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## Education

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| <b>Ph.D., Political Science</b>   | 2019                        |
| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  | <i>Urbana, Illinois</i>     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dissertation “The Revolution Will be Made Public: The Effects of International Actors on Protest Movements in Authoritarian Regimes Today”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Dissertation committee: Carol Leff (Chair), Damarys Canache, Sarah Hummel, Matthew Winters</li></ul></li><li>• Research interests: comparative politics, protest and contentious movements, authoritarianism, democratization, East European and post-Soviet politics, public opinion, political behavior</li></ul> |                             |
| <b>M.A., Political Science</b>  | 2010                        |
| University of Missouri  | <i>Columbia, Missouri</i>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thesis: “Understanding Citizen Satisfaction with Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Thesis Advisor: Doh Chull Shin</li></ul></li></ul>   |                             |
| <b>B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies</b>  | 2008                        |
| Truman State University   | <i>Kirksville, Missouri</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Graduated <i>summa cum laude</i></li><li>• Phi Kappa Phi</li><li>• Major focus: Modern European Studies</li></ul>   |                             |

## Affiliations:

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|---|----------------------|
| <b>International Research Student</b>   | 2017                 |
| National University of Kyiv – Mohyla Academy  | <i>Kyiv, Ukraine</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducted dissertation research in Kyiv over six months during spring and fall 2017</li></ul> |                      |

## Publications

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| “Paradoxes of Minority Representation: A Comparison of Russophone Political Attitudes in Estonia and Latvia.” With Kyle Estes. <i>Journal of Baltic Studies</i> , under review. | 2020 |
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## Teaching Experience

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| <b>Teaching Assistant</b>  | 2012-2018 |
| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign<br><i>Urbana, Illinois</i>  |           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Independent instructor for Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring 2016, Fall 2015)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Designed course, prepared and delivered lectures, created exams, and graded all assignments</li></ul></li><li>• Teaching Assistant for Introduction to American Government (Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2013, Spring 2013); Racial &amp; Ethnic Politics (Fall 2014); and Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2012)</li><li>• Guest lecturer for Religion and Politics in the U.S. (Fall 2016) and Government and Politics of Post-Soviet States (Spring 2014)</li><li>• Grader for The United States Congress (Spring 2018); Religion and Politics in the U.S. (Spring 2015); and Introduction to American Government (Spring 2014)</li></ul> |           |

## Teaching Assistant

2008-2010

University of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri

- Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2009)
- Grader for Introduction to American Government (Spring 2010, Spring 2009, Fall 2008)

## Research Experience

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### Research Assistant

2016-2017

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Urbana, Illinois

- Conducted research for Sarah Hummel (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)
  - Investigated and summarized public opinion polls conducted throughout Ukraine to identify and assess survey methodologies being utilized in the field
  - Recorded and evaluated trends in parliamentary voting behavior in Kyrgyzstan
  - Analyzed correlation between electoral returns and patronage spending in Turkey to identify links between localized support for the ruling party and governmental investment in different regions
- Conducted research for Stephen Chaudoin and Sarah Hummel (Summer 2016)
  - Reviewed and analyzed scholarly projects incorporating the application of game theoretical experiments in a laboratory setting to categorize and synthesize the research frameworks being used

### Research Assistant

2009-2010

University of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri

- Helped conduct research for:
  - Shin, Doh Chull. 2012. Confucianism and Democracy in East Asia. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
    - Conducted qualitative research to assess the historical compatibility of traditional Confucian culture and liberal democratic values
  - Schwindt-Bayer, Leslie. 2012. Political Power and Women's Representation in Latin America. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
    - Conducted quantitative research on women's representation in parliaments throughout Latin America

## Professional Experience

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### Program Manager

2010-2012

Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc.  
Washington, DC

- Met with Members of Congress and staffers to advocate for passage of legislation promoting democracy and human rights in Central and Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet space
- Researched political developments in Central and Eastern Europe and presented reports to the Committee's Board of Directors
- Attended foreign policy conferences, think tank events, and governmental hearings as the Committee's representative and prepared analysis for the Board of Directors
- Helped communicate information between the Board of Directors and the Embassy of Latvia; also helped communicate information between the Board of Directors and many Congressional offices
- Gained real-world experience that informed my research agenda and the focus of my dissertation

## Conference Presentations and Meetings

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Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies conference, San Francisco, CA 2019

- Presented "Paradoxes of collective endurance: comparing Russophone ethnic parties in Estonia and Latvia." With Kyle Estes.

- Midwest Political Science Association** annual conference, *Chicago, IL* 2019
- Served as Chair for panel entitled, “Identity, Protest, and Participation in Developing Countries”
  - Presented “Motivation or Deterrence? Testing the Competing Effects of Democracy Promotion and Autocratic Intervention on Democratic Movements in Authoritarian and Hybrid Regimes”
- American Political Science Association** annual conference, *Boston, MA* 2018
- Presented “Importing Revolution: Global Determinants of Protest Movements in Autocracies”
- Midwest Political Science Association** annual conference, *Chicago, IL* 2018
- Served as Chair and Discussant for panel entitled, “State, Media, and Society: A Changing Landscape of Relationships in the Post-Soviet Space”
  - Presented “Why do People in Authoritarian Regimes Protest? Evidence from an Original Survey Experiment in Ukraine”
- International Association for Political Science Students** conference, *Odessa, Ukraine* 2017
- Midwest Political Science Association** annual conference, *Chicago, IL* 2017
- Presented “Opposition NGOs and Governance in New Democracies.” With Amanda Burke.
- American Political Science Association** annual conference, *Philadelphia, PA* 2016
- Presented “Which Factors Drive Protest Behavior in the Post-Communist World Today?”
- International Association for Political Science Students** conference, *Kyiv, Ukraine* 2016
- Midwest Political Science Association** annual conference, *Chicago, IL* 2016
- Presented “Why Protest? Identifying the Factors that Drive Protests, Social Movements, and Contentious Politics in the Post-Communist World Today”
- Midwest Political Science Association** annual conference, *Chicago, IL* 2015
- Presented “Troubled Neighborhoods: Explaining the Cross-National Diffusion of Ethnic Conflict” With Thomas Lassi.
- American Political Science Association** annual conference, *Washington, D.C.* 2014
- Presented “Understanding the Determinants of Citizen Satisfaction with Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe Today”
- Midwest Political Science Association** annual conference, *Chicago, IL* 2014
- Presented “Understanding Citizen Satisfaction with Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe”

## Honors and Awards

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- List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by Their Students** 2012-present
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Denotes student teaching evaluations among the highest 30% of instructors on campus (Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2012)
  - Received “outstanding” evaluations during both the fall and spring semesters of 2018 and the spring semester of 2013, denoting evaluations ranking among the highest 10% of all instructors on campus
- University of Illinois Graduate College Dissertation Travel Grant** 2017
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Awarded to fund fieldwork in Ukraine as part of dissertation research during spring 2017

**George Yu Award**

2016, 2014

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Awarded to fund presentation of research at 2016 American Political Science Association conference, 2016 Midwest Political Science Association conference and 2014 American Political Science Association conference

**Schroeder Summer Fellowship**

2015

Cline Center for Democracy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Awarded to conduct research on-site at the Cline Center to analyze the Center's data on contentious politics and social movement events

**Loren H. Plunkett Award**

2015

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Awarded to fund presentation of research at 2015 Midwest Political Science Association conference

**Research & Language Skills**

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**Methodological Training**

- Qualitative methods, R, STATA, GeoDa, and QGIS

**Foreign Language Ability**

- Moderate proficiency in Latvian
- Basic proficiency in Russian

**Professional Service**

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**Comparative Politics Workshop Graduate Student Coordinator**

2014-2015

University of Illinois

*Urbana, Illinois*

- Organized and coordinated travel and speaking arrangements for Political Science professors visiting the department from other universities to participate in Comparative Politics presentations

**Organizational Affiliations**

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**American Political Science Association**

**Midwest Political Science Association**

**Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies**

**Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies**

**American Latvian Association**

**References**

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**Carol Leff, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, University of Illinois

316 David Kinley Hall

1407 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801

leffc@illinois.edu

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**Sarah Hummel, Ph.D.**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Harvard University

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1737 Cambridge St, Cambridge, MA 02138

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(203) 415-6911

**Matthew Winters, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, University of Illinois

315 David Kinley Hall

1407 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801

[mwinters@illinois.edu](mailto:mwinters@illinois.edu)

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