

# Silviya Nitsova

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🔍 [Google Scholar](#)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS	Visiting Researcher, Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, 2021-2022 National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine
EDUCATION	<b>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</b> , Chapel Hill, NC Ph.D. in Political Science, 2024 (expected) Comparative Politics and Political Methodology Certificate in International Peace and Conflict Resolution  <b>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</b> , Chapel Hill, NC M.A. in Global Studies, 2017  <b>Leiden University</b> , Leiden, Netherlands M.Sc. in Political Science, 2012  <b>Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”</b> , Sofia, Bulgaria B.A. in European Studies, 2010  – Study abroad, Maastricht University, Netherlands
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Comparative politics, political economy, money in politics, oligarchs, Eurasian and East European politics, social network analysis.
BOOKS & MONOGRAPHS	<b>Nitsova, Silviya</b> , Grigore Pop-Eleches, and Graeme Robertson. 2018. <i>Revolution and Reform in Ukraine: Evaluating Four Years of Reform</i> . PONARS Eurasia. 70 pages.
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	<b>Nitsova, Silviya</b> . 2021. “Why the Difference? Donbas, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk after Ukraine’s Euromaidan Revolution.” <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i> , 73:10, 1832-1856.  – Included in <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i> special collection “Russia’s War Against Ukraine: A Trio of Virtual Special Issues” in May 2022.
WORK IN PROGRESS	“Oligarchic Networks of Influence and Legislatures in Developing Democracies: Evidence from Ukraine.”  – Best Doctoral Paper Award Winner, Association for the Study of Nationalities, 2023.

“The Extremely Rich during the Politics of the Extraordinary: Oligarchic Networks of Influence and the Russo-Ukrainian War”

“Public Support for the Superrich”

“Corporate Resilience at Time of War,” with Inna Melnykovska.

OTHER  
PUBLICATIONS

**Nitsova, Silviya.** [Ukraine’s oligarchs are united against Russia. That wasn’t the case in 2014.](#) Monkey Cage: Washington Post. April 5, 2022.

Conte, Simon, Graeme Robertson, Yuliya Shypilova, Kate Marple-Cantrell, Mariana Akyshina, **Silviya Nitsova**, and Kostiantyn Gieser. [Parliamentary Strengthening in Ukraine: A Field Assessment for Learning, Evaluation and Research Activity II \(LER II\)](#). USAID. March 2020. *Responsible for survey design and analysis.*

**Nitsova, Silviya.** [Applied Field Experience.](#) Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center. August 2, 2016.

AWARDS &  
FELLOWSHIPS

**Awards**

Best Doctoral Paper Award, Association for the Study of Nationalities 2023  
People’s Choice Winner, 3 Minute Thesis, UNC Political Science 2023

**External Research and Academic Fellowships**

Graduate Sabbatical Grant, Institute for Humane Studies 2023  
World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship, Smith Richardson Foundation 2023  
Publication Accelerator Grant, Institute for Humane Studies 2023  
Box-Steffensmeier Scholarship, Society for Political Methodology 2020  
Rotary Peace Fellowship, Rotary Foundation 2015-2017

**Internal Research and Academic Fellowships**

Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship, UNC Graduate School 2023  
Summer Research Funding, UNC Political Science 2023  
Research Award, UNC CSEES 2023  
Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship, UNC Graduate School 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

**Travel Grants**

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 & PRESENTATIONS	ASEEES Annual Convention. Philadelphia, PA. <i>Scheduled.</i>	2023
	APSA Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.	2023
	ASN Annual World Convention. New York, NY.	2023
	Midwest Eurasian Political Economy Workshop, MPSA. Chicago, IL.	2023
	Women in Legislative Studies Annual Conference. Houston, TX.	2022
	APSA Annual Meeting. Montréal, Canada.	2022
	Money in Politics Conference. Copenhagen, Denmark.	2022
	14th Annual Rotary Peace Center Conference. Chapel Hill, NC.	2017
INVITED TALKS	Political Power and Persuasion in Contested Regimes in Europe Workshop, UNC-Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, NC. Apr 19, 2023.	
	SRC, Hokkaido University. Sapporo, Japan. Feb 21, 2023.	
	Japanese Association of Ukrainian Studies. Tokyo, Japan. Feb 19, 2023.	
	Copenhagen Business School. Copenhagen, Denmark. Dec 2, 2022 (online).	
IN THE NEWS	L'Express (France), " <a href="#">Guerre en Ukraine : les oligarques rentrent dans le rang.</a> " August 24, 2022.	
	Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Switzerland), " <a href="#">Welche Rolle spielen die ukrainischen Oligarchen im Abwehrkampf gegen Russland?</a> " May 2, 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 2021 (online).	
	<b>Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science, UNC</b>	
	POLI 130 Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020 (partially online) & Fall 2022.	
	<b>Grader, Department of Political Science, UNC</b>	
	POLI 281 Data in Politics: An Introduction, Fall 2020.	
	POLI 235 The Politics of Russia and Eurasia, Fall 2017.	

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	<p>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).</p>
FIELDWORK	<p>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.</p>
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<p><b>Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research</b>  Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan, 2020 (online).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Network Analysis: Advanced Topics;</li> <li>– Advanced Bayesian Modeling;</li> <li>– Data Science and Text Analysis.</li> </ul>
METHODS TRAINING	<p>Social network analysis, ordinary least squares, generalized linear models, multilevel modeling, causal inference (regression discontinuity, instrumental variables, difference-in-differences), game theory.</p>
LANGUAGE & TECHNICAL SKILLS	<p>Bulgarian (native), English (proficient), Russian (advanced), Ukrainian (intermediate).  Statistical computing in <b>R</b>, Python, Stata, Qualtrics, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.</p>
LAB MEMBERSHIP	<p><a href="#">The Authoritarian Politics Lab</a> (UNC-Chapel Hill)  Volfovsky Lab Group (Duke University)</p>
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP	<p>American Political Science Association (APSA), Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Political Networks (POLNET), Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), Women in Legislative Studies</p>
SERVICE	<p>Reviewer, <i>East European Politics</i>.  Contributor, <a href="#">Data for Ukraine</a>.  Contributor, <a href="#">Chapel Hill Expert Survey</a>.  Reader, <a href="#">Rotary Peace Fellowship</a>.  Discussant, Money in Politics 2022, APSA 2023, ASEEES 2023.  Panel Chair, APSA 2023.  Panel Organizer, ASEEES 2023.</p>

REFERENCES

**Graeme Robertson**

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

**Alexander Volfovsky**

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

**David Szakonyi**

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