



Andrew Wachtel

Andrew Wachtel is Rector of Narxoz University (Almaty, Kazakhstan) since 2018. Previously, he was President of the American University of Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) since 2010. He received his BA from Harvard University and his MA and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures).

After a three-year stint at the Harvard Society of Fellows, he taught for three years at Stanford University before moving to Northwestern University in 1991. There he served as Chair of the Slavic Department and Director of the Comparative Literature Program. He was Director of the Roberta Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies between 2003 and 2008 and as Dean of The Graduate School from 2004 until 2010.

A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, his scholarly interests range from Russian literature and culture to East European and Balkan culture, history and politics to contemporary Central Asia. He has published 19 books (as author, editor or translator) and more than 100 articles, and his academic work has been translated into 10 languages. His most recent published books are The Balkans in World History (Oxford UP, 2008) Russian Literature (with Ilya Vinitsky, Polity Press, 2008), and Remaining Relevant After Communism: The Role of the Writer in Eastern Europe (U. of Chicago Press, 2006).

He is also active as a translator from Russian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and Slovene and his most recent book of translations of the Russian poet Anzhelina Polonskaya was short-listed for the 2014 PEN Poetry Translation Prize.