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ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT



Nancy Kollmann

Professor of History
William H. Bonsall Professor of History

Field: Eastern Europe, Russia and Eurasia

Ph.D., Harvard University, 1980

M.A., Harvard University, 1974

B.A., Middlebury College, 1972

 CV

I became interested in Russia at the height of the Cold War and initially studied Russia and Russian with an eye to the foreign service. History lure me way, especially after spending a junior semester at Leningrad State University in 1970 and having the chance to travel around the Soviet Union a bit. In graduate research and since coming to Stanford in 1982, I have focused on the early modern period (from the fourteenth century through the eighteenth). In almost all my work I have been exploring the question of how politics worked in an autocracy. Theoretically I am interested in how early modern states, particularly empires, tried to create, at best, social cohesion and, at least, stability, by ritual, ideology, law and the measured use of violence. My early research focused on structures of power at the Kremlin court and the influence of kinship and marriage in politics and on social values from Muscovy to the Enlightenment (*Kinship and Politics: The Making of the Muscovite Political System* 1987); these themes encouraged my abiding interest in the roles of women in political ideology and practice. I have written two books on legal culture, one on disputes over honor (*By Honor Bound* 1999) and one on the practice of the criminal law (*Crime and Punishment in Early Modern Russia* 2012). Here I've contrasted the letter of the law with the workings of local courts, how people used the law, how judges and other officials played roles in the system, how the law was written and interpreted. In all this I've tried to place Russia in a comparative context where appropriate, trying to break down clichés of Russia being fundamentally different from European history or unknowable.

My current work goes in several directions. One is a turn to the visual -- I have written several articles on the production and use in Russia of icons, frescos and miniatures as a medium for political communication. I am now finishing up a project on images of Russia produced by foreign engravers in early print publications and maps. The tension in these images between stock tropes of the engraver's trade and eye-witness information, is one fascinating aspect; another is the challenge to assess the impact of text and image on the reader. All in all, I have found that most illustrated works about Russia present a more nuanced understanding than the image of "despotism" that has caught a lot of scholarly attention. Finally, I am interested in how Russia functioned as an empire. I recently published a synthetic history (*The Russian Empire 1450-1801* 2017) of Russia as a "Eurasian politics of different empire," and I plan to follow up this theme and return to the practice of the law by studying the implementation of Catherine II's judicial reforms (1775) in the non-Russian provinces.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS



The Russian Empire 1450-1801

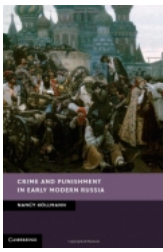
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Modern Russian identity and historical experience has been largely shaped by Russia's imperial past: an empire that was founded in the early modern...

Crime and Punishment in Early Modern Russia

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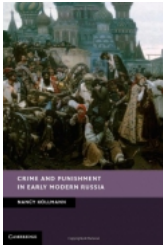
This is a magisterial new account of the day-to-day practice of Russian criminal justice in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Nancy...



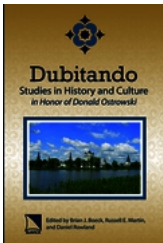
Crime and Punishment in Early Modern Russia

Nancy Kollmann

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SELECTED JOURNALS & BOOK CHAPTERS



Pictures at an Execution: Johann Georg Korb's 'Execution of the Strel'tsy'

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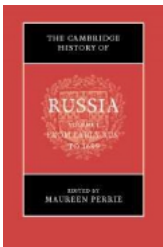
"Pictures at an Execution: Johann Georg Korb's 'Execution of the Strel'tsy,'" 399-407. In *Dubitando: Studies in History and Culture in...*



The Quality of Mercy in Early Modern Legal Practice

Nancy Kollmann

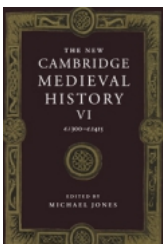
"The Quality of Mercy in Early Modern Legal Practice," *Kritika* 7 (2006): 5-22.



Law and Society in Seventeenth-Century Russia

Nancy Kollmann

"Law and Society in Seventeenth-Century Russia," 559-78. In Maureen Perrie, ed., *Cambridge History of Russia* (Cambridge, 2006).



The Principalities of Rus' in the Fourteenth Century

Nancy Kollmann

"The Principalities of Rus' in the Fourteenth Century," 764-94, 1051-58 (bibliog.). In *The New Cambridge Medieval History. Vol.VI. c. 1300 - c....*

MORE INFORMATION

The Russian Empire 1450-1801. Oxford University Press, to be submitted March 2015. 200,000 words.

"Truth and Legitimacy in Adam Olearius' 'Punishments,'" *Visualizing Revolt and Punishment in Early Modern Times. Conflict- and Contact-Zones between Different Visual Cultures and Policies*, ed. Malte Griesse (forthcoming).

“Tracking the *Travels* of Adam Olearius.” In *Word and Image in Russian History*, ed. Maria di Salvo, Daniel H. Kaiser and Valerie A. Kivelson (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2015).

“Russia,” 748-70, 976-84 (bibliog). In *The New Cambridge Medieval History. Vol. VII. c. 1415 - c. 1500* (1998).

By Honor Bound: State and Society in Early Modern Russia. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1999. 296 pp. Russian translation: *Soedinnenye chest'iu*. Trans. A. B. Kamenskii. Moscow, 2002. 461 pp.

“Muscovite Russia, 1450-1598,” 27-54. In Gregory L. Freeze, ed., *Russia: A History* (Oxford and New York, 1997).

Kinship and Politics: The Making of the Muscovite Political System, 1345-1547. Stanford University Press, 1987. 324 pp.

“Ritual and Social Drama at the Muscovite Court,” *Slavic Review* 45, no. 3 (1986): 486-502.

“The Seclusion of Elite Muscovite Women,” *Russian History* 10, pt. 2 (1983): 170-87. Anthologized in D. H. Kaiser and G. Marker, *Reinterpreting Russian History* (Oxford, 1994), 187-92.

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