

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 Spring 2022

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

My dissertation examines why authoritarian state-run media are popular and trusted, despite their strong pro-government bias and the availability of other, unbiased, news sources. I combine original experiments and surveys situated in Russia with cross-national survey data to show that government supporters find propagandistic media credible, as such media reaffirm their beliefs. My analysis shows that political biases can undermine citizens' ability to recognize propaganda falsehoods and erode the power of alternative information sources. It also illuminates the limits of propaganda, which, as I show, is unlikely to appeal to opposition-minded citizens.

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? Polarized Perceptions of News Credibility in Non-Democracies”](#)
Under review

“Fake News for All: Misinformation and Polarization in Authoritarian Regimes”

[“Is Trust in Media Decreasing? Evidence from the World Values Survey”](#)

“A Model of Censorship and Propaganda” (with Scott Gehlbach, Zhaotian Luo, and Dmitriy Vorobyev)

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

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming. [“The Oligarch Vanishes: Defensive Ownership, Property Rights, and Political Connections”](#) *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. With John Earle, Scott Gehlbach, and Solomiya Shpak.

2021. [“Who Gets Ahead in Authoritarian Parliaments? The Case of the Russian State Duma.”](#) *The Journal of Legislative Studies*.

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.

CONFERENCES

APSA Annual Meeting (2020, 2021); MPSA Annual Conference (2018, 2019, 2021); ASEES Annual Convention (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020); NYU-CESS Conference (2021); Political Economy in a Changing World (HSE, Moscow, 2021); Wisconsin Russia Project Young Scholars Conference (2018, 2021); Communication Crossroads (UW–Madison, 2020); Studying Russia and the Postcommunist World (Columbia University, 2019); Regime Evolution, Institutional Change, and Social Transformation in Russia: Lessons for Political Science (Yale University, 2018); The Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology (2017)

INVITED TALKS

Populism and the Pandemic lecture series (UW–Madison, 2021); Kyiv School of Economics (2020)

OTHER PUBLIC TALKS

- "Who Believes Propaganda? Media and Politics in Russia" (A lecture for the Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization at the Division of Continuing Studies at UW–Madison) 2020
- "Russia's Strategies in Foreign Elections: What Does the Kremlin Want?" (A workshop for Wisconsin educators) 2020

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- ASEES Summer Dissertation Writing Grant (\$6,000) 2020
- Summer Initiative Award from the Department of Political Science at UW–Madison 2021, 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: **"Learning about Bias: An Experiment on News Consumption in Russia"** 2020
- Harriman Institute Research Grant (\$10,245). Project: **"Perceptions of Media Credibility in Non-Democracies: Evidence from Russia"** 2019
- University Fellowship, UW–Madison 2015–2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Yoshiko Herrera (UW–Madison)	2021–2022
Research Assistant for Kathryn Hendley (UW–Madison)	Spring and Summer 2021
Research Assistant for Nadav Shelef (UW–Madison)	Summer 2020
Research Assistant for Scott Gehlbach (UW–Madison)	2016–2018

TEACHING

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Instructor, Math Camp for incoming graduate students in political science	2021, 2020, 2019
Teaching assistant, PS170: Research Methods in Political Science (Prof. Jessica Weeks)	2020, 2018
Lab instructor, PS919: Intro to Machine Learning (Prof. Adeline Lo)	2020
Teaching assistant, PS120: Politics Around the World (Prof. Nils Ringe)	2019

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 (ASEEES)

SOFTWARE

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

OTHER EXPERIENCE

I have extensive experience of working as a journalist and editor in Russian independent media. For several years, I have served as deputy editor-in-chief and editor-in-chief at Slon.ru, and as opinions editor at the RBC news agency. I have also worked as editor at McKinsey & Company (all in Moscow, Russia).

REFERENCES

Yoshiko M. Herrera, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, yherrera@wisc.edu

Scott Gehlbach, Department of Political Science and Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago, gehlbach@uchicago.edu

Rikhil R. Bhavnani, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, bhavnani@wisc.edu