

**Transatlantic Interdisciplinary Research Colloquium Small  
Forms. Aesthetics – Media – Modernity**

**Abstract**

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**Vladimir Nabokov's *A Guide to Berlin* (1925) as Metropolitan Miniature**

During his 15 years in Berlin from 1922–1937, Vladimir Nabokov not only wrote a total of eight novels, but also numerous pieces of short fiction published in the feuilletons of Russian exile newspapers in Berlin and Paris. I propose that Nabokov's 1925 piece *A Guide to Berlin* matches Andreas Huyssen's characteristics of what he calls "metropolitan miniatures," a new form of urban writing that emerged in Europe's modernizing metropolises at the beginning of the 20th century. By examining Nabokov's text through this lens, I argue that the study of short writing by Russian-language exile writers in 1920s Berlin reveals novel ways to approach the discourse of German modernist urban writing.