Dr. Oleg Lekmanov

Research Interests

Russian literature and culture of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries; Russian Modernism and the Silver Age; Osip Mandelstam; Soviet literature and culture; Soviet children's literature; history of Russian poetry and prose; history of cinema; history of world culture, particularly painting.

Academic Qualifications

2002
Doctor of Philology, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow
Dissertation: *Acmeism as a Literary School: An Attempt at a Structural Approach*

1995
Candidate of Sciences in Philology, Moscow State University, Moscow
Dissertation: *The Book of Poetry as a Large Form in Russian Poetry of the Early Twentieth Century*

1984–1991
Moscow State Pedagogical University, Moscow
Degree in Russian Language and Russian Literature

Present Appointment

16 November 2026–present
Associate Professor of Russian Literature, Università di Napoli L'Orientale, Italy

Past Appointments

September–15 November 2026
Visiting Researcher, TU Dortmund University, Germany

2025–2026
Research Scholar, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland

September–December 2025
Professor of Russian Literature, University of Helsinki, Finland

June–August 2025
Professor of Russian Literature, Middlebury College Language Schools, Vermont, USA

2023–2025
Research Scholar and Visiting Professor, Princeton University, USA

2022–2023
Professor of Russian Literature, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

2011–2022
Professor, Department of Philology, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

1998–2011
Lecturer and subsequently Professor, Faculty of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia

1991–1998
PhD Student and subsequently Researcher, Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia

Visiting Lectures and Academic Invitations

2023–2024
Invited lectures at Stanford University, Columbia University, Georgia State University, University of Wisconsin–Madison, and Georgetown University.

2019
Invited lectures at the University of Zagreb, University of Tartu, and University of Helsinki.

2014
Invited lectures at the University of Oxford and the University of Edinburgh.

Academic Service

2018–2022
Member of the Expert Council in Philology and Art History, Higher Attestation Commission, Russia.

Selected Publications

Monographs and Books

Lekmanov, Oleg. Liubovnaia lirika Osipa Mandel'shtama: Edinstvo. Evoliutsiia. Adresaty [The Love Lyrics of Osip Mandelstam: Unity, Evolution, Addressees]. Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2024. https://imwerden.de/pdf/lekmanov_lyubovnaya_lirika_mandelstama_2024__ocr.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg. Litsom k litsu: O russkoi literature vtoroi poloviny XX – nachala XXI veka [Face to Face: On Russian Literature from the Second Half of the Twentieth Century to the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century]. Moscow: Vremia, 2022. https://imwerden.de/pdf/lekmanov_litsom_k_litsu_o_russkoj_literature_xx-xxi_vekov_2022__izd.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg. “Zhizn’ proshla. A molodost’ dlitsia…”: Putevoditel’ po knige Iriny Odoevtsevoi “Na beregakh Nevy” [“Life Has Passed. But Youth Continues…”: A Guide to Irina Odoevtseva’s On the Banks of the Neva]. Moscow: AST, Redaktsiia Eleny Shubinoi, 2020.
https://imwerden.de/pdf/lekmanov_zhizn_proshla_putevoditel_po_knige_odoevtsevoj_na_beregakh_nevy_2022__izd.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg, Mikhail Sverdlov, and Il’ia Simanovskii. Venedikt Erofeev: Postoronnii. Biografiia [Venedikt Erofeev: The Outsider. A Biography]. Moscow: AST, 2018.

Lekmanov, Oleg, and Mikhail Sverdlov. “Kto ia takoi? Vopros nelepyi”: Zhizn’ i stikhi Nikolaia Oleinikova [“Who Am I? An Absurd Question”: The Life and Poetry of Nikolai Oleinikov]. Moscow: LitFakt, 2018.
https://imwerden.de/pdf/lekmanov_sverdlov_kto_ya_takoj_zhizn_i_stikhi_nikolaya_olejnikova_2018__izd.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg. Osip Mandel’shtam: Vorovannyi vozdukh. Biografiia [Osip Mandelstam: Stolen Air. A Biography]. Moscow: AST, 2016.
https://imwerden.de/pdf/lekmanov_mandelstam_vorovanny_vozdukh_2016__izd.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg, Alina Akmal’dinova, and Mikhail Sverdlov. “Likuet forvard na begu…”: Futbol v russkoi i sovetskoi poezii 1910–1950 godov [“The Forward Rejoices as He Runs…”: Football in Russian and Soviet Poetry, 1910–1950]. Moscow: Izdatel’skii dom Vysshei shkoly ekonomiki, 2016.
https://imwerden.de/pdf/akmaldinova_lekmanov_sverdlov_likuet_forvard_na_begu_2016__izd.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg. Russkaia poeziia v 1913 godu [Russian Poetry in 1913]. Moscow: Vostochnaia kniga, 2014.
https://imwerden.de/pdf/lekmanov_russkaya_poeziya_v_1913_godu_2014__izd.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg. Poety i gazety: Ocherki [Poets and Newspapers: Essays]. Moscow: Izdatel’stvo Rossiiskogo gosudarstvennogo gumanitarnogo universiteta, 2013.
https://imwerden.de/pdf/lekmanov_poety_i_gazety_2013__ocr.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg, and Mikhail Sverdlov. Sergei Esenin: Biografiia [Sergei Yesenin: A Biography]. 2nd rev. and expanded ed. Moscow: Astrel’, 2011.
https://imwerden.de/pdf/lekmanov_sverdlov_esenin_biografiya_2011__izd.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg. *Mandelstam*. Translated by Tatiana Retivov. Edited by Lazar Fleishman. Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2010.

Lekmanov, Oleg. O trekh akmeisticheskikh knigakh: M. Zenkevich. V. Narbut. O. Mandel'shtam [On Three Acmeist Books: M. Zenkevich, V. Narbut, O. Mandelstam]. Moscow, 2006.

Lekmanov, Oleg. Kniga ob akmeizme i drugie raboty [A Book on Acmeism and Other Works]. Tomsk, 2000.

Edited and Annotated Volumes

Lekmanov, Oleg, and Leonid Vidgof, eds. Osip Mandel'shtam glazami sovremennikov: Vospominaniia. Dnevniki. Pis'ma [Osip Mandelstam through the Eyes of His Contemporaries: Memoirs, Diaries, Letters]. 2 vols. St. Petersburg: Vita Nova, 2025. https://imwerden.de/pdf/mandelstam_glazami_sovremennikov_tom1_2025__ocr.pdf

https://imwerden.de/pdf/mandelstam_glazami_sovremennikov_tom2_2025__ocr.pdf

Lekmanov, Oleg, and Mikhail Sverdlov. Glazami rebenka: Antologiia russkogo rasskaza vtoroi poloviny XX veka s poiasneniiami Olega Lekmanova i Mikhaila Sverdlova [Through a Child's Eyes: An Anthology of Russian Short Stories of the Second Half of the Twentieth Century, with Commentary by Oleg Lekmanov and Mikhail Sverdlov]. Moscow: AST, Redaktsiia Eleny Shubinoi, 2024.

Lekmanov, Oleg, Marina Kotova, Ol'ga Repina, Anna Sergeeva-Kliatis, and Sergei Sinel'nikov. Mandel'shtam O. Egipetskaia marka: Poiasneniia dlia chitatelia [Osip Mandelstam's The Egyptian Stamp: A Reader's Guide]. Moscow: OGI, 2012. https://imwerden.de/pdf/mandelstam_egipetskaya_marka_poyasneniya_dlya_chitatelya_2012__izd.pdf

Selected Articles and Book Chapters

Lekmanov, Oleg, and Roman Leibov. "Kiset i kolechko: Iz poeticheskoi staliniany 1930-kh–1940-kh gg." ["Tobacco Pouch and Ring: An Episode from Poetic Staliniana of the 1930s–1940s"]. Acta Slavica Estonica 19 (2024): 176–185. https://ruslit.ut.ee/Acta_slavica_XIX/acta_slavica_estonica_xix.pdf.

Lekmanov, Oleg, Mikhail Sverdlov, and Il'ia Simanovskii. "The Ultimate Underground Classic: Venedikt Erofeev and Moscow–Petushki." In The Oxford Handbook of Underground Culture, 797–816. Oxford, 2024. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197508213.001.0001.

Lekmanov, Oleg. “Dialog – monolog – molchanie v rannei liubovnoi lirike Osipa Mandel’shtama” [“Dialogue – Monologue – Silence in the Early Love Lyrics of Osip Mandelstam”]. Acta Universitatis Lodziensis. Folia Litteraria Rossica 16 (2023): 103–114. https://doi.org/10.18778/1427-9681.16.09.

Lekmanov, Oleg, Mikhail Sverdlov, and Mariia Rylova. “The Life and Death of Kuz’ka Probkin, or the Story of How the Pionerskaia Pravda Newspaper Took Over Pioneer Magazine.” Russian Literature 120–121 (2021): 203–237. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ruslit.2021.05.009.

Lekmanov, Oleg, and Mikhail Sverdlov. “Oberiuty v otsenkakh zhurnala ‘Detskaia literatura’ (1932–1939)” [“The OBERIU Writers in the Assessments of the Journal Children’s Literature (1932–1939)”]. Wiener Slawistischer Almanach 87, no. 2 (2021): 331–355. https://doi.org/10.5282/n2bhe079.

Lekmanov, Oleg. “The ‘Other’ Readers of the 1920s: Three Portraits.” In *Reading Russia: A History of Reading in Modern Russia*, vol. 3, 273–294. Milan, 2020.

Lekmanov, Oleg. “Hans Christian Andersen and the Acmeists: Notes toward a Theme.” In *Hans Christian Andersen in Russia*, 137–157. Odense, 2020.

Lekmanov, Oleg, and Mikhail Sverdlov. “Zverinets u Korneia Chukovskogo i u detskikh sovetskikh poetov 1920-kh–1930-kh godov” [“The Zoo in Kornei Chukovsky and Soviet Children’s Poets of the 1920s–1930s”]. Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie 152 (2018): 174–188. https://nlobooks.ru/article/14233/.

Lekmanov, Oleg. “Stalinskaia ‘oda’: Stikhotvorenie Mandel’shtama ‘Kogda b ia ugol’ vzial dlia vysshei pokhvaly…’ na fone poeticheskoi staliniany 1937 goda” [“The Stalin ‘Ode’: Mandelstam’s Poem ‘If I Were to Take Up Charcoal for the Highest Praise…’ against the Background of the Poetic Staliniana of 1937”]. Novyi mir, no. 3 (2015): 171–186. https://nm1925.ru/journal-archive/2015/03-2015/.

Lekmanov, Oleg. “Russkaia poeziia v 1913 godu” [“Russian Poetry in 1913”]. Parts 1–2. Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie 119 and 124 (2013): 140–174; 180–211. https://nlobooks.ru/article/10606/; https://nlobooks.ru/article/10986/.

Lekmanov, Oleg. “Kak formirovalas’ sovetskaia reputatsiia Sergeia Esenina” [“How Sergei Yesenin’s Soviet Reputation Was Formed”]. In The Real Life of Pierre Delalande: Studies in Russian and Comparative Literature to Honor Alexander Dolinin, part 1, 360–377. Stanford, 2007.

Lekmanov, Oleg. “Russkii modernizm i massovaia poeziia: Stikhi v zhurnale ‘Niva’ (1890–1917)” [“Russian Modernism and Mass Poetry: Poems in the Journal Niva (1890–1917)”]. Voprosy literatury, July–August 2003: 310–322.

Selected Recent Publications

Lekmanov, Oleg, and Roman Leibov. “Stalin dumaet o nas”: Khrestomatiia dlia pervoklassnikov “Rodnaia rech’” (1949): Kommentarii [“Stalin Is Thinking about Us”: The First-

Grade Reader Native Speech (1949): A Commentary]. New Haven: Freedom Letters, 2026.

Lekmanov, Oleg. "O rasskaze Arkadiia Gaidara 'Chuk i Gek'" ["On Arkady Gaidar's Short Story Chuk and Gek"]. In "Akhi" v chest' shestidesiatiletiia Gennadiia Obatnina, 178–186. Helsinki, 2026.

Lekmanov, Oleg. "Aleksandr Isaevich serditsia: Ob otklike A. Solzhenitsyna na fil'm A. Tarkovskogo 'Andrei Rublev'" ["Aleksandr Isaevich Gets Angry: On A. Solzhenitsyn's Response to A. Tarkovsky's Film Andrei Rublev"]. Wiener Slawistischer Almanach 94 (2025): 299–311. https://doi.org/10.5282/f2qy3a96.

Lekmanov, Oleg. "K postroeniiu istorii literatury sovetskogo vremeni (1917–1953)" ["Toward a History of Soviet-Era Literature (1917–1953)"]. Literaturovedenie: Sovremennaia paradigma, no. 1 (2025): 70–99. https://litparadigma.nuu.uz/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/%E2%84%96-1-2025.pdf.

Lekmanov, Oleg. "Andrei Rublev v russkoi poezii XX veka: Primery i razbory" ["Andrei Rublev in Twentieth-Century Russian Poetry: Examples and Analyses"]. Studi Slavistici 22, no. 2 (2025): 155–176. https://doi.org/10.36253/Studi_Slavis-17688.

Grants and Fellowships

2014
Six-month research fellowship, University of Sheffield, in cooperation with the Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation, for a book project on football in Russian poetry.

Awards and Honors

2019
Big Book Award for Venedikt Erofeev: Postoronnii. Biografiia [Venedikt Erofeev: The Outsider. A Biography].

2019
Shortlisted for the *Prosvetitel* Prize for nonfiction.

2017
Novyi Mir Magazine Award for Best Publication of the Year.

2011–2021
Repeatedly named Best Lecturer in the Department of Philology, Higher School of Economics.

2002
Shuvalov Award, Moscow State University.

Interviews

Lekmanov, Oleg. 2026. Oleg Lekmanov: Bol'shoi razgovor o sovremennoi literature [Oleg Lekmanov: An In-Depth Conversation about Contemporary Literature]. Interview by

Katerina Gordeeva. Skazhi Gordeevoi. March 31, 2026. YouTube video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09HRGEWzfng.

Languages

Russian — native
English — basic