DARIA KUZNETSOVA

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University of Canterbury ⋄ School of Language, Social and Political Sciences

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CURRENT POSITION

Lecturer (Assistant Professor), University of Canterbury *2024 - Present*
Department of Media and Communication / Department of Political Science
and International Relations (Dual appointment)

EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science, University of Iowa *2023*

Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology (Quantitative), Mass Communication

Dissertation: *The Weaponization of Digital Communication Spaces: How Authoritarian Regimes Use Information Control to Suppress Contention*

MA, Political Science, University of Iowa *2020*

MCRP, Community and Regional Planning, Iowa State University *2019*
Thesis: *Impact of The Decentralization Reform on The Quality of Local Public Services in Ukraine*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I study how political actors in authoritarian regimes use digital communication spaces to control, exploit, and manipulate information creation, dissemination, and consumption. I use computational (text analysis and network analysis) and conventional econometric methods. My dissertation investigated the effects of digital media, particularly the messaging app Telegram, on the protests in Belarus in 2020 and the 2022 anti-war protests in Russia.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical software and languages: Stata, R, RStudio, Python

Methodology: Regression analysis (OLS, maximum likelihood estimation, hierarchical models, multilevel modeling, time series, Bayesian), natural language processing, causal inference, web scraping, API

Kuznetsova, D. (2025). Amplifying the regime: Identifying coordinated activity of pro-government Telegram channels in Russia and Belarus. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics.* https://doi.org/10.1080/19331681.2025.2540822

Kuznetsova D. (2024). Broadcasting Messages via Telegram: Pro-government Social Media Control During the 2020 Protests in Belarus and 2022 Anti-war Protests in Russia. *Political Communication,* 41(4), 509–530. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10584609.2023.2233444

Kuznetsova D., & Tolbert, C. (2023). Modelling temporal dynamics: Does internet use fuel anti-government protests? *Democratization,* 31(2), 389–410. https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2023.2268019

Kuznetsova, D., & Tolbert, C. J. (2023). Globalizing information networks, social media, and participation. *Social Science Quarterly.* 104(4), 505-520. https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.13287

Mossberger, K., Cho, S., Cheong, P. H., & Kuznetsova, D. (2023). The public good and public attitudes toward data sharing through IoT. *Policy & Internet.* 15, 370–396. https://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.343

BOOK CHAPTERS

Kuznetsova, D. (2024). Broadcasting Messages via Telegram: Pro-Government Social Media Control During the 2020 Protests in Belarus and 2022 Anti-War Protests in Russia. In K. Koc-Michalska, U. Klinger, L. Bennett, & A. Rommele (Eds.), *Dissonant Public Spheres.* Routledge. https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003479598-16

BOOK REVIEWS

Kuznetsova D. (2020). Russia, the Former Soviet Republics, and Europe Since 1989: Transformation and Tragedy: by Katherine Graney, New York, NY, Oxford University Press, 2019, xxviii + 439 pp., $99 (hardback), ISBN 9780190055080, $37.95 (paperback), ISBN 9780190055097. *Democratization,* 28(2), 462–464. https://doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2020.1798404.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Pietsukh O, Nechyporenko L, Kuznetsova D. (2024) Ukrainian Heritage in the Polish Media. In Year 1 report of Jean Monnet Policy Network Challenges and opportunities for EU heritage diplomacy in Ukraine (HER-UKR), 2023-2026. HER-UKR Work Package 5: Strategic communication of Ukraine's heritage.

Tolbert, C.J., & Kuznetsova, D. (2021). Editor's Introduction: The Promise and Peril of Ranked Choice Voting. *Politics and Governance,* 9(2). https://doi.org/10.17645/pag.v9i2.4385

Kuznetsova D. (2019). "Impact of The Decentralization Reform on The Quality of Local Public Services in Ukraine." Graduate Theses and Dissertations. https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/etd/17491

WORKING PAPERS

Kuznetsova D. Political Participation and Digital Media Use during Wartime: The Case of Ukraine.

Kuznetsova, D. Network of Telegram Channels: Interactions of communities in Russian Telegramsphere.

Kuznetsova, D. & LaSpisa, C. Disentangling The Party from The Leader: Public Approval of Authoritarian Leaders and Their Parties.

Kuznetsova, D. Sovereign Internet through Ownership: The Case of Russia and China.

Kuznetsova, D. Combining Decentralization and Amalgamation: The Effects of Reforms on The Quality of Public Services in Ukraine.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Kuznetsova D, Yang Y. (2025). Power of words: How Rhetorical Strategies Influence Regime Legitimacy in Russia. *Joint Quantitative Political Science Conference for Asia and Australasia, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ*

Kuznetsova D, Peng L. What's The Story and Who's Telling It? (2024). A Systematic Review of Research on Ukraine and the Russia's War Against Ukraine. *The International Symposium "War, Academia, Women: Ukrainian Female Academics as Knowledge Producers and Community Agents in New Zealand and Australia, University of Canterbury, NZ.* https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/news-and-events/past-events/2024/international-symposium–war–academia–women–ukrainian-female-

Challenges of EU heritage diplomacy. Part of the Ukraine Heritage Project co-funded by the EU within the ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Policy Debate action. KU Leuven, 2024 (remotely). https://www.kuleuven.be/her-ukr/news-and-events/events/conference-challenges-of-eu-heritage-diplomacy/conference-report#autotoc-item-autotoc-10

Kuznetsova D. Media, Social Networking, and Political Engagement During War in The Information Age: The Case of Ukraine. *International Communication Association Conference (ICA) 2024, The International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference (IAMCR) 2024*

Kuznetsova D. Firehose of Falsehood: Russian disinformation narratives on Telegram public channels. *WAPOR Asia Pacific 2023*

Kuznetsova D., & Tolbert, C. Modelling temporal dynamics: Does internet use fuel anti-government protests? *ICA 2023*

Kuznetsova, D. & Tolbert, C.J. Globalizing Information Networks, Social Media and Participation. *ICA 2022, WAPOR Asia Pacific 2022, Southern Political Science Association Conference (SPSA) 2023*

Kuznetsova, D. Network of Telegram Channels: Interactions of communities in Russian Telegramsphere. *SPSA 2023, Midwest Political Science Association Conference (MPSA) 2023*

Kuznetsova, D. Broadcasting Messages via Telegram: The 2020 Protests in Belarus and 2022 Anti-war Protests in Russia. *American Political Science Association Conference 2022, WAPOR Asia Pacific 2022*

Kuznetsova, D. Sovereign Internet through Ownership: The Case of Russia and China. *IAMCR 2022, ICA Preconference 2022: Sovereignty and The Return of Governance for Digital Platforms*

Kuznetsova, D. & LaSpisa, C. Disentangling The Party from The Leader: Public Approval of Authoritarian Leaders and Their Parties. *MPSA 2022*

Kuznetsova, D. & Kim, J.W. Internet Access and Political Movements: Evidence from Regression Discontinuities and Difference-in-Differences. *MPSA 2022*

Kuznetsova, D. Combining Decentralization and Amalgamation: The Effects of Reforms on The Quality of Public Services in Ukraine. *International Public Policy Association Conference 2021*

FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Ukraine Heritage Project
I am a part of the University of Canterbury team in the Ukraine Heritage Project co-funded by the EU within the ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Policy Debate action. As a member of the Strategic Communication of Ukraine's Heritage research group, I oversee data collection and develop a methodology for computational analysis of strategic communication data.

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND GRANTS

The Arts Research Committee Seed Fund (NZ $6,800)   *2024*
University of Canterbury, to organize and host "The International Symposium: War, academia, women: Ukrainian female academics as knowledge producers and community agents in New Zealand and Australia"

Graduate College Summer Fellowships ($5,000)   *2023*
University of Iowa

Graduate Student Senate Research Grant (Small Grants Program) ($1,000)   *2023*
University of Iowa, grant to purchase survey data from Ukraine

Graduate and Professional Student Government Research Grant ($1,000)   *2023*
University of Iowa, grant to purchase survey data from Ukraine

Graduate and Professional Student Government Travel Grant ($500)   *2023*
University of Iowa, to cover travel expenses to participate in SPSA 2023

Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship for Fall 2023 ($10,500)   *2022*
University of Iowa

American Political Science Association (APSA) travel grant ($300)   *2021*
For the 2021 APSA Annual Meeting

The 5th International Conference on Public Policy Travel Grant   *2021*
The grant covered registration fees and accommodation

Burgess Graduate Scholarship ($1,000)   *2019*
Iowa State University

Fulbright Foreign Student Program   *2017*
Received Fulbright Scholarship to complete a Master's degree in the US (at Iowa State U)

Golden medal (highest recognition in high school)   *2010*
Granted by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, University of Canterbury
I teach quantitative social science courses for the Political Science and Media and Communication majors.

POLS 215-COMS 215 Introduction to Social Analysis	*S1 2025*
POLS 306 The Craft of Social Science Research	*S2 2025*
POLS 228-COMS 228 Data Visualisation	*SU2 2024*

Instructor, University of Iowa
POLI 3450 Problems in Comparative Politics: Media and Politics
(17 students, independent course)   *Fall 2023*

Graduate Instructor, University of Iowa
POLI 1601 Introduction to Social Media and Politics (80 students, online course)   *Fall 2020*

Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa
POLI 1400 Introduction to Comparative Politics (4 sections of 20 students)   *Fall 2019, Spring 2020*

Teaching Assistant, Iowa State University
CRP 293 Environmental Planning	*Fall 2017, Fall 2018*
CRP 301 Planning Methods Studio	*Spring 2018, Spring 2019*

RESEARCH ASSISTANSHIP EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, University of Iowa   *Spring 2021 - Fall 2022*

Under the supervision of Professor Caroline J. Tolbert (University of Iowa) evaluated the role of digital micro-businesses on local economies and economic development (US counties) using data on 20+ million GoDaddy customers in the US. This research is a part of the GoDaddy Ventures Forward research initiative.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND INVITED TALKS

Digital Media Use during War in The Information Age: The Case of Ukraine. *University of the Third Age, Christchurch, New Zealand.* August 2024.

Media, Social Networking, and Political Engagement During War in The Information Age: The Case of Ukraine. Global Visions seminar. *University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.* August 2024.

The Weaponization of Digital Communication Spaces: How Authoritarian Regimes Use Information Control to Suppress Contention. Media and Communication Research Seminar Series 2024. *University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.* August 2024.

Broadcasting Messages Via Telegram: State Media Control Strategies During Protests in Belarus and Russia. *Bowling Green State University, Ohio.* February 2023.

Ukrainian UI professor, Student Reflect on Media Use During Wartime. *The Daily Iowan.* April 2022. https://dailyiowan.com/2022/04/03/ukrainian-university-of-iowa-professor-student-reflect-on-media-use-during-wartime/

Discussion on Current Events in Ukraine. *Corruption, The Rise of Populism, and The Future Of Democracy Symposium.* April 2022

War in Ukraine, *University of Iowa Center for Human Rights.* March 2022. https://uichr.uiowa.edu/guest-speakers-current-events/war-ukraine

Ukraine and Russia: Deciphering The Current Situation - An Obermann Conversation. *University of Iowa and Iowa City Public Library.* February 2022. https://www.icpl.org/video/ukraine-and-russia-deciphering-current-situation-obermann-conversation

GUEST LECTURES

Media in Authoritarian Countries: Achieving Information Control Emory University, GA, US. (2024, 2025)

Introduction to Stata: Data wrangling, analysis, and data visualization. University of Iowa, Graduate level methods seminar. (September 2022)

How to find reputable sources. Lecture for an upper-level undergraduate student seminar. University of Iowa. (September 2022)

SERVICE

Event organization

2025: Co-organizer of the Multidisciplinary Networking Event fro Early Career and Emerging Researchers at the University of Canterbury.

2024: Co-organizer of the International Symposium "War, Academia, Women: Ukrainian Female Academics as Knowledge Producers and Community Agents in New Zealand and Australia", University of Canterbury. Event online page

Journal and conference review

American Political Science Review (APSR), Political Communication, European Journal of Political Science (EJPS), Democratization, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC), International Communication Association (ICA), Political Research Quarterly (PRQ), Swiss Political Science Review, Post-Soviet Affairs, Contemporary Politics, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management, Scientific Reports, Humanities & Social Sciences Communications and others.

Grants and awards review

2024: Reviewer for the Ensom Prize scholarship (U of Canterbury, Political Science Department)

Reviewer for Graduate and Professional Student Government Grants (U of Iowa) *2020 - 2022*

Conference chairing and discussant

2025: Joint Quantitative Political Science Conference for Asia and Australasia (chair and discussant for panel "Large Language Models")

2024: IAMCR 2024 (chair and discussant)

2023: WAPOR Asia Pacific (chair)

Other

Faculty of Arts representative for the Early and Emerging Academic Researcher Network, U of Canterbury *2024 -*

UE Local 896, Campaign to Organize Graduate Students (COGS) representative for Graduate Students in Political Science *2021 - 2022*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant, Representation of Danish Refugee Council in Ukraine *2019*

Developed methodology for data collection (demographics and economic characteristics of communities, interviews with local stakeholders) and analysis for assessment of local economies of conflict-affected communities in Eastern Ukraine. Prepared a report underlining specific investment proposals based on the assessment findings.

Planning Intern, Community and Economic Development Department *Summer 2018, 2019*

Assisted in developing strategies to attract new businesses to the community and identifying expanding opportunities for existing companies. Prepared maps and marketing materials for potential businesses.

LANGUAGES

Native language	Ukrainian
Foreign language	Russian (fluent), English (fluent), Belarusian (reading proficiency)

*last updated: 4 August 2025