

# Anton Shirikov

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I am a political scientist working on media, propaganda, and the mechanisms of authoritarian rule. I also study legacies of authoritarianism and contemporary political institutions in post-communist countries. My research primarily relies on surveys and experimental methods.

## EDUCATION

*University of Wisconsin–Madison*, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science      Expected Summer 2021

Dissertation: **Who Trusts Untrustworthy Media? Partisanship and Information Credibility in Authoritarian Regimes**

My dissertation project examines why authoritarian state-run media are popular and trusted, despite their strong pro-government bias. I use original experiments and surveys, conducted in Russia, as well as cross-national survey data to show that autocrats can rely on partisanship to prop up their media. Government loyalists find state-controlled media more trustworthy and more objective, and they rely on such media more in their news processing. My study demonstrates that partisanship is an important force that can improve the stability of autocratic regimes. I also examine how long-term exposure to state propaganda affects one's ability to critically evaluate news information.

*University of Wisconsin–Madison*, M.A. in Political Science      2016

*Moscow State Institute of International Relations*, Candidate of Sciences in Political Science      2007

*European University at St. Petersburg*, M.A. in Political Science      2005

## WORKING PAPERS

[“Who Trusts State-Run Media? Source Cues, Bias, and Credibility in Autocracies”](#)

“Is Trust in Media Decreasing? Evidence from the World Values Survey”

“A Model of Censorship and Propaganda” (with Scott Gehlbach and Dmitrii Vorobyev)

[“The Oligarch Vanishes: Defensive Ownership, Property Rights, and Political Connections”](#) (with John Earle, Scott Gehlbach and Solomiya Shpak) *Under Review*

“Smart Ways to Use a Postcommunist Dummy” (with Dmitrii Kofanov and Yoshiko M. Herrera)

“Legislatures and Executive Recruitment in Autocracies: Does Parliamentary Behavior Matter?”

## PUBLICATIONS

2020. [“Eurasia and Post-Communism: Weasel Words?”](#) *East European Politics and Societies & Cultures*, Vol.34, No.2. With Yoshiko M. Herrera and Dmitrii Kofanov.

2018. [“Sovereignty and Regionalism in Eurasia.”](#) In: Paasi, Anssi, John Harrison, and Martin Jones (eds.). *Elgar Handbook on the Geographies of Regions and Territories*. Edward Elgar Publishing. With Dmitrii Kofanov and Yoshiko M. Herrera.

2013. **"Public Administration in Russia."** In: Liebert, Saltanat, Stephen E. Condrey, and Dmitry Goncharov (eds.). *Public Administration in Post-Communist Countries: Former Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe, and Mongolia*. Routledge. With Dmitry Goncharov.

2010. *Anatomiya Bezdeistviya. Politicheskiye Instituty i Konflikty v Budgetnom Processe Regionov Rossii* [The Anatomy of Inaction. Political Institutions and Conflicts in the Budget Process of Russia's Regions] (in Russian). Saint-Petersburg: EUSP Press.

## INVITED TALKS

Kyiv School of Economics

2020

Presentation: "Who Trusts State-Run Media? Source Cues, Bias, and Credibility in Autocracies"

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Communication Crossroads (UW–Madison)

2020

Presentation: "Who Trusts State-Run Media?"

Studying Russia and the Postcommunist World (Harriman Institute)

2019

Presentation: "Who Trusts State-Run Media? Evidence from Survey Experiments"

ASEEES Annual Convention (San Francisco)

2019

Presentation: "Who Trusts State-Run Media? Evidence from Survey Experiments"

MPSA Annual Conference (Chicago)

2019

Presentation: "Perceptions of Media Credibility in Autocracies: Evidence from Russia"

ASEEES Annual Convention (Boston)

2018

Presentation: "Perceptions of Media Credibility in Non-Democracies: Evidence from Russia"

Wisconsin Russia Project Young Scholars Conference

2018

Presentation: "When Do Russians Trust State-Run Media? Evidence From Survey Experiments"

Regime Evolution, Institutional Change, and Social Transformation in Russia: Lessons for Political Science (Yale University)

2018

Presentation: "All the News That's Unfit: Exploring Censorship Choices in Autocracies"

MPSA Annual Conference (Chicago)

2018

Presentation: "All the News That's Unfit: Exploring Censorship Choices in Autocracies"

ASEEES Annual Convention (Chicago)

2017

Presentation: "Returns from Autocratic Parliament: Post-Career Benefits for Russian Duma Legislators"

The Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (UW–Madison)

2017

Poster presentation: "Media Bias in Autocracies: State-Controlled vs. Independent Press"

Workshop on Research Design for Causal Inference (Northwestern University)

2017

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- ASEEES Summer Dissertation Writing Grant (\$6,000) 2020
- Summer Initiative Award from the Department of Political Science at UW–Madison 2020, 2019, 2017, 2016
- Graduate student research award from the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia at UW–Madison (\$4,000) 2020
- Harriman Institute Research Grant (\$16,000; joint with Georgiy Syunyaev). Project title: **“Learning about Bias: An Experiment on News Consumption in Russia”** 2020
- Harriman Institute Research Grant (\$10,245). Project title: **“Perceptions of Media Credibility in Non-Democracies: Evidence from Russia”** 2019

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant for Nadav Shelef (UW–Madison) Summer 2020
- Research Assistant for Scott Gehlbach (UW–Madison) 2016–2018

## TEACHING

*University of Wisconsin–Madison*

- Teaching assistant for **PS170: Research Methods in Political Science** 2020, 2018  
Instructor: *Jessica Weeks*
- Math Camp** for incoming graduate students in political science 2020, 2019
- Lab and tutoring for **PS919: Intro to Machine Learning** 2020  
Instructor: *Adeline Lo*
- Teaching assistant for **PS120: Politics Around the World** 2019  
Instructor: *Nils Ringe*
- Teaching assistance for **PS633: Russian Politics** 2015  
Instructor: *Kathryn Hendley*

## SERVICE

Peer reviews of manuscripts for:

*American Journal of Political Science, Post-Soviet Affairs, Problems of Post-Communism, East European Politics*

Co-organizer of the **Comparative Politics Working Group** for graduate students (UW–Madison) 2019–present

Graduate student coordinator for the **Comparative Politics Colloquium** (UW–Madison) 2018–2019

Graduate student coordinator for the **Political Economy Colloquium** (UW–Madison) 2018–2019

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

## **SOFTWARE**

R, Python, Stata, LaTeX, RMarkdown, HTML, Shiny, Git

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

I have previously worked as deputy editor-in-chief and editor-in-chief at Slon.ru, as opinions editor at RBC, and as editor at McKinsey & Company (all in Moscow, Russia).

## **REFERENCES**

Yoshiko M. Herrera, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, [yherrera@wisc.edu](mailto:yherrera@wisc.edu)

Scott Gehlbach, Department of Political Science and Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, [gehlbach@uchicago.edu](mailto:gehlbach@uchicago.edu)

Rikhil R. Bhavnani, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, [bhavnani@wisc.edu](mailto:bhavnani@wisc.edu)