

Cian Stryker

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Education

MA: Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian Studies

August 2019 – May 2021

Harvard University, Cambridge MA

BPhil: Political Science and Russian, Eastern European Studies

August 2014 – August 2019

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA

Work Experience

Harvard Kennedy School

January 2021 – Present

Graduate Course Assistant

Cambridge, MA

- Course Assistant for Bruce Schneier's "Cybersecurity: Technology, Policy, and Law" class
- Grading policy memos and short assignments for students throughout the course
- Answering student questions and keeping track of participation during classes

Davis Center's Program on Central Asia, Harvard University

September 2020 – Present

Research Assistant

Cambridge, MA

- Researching digital surveillance on Central Asia vis-à-vis China's Digital Silk Road
- Designing, organizing, and building [CASPIANA](#), a website on Central Asia and the South Caucasus
- Wrote a chapter for a soon-to-be published edited volume on the Digital Silk Road in Central Asia

Institute for the Study of War

May 2020 – August 2020

National Security and Intelligence Analyst—Intern

Washington D.C.

- Performed open-source analysis working with Russian media
- Worked with a property-based ontology knowledge management system to manage content
- Published paper on EU accession processes and the Kremlin's setbacks in the Western Balkans

Davis Center's Program on Central Asia, Harvard University

September 2019 – June 2020

Innovation Fellow

Cambridge, MA

- Researching digital surveillance in Central Asia vis-à-vis China's Digital Silk Road.
- Designing and organizing a digital toolbox website on Central Asia and the South Caucasus
- Planning and coordinating an international workshop on digitization in Central Asia.

United Nations World Food Programme

October 2018 – April 2019

Program Intern

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

- Performed translation between English, Russian, and Tajik documents
- Tasked with English editing of academic articles and WFP reports
- Improved distribution of WFP resources according to gender reports

Association of Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies

September 2017 – April 2018

Office Assistant

Pittsburgh, PA

- Assisted with preparations for 2017 ASEES Convention in Chicago
- Posted academic job offerings, calls for papers, and grant proposals
- Involved with VISA applications for foreign academics attending the convention

Russian and Eastern European Studies Center**September 2017 – April 2018***Student Ambassador (University of Pittsburgh)**Pittsburgh, PA*

- Presented to over 50 undergraduate classes per semester on REES opportunities
- Held office hours weekly to help students find study abroad programs and funding
- Worked on REES projects including editing grant applications and course modules.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy**September 2016 – April 2017***Office Internship**Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan*

- Translated documents from English to Russian and Russian to English
- Advised for projects aimed at assisting sub-national governmental structures
- Planned cooperative program between UK's and Kyrgyzstan's Female Caucuses

Awards**Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship—Academic Year****April 2019 | April 2020**

- \$45,000 scholarship received twice to continue studying Russian at the graduate level
- Used in combination both times with a \$30,000 Harvard University tuition award

Boren Scholarship**April 2018**

- \$20,000 scholarship funded by the Defense Department to study in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- Studied Farsi through American Councils for an academic year, August 2018-May-2019
- Performed research regarding Tajik perspectives of Chinese influence

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant, Russia**May 2018**

- Declined in lieu of the Boren and Fulbright-Hays to study in Tajikistan

Fulbright-Hays**April 2018 | January 2019**

- \$14,000 (\$7,000 each award) to support the study of Russian and Persian
- Augmented the Boren Scholarship to study Farsi in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Brackenridge Research Grant**April 2018**

- \$4,000 Summer research grant from the Honors College of the University of Pittsburgh
- Performed statistical analysis of diaspora minority migration, economic incentives, and discriminatory political practices

Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society**April 2017**

- Fulfilled interdisciplinary course requirements while maintaining a high GPA
- Completed all requirements a year early and was inducted with distinction as a junior

Critical Language Scholarship**April 2017**

- All expenses covered State Department scholarship to study Russian.
- Earned 8 credits over 9 weeks in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship—Summer**April 2016**

- Full tuition scholarship and \$2,500 stipend to study Russian in Narva, Estonia
- Studied Russian for 8 weeks while performing field interviews in Russian
- Participated in the Defense Department's ProjectGo with ROTC students.

Carroll Award

April 2016

- \$5,000 Scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh Political Science Department
- Studied Russian in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for 8 months at the London School for Languages
- Performed field interviews in Russian for research on ethnic relations

Publications

Kassenova, Nargis, and Cian Stryker. "Introducing Caspiana." *Eurasianet*, May 21, 2021.

<https://eurasianet.org/introducing-caspiana>.

Stryker, Cian. "Budding Digital Authoritarianism in Central Asia." Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies - Harvard University, November 16, 2020.

<https://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/insights/budding-digital-authoritarianism-central-asia>.

Stryker, Cian. "Digital Silk Road and Surveillance Technology in Central Asia." In *Digital Silk Road in Central Asia: Present and Future*, edited by Nargis Kassenova and Brendan Duprey, 17–54. Harvard University Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, 2021. <https://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/research-initiatives/program-central-asia/digital-silk-road-central-asia-present-and-future>.

Stryker, Cian. (2018). *Integration and Differentiation within the Russian-Speaking Diaspora: Estonia and Kyrgyzstan*. (Bachelor of Philosophy Thesis). University of Pittsburgh. <http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/34260/>

Conferences and Workshops

Participant in an International Workshop on the Digital Silk Road

July 2020

- Presented research on the development of facial recognition powered surveillance systems in Central Asia at a virtual workshop hosted jointly by Harvard University and NARXOZ University

Panelist at the European and Eurasian Undergraduate Research Symposium

April 2018

- Presented a conference paper titled, "Integration and Differentiation within the Russian Diaspora: Estonia and Kyrgyzstan" at the University of Pittsburgh

Panelist at the Midwest Slavic Association

March 2018

- Presented a portion of my honor's thesis as a conference paper titled, "Integration and Differentiation within the Russian Diaspora: Estonia and Kyrgyzstan" at Ohio State University

Technical and Language Skills

Languages

- Russian: Advanced (OPI: Advanced Mid/High | DLPT Reading: 2+ | DLPT Listening: 2)
- Persian (Farsi): Advanced Speaking (OPI: 2), Advanced Reading and Advanced Listening
- Persian (Dari): Advanced Speaking, Advanced Reading, and Intermediate High Listening
- Persian (Tajik): Advanced Speaking, Intermediate High Reading, and Intermediate High Listening

Quantitative Abilities

- R – R Markdown, Tidyverse, Shiny, Blogdown, Latex
- CSS
- HTML
- ArcGIS Pro

- Statistical Modelling
- Machine Learning
- Data Visualization

Website Development

- *Caspiana: A Digital Toolbox for Students and Scholars of Central Asia and the South Caucasus:*
<https://caspiana.omeka.fas.harvard.edu>
- *My Personal Website:* <https://cianstryker.com>
- *My Github Profile:* <https://github.com/CianStryker>