Anton Shirikov

Postdoctoral Scholar, Harriman Institute, Columbia University
420 W 118th St, 12th Floor, MC3345, New York, NY 10027
✉ as6859@columbia.edu ⦿ shirikov 🌐 shirikov.com

I am a political scientist working on media, misinformation, polarization, and trust. I also study authoritarianism and elites and institutions in post-communist countries. My research relies on surveys, experiments, network analysis, and other quantitative methods.

EMPLOYMENT

The University of Kansas

Assistant Professor   2024–

Columbia University

Postdoctoral Scholar in Russian Politics and Lecturer in Political Science   2022–2024

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison, M.A. (2016), Ph.D. in Political Science (2022)

> Dissertation: **How Propaganda Works: Political Biases and News Credibility in Autocracies** (Co-winner of the Best Dissertation Prize in Comparative Politics, The Department of Political Science at UW–Madison)

> Committee: Yoshiko M. Herrera (co-chair), Scott Gehlbach (co-chair), Rikhil R. Bhavnani, Jessica L.P. Weeks, Adeline Y. Lo

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

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

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

PAPERS

2024. [**"Rethinking Propaganda: How State Media Build Trust Through Belief Affirmation."**]https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/729941) *Journal of Politics*.

2024. **"Is Postcommunism Over? What Is and Is Not Distinctive About Eastern Europe and Eurasia Three Decades After Communism."** *Problems of Post-Communism*. With Dmitrii Kofanov and Yoshiko M. Herrera.

2024. **"Why Is Trust in Media Low in Post-Communist Countries?"** *Problems of Post-Communism*.

2024. **"Fake News for All: How Citizens Discern Disinformation in Autocracies."** *Political Communication*, Vol.41, No.1.

2022. **"The Oligarch Vanishes: Defensive Ownership, Property Rights, and Political Connections."** *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, Vol.17, No.4. With John Earle, Solomiya Shpak, and Scott Gehlbach. (Prize for the Best Article in the field of Ukrainian history, politics, language, literature and culture published in 2020–2021, The American Association for Ukrainian Studies.)

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.

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

2023. "The Russian Media." In: Wengle, Susanne (ed.). *Russian Politics Today: Stability and Fragility*. Cambridge University Press. With Scott Gehlbach and Tetyana Lokot.

2022. "Russia: Muddling Through Populism and the Pandemic." In: Ringe, Nils, and Lucio Renno (eds.). *Populists and the Pandemic: How Populists Around the World Responded to COVID-19*. Routledge. With Yoshiko M. Herrera and Valeriia Umanets.

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.

OTHER

2024. "Filtering the News: Why Russians Prefer Propaganda and Shield Themselves from Independent Reporting". PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 873.

WORKING PAPERS

"Learning About Bias: An Experiment on News Consumption in Russia" (with Georgiy Syunyaev)

"How Do Russians Detect Fake News? Heuristics and Factors of Vulnerability"

"Circulation of Russian State Media Narratives in the U.S. Media Ecosystem" (with Hannah Waight, Kevin Aslett, Megan Brown, Jason Greenfield, Solomon Messing, Jonathan Nagler, Margaret Roberts, and Joshua A. Tucker)

"Is There Really a Dictator's Dilemma? Information and Repression in Autocracies" (with Scott Gehlbach, Zhaotian Luo, and Dmitriy Vorobyev)

"Is Trust in Media Decreasing? Evidence From the World Values Survey"

"The Rational Level of Trust: A Game and Survey Experiment in Kazakhstan" (with Yoshiko Herrera and Andrew Kydd)

MEDIA

2023. "How does propaganda work? One Russian scholar is probing the power of Putin's disinformation regime." *Columbia Journalism Review*. November 7.

2022. **"Russian journalists report the facts about Ukraine. Why do Russians ignore them?"** *The Washington Post*. March 3.

2022. **"Opium for the masses: How propaganda won Russians' trust."** *Russia.Post*. October 28.

My analysis and commentary have appeared on PBS NewsHour, in The Financial Times, The Washington Post (1, 2, 3), Newsweek, HuffingtonPost, USA Today (1, 2), Euronews, Politifact, CBC, Portland Press Herald, ABC Radio National (Australia), Press Gazette (UK), PÚBLICO (Portugal), The Daily Dot, Christianity Today, and on Wisconsin Public Radio.

CONFERENCES

APSA Annual Meeting (2020, 2021); MPSA Annual Conference (2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023); ASEEES Annual Convention (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021); NYU-CESS Conference (2021); NE-SEEES Annual Conference (2023); Authoritarian Propaganda and Media Control: New Conceptual Approaches and Empirical Evidence (Columbia University, 2023); 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); Political Economy in a Changing World (HSE, Moscow, 2021); Wisconsin Russia Project Young Scholars Conference (2018, 2021, 2022); Communication Crossroads (UW–Madison, 2020)

INVITED TALKS & SEMINARS

University of Pennsylvania, 2023; George Washington University, 2022 (video here); Columbia University, 2022 and 2023; Smith College, 2022; Bourse & Bazaar Foundation, 2022; University of Chicago, 2022; University of Helsinki, 2021; Kyiv School of Economics, 2020

PUBLIC LECTURES

"Russian Invasion of Ukraine and Kremlin's Propaganda" (Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison) 2022

"Who Believes Propaganda? Media and Politics in Russia" (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

AWARDS

Best Dissertation in Comparative Politics, University of Wisconsin–Madison 2022

Facebook Foundational Integrity and Impact Research Grant ($50,000, with Yoshiko Herrera, Mingcong Pan, and Yiming Wang). Project: **"Understanding the Effects of Digital Restrictions on Affective Polarization"** 2021

Summer Dissertation Scholarship from the Department of Political Science at UW–Madison 2021

ASEEES 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, 2019–2020

TEACHING

Columbia University

POLS 4457: Russian Propaganda in Global and Domestic Politics (graduate), Instructor 2023, 2024

University of Wisconsin–Madison

PS919: Intro to Machine Learning (graduate), Lab instructor 2020

PS120: Politics Around the World (undergraduate), Teaching assistant 2019

PS170: Research Methods in Political Science (undergraduate), Teaching assistant 2018, 2020

Calculus and probability refresher course (graduate), Instructor 2019, 2020, 2021

SERVICE

Peer reviews of manuscripts for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *The Journal of Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *The World Bank Economic Review*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Comparative Politics*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Demokratizatsiya*, *East European Politics*, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *Japanese Journal of Political Science*

Organizer of the conference **Authoritarian Propaganda and Media Control: New Conceptual Approaches and Empirical Evidence**, Columbia University, October 20, 2023

Co-coordinator of the **Columbia-NYU Russia Public Policy** seminar series (Columbia University) 2022–2024

Co-organizer of the conference **Authoritarian Propaganda: Narratives, Public Responses, and Limitations**, Columbia University, April 7, 2023

Co-organizer of the **Comparative Politics Working Group** for graduate students (UW–Madison) 2019–2022

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia (PONARS); American Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association; Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

SOFTWARE

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