

# ALDIS PURS

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## TEACHING

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**UCOR 1400 (Comparative History of Coups), UCOR 3400 (The End of the Cold War), HIST 1210 (Modern Europe through the lens of the Nation), UCOR 3600 (The Lands Between: A History of Eastern and Central Europe in the Long 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 1908-2023), HONR 2200 (History of Revolutions)**

- At the Department of History, Seattle University, 2020-present.

**WRIT 101 courses, HIST 103 J-Term, HIST 329 Spring 2020**

- As Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of History, Pacific Lutheran University, 2019- present.

**Lectures, roundtables, Advisory work, book launches**

- As Affiliate Assistant Professor at the Department of Scandinavian Studies, University of Washington, 2012-present.

**Western Civilizations to 1648 (HIST 101); Western Civilization 1648-1914 (HIST 102); Twentieth Century World (HIST 103); Asian and African Civilizations (HIST 106); World History to 1500 (HIST 109)**

- Lecturer, Department of History and Philosophy, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, 2002-2004.

**World Since 1945 (HIS 1400); Europe 1500-1945 (HIS 1300); Europe Between the Wars (HIS 5450/7450)**

- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, 2001-2002.

**Baltic History and Culture**

- Visiting Assistant Professor, Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), University of Iowa, summers 2000, 2001.

**Survey of European History; Survey of African History; Survey of Latvian History; History of Local Government**

- Lecturer, Political Sciences Department, Vidzeme University College, Valmiera, Latvia, 1998-1999.

### **Emergence of the Third World; Survey of Russian History**

- Teaching Assistant, Department of History, University of Toronto, 1992-1996

## **INSTITUTIONAL AND DEPARTMENTAL WORK**

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### **Organized the 2010 Joint Conference of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies (S.A.S.S.) and the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (A.A.B.S.), held April 22-24, 2010, Seattle, WA**

- Organized as Vice President-Conferences for the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies
- The Conference included presentations from more than 420 scholars in more than 120 panels.
- Included the organization of a cultural programme that included a film series with directors and several North America Premier showings.
- Included all of the organizational work from hotel and conference facility negotiations and contracts, to conference program creation and execution.

### **Research Scholar for a Major International Research Project**

- Centered at the School of History and Classics at the University of Manchester, UK from 2000-2007.
- Included in-team conferences, presentations at international conferences in 4 countries, and multiple academic publications.
- Began as the Research Project: Population Displacement, State Building and Social Identity in the Lands of the Former Russian Empire, 1917-1930 (2000-2004), continued in a second research project, Population Displacement, State Practice and Social Experience in the USSR and Eastern Europe, 1930-1950s (2004-2007).

### **Cross-Cultural Coordinator**

- US Peace Corps Baltics, 1998-1999.
- Cross-cultural and diversity training of trainees, volunteers, and staff in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- Included training of in-coming volunteers and on-going instruction of volunteers in field throughout their service.
- Included the creation of an in-house quarterly publication for

volunteers, *Language and Culture*.

- Included the creation and organization of training material for incoming volunteers, and the hiring of training staff.

### **Supervised a Program for International Students and Conference Development**

- Vidzeme University College, Valmiera, Latvia, 1998-1999.
- ERASMUS/SOCRATES Co-ordinator for placing students from European Union countries in the University College.
- ERASMUS/SOCRATES Co-ordinator for placing Vidzeme University College students in universities across the European Union.
- Chief Strategist for the Africa-Baltic Conference, May 1999.

### **Additional Group Projects of note**

- Contributor to “After the Great War. A New Europe 1918-1923” a travelling exhibit of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity Project. Exhibited in Prague, Czech Republic and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, with five more planned cities upcoming (see <https://www.enrs.eu/afterthegreatwar> ).
- Research Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies, Washington, D.C., 1999.
- Visiting Historian, Latvia’s Museum of the Occupation, 1940-1991, Riga, Latvia, 1998.
- Intern, Supreme Council and *Saeima* (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia, Riga, Latvia, 1993.

## **EDUCATION**

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Ph.D. Department of History, University of Toronto, 1998

M.A. Department of History, University of Toronto, 1992.

B.A. Department of History, University of Florida, 1990.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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*Historical Dictionary of Latvia, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.*  
Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.

- Co-authored with Andrejs Plakans.

***Baltic Facades: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania Since 1945***

Reaktionbooks, 2012.

- Winner of the AABS Book of the Year 2012-2014.

***Latvia: The Challenges of Change***

Routledge, 2001.

- Co-Authored with Artis Pabriks (former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defense of the Republic of Latvia, member of the European Parliament, 2014- ).
- Re-released as David, J. Smith, Artis Pabriks, Aldis Purs, Thomas Lane, *The Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania*. Routledge: 2002.

**“Orphaned Testimonies: The Place of Displaced Children in Independent Latvia.”**

- In Nick Baron (ed) *Displaced Children in Russia and Eastern Europe, 1915-1953: Ideologies, Identities, Experiences*. Brill: 2017, pp. 40-69.

**“The Unbearable Myth of Convergence: Episodes in the Economic Development of Latvia.”**

- In David Smith (ed) *Latvia – A Work in Progress? 100 Years of State and Nation Building*. Ibidem Verlag: 2017, pp. 261-278.

**“Official and Individual Perceptions: Squaring the History of the Soviet Deportations with the Circle of Testimony in Latvia”**

- In Tomas Balkelis and Violeta Davoliūtė (eds), *Maps of Memory: Trauma, Identity and Exile in Deportation Memoirs from the Baltic States*. Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore: 2013, pp. 29-45.
- Reprinted as Violeta Davoliute and Tomas Balkelis (eds), *Narratives of Exile and Identity: Soviet Deportation Memoirs from the Baltic States*. CEU Press, 2018.

**“Tourists in Jūrmala, driven by pleasure and/or purpose?”**

- In Karsten Bruggemann (ed), *Tourismus im Ostseeraum/Tourism in the Baltic Region*, Nordost Archiv, XX, 2011, pp. 251-269.

**“Soviet in form, local in content: elite repression and mass terror in the Baltic States, 1940-1953”**

- In Kevin McDermott and Matthew Stibbe (eds), *Stalinist Terror in Eastern Europe: Elite Purges and Mass Repression*. Manchester University Press, 2010.

**“How those Brothers in Foreign Lands are Dividing the Fatherland’: Latvian National Politics in Displaced Persons Camps after the Second World War**

- In Peter Gatrell and Nick Baron (eds), *Warlands: Population Resettlement and State Reconstruction in the Soviet-East European Borderlands, 1945-1950*. Palgrave Macmillan: 2009.

**“Weak and Half-Starved Peoples’ meet ‘Vodka, Champagne, Gypsies and Drozhki’: relations between the Republic of Latvia and the USA from 1918 to 1940**

- In Daunis Auers (ed.), *Latvia and the USA: From Captive Nation to Strategic Partner*. University of Latvia: 2008.

**‘An unforeseen miracle’: Latvian Refugees in Siberia and the Far East negotiate an independent state, 1918-1945**

- Article for a special themed issue of *Contemporary European History* edited by Peter Gatrell CEH, 16, 4, (2007), pp. 479-494.

**“One Breath for Every Two Strides:” The State’s Attempt to Construct Tourism and Identity in Interwar Latvia**

- In Anne E. Gorsuch and Diane P. Koenker (eds), *Turizm: Leisure, Travel, and Nation-Building in Russian, Soviet, and East European History* Cornell University Press, 2006.

**“Latvians and Russians in Latvia”**

- Karl Cordell, Stefan Wolff (Senior Editors), *Palgrave Encyclopedia of Ethnopolitical Groups in Europe* Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

**“‘Unsatisfactory National Identity’: School Inspectors, Education and National Identity in Interwar Latvia”**

- *Journal of Baltic Studies*, Vol XXXV, 2, Summer 2004, p. 97-125.

**“Building the Nation: Latvia’s Open-Air Ethnographic Museum, ca. 1930”**

- In Rebecca Comay, ed., *Alphabet City 8: Lost in the Archives*. House of Anansi Press, September 2002, p. 192-198.

**“The Price of Free Lunches: Making the Frontier Latvian in the Interwar Years”**

- *The Global Review of Ethnopolitics*, Vol I, 4, June 2002, p. 60-73.

<http://worldhistory.abc-clio.com>

- Wrote the following entries: Egon Krenz, Walter Ulbricht, Maji Maji Revolt, Young Kikuyu Association, Paris Summit of 1960, Vienna Summit of 1961, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

**“Towards an Independent Future, The Baltic States Three Years On”**

- *Origins, Current Events in Historical Perspective*, II, 3, autumn 1994, p. 23-28.

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**CONFERENCE PAPERS**

**This is It! Or Is This It? Baltic Past, Present, Future**

- Roundtable participant at the 2018 AABS Conference at Stanford University, June 2018.

**The Unbearable Myth of Convergence: Episodes in the Economic Development of Latvia**

- Latvia – A Work in Progress? Uppsala University, December,

2013.

**The History of the Baltic That's Not Being Written and Why It Isn't**

- Do the Baltic States Exist? Reevaluations of Europe and the Post-Cold War World at Yale University, April 17, 2013.

**'This Ugly Matter': The Curious History of the Committee to Protect the Youth from Harmful Literature, Latvia 1926-1937**

- 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Conference Northwest Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

**Youth Orgy in 1929 Jurmala and Future Paths for the Historiography of Latvia**

- Joint Conference of AABS and SASS, Seattle, WA, April 22-24, 2010.

**Building a Latvian Folk Museum, Modeling from Skansen, Seurasaari, and Others in the 1920s and 1930s**

- 99<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS), Madison, WI, April 30-May 2, 2009.

**The Political Development of the Latvian Republic 1918-1940**

- at 90 Years Since Independence: Evaluating Latvia's Past and Present, University of Glasgow, November 28, 2008.

**Moving Populations, changing states and borders, and social identity: Latgale from 1900-1950**

- Latgale as an example of a Border Situation, a Joint Conference of Daugavpils University and LETONICA (The National Library of Latvia).

**From Exigency to Policy: Latvian Population Displacement during the Era of Two World Wars**

- VII World Congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies, Berlin, Germany, July 2005.

**Ethnicity, Exile, and Refugee Subjectivities in Latvia**

- American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Toronto, Canada, November 2003.

**Displacement IN Childhood: Social Catastrophe and Child Homelessness in post WWI Latvia**

- British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies, Cambridge, United Kingdom, April 2002.

**"Every trip around the Native Land must begin with certain spiritual values:" The State's Attempt to Construct Tourism and Identity in Interwar Latvia**

- Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 18<sup>th</sup>

Conference, Baltimore, MD, June 2002.

**The Price of Free Lunches: Making the Frontier Latvian in the Interwar Years**

- American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, January 2002.

**An Enigmatic Guard: Degrees of Guilt and Compassion and the Limits of Archival Evidence**

- Testimony and Historical Memory Project Research Seminar, Toronto, Canada, January 2001.

**Building a Museum, Building a Nation: the Life and Times of Latvia's Open-Air Ethnographic Museum before World War Two**

- Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 17<sup>th</sup> Conference, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, June 2000.

**'Unsatisfactory National Identity': School Inspectors, Education and National Identity in Interwar Latvia**

- Association for the Study of Nationalities, 5<sup>th</sup> Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 2000.

**The Lessons of Interwar Independence for Contemporary Latvia**

- Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies, Washington, DC, November 1999.

**Herberts Cukurs, Josephine Baker and the 'Negro Tribes': Africa's Furtive Hold on Latvians' Imaginations, 1920-1940**

- Africa Baltic Conference, Vidzemes Augstskola, Valmiera, Latvia, May 1999.

**Monumental Failures or Monuments to Failures: The Politics of Memory in Inter-War Latvia**

- Association for the Study of Nationalities, 4<sup>th</sup> Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 1999.

**The Ulmanis Regime's Purge of Local Governments**

- Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 16<sup>th</sup> Conference, University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN, June 1998.

**Latvians as an 'Imagined Community'**

- Association for the Study of Nationalities, 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 1998.