

# Nikolay Marinov

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## Professional Experience

University of Gothenburg  
2023-: Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science

University of Houston  
2021-2023: Professor, Department of Political Science  
2018-2021: Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

University of Mannheim  
2016-18: Professor, Chair for Empirical Democracy Research (W3 Lehrstuhl Inhaber)  
2013-16: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science (W1 Juniorprofessor)

Yale University  
2005-2013: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

## Education

Stanford University  
2003: PhD in Political Science, MA in Economics

## Publications

### ARTICLES

Tsz-Ning Wong and Nikolay Marinov. 2025. "Campaign Contributions and Policy Divergence," *Social Choice and Welfare* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00355-025-01601-1>

Kennedy, Ryan, Nikolay Marinov, Adam Ozer, Lydia Tiede. 2025. "Signed, Sealed, Counted? An Experimental Study of Mail-in Ballot Signature Verification", *Political Research Quarterly* [link](#)

Johannes Bubeck, Ashrakat Elshehawy, Nikolay Marinov, Federico Nanni. 2025. "The Importance of a Liberal Power's Attention to Democratic Elections Around the World: How the US Electoral Cycle Affects Elections Globally" *Journal of Politics* <https://doi.org/10.1086/734276>

Matthias, Mader, Nikolay Marinov and Harald Schoen. 2022. "Foreign Anti-Mainstream Propaganda and Democratic Publics" *Comparative Political Studies* 55:1732-1764

Elshehawy, Ashrakat, Nikolay Marinov, Federico Nanni and Jordan Tama. 2022. "SASCAT: Natural Language Processing Approach to the Study of Economic Sanctions" *Journal of Peace Research* 60: 877-885

Elshehawy, Ashrakat, Konstantin Gavras, Nikolay Marinov, Federico Nanni and Harald Schoen. 2022. "Illiberal Communication and Election Intervention During the Refugee Crisis in Germany" *Perspectives on Politics* 20:860-878

- Marinov, Nikolay and Maria Popova. 2022. "Will the Real Conspiracy Please Stand Up: Sources of Post-communist Democratic Failure" *Perspectives on Politics* 20:222-236
- Bräuninger, Thomas and Nikolay Marinov. 2022. "Political Elites and the War on Truth" *Journal of Public Economics* 206:104585
- Bubeck, Johannes, Kai Jäger, Federico Nanni and Nikolay Marinov. 2022. "Why Do States Intervene in the Elections of Others? The Role of Incumbent-Opposition Divisions" *British Journal of Political Science* 52:85-106
- Marinov, Nikolay. 2021. "International Actors As Critics of Domestic Freedoms: The Role of Expertise and Benefits" *Mediterranean Politics* 28: 399-421
- Florian Foos, Lyubomir Kostadinov, Nikolay Marinov, Frank Schimmelfennig. 2021. "Does Social Media Promote Civic Activism? A Field Experiment with a Civic Campaign" *Political Science Research and Methods* 9:500-518
- Bubeck, Johannes and Nikolay Marinov. 2017. "Process or Candidate? The International Community and the Demand for Electoral Integrity" *American Political Science Review* 111:535-554
- Carnegie, Allison and Nikolay Marinov. 2017. "Foreign Aid, Human Rights and Democracy Promotion: Evidence from a Natural Experiment" *American Journal of Political Science* 61:671-683
- Nikolova, Elena and Nikolay Marinov. 2017. "Do Public Fund Windfalls Increase Corruption? Evidence from a Natural Disaster" *Comparative Political Studies* 50:1455-1488
- Marinov, Nikolay and William Nomikos and Josh Robbins. 2015. "Does Electoral Proximity Affect Security Policy?" *Journal of Politics* 77:762-773
- Marinov, Nikolay and Shmuel Nili. 2015. "Sanctions and Democracy" *International Interactions* 41:765-778
- Goemans, Hein and Nikolay Marinov. 2014. "Coups and Democracy" *British Journal of Political Science* 44:799-825
- Hyde, Susan and Nikolay Marinov. 2014. "Information and Self-Enforcing Democracy: The Role of International Election Observation" *International Organization* 68:329-359
- Marinov, Nikolay. 2013. "Voter Attitudes When Democracy Promotion Turns Partisan: Evidence from a Survey-Experiment in Lebanon" *Democratization* 20:1297-1321
- Kinne, Brandon and Nikolay Marinov. 2013. "Electoral Authoritarianism and Credible Signalling in International Crises" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 57:359-386
- Corstange, Daniel and Nikolay Marinov. 2012. "Taking Sides in Other People's Elections: The Polarizing Effect of Foreign Intervention" *American Journal of Political Science* 56:655-670.
- Hyde, Susan and Nikolay Marinov. 2012. "Which Elections Can Be Lost?" *Political Analysis* 20:191-210
- Marinov, Nikolay. 2005. "Do Economic Sanctions Destablize Country Leaders?" *American Journal of Political Science* 49:564-576

## Book

- J. Bubeck and N. Marinov. 2019. *Rules and Allies: Foreign Election Interventions* - CUP [\[PoP reviewed\]](#)

## WORKING PAPERS

“Seeing the Person for the Country? Foreign Leader Salience on the US Congress Floor” (with Ashrakat Elshehawy, Ines Rehbei, and Federico Nanni)

“Targeted Sanctions Against Authoritarian Elites” (with Julia Grauvogel and Tsz-Ning Wong)

“Ex-Post Knowledge and Ex-Ante Uncertainty in Elections Predictions” (with Susan Hyde, Ryan Kennedy and Carl Knutsen)

## Teaching

Göteborgs Universitet:

SK1227 V25 Institutional Development and Democratization in International Perspective

Uni Houston:

Intro to IR, Research Design, Arguments and Methods, Stats Lecture, Propaganda and Conspiracy, Intro to Text-Analysis

Uni Mannheim:

Research design seminars (grad/undergrad). International democratization seminars (graduate/undergraduate), Autocracies

Yale:

Intro to IR (undergrad/grad/lecture/seminar). Seminar on International Institutions. International Democratization (seminar). Research and Writing classes. International Cooperation seminar. Economic Sanctions (lecture).

UCLA:

International Democratization.

Stanford:

Intro to IR.

## Funding

*In Preparation 2025-26*

Vetenskapsrådet VR: 2025 Do Voting Machines Reduce Election Fraud?

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond RJ: 2025 Public Opinion on the War in Ukraine

Forskningsrådet FR: 2025 How international dimensions shape the effectiveness of mobilization for democratization - International Politics of Mobilization (IntMob)

Vetenskapsrådet VR: 2026 Ex-Post Knowledge and Ex-Ante Uncertainty in Elections

Östersjöstiftelsen: 2026 Authoritarian Regimes and Bad News - Denunciations vs Denials

European Research Council ERC: 2026 Foreign Election Interference (EleWar)

*Funded*

German Science Foundation, Principal Investigator: “Processes or Candidates? The International Community and the Demand for Electoral Integrity” 2016-19, Grant # MA 7209/1-1, 289,620 Euro

Thyssen Foundation, Conspiracies, joint with Thomas Braeuninger, Summer 2021, 3,000 Euro

*Funded, Internal*

2020 seed funding for “When is Democracy” (with Ryan Kennedy) College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Houston. Grant: 8,000 USD

2014-16 MZES seed funding for “IRIDA: Individual Responses to International Democratizing Action.” Grant: 20,000 €

2014 Lehrprogramm Baden-Württemberg. Grant: 10,000 €

2014 Cooper Fund, ETH Zürich for field experiment civic activism and social media in democratizing countries (with Frank Schimmelfennig). Grant: 15,000 €

2013-14 Autonomie Funds, University of Mannheim. Work on sanctions and democracy. Grant: 2,500 €

2012 Georg Leitner Program in Political Economy at Yale to organize Democracy with Edges Conference, June 21-22, 2012. Grant: 25,000 USD

2011 Center for Middle East Studies (CMES), Yale. Survey work in Turkey. Grant: 2,000 USD

2009 Institution for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS), Yale and University of Maryland, Dean’s Office. Survey work in Lebanon (with Daniel Corstange). Grant: 37,000 USD

2006-2012 Macmillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale, for data collection “NELDA: National Elections Across Democracy and Autocracy” (with Susan Hyde). Grant: 30,000 USD

2006 The Social Science Faculty Research Fund at Yale University. Grant: 2,500 USD

2005 Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, UCLA. Grant: 5,000 USD

*Not Funded*

2020 “Conspiracies as a Strategy of Political Communication: A Comparative Study of Modern Propaganda, German Science Foundation”; 2020 seed-funding for “Verbal and Non-Verbal Cues in U.S. Presidential Debates” (with Sebastián Vallejo Vera and Francisco Cantú), University of Houston; 2017 Pre-Proposal to Volkswagen Foundation “The Hybrid War of Information: A Challenge for Europe,” co-PI’s T. Braeuninger, Z. Fasekas, A. Gohdes, D. Vatsov; 2016 Proposal to the British Academy, “What works in reducing corruption? Lessons from Bulgaria and Italy,” with Elena Nikolova (EBRD), Paolo Pinotti (Bocconi) and Piero Stanig (Bocconi); 2006 Proposal to the National Science Foundation, “A Global Database of Election Dates and Attributes” with Susan Hyde, Nikolay Marinov, Alberto Simpser

**University Service**

Göteborgs Universitet: Secondary Supervisor Artem Kyzym PhD Candidate, Supervision MA and BA Theses

Göteborgs Universitet: TechUP at GU - coordinator of series on data science

U of Houston: Quantitative Social Science Minor Coordinator 2020-21; UH Polisci Brownbag Seminar 2018-2021- organizer; UH PoliSci Executive Committee 2019-20; UH Diss. Committees: Burak Giray, Samad Karimov, Ulkar Imamverdi, Rebecca Cardone da Costa, Yuyang Pu, Henrietta MacPepple, Shiladitya Kumar; Supervisor of Pitt PhD student: Zarpli Omer, Master Thesis supervisor Mariana Roa, Mannheim; PhD Committees: Cosima Meyer- Mannheim; Ash Elshehawy-Oxford

Uni Mannheim: Studienkommission Fall 2014-; Master's Admission Committee Spring 2014; Dissertation Committee Christian Glaessel, Susanne Michalik, Anita Gohdes, Eva Bernauer; Mentoring and advising PhD Students; Main advisor PhD Student Marcela Ibanez, Advisor to Rutger's PhD Student Cristina Gherasimov (DAAD Visiting Scholar Mannheim 2015-16), PhD, BA/MA Student Theses Supervision. Dissertation Committee: Dominik Ponattu, Adam Scharpf, Mascha Rauschenbach, Susanne Michalik, Anita Gohdes, Eva Bernauer; Supervisor Current PhD and Postdocs: Marcela Ibanez, Dennis Hammer-schmidt, Kai Jaegers; Advisor: Jakob Willisch, Jason Eichorst, Moritz Marbach, Cristina Gherasimov (DAAD Visiting Scholar Mannheim 2015-16), Mark Mazureanu (Visiting Scholar Mannheim 2016-17). BA and MA Theses Supervision: 100 + Studienkommission Fall 2014 and on; Master's Admission Committee Spring 2014;

Yale: Dissertations of Brandon Kinne (IR), Daniela Donno (IR), Zhiming Chen (IR)

## Awards and Distinctions

### *Best Paper*

for "Partisan Polarization When Foreigners Intervene in Elections: Survey Experiment in Lebanon" in the field of International Relations, 2010 Midwest Political Science Association Meeting

### *Fellowships*

Notre Dame, Kellogg Fellowship; UCLA, Global Fellows Award; Stanford Center for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL) Visiting Fellow

### *Visibility*

Work referenced in The National Interest, Foreign Policy, Monkey Cage, Obama Admin, Center for Global Development, Freakonomics, Economist, FT.com, Chris Blattman Blog; German Development Institute, Bonn

### *Advocacy*

Advocacy work for VarnaDisha NGO, using social media to help coordinate protests to save Bulgarian Black Sea park. Won 2012 Prize "Vreme", awarded by Varna City and Varna Economics University

## Invited Talks

Hertie School, Feb 10, 2022: "Targeted Sanctions Against Authoritarian Elites"

University of Geneva, October 22, 2021: "Seeing the Person for the Country"

UT Austin, Dec 4, 2019: "Candidate-Specific Cooperation in International Relations"

University of Florida, October 5th, 2018: "Conspiracies"

Rice University, April 13th, 2018: "Building Elections-Related Corpora with NLP: U.S. Sanctions, Leader Mentions, and Russian Propaganda"

University of Washington, CSSS, April 4th, 2018: "Building Elections-Related Corpora with NLP: U.S. Sanctions, Leader Mentions, and Russian Propaganda"

Tel Aviv University, March 19, 2018 (postponed)

Heidelberg University, Jan 23, 2018: “Election Wars”

NYU Abu Dhabi, April 6, 2017: “Election Wars”

Washington University, St Louis, Feb 23, 2017: “Election Wars”

University of New Hampshire, Feb 21, 2017: “Text as Data: U.S. Responses to Foreign Elections”

Hertie School, Berlin, Nov 3d, 2017: “Election Wars”

Stanford University, June, 2016: “Election Wars”

Naval Post-Graduate School, Monterey, May 3, 2016: “Election Wars”

Electoral Integrity Project Speaker Series, University of Sydney, April 19, 2016: “Election Wars”

Department of Government Visitor Speaker Series, University of Essex, Jan 19, 2016: “Election Wars”

Koc University, Istanbul, Fall 2015: “Does Social Media Promote Civic Optimism?”

V-Dem Lunch Seminar Series, University of Gothenburg, March 31st, 2015: “Does Social Media Promote Civic Optimism?”

GIGA Hamburg, March 30, 2015: “Sanctions and Democracy”

CIS - ETH and University of Zürich, Feb 19, 2015: “Does Social Media Promote Civic Optimism?”

University of St Gallen, Switzerland, Dec 4, 2013: “Uncovering the Persuasive Effects”

ETH Zurich, Dec 2, 2013: “Uncovering the Persuasive Effects”

CP Workshop, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 29, 2013: “Uncovering the Persuasive Effects”

Davis Center, Harvard, March 13, 2013: “The Protests in Bulgaria”

LUX Lecture, Yale, March 8, 2013: “Broadcasting yourself in the Google Scholar Age”

Sabancı University, Istanbul, Feb 8, 2013: “Uncovering the Persuasive Effects”

Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Feb 7, 2013: “Electoral Proximity and Security Policy”

MacMillan IR Seminar, Yale, Jan 30, 2013: “Uncovering the Persuasive Effects of Pro-Democracy Messages from the Outside: Evidence from a Survey-Experiment in Turkey”

Research Seminar, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, London, July 31, 2012 (declined)

CUIPS Seminar, Columbia University, April 14, 2011: “Foreign Aid and the Coup d’Etat”

PIA Seminar Series, UCSD, Dec 1, 2011 (declined)

Luce Speaker Series on Religion, Democracy and Conflict, Princeton, Nov 9, 2010: “Foreign Meddlers and Local Democrats: Evidence from Lebanon”

CP Workshop Series, Cornell, March 12, 2010: “Process or Candidate? International Interventions in Fragile Elections With a Survey Experiment From Lebanon”

IR Workshop, Columbia, Feb 7, 2008: “An Informational Theory of Election Observers, Allowing for Domestic and International Audiences”

American University in Bulgaria, March 22, 2007: “An Informational Theory of Election Observation”

Institute for International Studies Speaker Series, Stanford, Jan 24, 2007: “An Informational Theory of Election Observers”

International Institute, UCLA, March 2005: “Economic Integration and Democracy”

## Select Workshops

SNES, Dalarna, March 25-6, 2025

QoG, Hamburg, February 5-6, 2025

UT Austin, Texas Comparative Politics Circle, February 20-21, 2022

“Disinformation: New Challenges”, Sofia University, October 14, 2021

Monash-Warwick-Zurich Text-as-Data Workshop, Why Obasanjo but Germany: The Leader vs. Country Debate on the Floor of U.S. Congress, February 18th and 19th, 2021

Technische Universitaet Muenchen, German Public Opinion on Foreign and Security Policy in a Time of Transatlantic Stress, Jan 23 2020

Berkeley, Comparative Politics and Formal Theory Conference, Oct 11 2019

Uppsala, Human Progress in the 21st Century, Wallenberg Foundation Centenary, Sep 21 2017

University of Konstanz, The Empirical Study of Autocracy Workshop, N. Weidmann, Sep 10 2017

Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Studying Russian Disinformation, Jun 20 2017

Free University of Berlin, Book Conference for Inken von Borzyskowski, May 17-18 2015

German Development Institute, ENCoRe Workshop, Bonn, March 5-6, 2015

Conflict Consortium Virtual Workshop, Organizers Christian Davenport and Will Moore, invited to discuss a paper by Thomas Zeitzoff, Nov 19, 2014

University of Sydney, Workshop on Challenges of Electoral Integrity in Asia-Pacific, Sep 28, 2014

European Political Science Association Meeting, Edinburgh, June 21-22, 2014

PRIO, Workshop on Actors, Strategies and Tactics in Contentious Direct Action, Oslo, May 8, 2014

University of Essex, ENCoRe Workshop, Sep 19-20, 2013

New York University, Folke Bernadotte Academy Workshop, Nov 15-16, 2012

Yale University, Leitner Workshop Tools of International Pressure Conference, June 1-2, 2012

Yale University, Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security Workshop by IDEA and the Kofi Anan Foundation, hosted by Ernesto Zedillo/Betts House, March 2, 2012

Columbia University, UN PKO Workshop, Oct 30-31, 2009

Dartmouth, Why Communism Didn't Collapse Conference, May 25-26, 2007

Yale University, Elections and Political Identities in New Democracies, April 28, 2007

Stanford University, Conference on US and EU Strategies for Democracy Promotion, Institute for International Studies, Oct 4-5, 2004

#### ORGANIZER

APSA Meeting, Philadelphia, Congruities and Tensions Between Power Politics and Liberalism, One-day Mini-Conference, Sep 3 2016

MZES Mannheim Uni, Talk by Lyubomir Kostadinov: Collective Action Problems and Efforts to Conserve Bulgaria's Nature, April 2014

Mannheim Uni, Talk by Erdem Aytaç: It's All Relative: Incumbent Performance and Economic Vote, March 6 2014

SFB 884, Mannheim: Talk by Milan Svoblik: Deliver the Vote! Principal-Agent and Collective Action Problems in Electoral Manipulation, Jan 16 2014

Yale University, Democracy with Edges Conference, Organizer and Convener, co-sponsored by the Leitner Program and the Center for Middle East Studies, June 21-22 2012

## Professional Conferences

### Presenter

"May the Real Conspiracy Please Stand Up" (APSA, Seattle, Sep 1-2, 2021); "Why Congress Grants Executive Authority on Economic Sanctions" (APSA, Washington DC, Sep 2019); "Computational Analysis of Text and Big Data" (APSA, Boston, Sep 1, 2018); "Electoral Interveners and Limited Control" (APSA, San Francisco, Sep 1, 2017); "Quantifying Attention to Elections with Text" (Cologne, Jul 12, 2017); "Election Wars", "Infidels and Heretics" (APSA, Philadelphia, Sep 1, 2016), "Why Foreign Powers Lose Elections?" (EPSA, Vienna, Jun 25, 2016); "Does Social Media Promote Civic Optimism?" "Why Foreign Powers Lose Elections" (APSA, San Francisco, Sep 3-6, 2015); "Cursing Your Candidate: Why Foreign Powers Lose Elections" (EPSA, Vienna, June 25-27, 2015); "Floods and Corruption" (Annual Meeting of the European Public Choice Society, Groningen, April 7-10, 2015), "Process or Party?" (Australian Political Science Annual Meeting, Sydney, Sep 29-Oct 1, 2014) "Process or Party?", "Sanctions and Democracy", "The Effects of Aid on Human Rights and Democracy" (APSA, Washington, DC, Aug 28-31, 2014), "Does Electoral Proximity Affect Security Policy", "Uncovering the Persuasive Effects" (APSA, Chicago, Aug 27-Sep 1, 2013), "Electoral Proximity and Security Policy" (MPSA, Chicago, April 10-13, 2013), "The Effect of Aid on Rights and Governance: Evidence from a Natural Experiment" (APSA, New Orleans, September 2012 - cancelled), "Foreign Support and Electoral Fortunes" (MPSA, Chicago, April 12, 2012), "Electoral Authoritarianism and Credible Signaling in International Crises" and "Partisan Interventions in Elections" (APSA, Seattle, September 1-2nd, 2011), "Process or Candidate? International Interventions in Fragile Elections With a Survey Experiment From Lebanon" (APSA, Washington, DC, September 2010), "Process or Candidate? International Interventions in Fragile Elections With a Survey Experiment From Lebanon" and "Which Elections Can Be Lost?" (MPSA, Chicago, March 2010), "The Coup d'Etat as a Force for Democratization" (APSA 2009), "Identifying the Democratizing Effects of EU Aid: The European Council Presidency as an Instrument" and "Do International Institutions Punish Heretics More Than Infidels? Evidence from the ICCPR" (MPSA, Chicago, 2009), "Does Outside Pressure Improve Human Rights? The European Union and Human Rights Sanctions in 1989-2000" (APSA, Boston, 2008), "What Happened to the Coup d'Etat? International Responses to the Seizure of Executive Power" and "Heretic or Infidel To Be? Costs and Benefits of Joining Human Rights Treaties" (MPSA, Chicago, 2008), "An Informational Theory of Election Observers," and



“Outlawing Coups” (ISA, San Diego 2008), “Why Do States Commit to Human Rights Treaties?” and “What Do International Observers Do? Effects on Leaders’ Tenure in Office” (MPSA, Chicago, 2007), “Is the Globalization of Elections Good for Democracy?” (APSA, 2006), “Institutional Effectiveness Under Endogenous Membership” (MPSA, Chicago, 2006), “Are Elections Good for Democracy?” (ISA, 2006), “Is the Globalization of Elections Good for Democracy?” (APSA 2005), “Do International Institutions Punish Heretics More Than Infidels?” (ISA, 2004), “Allies, Adversaries and International Economic Sanctions” (APSA, 2002), “Domestic Political Institutions and Sanctions Termination” (ISA, 2002)

### **Chair or Discussant**

Boston, Sep 1, 2018: “Contentious politics, regime change, and democratization” San Francisco, Sep 1, 2017: “Foreign Economic Policy” (D); “Propaganda” (organizer) Baltimore, Feb 24, 2017: “Elections and Contentious Politics” (D) San Francisco, Sep 3, 2016: “Lead. Survival, Coups and Mass Protests” (D) “Leadership Survival, Mobilization and Conflict” (APSA 2015, discussant and chair), “The International Community” (EIP one-day workshop at APSA 2015, discussant), “Comparative Electoral Institutions” (Australian Political Science Association 2014; discussant), “International Influences on Authoritarian Resilience” (APSA 2013, discussant), “The Politics of Protest” (MPSA 2012, chair), “International and Transnational Factors in Democratization” (MPSA 2012, discussant), “Elections in Authoritarian Regimes” (APSA 2010, discussant), “International Criminal Law” (MPSA 2009, discussant), “Leaders, Leadership Turnover, and Foreign Policy” (MPSA 2009, discussant), “Forms of International Cooperation” (MPSA 2008, chair), “International Regime Design and Reform” (MPSA 2007, discussant), “The Effectiveness of International Human Rights Agreements” (MPSA 2006, discussant)

## **Service to the Profession**

### **Editor**

Associate Editor: *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 2020 -

### **Referee**

Journals in political science and economics, academic presses, research foundations

### **Association**

American Political Science Association, 2022 Meeting in Montreal: Convener of the International Collaboration Division Call; Member of APSA’s Dahl Award Committee (award goes annually to an untenured scholar who has produced scholarship of the highest quality on the subject of democracy)

## References

Donald Green  
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