

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**DR. RICHARDS OLAFS PLAVNIEKS**  
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**

Assistant Professor of History  
Florida Southern College  
Fall 2018 – Present

Graduate Faculty Scholar (Master's Thesis advisor and committee member)  
University of Central Florida, Department of History  
Fall 2017 – Present

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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.

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

“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.

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

“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. (Fall 2014, *H-Net*)

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

## CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED

“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**

“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.  
3 – 7 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

## **LANGUAGES**

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

Russian: Research capable.

Latvian: Research capable.

## **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 4999: Senior Capstone on the Philosophy and Methodology of History*

Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science

Fall 2018, Fall 2019

*HIS 4555: Junior Seminar on the Holocaust*

Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science

Spring 2019

*HIS 4960/61: Internship in History*

Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science

Spring 2019, Summer 2019, Fall 2019

*HIS 3455: 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

*HIS 1300: The Modern World*

Florida Southern College, Department of History & Political Science  
Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019

*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**

*Project Historian, Lock(er) of Memory*

Lock(er) of Memory: Memorial to the Victims of the Jungfernhof Concentration Camp is a multi-media interactive memorial project that uses cutting edge technologies to develop innovative models of memorialization. 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

*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

*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 key information and documents, and made recommendations on the script.

June 2010

*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 component.

June 2004 – June 2006