

# Mara Hunter (née Kozelsky)

Fairhope, Alabama

## HISTORIAN, PROFESSOR, PRESERVATIONIST

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PhD, University of Rochester 2004  
MA, West Virginia University 1996  
BA, Appalachian State University 1993

US, World, and Russian History  
Eastern European History  
General History, Southern History

### Recent Work Experience

University of South Alabama

Professor of History, from 2016-Current

- Director, Digital History Lab 2021-Current
- Coordinator, Graduate Studies, Department of History, 2022-Current
- Assoc. Professor, 2011-16
- Assist. Professor, 2005-11

### Historic Preservation Experience

- Worked with Alabama Historical Commission, mayor, city council, Historic Preservation Committee, and community members to establish an Historic Preservation Commission in Fairhope, Alabama. The new commission formed officially October 2024 after a nearly three decade effort. Voted interim chair; all officer positions to be confirmed at December meeting 2024.
- Member, and then co-chair, of Fairhope Historic Preservation Committee 2020-2024.
- Created and taught first course in Historical Preservation at University of South Alabama, where I have overseen several successful nominations to the Alabama State Historical Register; and
- Served as consultant for multiple property owners seeking historical preservation grants and nominations to the state and national historic registers.

### Research and Publications

Alabama History

[We are Here: African American History and Historical Sites on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay Alabama](#)

*We are Here* is a digital initiative supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Alabama Humanities Alliance, and the University of South Alabama.

In the first wave of the project, our team gathered oral histories in Fairhope and Point Clear related to African American historical sites listed in the state and national registers. The oral histories also documented sites that have not yet been listed but which are, or *may be*, eligible for the registers. The webpage linked above focuses on one of these sites: the Anna T. Jeanes School located in an unincorporated area of Baldwin County between Fairhope and Point Clear.

The second phase of this project, January 2025-December 2025, will gather additional oral histories between Daphne and Fairhope, and will create a digital tour of African American Historical landmarks along the Eastern Shore.

### Russian and Eastern European History

My career began (and continues) with research in Russian and Eastern European History; most of my publications are in that area. To date, I have published 4 books, 2 of which are co-edited volumes; more than 20 articles; contributed to multiple television and newspaper accounts of the annexation of Crimea, and war in Ukraine; and delivered nearly 50 conference presentations and invited lectures.

Embedded with my long term focus on religious nationalism and war, my research has examined Russian state-sponsored historic preservation efforts and programs in contested spaces, particularly Crimea. Books with a Historic Preservation theme are indicated below:

- Kozelsky, M. 2019. *Crimea in War and Transformation*. Oxford University Press, 2019.  
*Last Chapter describes post-war reconstruction, with its historic reimagining of the Crimean peninsula.*
- Kozelsky, M. 2010. *Christianizing Crimea: Shaping Sacred Space in the Russian Empire and Beyond*. Northern Illinois University Press.  
*Entire book examines Russian rehabilitation and preservation of Christian monuments in a recently conquered Muslim space.*
- Kozelsky, M. et al. 2008. *Selective Remembrances: Archaeology in the Construction, Commemoration, and Consecration of National Pasts*, University of Chicago Press, 2008. (with Philip L. Kohl and Nachman Ben-Yehuda).  
*Co-edited volume examines the intersection between historic narratives, archaeological research, preservation, national identity, and nationalism.*

### Selected Service to the Profession

- Fairhope Historic Preservation Commission, 2024-Present
- Fairhope Historic Preservation Committee, 2020-2024
- Volunteer, Blithewold, 2020-21
- Volunteer, Newport Historic Preservation Society, 2019
- Manuscript Reviewer: *Acta Slavica Iaponica*, *Ab Imperio*, *Canadian Slavonic Review*, *Kritika*, *Nations and Nationalism*, I. B Tauris, Unicopli, Toronto University Press, Bloomsbury Publishing, *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*
- Executive Board, Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, 2024-Present

*\*A more comprehensive curriculum vitae with a full list of publications and appearances is available upon request.*