

# VALERIA UMANETS

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**University of Pittsburgh** 2024 – present  
Postdoctoral Fellow in [Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies](#) | Research Affiliate in [Political Science](#) and the [Gender, Sexuality, and Womens Studies](#).

## EDUCATION

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**University of Wisconsin–Madison** 2018 – 2024  
– Ph.D. [Political Science](#)  
– Dissertation: Political Participation of Women in the Soviet Union and Russia: From State-Sponsored Feminism to Putin’s Machismo.  
– Committee: Yoshiko Herrera (Chair), Rikhil Bhavnani, Aili Tripp, Adeline Lo, and Marwa Shalaby.

**University of Wisconsin–Madison** 2018 – 2020  
– M.A. [Political Science](#)

**University of Oxford** 2016 – 2018  
– MPhil in Politics: Comparative Government Thesis with distinction

**Perm State University** 2012 – 2016  
– BA, Political Science Distinction

**Leuphana University** and **Hamburg Media School** 2013 – 2014  
– Study abroad program

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Women and politics, representation, authoritarian politics, historical political economy, political parties, post-Communist states.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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### 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

2024. “Repurposing Tradition.” PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No.878 With Marat Ilyasov, Aleksandra Garmazhapova, and Yasin Hakim.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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– Who Fills the Seats? State-Employed Women in Russian Municipal Politics.  
– Responsiveness in Autocracies: Municipal Responsiveness in the Soviet Union and Putin’s Russia.  
– Playing Electoral Rules by Ear: Autocratic Decision-Making in Russia.  
– 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

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- Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science, Department of Political Science, Penn State. 2024
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2023
- [The Summer Research Laboratory, University of Illinois.](#) 2023, 2022
- Hoover Institution, Stanford University. 2023, 2022
- Midwest Political Science Association Conference. 2023, 2024
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Convention. 2022, 2023
- Wisconsin Russia Project 2022 Conference, UW–Madison. 2022
- International Center for Institutions and Development, HSE. 2019
- St. Antony’s Graduate Research Conference, University of Oxford. 2018

## TALKS

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- 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

## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

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Over \$36,500 in competitive grants excluding scholarships.

- 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
- 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 Kloock-Jenson Pre-Dissertation Travel Fellowship, UW–Madison. 2020
- Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia Travel Award, UW–Madison. 2019
- Hill Foundation scholarship, University of Oxford. 2016 – 2018
- Oxford Russia Fund Scholarship. 2013 – 2016

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Instructor at the University of Pittsburgh

- PS1300. Capstone in Russian and East European Studies: Gender and Politics in Russia. Fall 2024

### 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

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### Journal Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science, Nationalities Papers, Communist and Post-Communist Studies.

### Student Co-Coordinator

[Comparative Politics Colloquium](#), Department of Political Science, UW–Madison. 2020 – 2021

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

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### 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

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**Computing**       $\LaTeX$ , R, Stata, Nvivo, Qualtrics, Python (novice).

**Languages**      Russian (Native), Ukrainian (Intermediate), German (Novice).

## REFERENCES

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### Yoshiko M. Herrera

Department of Political Science  
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### Rikhil Bhavnani

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### Adeline Lo

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### Aili M. Tripp

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### Marwa Shalaby

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