

Academic Positions

- Present Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics, Occidental College
- Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Departments of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering and Political Science, Iowa State University
- 2019-2021 Lecturer in Political Science, Iowa State University

Education

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

Dissertation Project: “Post-Soviet Ethnic Politics and Public Goods Provision”
Committee: Carol Leff (Chair), Sarah Hummel, Matthew Winters, Cara Wong

- 2015 MA in Political Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2010 BA in Political Science, San Francisco State University

Research

Interests and Areas of Specialization

Ethnic Politics/Nationalism, Institutional Legacies of Colonialism, Distributive Politics, Informal Institutions, Electoral Clientelism, Politics in the Post-Soviet States

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Research

- “Whose Ties Still Bind? Ethnic Domination, Informal Social Networks, and Public Goods Provision in Kyrgyzstan”. Forthcoming, [*Problems of Post-Communism*](#).
- “Paradoxes of Minority Representation: A Comparison of Russophone Political Attitudes in Estonia and Latvia” (with Peter Chereson). Forthcoming, *Journal of Baltic Studies*.
- “For Kith and Kin? Post-Soviet Ethnic and Regional Distributive Favoritism” (Under Journal Review)
- “Stereotypes and Stereotype Threats Experienced by Latinx Undergraduate Engineering Students” (with co-authors, Under Journal Review)

Book Reviews

Fragile Conviction: Changing Ideological Landscapes in Urban Kyrgyzstan, by Mathijs Pelkmans. Cornell University Press, 2017. In [Nationalities Papers](#).

Paradox of Power: The Logics of State Weakness in Eurasia, edited by John Heathershaw and Edward Schatz. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017. In [Central Asian Survey](#).

Jobs for the Boys: Patronage and the State in Comparative Perspective, by Merilee Grindle. Harvard University Press, 2012. In [Comparative Political Studies](#).

In Progress

“Career Paths of Members of the European Parliament Since 2004” (with Carol Skalnik Leff)

“Conflict and Ethnic Boundary Change in Ukraine” (with Scott Feinstein)

“Emotional Reactions and Rational Actions: A Case Study of Ethnic Violence in Lviv, 1918”

“Rhetoric and Action in the Failure of Global Governance: The (in)action of the OSCE in the June 2010 Osh Riots”

“Subnational Solidarity and Social Development in Russia” (with Colin Johnson)

Selected Conferences and Invited Presentations

“Subnational Solidarity and Social Development in Russia,” (with Colin Johnson, Idaho State University). *Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association* (April 2022)

“Paradoxes of Collective Endurance: Comparing Russophone Ethnic Parties in Estonia and Latvia,” (with Peter Chereson, University of Illinois). *Annual Meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies* (November 2019)

“Bringing Home the Goods? Ethnic and Regional Distributive Politics in the Post-Soviet States.” *Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities* (May 2019)

“Organized Hypocrisy Comes to Osh: Explaining OSCE (In)action During the June 2010 Unrest.” *Annual Meeting of the Central Eurasian Studies Society* (October 2018)

“Staying Connected: The Significance of Informal Social Ties and Ethnicity in Kyrgyzstani Public Goods Provision.” *Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities* (May 2018)

“Second Order Election, Second Rate Career? New Members and New Rules in the European Parliaments of 2004 and 2009.” (with Prof. Carol Leff) *Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association* (April 2013)

Teaching

Occidental College

POLS 101 American Politics and Public Policy

POLS 201 Introduction to Comparative Politics

POLS 295 Comparing Colonial Legacies (Special Topics)

FYS 77 Immigration, Citizenship, and Political Community (Writing Intensive First-Year Seminar)

Iowa State University

POL S 241 Introduction to Comparative Governments and Politics

POL S 312 Caravans, Cages and Coyotes: An Introduction to the US Immigration Debate

POL S 340 Politics of Developing Areas

POL S 344 Public Policy

POL S 350 Politics of the Middle East

POL S 353 Immigration Policy

POL S 370 Religion and Politics

POL S 383 Environmental Politics and Policies

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

PS 100 Introduction to Political Science

PS 101 Introduction to US Government and Politics

PS 240 Introduction to Comparative Politics

Selected awards and fellowships

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2019	Charles E. Merriam Travel Scholarship from Department of Political Science
2016-17 Academic Year	Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship (Kyrgyz) at American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
April 2016	George T. Yu Award for Research-Related Travel from Department of Political Science
2014-15 Academic Year	Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship (Fourth Year Russian)
Summer 2014	Summer Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship (Intensive Third-Year Russian, SWSEEL)
April 2013	Yaro Skalnik Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay from Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center
2013-14 Academic Year	Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship (Ukrainian)

Teaching Awards

[Fall 2011](#), [Spring 2016*](#),
[Spring 2019](#)

List of Teachers Ranked Excellent, University of Illinois

*Ranked in top 10 percent university-wide

Academic activities and service

University and Department Service

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Member of Department of Political Science Graduate Association's Visits Committee (AY 2018-19)

Volunteer Mentor for Department of Political Science Graduate Student Association's First Year Mentorship Program (AY 2018-2019)

Academic Society and Workshop Participation

Organizer and participant in University of Illinois' Interdisciplinary Central Asia and Caucasus Study Group (2013-2018)

University Consortium's "Euro-Atlantic Week," Harvard University (2016)

Journal Peer Reviews

Journal of Eurasian Studies

Political Behavior

Textbook Review

Introduction to Politics and Political Science (OpenStax, 2021; review of "Chapter 1: What Is Politics and What Is Political Science?" and "Chapter 9: Legislatures")

Research skills and language competencies

Quantitative analysis:

R/Splus; SPSS; Matching; ARC GIS

Qualitative analysis:

RQDA (R Qualitative Data Analysis package)

Elite and nonelite interviewing

Focus group organization and moderation

Survey design

Languages

Russian Advanced/Near Fluency

Uzbek Intermediate

Kyrgyz Intermediate

Ukrainian Intermediate