academy of Sciences, December 14, 2021.
* Atheist and Muslim: Soviet Islamic Dictionaries from the 1980s and 1990s. Paper delivered to Colloquium on Russia and Central Asia, Freiburg University, November 3, 2020.
* Author-Critic Forum. Annual Meeting of the Central Eurasian Studies Society. George Washington University. November 18, 2019.
* Perspektivy zapadnoi istoriografii Sovetskogo Islama. Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. July 26, 2019.
* Soviet and Muslim: The Institutionalization of Islam in Central Asia. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Muslim Societies across the World Series. February 22, 2018.
* Soviet and Muslim: The Institutionalization of Islam in Central Asia. Indiana University Islamic Studies Program. September 28, 2017.
* Islamic Education in the Uzbek S.S.R. Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University. April 25, 2017.
* Islam and Socialist Modernity. Presentation at the conference entitled The Languages of Soviet Islam. European University in St. Petersburg, Russia. April 21, 2016.
* How Soviet Ulama made sense of Communism. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association. Atlanta. January 8, 2016.
* The Official Madrasas of Soviet Uzbekistan. Presentation at conference entitled Beyond Islamic Modernism. Harvard University. April 26, 2015.
* Islam across the Iron Curtain: Muslim Social Experience in the Turkic-Iranian World. Presentation at the InterAsian Connections Conference IV. Istanbul. December 13, 2014.
* Boundaries of Religion and State in Brezhnevian Central Asia. Presentation at the Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies. Boston. November 24, 2013.

K. Languages

* Native: English, Turkish
* Native Equivalent: Russian, Uzbek
* Fluent Reading: French, Karakalpak, Kyrgyz, Turkmen
* Research (Advanced): Bashkir, Kazakh, Tajik, Tatar
* Intermediate: Persian
* Elementary: Arabic (1 year in college)