

Steven E. Harris

Professor at University of Mary Washington

Fredericksburg, VA, US

Dr. Harris is an expert on modern Russian and European history.

Biography

As Russia's resurgent global influence grows—from social media influencing to anti-Western alliances—Steven E. Harris's expertise in modern Russian and European history has become increasingly sought-after. Harris provides expert analysis on Russia's political economy during its war of aggression against Ukraine and how the country seeks to reshape geopolitics and achieve expansionist goals. Focusing on Russian aviation, Harris explains how Putin's regime has adapted to Western sanctions and how Russia's airlines and aerospace industry are evolving in an era of global economic nationalism. In addition to teaching courses in UMW's Department of History and American Studies, Harris is currently writing a book entitled *Autocratic Airways: Aeroflot and the Russian Jet Age from Stalin to Putin*. Based on extensive archival research in Russia, Ukraine, and the U.S., his book project explores the history of the "world's largest airline" and how the USSR and now Putin's Russia have used commercial aviation to forge a unique, illiberal version of the Jet Age. Harris received a Verville Fellowship from the National Air and Space Museum and a Waple Professorship from UMW to advance work on this book, as well as a Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Harris is also the author of *Communism on Tomorrow Street: Mass Housing and Everyday Life after Stalin* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press and The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013), which examines how Soviet citizens' move from overcrowded communal housing to single-family apartments fundamentally transformed the post-Stalinist "thaw" from an elite to a mass phenomenon. A list of Harris's scholarly publications and analyses of contemporary Russian aviation is available on his UMW faculty page.

Areas of Expertise

Russian History, Contemporary Russia, Commercial Aviation, Global Socialism, Aerospace History

Education

University of Chicago

Ph.D. History

University of Chicago

M.A. History

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B.A. Political Science with Honors and History

Accomplishments

Faculty Sabbatical, University of Mary Washington
Fall 2023

Summer Stipend, National Endowment for the Humanities
Summer 2020

Verville Fellowship, National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC
2016-2017

Waple Professorship, University of Mary Washington
2016-2018

Faculty Sabbatical, University of Mary Washington
Fall 2014

Faculty Development Grant, University of Mary Washington
Summer 2012

Bernadotte Schmitt Grant, American Historical Association
Summer 2007

Research Scholar, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC
2003-2004

Social Sciences Research Council Dissertation Write-up Fellowship
2001-2002

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship`
2000-2001

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