

# Otto Kienitz

2913 Regent Street, Berkeley, CA 94705  
(+1) 608-213-0150 ◊ ojk@berkeley.edu ◊ ottokienitz.com

## EDUCATION

---

**University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)** *Fall 2017 —*  
PhD Candidate in Political Science (ABD)  
MA in Political Science with Departmental Distinction *Spring 2019*  
Subfields: Comparative Politics, Methodology and Formal Theory, Post-Soviet Studies

**European University (St. Petersburg, Russia)** *Fall 2016 – Summer 2017*  
MA in Russian and Eurasian Studies (IMARES)  
Leonard Lauder Fellowship, Dean's List

**University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)** *Fall 2012 – Spring 2016*  
BA in History and Political Science with Honors  
Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, Rose Award for Undergraduate Research, Dean's List

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

---

**The Local Origins of State Capacity: Taxation and Representation under Autocracy**  
*PhD Dissertation*, University of California, Berkeley  
Committee Members: Jason Wittneberg (Chair), Ruth Collier, Sean Gailmard, Victoria Frede-Montemayor

**Comparative Politics in Borderlands: Actors, Identities and Strategies**  
Article forthcoming at the *Annual Review of Political Science* with Co-Author Robert Braun (2022)

**Democratization out of State Capacity: Bureaucracy and Reform in the Russian Empire**  
*MA Thesis*, University of California, Berkeley  
Co-Chairs: Jason Wittenberg and Ruth Collier

**Engineering Russian Imperial Electoral Law: Minority Representation in the First Duma**  
*MA Thesis*, European University at St. Petersburg  
Co-Chairs: Alexey Miller and Vladimir Gel'man

## SKILLS

---

<b>Computational Tools</b>	R, Python, GIS, Digital Data Collection
<b>Languages</b>	Russian (Advanced), English (Native)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award** *Awarded 2021*

**PS 141C: Politics and Government in Eastern Europe** *Fall 2018, Fall 2020*  
*Head GSI for Professor Jason Wittenberg*

**PS 2: Comparative Politics** *Spring 2019, Spring 2020*  
*Head GSI for Professor Pradeep Chhibber, GSI for Professor Steven M. Fish*

**FELLOWSHIPS**

---

Reinhard Bendix and Allan Sharlin Fellowship, Global, International and Area Studies (Summer 2021)  
Simpson ABD Research Grant in International Studies, Institute of International Studies (Fall 2021)  
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Dissertation Award (Spring 2021)  
American Councils, Academic Fellowship in Russia, Carnegie Corporation of New York (2020–Delayed)  
Title VIII Fellowship, University of Indiana, Summer Russian Language Workshop (Summer 2020)  
Summer Research Laboratory Fellow for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (Summer 2020)  
Institute of International Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Moscow, Russia (Summer 2019)  
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Graduate Student Training Grant (2019)  
Title VIII Fellowship, Critical Languages Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia (Summer 2019)  
Hertelendy Graduate Fellowship in Hungarian Studies (Spring 2019)  
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Graduate Student Training Grant (2018)  
Title VIII Fellowship, University of Indiana, Summer Russian Language Workshop (Summer 2018)  
Leonard Lauder Fellowship, European University at St. Petersburg (Academic Year 2016-2017)

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

---

Co-Founder and Graduate Student Organizer, Berkeley Historical Social Science Workshop (2019–)  
Poster Presenter, Summer Workshop in the Historical Political Economy of Russia 2020 (Paris, FR)  
Reviewer, *American Political Science Review* (2020–)  
Chair, Presenter, “Imperial Russia in Transition: Social Science Approaches to Imperial Russian History,” ASEES Annual Conference 2019 (San Francisco, CA)  
Graduate Student Organizer, Berkeley Comparative Politics Colloquium (2019-2020)  
Presenter, American Political Science Association Annual Conference 2019 (Washington, D.C.)  
Participant, Summer Workshop in the Historical Political Economy of Russia 2019 (Madison, WI)  
Participant, American Political Science Association Annual Conference 2017 (San Francisco, CA)  
Participant, Critical Issues in the Research of Contemporary Russian Politics 2017 (Helsinki, Finland)  
Member, Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ISEES)  
Member, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEES)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

---

Foreign Policy Research Institute (Philadelphia, PA)

*2015 - 2016*

- Eurasia Program (2016), Project on Democratic Transitions (2015)

Global Ties U.S. (San Francisco, CA) U.S. Emerging Leader Award (2015)

*Summer 2014*