

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**DR. RICHARDS OLAFS PLAVNIEKS**  
[rplavnieks@flsouthern.edu](mailto:rplavnieks@flsouthern.edu)

**EDUCATION**

Doctor of Philosophy, earned under the supervision of Professor Christopher Browning.  
Modern German History concentration / Eastern European History and Gender Studies subfields.  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.  
28 March 2013

Master of Arts, History. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.  
May 2008

Bachelor of Arts, History Major, German Minor. Stetson University.  
May 2004

**EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Professor of History  
Florida Southern College  
Summer 2024 – Present

Assistant Professor of History  
Florida Southern College  
Fall 2018 – Spring 2024

Visiting Assistant and Adjunct Professor  
University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Fall 2014 – Summer 2018

Adjunct Professor  
Stetson University, Department of History  
Fall 2013 – Fall 2014, Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

Adjunct Professor  
Rollins College, Department of History  
Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

**LANGUAGES**

German: Near fluent. CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages): C2.  
Latvian: Research capable.  
Russian: Research capable.

## MONOGRAPHS

*Nacistu Kolaboracionistu Tiesas Prāvas Aukstā Kara Laikā: Apsūdzības pret Viktoru Arāju un Latviešu drošības palīgpolīciju.* Rudīte Vīksne and Renāte Kārkliņa, eds., Lilija Berzinska trans. Rīga: Latvijas Mediji, 2020. ISBN: 978-9934157820.

*Nazi Collaborators on Trial during the Cold War: Viktors Arājs and the Latvian Auxiliary Security Police.* London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017. ISBN: 978-3319576718.

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Justice Behind Propaganda: Soviet Prosecutions of the Men of the Arajs Kommando.” *Latvijas Vēstures Institūta Žurnāls*. 2015: Issue 4 (97). December 2015.

“The Pursuit, Prosecution, and Punishment of the Latvian War Criminal Viktors Arājs.” *Yad Vashem Studies*. Volume 40:2, December 2012.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Review of: Thomas Sandkühler. *Das Fußvolk der ‘Endlösung’: Nichtdeutsche Täter und die europäische Dimension des Völkermords*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2020. Pp. 431. *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*. Volume 36:1, Spring 2022.

Review of: Julie Lindahl. *The Pendulum: A Granddaughter’s Search for Her Family’s Forbidden Nazi Past*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. *The Historian*. Volume 81:3, Fall 2019.

Review of: *The Making of an SS Killer: The Life of Colonel Alfred Filbert, 1905-1990*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2016. Pp. 241. *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*. Volume 33:1, Spring 2019.

“The Imperative of Integration.” Review of: Anton Weiss-Wendt. *On the Margins: Essays on the History of Jews in Estonia*. Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2017. Pp. 312. *Yad Vashem Studies*. Volume 45:2, December 2017.

“An In-Depth Inquiry into Hitler’s First Death Camp: Chelmno.” Review of: Patrick Montague. *Chelmno and the Holocaust: The History of Hitler’s First Death Camp*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2012. Pp. 291. *H-Net*. Fall 2014.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Impressions of My Father, Egons Pļavnieks, 1953-2020.” *Laiks: Amerikas latviešu laikraksts*. 20 February, 27 February, and 6 March 2021.

“Pļavnieka intervija: ‘Mēs zinām, kas notika.’” *Latvijas Avīze*, 16 May, 2020.

## ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED

“Report about a Recent Legion Controversy and the People Proposing a Path Forward: The ‘Latvian Beehive’ Monument at Zedelgem and the Solution of an Academic Panel.” Paper presented at the conference on “Eastern European Displaced Persons, Refugees, and POWs during and after the Holocaust,” jointly sponsored by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the University of Latvia, and the Museum “Jews in Latvia” in Rīga, Latvia.  
5 – 9 September 2022

“The Struggle over Latvia’s Intersection with the Holocaust Today.” Paper presented at the conference on “New Directions in Holocaust Research in Latvia,” jointly sponsored by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the University of Latvia in Rīga, Latvia.  
2 – 7 July 2018

“‘All nationally-thinking Latvians’: The Muster Call of the Arajs Kommando on 4 July 1941: Who was Present and Who was Not?” Paper presented at the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies Conference at the 100th Anniversary of Baltic Independence, Stanford University.  
1 – 3 June 2018

“‘No man unless he has the morals of a fascist...’ An East German Prosecution for Crimes Against Humanity: The Case of Stanislavs Steins. Berlin, 1977-1979.” Paper presented at Fellows’ Meeting at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.  
2 February 2011

“A Total Fluke: The Pursuit, Prosecution, and Punishment of the Latvian War Criminal Viktors Arājs.” Paper presented at the 3rd Annual Summer Workshop for Holocaust Scholars of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.  
4 – 12 July 2010

“Relinquished Past: The Destruction of the Baltic German Ethnic Community.” Paper presented at the Second Annual Southeastern German Studies Conference, Columbia, South Carolina.  
5 – 6 May 2009

## **PUBLIC LECTURES**

“Collaboration and its Limits.” Lecture delivered at the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. 2024 Summer Institute for Teachers, West Orange, New Jersey.  
25 June 2024

“Samuel Bak Gallery Talk.” Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, Florida.  
11 August 2023

“Real American: My Conversation with Herbert Mai, U.S. Army.” Veterans Day Address to the Lakeland Bar Association, Lakeland, Florida.  
11 November 2022

“Soviet and Post-Soviet Responses to the Holocaust.” Lecture delivered at the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Teachers’ Institute, Maitland, Florida.  
1 June 2022

“Modern Racial Antisemitism, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Antisemitism in Germanophone Politics, and Hitler’s Innovations.” Lecture delivered remotely to the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida. 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Teachers’ Institute, Maitland, Florida.  
7 June 2021 (remote)

“The Baltics between Germany and Russia: An Historical Overview.” Lecture delivered to the Foreign Service Institute at the George P. Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, Arlington, Virginia.  
10 June 2020 (remote)

“The Holocaust in Eastern Europe.” Lecture delivered to the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida. 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Teachers’ Institute, Maitland, Florida.  
3 June 2020 (remote)

“The Holocaust in Eastern Europe and its Postwar Political Ramifications.” Lecture delivered to the Foreign Service Institute at the George P. Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, Arlington, Virginia.  
3 March 2020

“On Being Called Fascist: Ukraine’s Position Today in Historical Context.” Public Lecture delivered to the Washington, D.C., Association of Latvian Fraternities and Sororities.  
28 December 2019

“Medieval and Modern Anti-Semitism,” and “Peacetime Persecution in Nazi Germany.”  
Lectures delivered at the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida. 24<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Summer Teachers’ Institute, Maitland, Florida.  
6 June 2019

“Overview of the Holocaust as an Historical Event, 1939-1945.” Public Lecture delivered at the  
Winter Park Public Library in Winter Park, Florida, on the occasion of International Holocaust  
Remembrance Day, in association with the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center  
of Florida.  
27 January 2019

“Belonging with the West: The Importance of the Honest Study of Latvian History at the Present  
Geopolitical Moment.” Public Lecture delivered to the Washington, D.C., Association of Latvian  
Fraternities and Sororities.  
12 August 2017

“Mastering the 20th Century Latvian Past: Historicizing Problems in the Latvian Confrontation  
of Complicity in the Holocaust.” Public Lecture delivered to the Washington, D.C., Association  
of Latvian Fraternities and Sororities.  
16 January 2016

“Perjury, the Public, and the Passport: The U.S. Government’s ‘Nazi Hunters’ and the Judicial  
Aftermath of the Holocaust on American Shores.” Public lecture delivered as part of the Uhlman  
Family Seminar on New Directions in Holocaust Research. University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina.  
13 April 2013

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Project Historian, Lock(er) of Memory

Lock(er) of Memory: Memorial to the Victims of the Jungfernhof Concentration Camp is a  
multimedia interactive memorial project. Interdisciplinary by design, the memorial combines  
history with art, science, technology, and education. The Jungfernhof concentration camp was  
situated along the Daugava River in the suburbs of Riga, Latvia.  
September 2019 – Present

Panelist

The War in Ukraine: An Interdisciplinary Perspective. Florida Southern College,  
Lakeland, Florida.  
20 April 2022

Panelist

Rumbula Remembered: 80 Years Since the Mass Executions. Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. New York.  
7 December 2021 (remote)

Panelist

Academic Advisory Panel on the Legacy of the British PoW Camp on the Vloethemveld Site. Zedelgem, Belgium.  
26 – 27 November 2021

Co-President

Florida Conference of Historians  
Spring 2020 – Spring 2021

Advisor

International Advisory Council for Documentary Film *Rumbula's Echo*  
2018 – Present

Faculty Advisor

Phi Alpha Theta, History Honors Society, Alpha Omicron Nu chapter  
Fall 2018 – Present

Graduate Faculty Scholar (Master's Thesis advisor and committee member)

University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Fall 2017 – Spring 2020

Expert Consultant, World Media Rights

Advised director and producer of documentary crew on location across Latvia for the feature-length documentary: "Nazi Collaborators, Episode 4: The Arajs Kommando." Shot two on-screen interviews, supplied information and documents, and reviewed the script.  
June 2010

## GRANTS & HONORS

Charles H. Revson Foundation Fellow, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.  
October 2010 – May 2011

Recipient, Holocaust Claims Conference Academic Fellowship for Advanced Shoah Studies.  
September 2009 – August 2011

Recipient, Short-Term German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) stipend.  
January 2010 – April 2010

Recipient, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) Grant.  
Summer 2008, Summer 2007

## COURSES TAUGHT

*HIS 1997: Junior Journey to the Republic of Latvia*  
Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Summer 2024

*HIS 4999: Senior Capstone on the Philosophy and Methodology of History*  
Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2023

*HIS 4555: Junior Seminar on the Holocaust*  
Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Spring 2019, Spring 2021 (remote), Spring 2023

*HIS 4960/61: Internship in History*  
Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Spring 2019, Summer 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023

*HIS 3455 Special Topics: Interwar Europe*  
Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Fall 2020 (remote), Fall 2022

*HIS 3455 Special Topics: Romanticism & Realism*  
Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Spring 2020

*HIS 3455 Special Topics: The Holocaust*

Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Fall 2018

*HIS 3215: History of Russia and the Soviet Union*

Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Spring 2019, Spring 2022, Spring 2024

*HIS 1997 Learning Community: Critical Issues in History*

Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2023

*HIS 1300: The Modern World*

Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020 (remote), Spring 2021 (remote), Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

*HIS 1100: The Ancient World (online course)*

Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Summer 2020, Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Summer 2023

*HON 2990: Second Year Research Seminar*

Florida Southern College, Honors Program  
Spring 2023, Spring 2024

*WST 2200: Introduction to Women & Gender Studies*

Florida Southern College, Co-Taught with Colleagues in the Departments of Sociology, Art History, and Criminology  
Fall 2021, Fall 2022

*HIS 4150: History & Historians*

University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

*EUH 4465: Hitler's Third Reich*

University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Fall 2015, Spring 2018

*EUH 2001: Western Civilization II, 1648 to the Present*

University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Summer 2017, Spring 2018



*EUH 2000: Western Civilization I, Ancient to 1648*  
University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Summer 2018

*EUH 3281: Second World War & European Rebirth*  
University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017

*EUH 3235: Romanticism & Realism*  
University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Spring 2017, Fall 2017

*EUH 3142: Renaissance & Reformation*  
University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Fall 2016

*EUH 4284: Interwar Fascism & Nazism*  
University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Fall 2014, Summer 2015

*EUH 4576: 20th Century Russia*  
University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Fall 2014

*HIST 103 H: History of Western Civilization, 1700 to the Present*  
Stetson University, Department of History  
Fall 2013, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

*HIST 230 H: History of Modern Germany, 1770 to the Present*  
Stetson University, Department of History  
Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014

*HIST 395: Teaching Apprenticeship*  
Stetson University, Department of History  
Fall 2014

*HIST 104 H: Early World Civilizations*  
Stetson University, Department of History  
Fall 2014

*HIS 265 J: History of the Holocaust*  
Rollins College, Department of History and the Hamilton Holt School (Adult / Evening)  
Spring 2014

*HIS 114: History of Europe, 1815 to the Present*  
Rollins College, Department of History  
Spring 2014

*HIS 113: History of Europe, 1500 to 1815*  
Rollins College, Department of History  
Fall 2013

*HIS 355: History of the USSR*  
Rollins College, Department of History  
Fall 2013

*HIST 262: History of the Holocaust*  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of History  
Summer 2013

*HIST 151: History of Western Civilization to 1650 (online course)*  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Carolina Courses Online, Department of History  
Spring 2013

#### **RELATED WORK**

*Judge, Incubate Debate*  
Incubate Debate was founded in 2019 with the goal of bringing no-cost, free-speech debate tournaments to middle- and high-school students across Florida.  
Fall 2022 – Present

*Content Reviewer, United States Academic Decathlon*  
Reviewed Resource Guide and ancillary materials for USAD's World War II History Curriculum. USAD is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that holds academic competitions open to exceptional high school students.  
August 2015 – February 2016

*Editorial Assistant, Department of Social Studies, Harcourt School Publishers* Assisted senior editors on 6th grade Ancient Civilizations textbook for California at all stages of proof. Fact-checked raw manuscript from vendor; edited, researched, and wrote lessons and features. Also assisted with California, Kentucky, and Arizona 5th grade state history textbooks and Harcourt online biography ancillary components.  
June 2004 – June 2006