

VALERIA UMANETS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison – Ph.D. Political Science	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, 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.
- When Silence Creates Violence: Understanding the Role of Identity-Based Dynamics in Assessing Domestic Violence (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). – Who Gets the Bin? Agency, Responsiveness, and Public Goods Allocation in Kazakhstan (with Dima Kortukov, Dmitrii Kofanov, and Raushan Zhandayeva).
- Playing Electoral Rules by Ear: Autocratic Decision-Making.

- The Puzzle of Womens Quotas in Eurasia.

CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 6th Gender, Work and Organization Conference, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan. 2026
- New Advances in the Political Economy of Development in Eurasia, Kazakhstan. 2025, 2026
- Empirical Study of Gender Research Network (EGEN) conference. 2026
- 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, 2026
- [The Summer Research Laboratory, University of Illinois](#). 2023, 2022
- Hoover Institution. 2023, 2022
- Wisconsin Russia Project 2022 Conference, UW–Madison. 2022
- International Center for Institutions and Development, HSE. 2019

TALKS

- Guest Lecture, University of Texas at Austin. Spring 2026
- Talk at the Department of Political Science, Tulane University. Spring 2026
- Talk at the Narkhoz University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Fall 2025
- Talk 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 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

- Carol Lavin Bernick Faculty Grant Program. 2026
- 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
- 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 Tulane University

- POLC 4520: Comparative State Building. Fall 2026
- POLC 43010: Authoritarianism. Fall 2026
- POLC 4360: Russian Politics. Spring 2026
- POLC 3010. Gender and Politics: How States Engineer Gender. Spring 2026

Instructor at the University of Pittsburgh

- GSWS 1141. Gender, State Feminism, and Transformation in Post-Socialist States. Spring 2025
- PS1300. Capstone in Eurasian Studies. 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, Politics & Gender, Studies in Comparative International Development, 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 Languages

LaTeX, R, Stata, Nvivo, Qualtrics, Python (novice).
Russian (Native), German (Novice).

Last updated July, 2026.