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Education

Ph.D., Political Science

Expected 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”
 - Dissertation committee: Carol Leff (Chair), Damarys Canache, Sarah Hummel, Matthew Winters
- Research interests: comparative politics, protest and contentious movements, authoritarianism, democratization, East European and post-Soviet politics, public opinion, political behavior

M.A., Political Science

2010

University of Missouri

Columbia, Missouri

- Thesis: “Understanding Citizen Satisfaction with Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe”
 - Thesis Advisor: Doh Chull Shin

B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies

2008

Truman State University

Kirkville, Missouri

- Graduated *summa cum laude*
- Phi Kappa Phi
- Major focus: Modern European Studies

Affiliations:

International Research Student

2017

National University of Kyiv – Mohyla Academy

Kyiv, Ukraine

- Conducted dissertation research in Kyiv over six months during spring and fall 2017

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant

2012-present

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Urbana, Illinois

- Independent instructor for Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring 2016, Fall 2015)
 - Designed course, prepared and delivered lectures, created exams, and graded all assignments
- 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)
- Guest lecturer for Religion and Politics in the U.S. (Fall 2016) and Government and Politics of Post-Soviet States (Spring 2014)
- Grader for The United States Congress (Spring 2018); Religion and Politics in the U.S. (Spring 2015); and Introduction to American Government (Spring 2014)

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

Research Assistant

2016-2017

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, Illinois

- Conducted research for Sarah Hummel (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)
 - 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
 - Investigated and summarized public opinion polls conducted throughout Ukraine to identify and assess survey methodologies being utilized in the field
- 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

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

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

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 (Spring 2018, Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2012)
- Received “outstanding” evaluations during the spring semester 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

University of Illinois Fellowship 2014, 2013

Research & Language Skills

Methodological Training

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

Foreign Language Ability

- Moderate proficiency in Latvian
- Basic proficiency in Russian

Professional Service

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

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

Carol Leff, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, University of Illinois

316 David Kinley Hall

1407 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801

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(217) 300-4338

Sarah Hummel, Ph.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Harvard University

406 CGIS Knafel Bldg

1737 Cambridge St, Cambridge, MA 02138

sarah_hummel@fas.harvard.edu

(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

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(217) 333-3881