

Silviya Nitsova

Politics Department
University of Manchester
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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

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

Political economy, comparative politics, elites, oligarchs, governance, economic and institutional reform, political connections, political networks.

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 ARTICLES

Nitsova, Silviya. Oligarchic Networks of Influence and Legislatures in Developing Democracies: Evidence from Ukraine. *Conditionally accepted at American Political Science Review*.

- Winner, Beth Holmgren Graduate Student Essay Prize, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, 2024.
- Winner, James W. Prothro Best Paper Award, UNC Political Science, 2024.
- Winner, Best Doctoral Paper Award, Association for the Study of Nationalities, 2023.
- Honorable mention, Lubomyr Hajda Graduate Student Paper Prize, American Association for Ukrainian Studies, 2024.

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

WORK IN
PROGRESS

Nitsova, Silviya. Divide and Rule: Oligarchic Networks and Patronal Politics. *Book manuscript in preparation.*

Nitsova, Silviya. War, Oligarchs, and the Conditional Legitimacy of Property Rights. *Working paper.*

Nitsova, Silviya. Oligarchs and Geopolitical Realignment. *Work in progress.*

Nitsova, Silviya and John Heathershaw. Oligarchs as Networked Actors: A Relational Conceptualization in Comparative and Global Perspective. *Early work in progress.*

Nitsova, Silviya and Bilyana Petrova. How Do Attitudes towards Wealth and Economic Redistribution Vary across East European Democracies? *Early work in progress.*

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

People’s Choice Winner, 3 Minute Thesis, UNC Political Science 2023

External Research and Academic Fellowships

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>	
Publication Accelerator Grant, Institute for Humane Studies	2023
<i>\$5,000</i>	
Box-Steffensmeier Scholarship, Society for Political Methodology	2020
<i>\$2,300</i>	
Rotary Peace Fellowship, Rotary Foundation	2015-2017
<i>\$47,200 (plus tuition)</i>	

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>	
	POLNET Annual Conference. Manchester, UK. (P) <i>Scheduled.</i>	2026
	SIOE Annual Conference. Fontainebleau, France. (P) <i>Scheduled.</i>	2026
	BASEES Annual Conference. Birmingham, UK. (P)	2026
	APSA Annual Meeting. Vancouver, Canada. (P, D)	2025
	SIOE Annual Conference. Sydney, Australia. (P)	2025
	EPSA Annual Conference. Madrid, Spain. (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
SMALL CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS	<i>Paper presenter (P), Discussant (D), Award winner (A)</i>	
	Ronald Coase Institute Workshop. Perugia & Florence, Italy. (P, D)	2025
	WhoGov Workshop on Political Elites. University of Oslo. (P, D)	2025
	EPSA Pre-conference on Political Connections. University Carlos III of Madrid. (P)	2025
	PolMeth Europe. London School of Economics and Political Science. (P)	2025
	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 and Political Science. (P)	2024
	Women in Legislative Studies Annual Conference. Rice University. (P)	2022
	CBS Money in Politics Conference. Copenhagen Business School. (P, D)	2022
	14 th Annual Rotary Peace Center Conference. UNC-Chapel Hill. (P)	2017
SELECT INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS	University of Gothenburg, Comparative Politics/ Quality of Government Seminar. <i>Scheduled</i>	2026
	London School of Economics and Political Science, Workshop on Wartime Political Behavior in Russia & Ukraine. <i>Scheduled</i>	2026
	University of Manchester, D&E AI in Research Workshop. <i>Scheduled</i>	2026
	University of Manchester, Social Statistics Research Seminar.	2026
	University of Glasgow, CEES Seminar.	2025
	University of Oxford, RESC Politics Seminar.	2025
	University of Manchester, Democracy & Elections Seminar.	2024

George Washington University, Contemp. Ukrainian Politics Workshop. 2024
 UNC-Chapel Hill, Political Power and Persuasion Workshop. 2023
 Hokkaido University, Slavic-Eurasian Research Center Symposium. 2023
 Japanese Association of Ukrainian Studies. 2023
 Copenhagen Business School, Department of International
 Economics, Government and Business. (online) 2022

RESEARCH
 ASSISTANCE
 EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Research Assistant for Lucy Martin and Timothy Ryan, May-Aug 2023.
 Research Assistant for Graeme Robertson, 2016-2020.

TEACHING
 EXPERIENCE

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Primary Instructor

POLI 281 Data in Politics: An Introduction, Spring 2024, Spring 2021 (online).

Teaching Assistant

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

Workshops and Guest Lectures

Designing Empirical Research on Political Networks, half-day workshop (PhD
 students and ECRs), 19th Annual Political Networks Conference, University of
 Manchester, Aug 5, 2026. *Scheduled.*

Introduction to Social Network Analysis, guest lecture, Research Methods for
 the Social Sciences (BA, MA, PhD students), Central European University,
 Invisible University for Ukraine, Dec 12, 2024 (online).

Oligarchic Networks of Influence and Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada since the
 Euromaidan, guest lecture, Introduction to Public Policy (MA students), Kyiv
 School of Economics, Nov 13, 2024 (online).

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	<p>Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan, 2020 (online).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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, \LaTeX .
LAB MEMBERSHIP	<p>Authoritarian Politics Lab (UNC-Chapel Hill), 2019-2024. Alexander Volfovsky’s Lab Group (Duke University), 2019-2024.</p>
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP	American Political Science Association (APSA), Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE), Political Networks (POLNET), European Political Science Society (EPSS), British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES), British Association for the Study of Ukraine (BASU).
SERVICE & LEADERSHIP	<p>Journal and Grant Review Service Reviewer, <i>American Political Science Review</i>, <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>, <i>Democratization</i>, <i>East European Politics</i>, <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i>, <i>Nationalities Papers</i>. External Grant/Fellowship Reviewer, ICLD Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy, Rotary Peace Fellowship Program.</p> <p>Conference and Association Leadership Co-organizer and Program Committee Member, 19th Annual Political Networks Conference. Co-organizer, British Association for the Study of Ukraine National Conference. Co-chair, Early Career Researchers Working Group, British Association for the Study of Ukraine.</p> <p>Expert and Advisory Service Expert, Chapel Hill Expert Survey. Expert, Data for Ukraine.</p>

REFERENCES

Graeme Robertson

Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science
UNC-Chapel Hill
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David Szakonyi

Assoc. Prof. of Political Science
Department of Political Science
George Washington University
dszakonyi@gwu.edu

Alexander Volfovsky

Assoc. Prof. of Statistical Science
Department of Statistical Science
Duke University
alexander.volfovsky@duke.edu

Olga Onuch

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