

VALERIA UMANETS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Tulane University Instructor (2025 – 2026) and Assistant Professor (starting 2026)	present
University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Fellow	2024 – 2025

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison – Ph.D. Political Science – Dissertation: Political Participation of Women in the Soviet Union and Russia. – Committee: Yoshiko Herrera (Chair), Rikhil Bhavnani, Adeline Lo, Marwa Shalaby, and Aili Tripp.	2018 – 2024
University of Wisconsin–Madison – M.A. Political Science	2018 – 2020
University of Oxford – MPhil in Politics: Comparative Government	2016 – 2018 Thesis with distinction
Perm State University – BA, Political Science	2012 – 2016 Distinction
Leuphana University and Hamburg Media School – Study abroad program	2013 – 2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Authoritarian politics, Gender and politics, representation, historical political economy, political parties, post-Communist states, Russian politics.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Papers

2024. “[Proportional Representation and Party Fragmentation in Electoral Autocracies](#).” *Democratization*.

Books and book chapters

2022. “[Russia: Muddling Through Populism and the Pandemic](#).” In: Renno, Lucio, and Nils Ringe (eds.). *Populists and the Pandemic: How Populists Around the World Respond to COVID-19*. Taylor and Francis. With Anton Shirikov and Yoshiko M. Herrera.

Other

2025. Book Review: “[Erasing History by Jason Stanley](#).” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Who Fills the Seats? State-Employed Women in Russian Municipal Politics.
- Playing Electoral Rules by Ear: Autocratic Decision-Making in Russia.
- In the Shadow of Communism: Political Responsiveness in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan (with Dima Kortukov, Dmitrii Kofanov, and Raushan Zhandayeva).
- In-group-motivated evaluations of domestic violence and the mitigating role of the highly visible events (with Yulia Khalikova, Marcy Shieh, and Alisher Juzgenbai).

CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- New Advances in the Political Economy of Development in Eurasia, Kazakhstan. 2025
- ICCEES XI World Congress. 2025
- Women in Legislative Studies. 2024
- Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science, Department of Political Science, Penn State. 2024
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2023, 2024
- Midwest Political Science Association Conference. 2023, 2024
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Convention. 2022, 2023, 2024
- [The Summer Research Laboratory, University of Illinois](#). 2023, 2022
- Hoover Institution, Stanford University. 2023, 2022
- Wisconsin Russia Project 2022 Conference, UW–Madison. 2022
- International Center for Institutions and Development, HSE. 2019

TALKS

- Talk at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, Engaging Eurasia Teaching Fellows Program. Spring 2025
- Talk at the [Center for Governance and Markets, University of Pittsburgh](#). Fall 2024
- Talk at the [Authoritarian Political Systems Group Session](#). Fall 2024
- Podcast “[Women in Russian Politics](#)” at the Eurasian Knot, University of Pittsburghs Center for International Studies and Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies. Fall 2024
- Talk at the [Gender and Political Participation Working Group](#). Summer 2024
- Guest Lecture for the Democracy and Dictatorship in Postcommunist States course, Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, University of Texas at Austin. Spring 2024
- Talk at the [Virtual Workshop in Historical Political Economy](#). Winter 2024
- Lecture at the [Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia](#), UW–Madison. Spring 2023
- Talk at the [Comparative Politics Colloquium](#), UW–Madison. Winter and Fall 2023
- Talk at the [Models, Experiments, and Data Workshop](#), UW–Madison. Winter and Fall 2023
- Talk at the [Summer Research Laboratory](#), University of Illinois. Summer 2022

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Governing Deep Differences Grant, University of Pittsburgh. 2025
- Teaching Mentors Program, College of Letters & Science, UW–Madison. 2024 (Declined)
- Scott A. Harris Summer Writing Scholarship, UW–Madison. 2023
- Nomination for a Campus-Wide: Innovation in Teaching and Capstone Award, UW–Madison. 2022, 2023
- The Harriman Institute of Columbia University Research Grant. 2023
- Summer Initiative, Department of Political Science, UW–Madison. 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Fisher Fellowship, University of Illinois. 2022
- Political Science Department Teaching Assistant Award, UW–Madison. 2022, 2023.
- Mary Washburn Willets Award for Excellence in the Social Sciences in the Area of Gender and Women’s Studies, UW–Madison. 2022
- Student Research Grants Competition (UW–Madison Graduate School). 2019, 2022
- Ronald Rapoport Summer Research Collaborative Program, UW–Madison. 2021
- Scott Kloeck-Jenson Pre-Dissertation Travel Fellowship, UW–Madison. 2020
- Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia Travel Award, UW–Madison. 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor at the University of Pittsburgh

- [GSWS 1141. Gender, State Feminism, and Transformation in Post-Socialist States](#). Spring 2025
- [PS1300. Capstone in Russian and East European Studies: Gender and Politics in Eurasia](#). Fall 2024

Undergraduate Research Mentor at the University of Pittsburgh

Department of Political Science.

2024, 2025

Instructor at UW–Madison

– [Global Leadership and Cultural Intelligence, Pre-college PSI program.](#)

Summer 2023, 2024

– [Political Science 120. Introduction to Comparative Politics.](#)

Summer 2022, 2023

Undergraduate Research Mentor at UW–Madison

[Undergraduate Research Scholars Program.](#)

2023-2024

Teaching Assistant at UW–Madison

– Political Science 344. Causes and Consequences.

Spring 2024

– Political Science 231. Politics in Multi-Cultural Societies.

Spring 2022

– Political Science 120. Introduction to Comparative Politics.

Spring 2020, Fall 2021, 2022, 2023

– Political Science 170. Research Methods in Political Science.

Summer 2021

SERVICE

Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science, Nationalities Papers, Communist and Post-Communist Studies, American Councils for International Education.

Coordinator/chair

[IV Politics and Political Economy of Eurasia Workshop at the MPSA.](#)

2025

Co-Coordinator

[Comparative Politics Colloquium](#), Department of Political Science, UW–Madison.

2020 – 2021

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Research and Project Assistant

– Aili M. Tripp, Professor of Political Science, UW–Madison.

2022 – 2023

– Kelly M. Ward, Professor in Sociology, Gender and Women’s Studies, UW–Madison.

2021

– Yoshiko M. Herrera, Professor of Political Science, UW–Madison.

2020

– Kathryn Hendley, Professor of Law and Political Science, UW–Madison.

2018 – 2020

– Paul Goode, Professor of Political Science, University of Bath, UK.

2015 – 2016

– Center for Comparative History and Political Studies, Perm State University, Russia.

2015 – 2016

Non-Academic Experience

– Assistant, OSCE Election Observation Mission to Russia.

2016

– Reporter, Regional Department of Newspaper [Kommersant](#).

2014 – 2016

– Tour Guide, [Perm-36](#) Memorial Center of Political Repressions.

2013 – 2016

– Festival assistant, [International Documentary Film Festival Flahertiana](#).

2012 – 2013

SKILLS

Computing

L^AT_EX, R, Stata, Nvivo, Qualtrics, Python (novice).

Languages

Russian (Native), Ukrainian (Intermediate), German (Novice), Kazakh (Beginner).

REFERENCES

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