

# Silviya Nitsova

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Politics Department  
University of Manchester  
Manchester, M13 9PL, UK

✉ [silviya.nitsova@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:silviya.nitsova@manchester.ac.uk)  
🌐 [www.snitsova.com](http://www.snitsova.com)  
🔗 [Google Scholar](#)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**University of Manchester**, Manchester, UK  
British Academy International Fellow, 2024-  
Politics Department  
*Research Associate,*  
*Mitchell Centre for Social Network Analysis*

**National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine**, Kyiv, Ukraine  
Visiting Researcher, 2021-2022  
Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies

## EDUCATION

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, Chapel Hill, NC  
Ph.D. in Political Science, May 2024  
Comparative Politics, Political Methodology

Committee: Graeme Robertson (chair), Alexander Volfovsky (external), David Szakonyi (external), Cameron Ballard-Rosa, Lucy Martin

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, Chapel Hill, NC  
M.A. in Global Studies, 2017

**Leiden University**, Leiden, Netherlands  
M.Sc. in Political Science, 2012  
International Relations

**Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”**, Sofia, Bulgaria  
B.A. in European Studies, 2010

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative politics, political economy, money in politics, oligarchs, corruption, policymaking, reform, Eurasian and East European politics, social network analysis.

## BOOKS & MONOGRAPHS

**Nitsova, Silviya**, Grigore Pop-Eleches, and Graeme Robertson. 2018. *Revolution and Reform in Ukraine: Evaluating Four Years of Reform*. PONARS Eurasia. 70 pages.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Nitsova, Silviya**. 2021. “Why the Difference? Donbas, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk after Ukraine’s Euromaidan Revolution.” *Europe-Asia Studies*, 73:10, 1832-1856.

UNDER REVIEW	<p>“Oligarchic Networks of Influence and Legislatures in Developing Democracies: Evidence from Ukraine.” <i>Revise &amp; Resubmit at American Political Science Review</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Winner, Beth Holmgren Graduate Student Essay Prize, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, 2024.</li> <li>– Winner, James W. Prothro Best Paper Award, UNC Political Science, 2024.</li> <li>– Winner, Best Doctoral Paper Award, Association for the Study of Nationalities, 2023.</li> <li>– Honorable mention, Lubomyr Hajda Graduate Student Paper Prize, American Association for Ukrainian Studies, 2024.</li> </ul>																		
WORK IN PROGRESS	<p>“Divide and Rule: Oligarchic Networks and Patronal Politics.” <i>Book Manuscript in progress</i>.</p> <p>“Attitudes towards Redistribution from the Extremely Rich: Evidence from Ukraine at War.” <i>Working Paper</i>. <a href="#">[Pre-Analysis Plan]</a></p> <p>“The Extremely Rich during the Politics of the Extraordinary: Oligarchic Networks of Influence and the Russo-Ukrainian War.” <i>Working Paper</i>.</p>																		
OTHER PUBLICATIONS	<p><b>Nitsova, Silviya.</b> <a href="#">Ukraine’s oligarchs are united against Russia. That wasn’t the case in 2014.</a> Monkey Cage: Washington Post. April 5, 2022.</p> <p>Conte, Simon, Graeme Robertson, Yuliya Shypilova, Kate Marple-Cantrell, Mariana Akyshina, <b>Silviya Nitsova</b>, and Kostiantyn Gieser. <a href="#">Parliamentary Strengthening in Ukraine: A Field Assessment for Learning, Evaluation and Research Activity II (LER II)</a>. USAID. March 2020. <i>Responsible for survey design and analysis</i>.</p> <p><b>Nitsova, Silviya.</b> <a href="#">Applied Field Experience</a>. Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center. August 2, 2016.</p>																		
AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS	<p><b>Awards</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>People’s Choice Winner, 3 Minute Thesis, UNC Political Science</td><td>2023</td></tr> </table> <p><b>External Research and Academic Fellowships</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>British Academy International Fellowship, The British Academy</td><td>2024-2027</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>£331,285</i></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Fellowship, Ronald Coase Institute</td><td>2025</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>\$2,500</i></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Graduate Sabbatical Grant, Institute for Humane Studies</td><td>2023</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>\$15,000</i></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>World Politics &amp; Statecraft Fellowship, Smith Richardson Foundation</td><td>2023</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>\$7,500</i></td><td></td></tr> </table>	People’s Choice Winner, 3 Minute Thesis, UNC Political Science	2023	British Academy International Fellowship, The British Academy	2024-2027	<i>£331,285</i>		Fellowship, Ronald Coase Institute	2025	<i>\$2,500</i>		Graduate Sabbatical Grant, Institute for Humane Studies	2023	<i>\$15,000</i>		World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship, Smith Richardson Foundation	2023	<i>\$7,500</i>	
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Publication Accelerator Grant, Institute for Humane Studies \$5,000	2023
Box-Steffensmeier Scholarship, Society for Political Methodology \$2,300	2020
Rotary Peace Fellowship, Rotary Foundation \$47,200 ( <i>plus tuition</i> )	2015-2017

#### **Internal Research and Academic Fellowships**

Summer Research Funding, UNC Political Science	2023
Research Award, UNC CSEEEES	2023
Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship, UNC Graduate School (x2)	2023
Chair's Top-Up Award, UNC Political Science	2022
Harold J. Glass USAF Fellowship, UNC Graduate School	2021-2022
Alumni Excellence Research Fellowship, UNC Political Science	2021
Summer Funding Award, UNC Political Science	2018-2021
Davie Circle Summer Research Fellowship, UNC Graduate School	2020
Uhlman Research Fellowship, UNC Political Science	2020
Summer Research Grant, UNC Global Studies	2016

#### **Conference Travel Grants**

Expense Support Grant, Institute for Humane Studies	2025
Travel Grant, American Political Science Association	2025
Travel Grant, University of Oslo	2025
Travel Grant, Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics	2025
Travel Grant, King's College London	2025
Expense Support Grant, Institute for Humane Studies	2024
Professional Travel Award, UNC CSEEEES	2023
Travel & Accessibility Grant, American Political Science Association	2023
Travel Grant, American Political Science Association	2023
Travel Award, Women's Caucus for Political Science-Midwest	2023
Travel Award, UNC Graduate and Professional Student Government	2023
Travel Grant, UNC Political Science	2022
Graduate Student Transportation Grant, UNC Graduate School	2022
Hayek Fund Grant, Institute for Humane Studies	2022
Travel Grant, American Political Science Association	2022
Travel Grant, Copenhagen Business School	2022

#### **CONFERENCES**

<i>Paper presenter (P), Discussant (D), Award winner (A)</i>	
APSA Annual Meeting. Vancouver, Canada. (P, D)	2025
Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE)	2025
Annual Conference. Sydney, Australia. (P)	
EPSA Annual Conference. Madrid, Spain. (P)	2025
PolMeth Europe. London, UK. (P)	2025
ASEEES Annual Convention. Boston, MA. (A)	2024
APSA Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. (P)	2024

	MPSA, Politics & Political Economy of Eurasia Workshop. Chicago, IL. (P, D)	2024
	ASEEES Annual Convention. Philadelphia, PA. (P, D)	2023
	APSA Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA. (P, D)	2023
	ASN Annual World Convention. New York, NY. (P, A)	2023
	MPSA, Midwest Eurasian Political Economy Workshop. Chicago, IL. (P)	2023
	APSA Annual Meeting. Montréal, Canada. (P)	2022
SPECIALIZED CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS	<i>Paper presenter (P), Discussant (D), Award winner (A)</i>	
	Ronald Coase Institute Workshop. Perugia & Florence, Italy. (P, D)	2025
	<i>Scheduled.</i>	
	WhoGov Workshop on Political Elites. University of Oslo. (P, D)	2025
	EPSA Pre-conference on Political Connections.	2025
	University Carlos III of Madrid. (P)	
	Early Career Workshop in Quantitative Political Economy. King's College London. (P)	2025
	Data on Crime and Networks Workshop. University of Manchester. (P)	2025
	Political Economy Political Science Institutions (PEPSI) Launch Conference. University of Essex. (D)	2024
	Danyliw Research Seminar. University of Ottawa. (P)	2024
	LSE-NYU Annual Conference in Political Science & Political Economy. London School of Economics. (P)	2024
	Women in Legislative Studies Annual Conference. Rice University. (P)	2022
	CBS Money in Politics Conference. Copenhagen Business School. (P, D)	2022
	14th Annual Rotary Peace Center Conference. UNC-Chapel Hill. (P)	2017
INVITED TALKS	Research Seminar, Social Statistics, University of Manchester. <i>Scheduled.</i>	2026
	CEES Seminar, University of Glasgow.	2025
	RESC Politics Seminar, University of Oxford.	2025
	Democracy & Elections Seminar, Politics, University of Manchester.	2024
	Winter Graduate Conference, Institute for Humane Studies. (online)	2024
	Uhlman Family Seminar, Political Science, UNC-Chapel Hill.	2024
	WOCUP Workshop, George Washington University.	2024
	Political Power and Persuasion Workshop, UNC-Chapel Hill.	2023
	Slavic-Eurasian Research Center, Hokkaido University.	2023
	Japanese Association of Ukrainian Studies, Waseda University.	2023
	Department of International Economics, Government and Business, Copenhagen Business School. (online)	2022
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<b>Department of Political Science, UNC</b>	
	Research Assistant for Lucy Martin and Timothy Ryan, May-Aug 2023	
	Research Assistant for Graeme Robertson, 2016-2020.	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>Primary Instructor, Department of Political Science, UNC</b>	
	POLI 281 Data in Politics: An Introduction, Spring 2024, Spring 2021 (online).	

**Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science, UNC**

POLI 130 Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2022, Spring 2020 (partially online), Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018.

**Grader, Department of Political Science, UNC**

POLI 281 Data in Politics: An Introduction, Fall 2020.

POLI 235 The Politics of Russia and Eurasia, Fall 2017.

**OTHER  
PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE**

Trainee, Council of Europe Office in Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine (2016).

Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sofia, Bulgaria (2011-2015).

Trainee, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium (2013-2014).

Short-term election observer, OSCE/ODIHR, Armenia (2013), Albania (2013), Ukraine (2014), Tajikistan (2015).

**FIELDWORK**

Ukraine (Kyiv), Sep 2021-Feb 2022. Dissertation research. Formal and informal elite interviews.

Ukraine (Kyiv), Jun-Jul 2019. Pre-dissertation exploration. Informal elite interviews.

Ukraine (Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Slovyansk), May-Jul 2016. Master's thesis research. Formal and informal elite and non-elite interviews.

**PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research**

Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan, 2020 (online).

- Network Analysis: Advanced Topics;
- Advanced Bayesian Modeling;
- Data Science and Text Analysis.

**METHODS  
TRAINING**

Ordinary least squares, generalized linear models, multilevel modeling, social network analysis, causal inference (regression discontinuity, instrumental variables, difference-in-differences), Bayesian statistics, game theory.

**LANGUAGE &  
TECHNICAL  
SKILLS**

Bulgarian (native), English (proficient), Russian (advanced), Ukrainian (intermediate).

Statistical computing in **R**, Python, Stata, Qualtrics,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .

**LAB  
MEMBERSHIP**

[The Authoritarian Politics Lab](#) (UNC-Chapel Hill), 2019-2024

Volfovsky Lab Group (Duke University), 2019-2024

**PROFESSIONAL  
MEMBERSHIP**

American Political Science Association (APSA), European Political Science Society (EPSS), Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Political Networks (POLNET), Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE), Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), Women in Legislative Studies

SERVICE

Reviewer, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Democratization*, *Nationalities Papers*, *East European Politics*, *Europe-Asia Studies*.

Grant/Fellowship Reviewer, ICLD Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy, [Rotary Foundation](#)

Expert, [Chapel Hill Expert Survey](#)

Researcher, [Data for Ukraine](#).

Guest Lecturer

- Central European University, Invisible University for Ukraine, Course: Research Methods for the Social Sciences (BA, MA, PhD students), Lecture: “Introduction to Social Network Analysis,” Dec 12, 2024 (online);
- Kyiv School of Economics, Course: Introduction to Public Policy (MA students), Lecture: “Oligarchic Networks of Influence and Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada since the Euromaidan,” Nov 13, 2024 (online).

REFERENCES

**Graeme Robertson**

Professor of Political Science  
Department of Political Science  
UNC-Chapel Hill  
[graeme@email.unc.edu](mailto:graeme@email.unc.edu)

**David Szakonyi**

Assoc. Prof. of Political Science  
Department of Political Science  
George Washington University  
[dszakonyi@gwu.edu](mailto:dszakonyi@gwu.edu)

**Alexander Volfovsky**

Assoc. Prof. of Statistical Science  
Department of Statistical Science  
Duke University  
[alexander.volfovsky@duke.edu](mailto:alexander.volfovsky@duke.edu)

**Olga Onuch**

Professor of Comparative & Ukrainian Politics  
Department of Politics  
University of Manchester  
[olga.onuch@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:olga.onuch@manchester.ac.uk)

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