

Natalia Vasilenok

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

Ph.D. in Political Science

exp. 06/2026

M.A. in Economics

09/2024

Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, Economic History

Committee: Stephen Haber (*chair*), Vasiliki Fouka, Saumitra Jha

Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

M.A. in Sociology

06/2019

B.A. in Political Science, *with honours*

06/2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy of Ideas, Institutional Change, Authoritarian Politics, Culture and Social Norms,
Historical Political Economy, Text as Data

WORKING PAPERS

“Reading Orwell in Moscow,” **Job Market Paper**, 2025

— Media Coverage: *Marginal Revolution*, *Important Stories* (in Russian)

“Traditional Institutions and the Limits to Land Titling Reforms in Russia,” 2025 (*under review*)

“Immigrant Knowledge and the Growth of American Agriculture” (with Jennifer Kowalski), 2024

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

“Establishing a Parliament: the Political Economy of Elections in Late Imperial Russia” (with [Eugenia Nazrullaeva](#))

“Was Weber Right? Calvinism, State Capacity, and Economic Growth in Germany” (with [Nikita Savin](#))

PUBLICATIONS

“Ethnic-Specific Infant Care Practices and Infant Mortality in Late Imperial Russia.” *Economic History Review* 76, no. 3 (2023): 783–806 (with [Timur Natkhov](#))

“Skilled Immigrants and Technology Adoption: Evidence from the German Settlements in the Russian Empire.” *Explorations in Economic History* 81 (2021): 101399 (with [Timur Natkhov](#))

— Winner of the Larry Neal Prize for the Best Article in *Explorations in Economic History*

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

SPSA, MPSA (scheduled), APSG Online Workshop (scheduled)	2026
Second Annual HPE Conference, University of Southern California	2025
Public Governance Workshop, University Paris-Dauphine – PSL	
EHA, MPSA	
Virtual Workshop in Historical Political Economy	2024
Lewis Lab Graduate Student Workshop, University of Manchester, UK	
MPSA, SIOE, EPSA	
APSA	2023
Summer Workshop in the Economic History and Historical Political Economy of Eurasia, Paris, France	
Online Summer Workshop in the Economic History and Historical Political Economy of Russia (Poster)	2020
Baltic Connections: Conference in Social Science History, Helsinki, Finland	2019
The Second Ghent Russia Colloquium, Ghent, Belgium	2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Stanford University

Graduate-Level Courses

Math Camp for Political Scientists	Summer 2023, 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taught daily sections over a three-week period to newly admitted graduate students, covering topics in linear algebra, real analysis, optimization, and probability theory. 	
POLISCI 450C: Political Methodology III: Model-Based Inference	Spring 2022, 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taught one weekly section, covering topics in estimation theory, machine learning, and text analysis to approximately 15 students, earning an average student evaluation score of 4.8/5.0. 	

Undergraduate-Level Courses

POLISCI 150/355A: Data Science for Politics	Fall 2024
DATASCI/POLISCI 154: Solving Social Problems with Data	Spring 2024
POLISCI 153: Strategy: Introduction to Game Theory	Winter 2023

Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

Undergraduate-Level Courses

Probability and Statistics for Political Science	Spring 2019, 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taught three weekly sections to a total of approximately 70 first-year students, earning an average student evaluation score of 4.8/5.0. 	
Mathematical and Statistical Methods in Psychological Research	Fall, Spring 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taught two weekly sections and labs in SPSS and R to a total of approximately 50 first-year students, earning an average student evaluation score of 4.7/5.0. 	
Game Theory	Fall 2018, 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taught three bi-weekly sections to a total of approximately 90 third-year students, earning an average student evaluation score of 4.5/5.0. 	

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Stanford University

Student Projects for Intellectual Community Enhancement Grant (\$1,400)	2026
SIEPR Dixon and Carol Doll Graduate Fellowship (\$14,550)	
IRiSS Dissertation Fellowship (\$11,000)	
King Center on Global Development's Graduate Fellowship (\$14,550)	2025
George P. Shultz Dissertation Support Grant (\$2,670)	
The Europe Center Graduate Student Research Grant (\$610)	
CREEES Graduate Conference Travel Grant (\$500, \$400)	
King's Center for Global Development Exploratory Grant (\$2,200)	2021

External Awards

Conference Travel Grant, Institute for Humane Studies (\$700)	2024
Larry Neal Prize for the Best Article in <i>Explorations in Economic History</i> (\$500)	2022

Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

Best Instructor Award (\$6,500, declined)	2020
Student Academic Fellowship (\$1,500)	2017, 2019
Political Science Class Salutatorian	2017

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

ASREC Graduate Student Workshop "Introduction to the Economics of Religion"	2022
RECSM Summer School in Survey Methodology	2016
ECPR Summer School on Methods and Techniques	2015

SERVICE

Co-Organizer: Historical Social Science Workshop , Stanford University	2023–2026
Referee for <i>Journal of Economic History</i>	

SKILLS

Programming Languages and Software: R, Python, QGIS, Stata, SPSS, L^AT_EX
Archival Data Collection: Russian State Historical Archive (2019), Central State Historical Archive of St. Petersburg (2019), Hoover Institution Library & Archives (2023, 2025)
Languages: German (advanced), Spanish (pre-intermediate), Russian (native)