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## Education

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**Ph.D., Political Science** 2019  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign *Urbana, Illinois*

- Dissertation “The Revolution Will be Made Public: The Effects of International Actors on Protest Movements in Authoritarian Regimes Today”

**M.A., Political Science** 2010  
University of Missouri *Columbia, Missouri*

- Thesis: “Understanding Citizen Satisfaction with Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe”

**B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies** 2008  
Truman State University *Kirksville, Missouri*

- Graduated *summa cum laude*
- Phi Kappa Phi

### *Affiliations:*

**International Research Student** 2017  
National University of Kyiv – Mohyla Academy *Kyiv, Ukraine*

- Conducted dissertation research in Kyiv during spring and fall 2017

## 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

## Research Experience

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**Research Assistant** 2016-2017  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Urbana, Illinois*

- Investigated and summarized public opinion polls conducted throughout Ukraine to identify and assess survey methodologies being utilized in the field
- 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
- Recorded and evaluated trends in parliamentary voting behavior in Kyrgyzstan

## Research Assistant

University of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri

2009-2010

- Conducted qualitative research to assess the compatibility of Confucian culture and democratic values
- Conducted quantitative research on women's representation in parliaments throughout Latin America

## Conference Presentations

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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"

## 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

## Teaching Experience

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### Teaching Assistant

2012-2019

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Urbana, Illinois*

- Independent instructor for Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring 2016, Fall 2015)
- Teaching Assistant for Introduction to American Government (Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2013, Spring 2013); Racial & Ethnic Politics (Fall 2014); and Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2012)

### Teaching Assistant

2008-2010

University of Missouri  
*Columbia, Missouri*

- Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2009)

## Honors and Awards

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### List of Teachers Rated as Excellent by Their Students

2012-2018

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 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

## 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