



Learn to find the meanings and stories behind material objects

“Objects, Material Culture, and Empire: Making Russia”



Molly Brunson is Associate Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, History of Art at Yale University. She is a scholar of modern Russian culture, who specializes in the literature and visual art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Her book, *Russian Realisms: Literature and Painting, 1840-1890*, was awarded the Best Book in Cultural Studies by the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

This seminar is for K-12 teachers in:

- History
- English
- Arts
- Languages

In this seminar, Fellows will practice looking at and analyzing objects. They will explore how narratives and messages are embedded in everyday objects. How do things, and the materials they are made from, contribute to the articulation of local, ethnic, and national identities? How might objects reveal the lives and stories of the people who made, purchased, and used them?

The content and examples in this seminar will focus on objects from the rise of the Russian empire, but Fellows of all grade levels and in a wide variety of disciplines will be able to create curriculum units that teach their students to analyze objects related to their own subjects and disciplines, from history and social studies to English and the arts.

“Fellows will explore the advantages and disadvantages of taking an object-centered approach to academic study. What can things tell us? What can they not tell us? And why does this all matter? These are the big questions we will explore.”

- Molly Brunson

Potential Curriculum Unit Topics

Using the analytical tools and experience learned in this seminar, K-12 teachers can create curriculum units on a wide array of topics.

- **U.S., Latin American, African American, and World History teachers** can create units exploring the meanings and stories behind objects related to their specific subjects
- **English teachers and teachers of other languages** can create units on literature about specific objects as well as units that teach writing through the use of objects
- **Arts teachers** can create units that not only teach analysis of objects but also about the creation of objects and about understanding works of art as material objects

To learn more about how this seminar can help you create a curriculum unit in your own subject or grade level, visit our Open House at Yale University in January.

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