

VALERIA UMANETS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Tulane University	present
Assistant Professor of Political Science and Newcomb Faculty Affiliate	
University of Pittsburgh	2024 – 2025
Postdoctoral Fellow	

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison	2018 – 2024
– Ph.D. Political Science	
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

Authoritarian politics, gender and politics, representation, historical political economy, political parties, post-Communist states, Central Asia, 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 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 Marcy Shieh, and Yulia Khalikova).
- Gender and Law-making in Nondemocracies: The Case of Russia (with Sarah Hummel).
- Why Minority Women have the Edge in Many Parliaments Worldwide (with Aili Tripp).

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, 2025

- 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

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- Guest Lecture, University of Texas at Austin. Spring 2026
 - Talk at the Narkhoz University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Fall 2025
 - Talk at the Davis Center, Harvard University. 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 Pittsburgh. Fall 2024
 - Talk at the Gender and Political Participation Working Group. Summer 2024
 - Guest Lecture, 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

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- SLA Faculty Research Award, Tulane University. 2025
 - Newcomb Institute Grant, Tulane University. 2025
 - 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
 - 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 Tulane University

- POLC 4360: Russian Politics. Spring 2026
- POLC 3010. Gender and Politics. Spring 2026

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

Politics and Political Economy of Eurasia Workshop at the MPSA.

2025, 2026

Co-Coordinator

Comparative Politics Colloquium, Department of Political Science, UW–Madison

2020–2021

SKILLS

Computing

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

Languages

Russian (Native), German (Novice).

Last updated March, 2026.