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Professional positions

University of Bergen

Professor, Department of Comparative Politics, 2024-Present.
Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Politics, 2022-2024.

HSE University

Research Fellow, International Center for the Study of Institutions and Development, 2019-2022.
Assistant Professor, School of Politics and Governance, 2019-2022.

University of Gothenburg

Associate Research Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019.
Senior Research Fellow; V-Dem Institute, Department of Political Science; 2017-2019.
Postdoctoral Research Fellow; V-Dem Institute, Department of Political Science; 2015-2017.

Education

University of Wisconsin–Madison

PhD, Political Science, 2015.
MA, Political Science, 2010.

Harvard University

AM; Regional Studies: Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia; 2009.

Grinnell College

BA, German, 2005. Graduated with honors.

Publications

Articles

17. “**Experts, coders, and crowds: An analysis of substitutability.**” With Daniel Pemstein, Constanza Sanhueza Petrarca, Brigitte Seim, et al. 2024. *International Political Science Review*. Online First.
16. “**Endogenous popularity: How perceptions of support affect the popularity of authoritarian regimes.**” With Noah Buckley, Ora John Reuter and Katerina Tertytchnaya. 2024. *American Political Science Review*. 118(2):1046-1052. **TMC Post**.
15. “**Conceptual and measurement issues in assessing democratic backsliding.**” With Carl Henrik Knutsen, Brigitte Seim, Michael Coppedge, et al. 2024. *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 57(2):162-177.
14. “**Is Putin’s popularity (still) real? A cautionary note on using list experiments to measure popularity in authoritarian regimes.**” With Timothy Frye, Scott Gehlbach and Ora John Reuter. 2023. *Post-Soviet Affairs*. 39(3):213-222. **Replication data**.
13. “**Estimating latent traits from expert surveys: An analysis of sensitivity to data generating process.**” With Daniel Pemstein. 2023. *Political Science Research and Methods*. 11(2):384-393.

12. “Language, ethnicity and separatism: Survey results from two post-Soviet regions.” 2022. *British Journal of Political Science*. 52(4):1831-1851
11. “How and how much does expert error matter in expert-coded data? Implications for quantitative peace research.” 2020. *Journal of Peace Research*. 57(6):692-700. [Online appendix and abbreviated replication data](#).
10. “Constraining governments: New indices of vertical, horizontal and diagonal accountability.” With Anna Lührmann and Valeriya Mechkova. 2020. *American Political Science Review*. 114(3):881-820.
9. “What makes experts reliable? Expert reliability and the estimation of latent traits.” With Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim and Yi-ting Wang. 2019. *Research & Politics*. 6(4):1-8.
8. “Introducing the Historical Varieties of Democracy Dataset: Political institutions in the long 19th century.” With Carl Henrik Knutsen, Jan Teorell, Tore Wig, et al. 2019. *Journal of Peace Research*. 56(3):440-451.
7. “IRT models for expert-coded panel data.” With Daniel Pemstein. 2018. *Political Analysis*. 26(4):431-456.
6. “Identity, social mobility and ethnic mobilization: Language and the disintegration of the Soviet Union.” 2018. *Comparative Political Studies*. 51(7):831-867.
5. “Xenophobia on the rise? Temporal and regional trends in xenophobic attitudes in Russia.” With Hannah S. Chapman, Yoshiko M. Herrera and Theodore Gerber. 2018. *Comparative Politics*. 50(3):381-394. [Online appendix and replication data](#).
4. “Is Putin’s popularity real?” With Timothy Frye, Scott Gehlbach and Ora John Reuter. 2017. *Post-Soviet Affairs*. 33(1):1-15. Lead article. [Replication data](#).
3. “Ethnicity as a variable: An assessment of measures and datasets of ethnicity and related identities.” With Yoshiko M. Herrera. 2015. *Social Science Quarterly*. 96(3):689-716. [Ethnicity dataset website](#).
2. “Stabilization and symbolism: Language and regional politics in the Chuvash Republic.” 2012. *Nationalities Papers*. 40(1):127-147.
1. “Framing language policy in post-Soviet Azerbaijan: Political symbolism and interethnic harmony.” 2011. *Central Asian Survey*. 30(2):181-196. Lead article.

Book chapters

2. “The measurement model and reliability.” With Daniel Pemstein, Eitan Tzelgov, Yi-ting Wang, et al. 2020. In *Varieties of Democracy: Measuring a century of political change*. eds. Adam Glynn, Brigitte Seim, et al. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 66-89. Please refer to [updated version](#).
1. “Language and sovereignty: A comparative analysis of language policy in Tatarstan and Kazakhstan, 1991-2010.” 2015. In *Identity and politics in Central Asia and the Caucasus*. eds. Mohammed Ayoob and Murad Ismayilov. London: Routledge. 44-68. [Working paper version](#).

Technical documents

- “The V-Dem measurement model: Latent variable analysis for cross-national and cross-temporal expert-coded data.” With Daniel Pemstein, Eitan Tzelgov, Yi-ting Wang, et al. (most recent: 2025). V-Dem Working Paper 21.

“**V–Dem methodology.**” With Michael Coppedge, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, et al. (most recent: 2025). Varieties of Democracy (V–Dem) Project.

“**V–Dem codebook.**” With Michael Coppedge, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, et al. (most recent: 2025). Varieties of Democracy (V–Dem) Project.

Encyclopedia entry

“Differential item functioning.” 2022. The SAGE Encyclopedia of Research Design. ed. Bruce Frey. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications. 402-404.

Commentary

“Language revitalization and recentralization in Russia.” 2024. In *Zooming in: Regional perspectives on Russia*. eds. Marlene Laruelle and David Szakonyi. PONARS Eurasia. 17-24.

“What does support for Russia mean? Evidence from Gagauz Yeri, Moldova.” 2023. *PONARS Eurasia Memo*. 862.

“Ethnic variation in support for Putin and the invasion of Ukraine.” 2023. *PONARS Eurasia Memo*. 822.

“Is Putin’s popularity (still) real? A cautionary note on using list experiments to measure popularity in authoritarian regimes.” With Timothy Frye, Scott Gehlbach and Ora John Reuter. 2022. *PONARS Eurasia Memo*. 733.

“The V–Dem method for aggregating expert-coded data.” With Laura Maxwell and Anna Lührmann. 2018. V–Dem Policy Brief 17. **Updated version** (single-authored).

“Measuring democracy with expert-coded data.” 2017. *American Political Science Association Comparative Democratization (APSA–CD) Newsletter*. 15 (2).

“Is Putin’s popularity real?” With Timothy Frye, Scott Gehlbach and John Reuter. 2015. *PONARS Eurasia Memo*. 403.

“Nation-building and language policy in post-Soviet Azerbaijan.” 2010. *Azerbaijan in the World*. 3 (19), 1-6.

Reviews

“Review of William R. Reisinger and Bryon J. Moraski, *The regional roots of Russia’s political regime*.” 2018. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*. 31 (3-4), 365-369.

“Review of Audrey L. Altstadt, *Frustrated democracy in post-Soviet Azerbaijan*.” 2018. *The Russian Review*. 77 (2), 341-342.

Datasets

“**V-Indoc Dataset.**” 2023. With Anja Neundorf, Eugenia Nazrullaeva, Ksenia Northmore-Ball, et al.

“**V–Party Dataset.**” With Anna Lührmann, Nils Düpont, Masaaki Higashijima, et al. (most-recent: 2022). Varieties of Democracy (V–Dem) Project.

“**V–Dem Dataset.**” With Michael Coppedge, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, et al. (most recent: 2025). Varieties of Democracy (V–Dem) Project. *2016 APSA Comparative Politics Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Dataset Award*.

“**Inductive Democracy.**” (2017).

Book projects

Apples to oranges: Using surveys to measure concepts across cases. With Daniel Pemstein and Brigitte Seim. Under contract. Cambridge University Press.

Center-periphery linguistic dynamics and separatism.

Article projects

“What does support for Russia mean? Evidence from a Russian-speaking region of Moldova.”

“Global trends and expert perceptions: An analysis of democratic backsliding.” With Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, John Gerring, et al.

“When and why is language salient for separatism? Evidence from Russian republics.”

“Modeling language death, stabilization and resurrection: Evidence from the former Soviet Union.”

“Ethnicity and public opinion in autocracies: Evidence from Russia.”

“Sensitive questions and mode of survey administration in autocracies: Evidence from Russia.” With Katerina Tertychnaya.

“Measuring politically-relevant identity, with and without groups.”

“Endogenous design effects in list experiments.”

“Separatism as a multidimensional concept.”

“Identity as a latent variable.”

“Linguistic diversity and conflict: Evidence from the Soviet Union.”

Grants

Primary investigator

University of Bergen (Internal)

L Meltzer Foundation

2025. Sabbatical Research Leave. 114,000 NOK (\$10,500).

2024. Conference travel. 16,400 NOK (\$1,600).

2023. Book conference. 50,230 NOK (\$4,250).

Småforsk

2025. Conference travel. 109,624 NOK (\$10,100).

2024. Conference travel and survey. 140,978 NOK (\$13,300).

2023. Conference travel. 97,720 NOK (\$9,900).

2022. Conference travel and survey. 149,940 NOK (\$15,000).

Co-investigator (total: \$839,000)

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, 2016-2020. IN16-0525:1, V-Dem data collection and development of online graphing tools. 7,075,000 SEK (\$839,000).

Senior personnel (total: \$5,840,000)

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, 2013-2019. M13:0559:1, V-Dem research program, collaborative research grant. 37,600,000 SEK (\$4,459,000).

World Bank

2020. 7198285, V-Dem data collection on exclusion. \$49,916.

2017-2019. 7185702, V-Dem data collection on exclusion. \$130,590.

2020-2021. 7198726, V-Dem data collection on exclusion. \$49,900.

European Commission, 2015-2022. EIDHR/2014/354-885, V-Dem data collection in 21 countries, country reports, and online interface. 750,000 EUR (*\$901,000*).

Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2019-2022. V-Dem data collection on countries in Africa. *\$250,000*.

Courses taught

University of Bergen

BA-level

Russian Politics, Spring 2023, 2025.

MA-level

Advanced Quantitative Analysis (with Tor Midtbø), Spring 2024, 2025.

HSE University

PhD-level

Political Science Research Design. Winter 2020-2021, 2021-2022.

MA-level

Bayesian Statistics. Fall 2019, 2020, 2021.

Applied Politics Research Seminar. Winter 2019-2020, Fall 2020.

Politics, Economics and Philosophy Project Seminar. Fall 2019.

University of Gothenburg

PhD-level short courses

Bayesian Statistics in the V-Dem Context. Fall 2024.

Applied Bayesian Statistics. Spring 2016.

Statistical Computing and Presentation with R and L^AT_EX. Spring 2016.

University of Wisconsin–Madison

BA-level (as teaching assistant)

Methods of Political Inquiry. Spring 2014.

Introduction to Comparative Politics. Spring 2011.

Introduction to International Studies. Fall 2009, 2010.

Advising/Supervision

University of Bergen

Member; PhD Review Committee (Ruben Mathisen); 2022.

Faculty adviser; Comparative Politics MA theses; 2023-2024 (2x), 2024-2025 (2x), 2025-2026 (1x, planned).

Faculty adviser; Comparative Politics BA theses; 2022 (Fall 3x), 2023 (Spring 5x, Fall 1x), 2024 (Spring 3x), 2025 (Spring 3x).

Internal reviewer; Comparative Politics MA theses; 2022 (2x), 2024 (1x).

Internal reviewer; Comparative Politics BA theses; 2024 (20x).

HSE University

Tenure review letter writer; 2025.

Member; PhD Defense Committee (Aleksei Turobov); 2022.

Member; PhD Defense Committee (Yulia Shulika); 2021-2022.

Member; PEP MA Program State Final Certification Committee; 2020, 2021.

Member; PhD Pre-Defense Committees (3x); 2019, 2020, 2021.

Faculty advisor; MA theses / course papers; 2020 (2x).

Faculty advisor; BA theses / course papers; 2020 (2x).

University of Gothenburg

Secondary grader, IAGG MA theses; February and May 2018.

Pedagogical training

University of Bergen

Introduction to teaching at university and course design (UPED 600). 2022.

Special topic in assessing student learning (UPED 661A). 2022.

Universal design for learning (UPED 671). 2022.

University of Gothenburg

Supervision in postgraduate programs (HPE 201, 5 hp). 2019.

Fellowships and awards

Best Teacher Award, HSE University. 2021, 2022.

Commendation from the Faculty of Social Sciences, HSE University. 2021.

Best Doctoral Student Paper for Central Europe Award, ASN World Convention. 2015.

Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award, 2013.

American Councils Title VIII Research Scholar Fellowship, 2012-2013 (declined).

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Award, 2012.

Academic-year Persian Foreign Language and Area Studies grant, 2011-2012.

UW-Madison Division of International Studies Field Research Award, 2011.

UW-Madison Department of Political Science Summer Initiative Funding; 2011, 2012, 2014.

ARIT-AATT Fellowship for Intensive Advanced Turkish Language Study, 2010.

Harvard University Maurice Lazarus Fund grant for summer research, 2008.

Summer Kazakh Foreign Language and Area Studies grant, 2008.

Academic-year Russian Foreign Language and Area Studies grant; 2007-2008, 2008-2009.

Fulbright IIE Fellow, Russian Federation, 2006-2007.

Thomas J. Watson Fellow, 2005-2006.

Grinnell College Kallfass Prize for Excellence in German Studies, 2005.

Phi Beta Kappa, 2004 (inducted).

Grinnell College Howard Bowen Scholar, 2001-2005.

Languages

German, Russian, Turkish: excellent written and spoken.

Azerbaijani, Gagauz, Kazakh, Norwegian, Tatar: basic reading and spoken.

Statistical programming languages

JAGS, R, Stan.

Administrative and other relevant experience

American Political Science Association

Gabriel A. Almond Best Dissertation in Comparative Politics Committee Member, 2025.

Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Best Dataset Prize Committee Member, 2024.

V-Dem Project

Project Manager for Measurement and Methods (with Daniel Pemstein), 2019-present.

University of Bergen

Member, "Representing the Future in an Aging Europe: The Politics of Demographic Change"

Postdoctoral Selection Committee (Department Internal), 2024.

Member, TMS Grant Selection Committee (Department Internal), 2023.

Member, Organizing Committee for the Rokkan Symposium, 2022.

HSE University

Chair (with Timothy Frye), ICSID Cadre Committee, 2021 - 2022.
Member, ICSID Strategic Planning Committee, 2020.
Coordinator (with Ekim Arbatl), Contemporary Issues in Political Science Research Seminar, 2020.

University of Gothenburg

Member, FASDEM assistant professor search committee; 2017, 2018.
Member, V-Dem postdoctoral fellow search committee; 2016, 2017.
Organizer (with Daniel Pemstein), V-Dem latent variable modeling week; October 2016.
Coordinator (with Kristen Kao); Political science postdoctoral researcher working group; 2018-2019.
Coordinator; GLD/V-Dem postdoctoral researcher working group; 2016-2017.

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Comparative Politics Colloquium Student Coordinator, 2010-2011.

Research/project assistantships

University of Wisconsin–Madison and Nazarbayev University Project, 2014-2015.
Prof. Yoshiko Herrera, 2012-2013.
Prof. Lisa Martin, Spring 2010.

Consultancy

World Bank; World Governance Indicators Advisory Committee; 2025.
GLOBSEC; Vulnerability Index; **2021**, 2025.
DEMED Program; 2021-2022.
Governance and Local Development Program; 2018.
Deutsche Gemeinschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); 2017.

Outreach

Op-Eds: Bergens Tidende (Norwegian language, **19.08.23**)

Longer Commentary: Russia.Post (**21.02.23**)

Comments in Press: Aftenposten (Norwegian language, **06.07.23**), Dagsavisen (Norwegian language; **07.05.23**, **24.04.25**, **26.04.25**), Filter Nyheter (Norwegian language, **20.09.24**), Nettavisen (Norwegian language, **20.05.23**), University World News (**16.03.23**), VG (**05.11.24**), Yle (Swedish language, **04.04.23**).

Invited talks/presentations

University of Bergen; Bergen Global Breakfast Roundtable; Bergen, 2022, 2024 (x2), 2025.
University of Oxford; DPIR Colloquium; Oxford, 2025.
University of Bergen; Lærernes Dag; Bergen, 2025.
University of Bergen; Comparative Politics Panel on US Election; Bergen, 2024.
Norwegian School of Economics; Rafto x NHHS Panel; Bergen, 2024.
University of Amsterdam; ACCS Seminar; Amsterdam, 2024.
Forskerforbundet Research Seminar; Bergen, 2024.
International IDEA; Lunch Seminar; Teams, 2024.
SAIH Bergen; Seminar, Bergen, 2024 (x2).
University of Bergen; Responskonferansen; Bergen, 2024. **Write-Up** (Norwegian language).
University of Bergen; Academic Freedom Conference; Bergen, 2023.
University College London; Political Science Departmental Research Seminar; London, 2023.
V-Indoc Launch Event; Zoom, 2023.

University of Oslo; Research Group on Comparative Institutions and Regimes; Oslo, 2022.
 University of Bergen; Research Group on Contemporary Russia; Bergen, 2022.
 University of Bergen; Division of Research and Innovation; Bergen, 2022.
 The Australian National University; School of Politics & International Relations; Zoom; 2021.
 University of Bergen; Department of Comparative Politics; Zoom; 2021.
 Durham University; School of Government and International Affairs; Zoom; 2021.
 University of Bath; Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies; MS Teams; 2021.
 University of Chicago; Comparative Politics Workshop; Zoom; 2020.
 HSE University; Winter School; Voronovo, Russia; 2020.
 George Washington University; New Voices on Russia; Washington, DC; 2019.
 Trinity College Dublin; Department of Political Science; Dublin, Ireland; 2019.
 Durham University; School of Government and International Affairs; Durham, UK; 2019.
 HSE University; School of Political Science; Moscow, Russia; 2018.
 Indiana University; Department of International Studies; Bloomington, IN; 2017.
 Higher School of Economics; Institute for Industrial and Market Studies; Moscow, Russia; 2016.
 Antalya International University; Department of Political Science and International Relations; Antalya, Turkey; 2015.
 Kazan (Volga) Federal University, Naberezhnye Chelny Institute; Naberezhnye Chelny, Russia; 2013.

Conference participation

American Political Science Association Annual Convention
 Chair: 2017, 2025 (planned); Discussant: 2016, 2017, 2020, 2025 (planned); Panelist: 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025 (planned).
 April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development
 Panelist: 2020, 2021.
 Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention
 Discussant: 2018; Panelist: 2014, 2018, 2021, 2023.
 Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies/International Association for the Humanities Summer Convention
 Panelist: 2016.
 Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention
 Chair: 2015; Discussant: 2016, 2018, 2021; Panelist: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019.
 Central Eurasian Studies Society Regional Conference
 Panelist: 2016.
 Conference on Caucasus Studies—Migration, Society, Language
 Panelist: 2008.
 Demscore Conference
 Chair: 2025; Panelist: 2023, 2024, 2025.
 European Political Science Association Annual Conference
 Chair: 2025 (planned); Discussant: 2025 (planned); Panelist: 2017, 2018, 2023, 2025 (planned).
 International Center for the Study of Institutions and Development Annual Conference
 Chair: 2020; Discussant: 2020; Panelist: 2020.
 International Political Science Association World Convention
 Panelist: 2016.
 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference
 Chair: 2015; Discussant: 2015; Panelist: 2011, 2015, 2016, 2017.
 New Advances in the Political Economy of Development in Eurasia

Chair: 2025; Discussant: 2024, 2025; Panelist: 2024, 2025.
 Nordic Political Science Association Congress
 Discussant: 2024.
 Russia and the Caucasus Regional Research Conference
 Panelist: 2017.
 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
 Chair: 2025; Discussant: 2025; Panelist: 2017, 2018, 2020, 2024, 2025.
 Swedish Development Research Conference
 Discussant: 2016; Panelist: 2016.
 V-Dem Annual Conference
 Chair: 2016, 2018, 2019; Panelist: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

Workshops

Constructing a European National Minority Policy Index Workshop; Flensburg, 2025
 Politics of Russia and Eurasia Seminar Series; Zoom; 2021, 2024, 2025.
 IDEA + Fundación Alternativas Meeting on Democracy Indexes; Zoom, 2025.
 Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes; Zoom, 2020, 2025.
 Protest Legacies in Non-Democratic Regimes; Berlin, 2024.
 Varieties of Communism Workshop; Chemnitz, 2024.
 Rokkan Symposium “Resisting autocracy,” Bergen, 2022.
 DefDem/MoViCon workshop on “Experimental approaches to authoritarianism and political violence,” Oslo, 2022.
 Ethnicity, Inequality, Conflict, and Democracy Workshop; Aarhus, 2022.
 Linguistic Forum; Zoom, 2021.
 vASN Working with Census Data Workshop; Zoom, 2021.
 PONARS Social Activism in Eurasia Workshop; Zoom, 2021.
 ICSID/QOG Institute Workshop; Zoom, 2020.
 Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes; BlueJeans, 2020.
 Languages in Conflict Situations; Giessen, 2019.
 New Voices on Russia Workshop; Washington, DC; 2019.
 Current Discourses on Language Policy and Planning in Turkic Speaking Countries; Freiburg, 2019.
 Wisconsin Russia Project Young Scholars Conference; Madison, 2018.
 Democracy and Nationalism in Central Asia; Bishkek, 2018.
 Expert Surveys as a Measurement Tool; Berlin, 2017.
 What Do We Know About Democratization After 227 Years? Rome, 2017.
 Iran Social Survey Workshop; Lund, 2016.
 V-Dem Latent Variable Modeling Week; Gothenburg, 2016.
 EIP/V-Dem Pre-APSA Workshop; Philadelphia, 2016.

Memberships

American Political Science Association, European Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association.

Editorial Boards

Editorial board member

Communist and Post-Communist Studies. 2025-present.
 Annals of the Croatian Political Science Association. 2025-present.

American Political Science Association Comparative Democratization (APSA-CD) Newsletter. 2015-2019.

Associate Editor (Research Notes): Communist and Post-Communist Studies. 2023-2025.

Reviewer

2025 (3x)

British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Journal of Politics, Nationalities Papers.

Earlier (71x)

American Political Science Review (x2); British Journal of Political Science (x4); Comparative Political Studies (x7), Comparative Politics; Conflict, Security & Development; Democratization (x2); Demokratizatsiya (x2); East European Politics; Europe-Asia Studies (x3); European Political Science Review; European Sociological Review; Government and Opposition (x2); International Journal of Conflict and Violence; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; International Organization; International Security; Journal of Contemporary African Studies; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Institutional Economics; Journal of Politics (x3); Journal of Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society; Nationalism and Ethnic Politics; Nationalities Papers (x5); Nations and Nationalism (x2); Perspectives on Politics (x5); Political Analysis; Political Research Exchange; Political Research Quarterly; Political Science Research and Methods; Post-Soviet Affairs (x6); Problems of Post-Communism; Public Opinion Quarterly; Regional & Federal Studies; Representation; Russian Science Foundation; Social Science Quarterly (x2); Studies in Comparative International Development; World Politics (x3).

June 4, 2025