

# Karen Nershi

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## Academic Appointments

**IE University** (fall 2023–Present)

Assistant Professor, School of Politics, Economics, and Global Affairs

**Stanford University** (2021–2023)

Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford Internet Observatory

Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)

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## Education

**University of Pennsylvania** (fall 2021)

Ph.D. in Political Science

Fields: International Relations & Comparative Politics

Dissertation: Studies in the International Political Economy of Anti-Money Laundering Regulation

Committee: Beth A. Simmons (chair), Edward D. Mansfield, Julia Gray

– **Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Methods**. ETH Zürich (2019)

– **Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models**. Turin, Italy (2018)

M.A. in Political Science (2018)

**University of Alabama** (2013)

B.A. in International Studies

*Summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

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## Working Papers

- [1] **Nershi, Karen**. How Strong Are International Standards in Practice? Evidence from Cryptocurrency Transactions. [\[SSRN\]](#)
- [2] **Nershi, Karen** and Shelby Grossman. Assessing the Political Motivations Behind Ransomware Attacks. [\[SSRN\]](#)
  - **Media coverage:** [WIRED](#); [The Washington Post](#); [SC Media](#); [Infosecurity Magazine](#).
- [3] **Nershi, Karen**. Embedded Reputation: Measuring Reputational Harm in Money Laundering Cases. [\[SSRN\]](#)
- [4] **Nershi, Karen**. Quantifying International Pressure: Synthetic Estimates of the Economic Impact of Blacklisting. [\[PDF\]](#)
- [5] **Nershi, Karen** and Serena Hofstetter. Does Rank Choice Voting Increase Electoral Chances

for Female and Minority Candidates? Evidence from California Local Elections.

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## Selected Works in Progress

- [6] **Nershi, Karen**, Rosemary Ajayi, Shelby Grossman, and Jennifer Pan. Measuring the Effect of Chinese State Media on Attitudes Among Nigerians. [\[OSF Preregistration\]](#)
  - [7] **Nershi, Karen**. New Theoretical Lenses for Emerging Cybersecurity Threats.
  - [8] Jun, Jenny and **Karen Nershi**. Strategic Threat Actors and Moral Hazard in the Cyber Insurance Market
  - [9] **Nershi, Karen**. Ties that Bind? Chinese Foreign Direct Investment & Political Influence in Africa. [\[PDF\]](#)
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## Other Publications

**Nershi, K.** (2023). “The Slow and Steady Regulation of Cryptocurrency.” *Inkstick Media*. [DOI](#).

Grossman, S., DiResta, R., Ramali, K., Sharma, R., Bradshaw, S., and **Nershi, K.** (2021). “In Bed with Embeds: How a Network Tied to IRA Operations Created Fake ‘Man on the Street’ Content Embedded in News Articles.” Stanford Digital Repository. [DOI](#).

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## Teaching

Instructor of Record (IE University)

International Money and Finance (Fall 2023)  
International Political Economy (Spring 2024)

Teaching Assistant (University of Pennsylvania)

1. Introduction to International Relations with Prof. Edward Mansfield (2016 and 2020)
2. International Relations and Ethics with Prof. Mark Pollack (2018)
3. Introduction to International Relations with Prof. Alex Weisiger (2017)
4. International Political Economy with Prof. Mark Pollack (2017)

Guest Lectures

“Cybersecurity and International Relations”

- Prof. Christopher Chiego, California State University Maritime Academy (2023)
- Prof. Samantha Bradshaw, American University (2023)

Advising and Mentoring

- Polmeth Expansions Program, Society of Political Methodology (2023)
- IE University Advisors, advising and mentoring for undergraduate students (2023)
- CISAC Increasing Diversity in International Security Mentoring Program (2023)
- Graduate Associate, Gregory College House, University of Pennsylvania (2016-2021)

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## Selected Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

### External:

Perry World House Foreign Affairs Emerging Scholars Policy Prize (2023)  
 Oxford Large Language Models Travel Grant (2023)  
 Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) Fellow (2021–2023)  
 Stanford University Cyber Policy Center Research Grant (2022)  
 Prestage-Cook Travel Award, *Southern Political Science Association* (2020)  
 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, *ETH Zürich* (2019)  
 Young Investigator Scholarship, *Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Studies* (2018)  
 Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship (Arabic), *U.S. Department of State* (2016)  
 Critical Language Scholarship (Arabic), *U.S. Department of State* (2013)

### University of Pennsylvania:

Perry World House Graduate Associate (2020–2021)  
 GAPSA-Provost Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation (2020)  
 Browne Center for International Politics Research Grant (2018, 2019, 2020)  
 E. W. Mumford Graduate Fellow (2018)  
 Mellon Ethnopol Graduate Fellow (2017)  
 Benjamin Franklin Fellowship (2015–2020)

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## Invited Seminars

- 2024:** University of Chicago Department of Politics (*scheduled*)
- 2023:** U.S. Internal Revenue Service, RAAS Innovation Lab 3.0 - Digital Assets. *Virtual*.  
 U.S. Department of Treasury, Data & Analytics Community of Practice. *Virtual*.
- 2022:** Cyber Policy Center seminar series (Stanford University). *Stanford, CA*.  
 The Munich Cyber Crime Conference M3C (Maltego). *Munich, Germany*.  
 Oak Ridge National Laboratory “Geek Brief.” *Virtual*.  
 The Stanford Blockchain Seminar (Center for Blockchain Research and the Future of Digital Currency Initiative). *Stanford, CA*.

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## Conference Presentations

- 2023:** Political Economy of Cyber Conflict (ETH Zurich). *Zurich, Switzerland*.  
 Empirical Studies of Conflict annual conference (Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, and University of California, San Diego). *Washington, DC*.

War and Peace: Conflict, Behaviour and Diplomacy in Cyberspace (The Hague Program on Cybersecurity). *The Hague, Netherlands.*

American Political Science Association annual conference. *Los Angeles, CA.*

Public Choice Society annual conference. *Seattle, WA.*

Fourth International Empirical Research Conference on Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime (Central Bank of the Bahamas). *Nassau, Bahamas.*

Cyber Escalation in Conflict: Bridging Policy, Data, and Theory (UC San Diego). *San Diego, CA.*

**2022:** CYBERWARCON. *Arlington, VA.*

Trust and Safety Research Conference (Stanford University). *Stanford, CA.*

Politics of Emerging Technologies Mini-Conference. *Virtual.*

American Political Science Association annual conference. *Montreal, Canada.*

Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth) annual conference. *St. Louis, Missouri.*

American Causal Inference Conference. *Berkeley, CA.*

Symposium on Cryptocurrency and Societal Harm (Stanford University). *Stanford, CA.*

Technologies of Deception (Yale Law School). *Virtual.*

International Studies Association annual conference. *Nashville, TN.*

Third International Empirical Research Conference on Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime (Central Bank of the Bahamas). *Nassau, Bahamas.*

**2021:** American Political Science Association annual conference. *Seattle, WA.*

International Studies Association annual conference. *Virtual.*

Second International Empirical Research Conference on Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime (Central Bank of the Bahamas). *Virtual.*

Southern Political Science Association annual conference. *Virtual.*

**2020:** Visions in Methodology (VIM) Job Talk Series. *Virtual.*

Graduate Student International Political Economy (GSIPe) Workshop: The International Political Economy of Aid and Development. *Virtual.*

Polmeth Europe. *(cancelled due to Covid-19)*

Southern Political Science Association annual conference. *San Juan, PR.*

## Original Datasets

### Victims of Double Extortion Ransomware Attacks Dataset

- Includes 4,194 victims of double-extortion ransomware attacks by 55 ransomware groups posted to the dark web between May 2019 and May 2022
- All victims are classified according to country (physical location or headquarters) and sector (according to a 14-sector scheme)
- Includes the identity of the threat actor and the approximate date of each attack

### Cross-National Cryptocurrency Trades Dataset

- Includes 150 million transactions from 65 of the world's highest volume cryptocurrency exchanges between 07/01/2020 and 08/15/2020
- Details the time, amount, and price of trades between Bitcoin and Ethereum to dollars,

euros, and other international currencies

- Collected in real time from each site's API using remote servers from Amazon Web Services

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## Academic and University Service

**Reviewer**, *Financial Innovation*

**Mentor**, CISAC Increasing Diversity in International Security Mentoring Program (2023)

**Organizer**, Symposium on Cryptocurrency and Societal Harm, Stanford University (2022)

[Website](#); [Program](#)

**Graduate Associate**, Gregory College House, University of Pennsylvania (2016–2021)

Mentored undergraduate students in a residential setting

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## Skills

**Technology** R, Python, Qualtrics, LaTeX

**Languages** Arabic (intermediate), German (intermediate), French (beginner)

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## References

**Beth A. Simmons**

Professor of Political Science  
University of Pennsylvania  
simmons3@law.upenn.edu

**Shelby Grossman**

Research Scholar  
Stanford Internet Observatory  
shelbygrossman@stanford.edu

**Julia C. Gray**

Associate Professor of Political Science  
University of Pennsylvania  
jcgray@sas.upenn.edu

**Daniel Nielson**

Professor of Government  
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