**De’Vonte Armond Tinsley**

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**Research Interests**

My primary research focuses on the Russian Civil Wars and early Soviet government. In particular, through the lens of local studies, I examine how local Bolsheviks built the Soviet State out of the ruins of the Tsarist administrative structure, and how the conditions of Civil War affected the Soviet State. Within this framework, I am particularly interested in Bolshevik nationality policy and how non-Russian minorities shaped and viewed the Soviet experience. I also have interests in Soviet-Vietnamese cultural exchanges and political relations after 1975. I am particularly interested in the experience of Vietnamese migrant workers in the Soviet Union and relationships between Soviet soldiers and civilians on Vietnamese bases such as Cam Ranh Bay.

**Academic History**

| **University of Pennsylvania,** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  Master’s of Art in History  History Ph.D.  **Virginia Tech**, Blacksburg, Virginia. | Matriculating August 2023  Expected May 2025  Expected May 2028  2019-present |
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| B. A. History / Russian Area Studies Minor | expected May 2023 |
| B. A. Russian | expected May 2023 |
| Awarded with high Distinction / Phi Beta Kappa / Russian Flagship Program |  |
| **William Fleming High School**, Roanoke, Virginia.  Graduated in top 10% of class  National Honor Society / Scholastic Bowl team (Captain)  Political Club (President) / Key Club (President and Vice President)  Student Government (Secretary) / Boy Scouts (Senior Patrol Leader) | 2014-2019 |

**Scholarships, Honors and Awards:**

*1st place in Macalester College Russian Studies Student Research Competition for best History paper, (2023).*

*Virginia Tech History Prize Award for Best Paper, (2023).*

*Best Paper Award, Southern Conference on Slavic Studies,* (2023).

*Critical Language Scholarship*, American Councils for International Education (2021).

**Virginia Tech**

*Fellot Award*, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (2022)

*Global Education Scholarship,* College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (2022) -.

*Digital History Prize*, Department of History, Virginia Tech (2022).

*Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research Scholarship*, College of Liberal Arts and Human Science (2022).

*Moody, Pratt, Minor Scholarship* College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences *(2021-2022)*

*Professor Joseph Pitt Scholarship (2020-2021)*.

*Dean Robert Bates Honorary Endowment Scholarship* College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences(2020-2021).

**William Fleming High School**

*Krapf Family Educational Scholarship (2019).*

*Jean Nicholas Watson Scholarship Book Award (2019).*

*Gamma Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Scholarship (2019).*

**Publications and Presentations of Research:**

“Revolution on the Daugava: Dvinsk in the Context of War, Revolution, and Civil War, 1917-1920,” *Macalester College Russian Studies Student Research Competition, (2023).*

“Revolution on the Daugava: Dvinsk in the Context of War, Revolution, and Civil War, 1917-1920,” Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, March 2023.

“Revolution on the Daugava: Dvinsk in the Context of War, Revolution, and Civil War, 1917-1920,” NYU University Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russian Masters and Undergraduate Research Symposium, New York City, New York. March 2023

De’Vonte Tinsley and Raneil Smith, ASEES NewsNet: Digital Newspaper, "Reflection: The REEES Think Tank and Diversity in Slavic Studies Two undergraduate participants of I.D.E.A.S. in REEES reflect on their experiences in the program.” March 2023,

<https://www.aseees.org/sites/default/files/downloads/2023%20Mar%20NN%20FINAL.pdf>.

De’Vonte Tinsley and Raneil Jordan Smith, “Putin’s ‘Popular Monarchism’ Leads Russia into Ruin | Wilson Center,” accessed November 25, 2022,

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/putins-popular-monarchism-leads-russia-ruin>.

“Rebels in the Name of the Tsar, Rebels in the Name of the Soviets: The Evolution of ‘naive’ Monarchism, 1861-1921,” 54th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, Chicago, Illinois. November 2022.

“Undergraduate Perspectives on Becoming a Russian Historian,” Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, February 2022.

“Leadership of the Bolsheviks and State during the Russian Civil War,” 24th Annual UCLA Undergraduate Conference on Slavic and East/Central European Studies, April 2021, (virtual)

“Green Revolts in the Russian Civil War,” 52nd Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, November 2020 (virtual).

**Research Experience**

**Senior Thesis: “Revolution on the Daugava: Dvinsk in the Context of War, Revolution and Civil War, 1917-1920.”**

**Daugavpils and Riga, Latvia. May-July 2022.**

* While learning Russian in the Latvian city of Daugavpils for Virginia Tech’s study abroad program, I conducted research in local archives as well as the national library in Riga. I gathered material for my senior thesis on the revolution and civil war in Daugavpils (formerly known as Dvinsk). The primary material for the thesis is the local newspaper of the Dvinsk Soviet *Krasnoe znamia* which I accessed at the National Library of Latvia.
* Received the Southern Conference of Slavic Studies best paper award of 2023.

**Research Assistant**

**Virginia Tech, History Department, August 2022 *– Present.***

I am working with Professor of Russian history Tom Ewing on two research projects:

* The first deals with American reactions to the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881 through the lens of the American press, with a particular focus on how Southern states in light of the recent Civil War responded to the news.
* The second project deals with American explorer George Kennan, the cousin of the famous American diplomat and Historian, George F. Kennan. The project focuses on Kennan’s traveling lectures of his explorations in Russia, and how the American public responded to this unprecedented look into the Russian Empire. The project utilizes Russian language sources and will incorporate Library of Congress archival work.

**Research Assistant**

**REEES Think Tank (**[**https://www.reeesthinktank.com/**](https://www.reeesthinktank.com/)**)**

**Howard University, February 2022 *– January 2023, virtual.***

* Under the direction of professor Aaron Retish (Wayne State University) another undergraduate and I conducted research on the concept of Popular Monarchism in Russia from the Imperial period to the current Putin era. We researched the origins of the popular monarchist framework, and engaged recent historiography on the subject to explore how the idea proved extremely inconvenient and useful for Russian leaders. The project culminated in a blog post published on the Wilson Center’s Russia File blog.

**Research Assistant**

**REEES Think Tank (**[**https://www.reeesthinktank.com/**](https://www.reeesthinktank.com/)**)**

**Howard University, August 2020 *– December 2020, virtual.***

* Under the direction of Professors Aaron Retish (Wayne State University) and Anika Walke (Washington University), I along with two other students worked on a research project on peasant revolts during the Russian Civil War, focusing on the revolt of the ‘Greens’ in Tambov Province. The final product of the project was a podcast which discussed the nature of Soviet power among peasants during the Russian Civil War.

**Russian history courses**

**Virginia Tech, Fall 2019 *– Fall 2022, Blacksburg, VA.***

* During my time at Virginia Tech, from my first Russian history course dealing with the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe to my last course on Russian history during Fall 2022 on computers during the Cold War, I have completed numerous research papers and projects in Russian history. During a course on 20th century Russian history, the instructor, Dr. Amy Nelson, guided students in creating a blog for research posts on various topics in Russian and Soviet history. The website I created for the course: (<https://workersandpeasants.wordpress.com/>), received the Digital History Prize from the Department of History. On a course dealing with pre-petrine Russia, Dr. Ewing directed students in research projects on the 1648 salt riots in Moscow, in which I incorporated Russian language sources.

**Professional Experience**

**William Fleming High School World History I Teacher**

*William Fleming High School Secondary School teacher of World History I, 2023.*

* As an instructor of World History I, I teach five general education classes of over 100 students.
* In charge of responsibilities such as grading and discipline.
* Create multiple lesson plans a week to ensure successful completion of course curriculum.

**Administrative Assistant**

*Virginia Tech Department of Modern and Classical Languages and literatures, Spring 2020.*

* Greeted incoming visitors and customers professionally and provided friendly, knowledgeable assistance.
* Routed business correspondence, documents and messages to correct departments and staff members.
* Responded to emails and other correspondence to facilitate communication and enhance business processes.

**Manager**

*Subway, Roanoke and Blacksburg, September 2018-present.*

* Onboarded new employees with training and new hire documentation.
* Controlled costs and optimized spending via restructuring of budgets for labor, capital assets, inventory purchasing and technology upgrades.
* Delivered feedback to decision-makers regarding employee performance and training needs.

**Russian Language Proficiency / Study Abroad**

Oral Proficiency Interview Certificate: Advanced, low. (July 2022)

Advanced intensive Russian Course at Daugavpils University. (July 2022)

Critical Language Scholarship Program: Intermediate Russian in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. (virtual). (Summer 2021)

**Affiliations**

President, Russian Club at Virginia Tech, 2019-2023

Member, History Department Diversity and Inclusion Committee, 2021-2023

Member, Editorial Board, Virginia Tech Undergraduate Historical Review |<https://vtuhr.org/>

2021-present