Alena Gray Aniskiewicz

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021— Assistant Professor (Fixed Term), Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
Core Faculty, Center for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies
Affiliate Faculty, Center for Research, Collaboration, Learning, and Engagement

2020-2021 Visiting Associate, Copernicus Center for Polish Studies
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

2019-2020 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for the Humanities
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

EDUCATION

2019 Ph.D. in Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

2012 Diploma in Polish Language and Culture
Jagiellonian University, Center for Language and Culture in the World, Kraków, Poland

2010 M.A. in the Humanities
University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

2008 B.A. in History, with Honors, minor in Musicology
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2025-2026 Walter and Pauline Adams Academy for Instructional Excellence and Innovation Fellowship, Michigan State University
2023 Fintz Award for Teaching Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University
2023 Center for Integrative Studies Award for Service to Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University
2019 Association for Women in Slavic Studies Graduate Essay Prize
2019 Copernicus Program in Polish Studies Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan
2018-2019 Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan
2018 Rackham Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan
2018 Polish Studies Association Photography Prize
2018 Sweetland Dissertation Writing Fellowship, University of Michigan
2017 Sweetland Writing Fellowship, Junior Fellow, University of Michigan
2017 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan
2014-2017 Copernicus Summer Grant, University of Michigan
2014 FLAS Summer Fellowship, Polish, University of Michigan
2013-2014 FLAS Fellowship, Ukrainian, University of Michigan
2012-2013 Copernicus Fellowship for Polish Studies, University of Michigan
2011-2012 Kościuszko Foundation Year Abroad Scholar
2009-2010 International House Fellow, University of Chicago International House
2008 Phi Beta Kappa

2008 Phi Kappa Phi
2008 James B. Angell Scholar, University of Michigan
2004-2008 University Honors, University of Michigan

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

2022 "Baking Bread and Burning Rainbows: Mister D., Hip-Hop, and the Critical Sampling of Polish Culture," *Journal of Popular Music Studies,* 34 (1): 68-89.

Reviews

Women East/West, Newsletter of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies
2019 Review of *Complicating the Female Subject: Gender, National Myths, and Genre in Polish Women's Inter-War Drama*, by Joanna Kot

Pol-Int: Polish Studies. Interdisciplinary Scholarly Information
2019 Review of *Lives of the Orange Men*, by Major Waldemar Fydrych
2014 Review of *The Post-traumatic Theatre of Grotowski and Kantor: History and Holocaust in 'Akropolis' and 'Dead Class'*, by Magdalena Romanska

Culture.pl, Adam Mickiewicz Institute
2017 Review of *Intimations: The Cinema of Wojciech Has,* by Annette Insdorf

Cosmopolitan Review
2016 Review of *Hela: A Novel of Science, Faith, Love and Poland*, by Anna Samborska
2015 Review of PBS Documentary *Kosciuszko: A Man Ahead of His Time*
2014 Review of *Beautiful Twentysomethings*, by Marek Hłasko (trans. Ross Ufberg)
2013 Review of *Bogusław Schaeffer: An Anthology,* by Magdalena Romanska

The Mercurian: Theatre in Translation
2016 Review of *Loose Screws: Nine Plays from Poland*, edited by Dominika Laster

Public Scholarship

Culture.pl, Adam Mickiewicz Institute
2022 "The Afterlives of Mickiewicz's 'Forefathers' Eve'"
2022 "Friends in High Places: The High-Profile Friendships of Polish Romantics"
2022 "A Run-Through of the Classics of Polish Romanticism"
2022 "Traces of Romanticism in Polish Culture Today"
2021 "Czesław Niemen: A Rock 'n' Roll Romantic"
2021 "How Polish Hip-Hop Remixed Romanticism"
2021 "Who Were the Wieszcze Narodowi?"
2017 "Legacies Set in Stone: Statues of Poland's Heroes Around the World"
2017 "'HollyŁódź': A Film Lover's Guide to Poland's Most Cinematic City"
2016 "Folk Art at Home: A DIY Guide to Polish Paper Cut-outs"
2016 "That's Polish: Exploring the History of Poland's National Emblems"
2015 "Decoding Warsaw: A Guide to the City's Sights and Symbols"
2015 "Polish Literature 101: A Mixtape"
2015 "Philip Boehm – Biography"
2014 "Who's Slavic? The Many Faces of Poland's Provocative Eurovision Smash"
2014 "Kościuszko and Pułaski: Leading American Patriots Towards Liberty"
2014 "A Literature Lover's Guide to Poland"
2014 "A.M. Bakalar – Biography"

2014 "Helena Czernek – Biography"
2014 "9 Secret Sides of Szymborska"
2013 "Foreigner's Guide to Polish Literature"
2013 "Foreigner's Guide to Polish Weddings"
2013 "Travelers' Tales: 6 Books about Poland from the Perspective of Visitors"
2013 "Ilona Szwarc – Biography"
2013 "Kacper Kowalski – Biography"

Seattle Opera
2020 Program Article, "Literature and Legacy of Alexander Pushkin"

Translation

2013-2017 Articles and press materials for Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Polish to English
2013 Articles for *The Andre Tchaikowsky Website*, Polish to English

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 "Dropping Knowledge: Understanding (and Teaching) Eastern Europe Through Hip Hop." The Past, the Present, and the Future of Popular Music Research in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe, International Association for the Study of Popular Music – CESE Conference, Kraków, Poland [Paper Accepted]

2025 '"Authenticity and Magic': Hearing Poland in L.U.C.'s *39/89 Zrozumieć Polskę*." Midwest Slavic Conference, Center for Slavic and East European Studies, The Ohio State University

2024 "Making Fun: Teaching East European and Russian Culture Through Humor," American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Conference, Las Vegas, NV

2022 "The Bronx via Jeżyce: Performing Race, Poverty, and Genre in Polish Hip-Hop." Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Convention, Chicago, IL

2021 "Parodic Sampling and 'Keeping it Real' in Polish Hip-Hop." International Association for the Study of Popular Music-US Conference

2021 "Sampling Symbols: Dorota Masłowska's Hip-Hip Critique of Conservatism." Modalities of Resistance: Polish Social Protest Across the Generations, Polish Studies Association Conference

2019 "Remembering '44: Polish Hip-Hop Remixes the Warsaw Uprising." Musical Cities: Music, Historiography, and Myth, International Association for the Study of Popular Music-US Conference, New Orleans, LA

2019 "Getting to the Roots: Performing Genre and National Credibility in Polish Hip-Hop." Hip-Hop in the Golden Age Conference, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

2018 "Remixing the Past: Polish Hip-Hop and the Sampling of History." Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Convention, Boston, MA

2018 '"If Mickiewicz was alive today; he'd be a good rhymer': Performing Genre and National Credibility in Polish Hip-Hop." Midwest Slavic Conference, Center for Slavic and East European Studies, The Ohio State University

2017 "What Has Poland Done to Chopin? Dissecting the Polish Legend on Stage." A Century of Revolution: Culture, Politics, and People, Graduate Student Conference in Slavic Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

2021 "Hip-Hop in Poland." Guest Lecture, Music in Eastern Europe & Russia, Department of Musicology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2019 "'He'd be a good rhymer': Polish Hip-Hop and the Legacy of Romanticism." FellowSpeak Public Lecture, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2019 "Rap Poets of Poland." Guest Lecture, Rock Poetry and Political Protest, Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2017 "Cultural Remix: Polish Hip-Hop and the Sampling of Heritage." Slavic Department 'Sneak Peek' Symposium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2017 "Collaged Meaning in Vera Chytilova's *Daisies*." Guest Lecture, Central European Cinema, Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2016 "History and Memory in Paweł Pawlikowski's *Ida*." Presentation, Language Resources Center Film Festival, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2015 "Guilt, Memory, and Responsibility in Paweł Pawlikowski's *Ida*." Guest Lecture, Central European Cinema, Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses

Michigan State University (Assistant Professor, 2021—)
College in Popular Culture
Hip Hop in Eastern Europe and Russia (Honors, Online Asynchronous)
Humor and Politics in Eastern Europe and Russia
On the Road: Identity and Community in Travel Narratives
Central European Cinema

University of Michigan (Instructor of Record, 2007, 2017, 2020)
The Stories That We Tell: Memory, Narrative, Genre (First-Year Writing Seminar)
Hip-Hop in Eastern Europe and Russia: Performing History and Community
On the Road: Identity and Community in Travel Narratives (First-Year Honors Course)

University of Michigan (Graduate Student Instructor, 2014-2018)
Central European Cinema: Race, Ethnicity, Genre (Upper-Level Writing Course)

Member of Doctoral Dissertation Committee

Aleks Marciniak, Ph.D. candidate in Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2024— Faculty Advisor, Polish Students Association, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2022— Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities Student Awards Committee (Committee Chair, 2025-2026), Michigan State University, East Lansing

2025-2026 Organizer, Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities Professional Development Workshop Series, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2025 Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities Standards of Teaching Excellence Review Committee, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2024 Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities Syllabus Review Committee, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2024 Judge, University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (Humanities), Michigan State University, East Lansing

2023 Peer Review Committee, Designation B Promotion Review, Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2022 Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Planning Summer Fellows, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2022 Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities Assessment Scoring Committee, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2019-2020 Research Mentor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2018-2019 Graduate Student Representative, Slavic Department Executive Committee, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2018 Group Leader, Sweetland Writing Center Dissertation Writing Group, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2018 Selection Committee, Feinberg Family Prize for Excellence in First-Year Writing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2017 Selection Committee, Granader Family Prize for Excellence in Upper-Level Writing, Sweetland Writing Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024 Manuscript Review for *Nations and Nationalism*
2024 Manuscript Proposal Review for Palgrave Macmillan

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024-2025 Creating Community to Support Dialogic Practices and Student Flourishing Leaning Community, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2023-2024 IAH 321: Teaching Across the Arts and Humanities Learning Community, Michigan State University, East Lansing

2022 Junior Faculty Symposium, American Musicological Society Popular Music Study Group, Case Western University, Cleveland

2022 Digital Fellows Program, College of Arts and Letters
Michigan State University, East Lansing

2021-2022 Member, Jackman Humanities Institute Public Writing Working Group
University of Toronto

2021 Selected Participant, Public Writing Workshop, Jackman Humanities Institute
University of Toronto

2018 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Professional Development Certificate
Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2018 Graduate Teacher Certificate, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

ORGANIZATIONS

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages
Association for Women in Slavic Studies
International Association for the Study of Popular Music
Polish Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Polish
Ukrainian (Basic Reading Knowledge)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2022—	Volunteer, City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation
2020	Volunteer, Ann Arbor District Library, “It’s All Write” Teen Writing Contest
2014-2016	Volunteer, Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy
2004-2008, 2013	Flautist, University of Michigan Campus Band
2009-2010	Flautist, University of Chicago Wind Ensemble
2008	Volunteer, Michigan Democratic Party Campaign for Change