Roya Talibova updated March 2025

Contact Harvard Kennedy School ⊠ roya_talibova@hks.harvard.edu Information 79 John F. Kennedy Street http://bit.ly/3jFK2KQ Cambridge, MA 02138 : www.royatalibova.com Research Substantive: political violence and state repression, legacies of conflict, political economy of Interests conflict and development, Russian and Eurasian politics Methodological: applied statistics, machine learning, spatial and computational analysis, causal inference, text analysis, formal theory, Bayesian modeling Academic EMPLOYMENT Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA 2024 -Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman Assistant Professor of Public Policy Faculty Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Faculty Affiliate, Center for International Development Faculty Affiliate, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation Faculty Affiliate, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy Faculty Affiliate, Harvard Data Science Initiative Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN Assistant Professor (on leave in Fall 2023) 2023 - 2024Faculty Associate, Data Science Institute University of Pennsylvania, DevLab@Penn, Philadelphia, PA Postdoctoral Research Associate 2022 - 2023EDUCATION University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2022 Ph.D., Political Science and Scientific Computation (dual degree) Fields: International Relations (with Distinction), Political Methodology, Comparative Politics University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2022 M.S., Statistics Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2014 M.P.A., Public Administration Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ 2009 M.A. International Relations Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku, Azerbaijan 2007 B.A., International Relations (with Highest Distinction)

DISSERTATION

Why Fight? The Causes and Consequences of Joining an Autocrat's Army

- Committee: Yuri Zhukov (Chair), Christopher Fariss, Walter Mebane Jr., James Morrow, Kevin Quinn
 - 2024 APSA Juan Linz Best Dissertation Award in Democracy and Autocracy
 - 2023 Ronald Harry Coase Best Dissertation Award, Society of Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE)
 - 2020 Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Grant
 - 2020 Carnegie Foundation Dissertation Research Award

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2. "Fighting for Tyranny: State Repression and Combat Motivation" [with Arturas Rozenas and Yuri Zhukov], American Economic Journal: Applied Economics 16, no. 3 (2024): 1-33.
- 1. "Stalin's Terror and the Long-Term Political Effects of Mass Repression" [with Yuri Zhukov], Journal of Peace Research 55, no. 2 (2018): 267-283.
 - Runner up: 2018 Nils Petter Gleditsch JPR Article of the Year Award

Under Review

- 2. "Choosing Sides: The Price of Battlefield Loyalty under Autocracy" Invited to Revise and Resubmit at the Comparative Political Studies.
 - Winner: 2023 David Brian Robertson Best Paper Award, APSA Politics & History Section
- 1. "Repression, Military Service and Insurrection"
 - Winner: 2023 Dina Zinnes (SSIP) Award for Best Paper, International Studies Association
 - Winner: 2023 Patricia Weitsman (ISSS) Award for Best Paper, International Studies Association
 - Winner: 2023 Pi Sigma Alpha Award for the Best Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference
 - Winner: 2023 Robert H. Durr Award for Best Paper in Quantitative Methods, Midwest Political Science Association
 - Winner: 2023 Kellogg/Notre Dame Award for Best Paper in Comparative Politics, Midwest Political Science Association
 - Winner: 2023 Best Paper in International Relations, Midwest Political Science Association
 - Winner: 2023 Best Paper in Political Behavior, Midwest Political Science Association
 - Winner: 2023 Best Paper by a Graduate Student, Midwest Political Science Association
 - Winner: 2022 Award for Best Paper, APSA Democracy and Autocracy Section

BOOK PROJECT

Soldiers of Circumstance: Repression, War, and Revolution in the Russian Empire

• In preparation

Working Papers

- 5. "State Repression and War-Making: Raising an Army of Dissidents"
- 4. "Decision Tree Guided Multi-Class Support Vector Machines with Dynamic Class Selections"
- 3. "Do the Means Match the Ends? Exploring the Connection between Terrorist Tactics & Motives" [with Carly Wayne]
- 2. "Introducing (TAIM): A new global database on terrorist groups and activities" [with Carly Wayne]
- 1. "#Stoprussia: Weaponizing Social Media for Foreign Support" [with Erik Wibbels and Ernesto Calvo]

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- 5. "Officer Staffing: Political Loyalty and Combat Performance"
- 4. "Improving Field Selection in Probabilistic Record Linkage"
- 3. "Local Human Rights Monitoring in a Changing Human Rights Context: Evidence from Turkey" [with Chris Fariss]
- 2. "The Lasting Legacies of World War II on Female Labor Force Participation in Russia"
- 1. "Legitimacy of Transitional Justice Institutions in Comparative Perspective: Evidence from Colombia, Iraq, and Ukraine" [with Gabriella Levy and Mara Revkin]

GENERAL AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS

- 3. "Exploring holistic responses to political violence," HKS Faculty Focus, October 2024.
- 2. "Marginalization, Military Service and Rebellion in Imperial Russia," *Broadstreet Blog*, August 2021.
- 1. "Destination Unknown, Future Uncertain: Coping with the Grim Realities of Forced Migration," *Humanity in Action*, September 2017.

Original Data

- TAIM (Terrorist Abilities, Ideologies & Motives) Data. Metadata of three datasets on terrorism (event-, group-year-, group level), 1970-2016. September 2019. (with Carly Wayne)
- Imperial White Guard Dataset, Russian Empire. Geocoded archival administrative data (more than 350,000 observations), district-level individual, 1917-1921. December 2019
- Revolutionary Red Army Dataset, Russian Empire. Geocoded archival administrative data (more than 50,000 observations), district-level individual, 1917-1921. December 2019
- 1897 Russian Imperial Census, Russian Empire. Geocoded archival census data (more than 800 observations with 250 features), district-level, 1897. December 2019
- WWI War Draftees Dataset, Russian Empire. Geocoded archival event data (more than 3M observations), district-level individual, 1914-1918. March 2019.
- WWII War Draftees Dataset, Soviet Union. Geocoded archival event data (more than 40M observations), district-level individual, 1941-1945. June 2018.
- Turkish Human Rights Violations Dataset, Turkey. Geocoded event and text data, 2010-2020. Summer 2020. (with Christopher Fariss)

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

• Yale University (scheduled)

Economic History Seminar, December 2025

• Columbia University (scheduled)

Political Economy Seminar, May 2025

• MIT

Security Studies Program Seminar, December 2024

• Yale University

International Relations Seminar, October 2024

• UCLA

ESOC (Empirical Studies of Conflict Project) Annual Conference, October 2024

• University of Chicago

Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics Annual Conference, June 2024

• University of Rochester

Rochester Summer Conference in Applied Methods for Political Science (CAMPS), May 2024

• Washington University in St. Louis

Visions in Methodology Conference, May 2024

• University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Carolinas Conflict Consortium, April 2024

• University of Pennsylvania

PDRI-DevLab Conference, April 2024

• Vanderbilt University

Political Economy of Conflict Workshop, April 2024

• Vanderbilt University

Political Economy of Conflict Workshop, May 2023

• Harvard University

Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC) Conference, March 2023

• Columbia University

Political Elites in Comparative and Historical Perspective Conference, November 2022

• Berkeley University

ESOC (Empirical Studies of Conflict Project) Annual Conference, October 2022

• Harvard University

Formal Theory and Comparative Politics Workshop, June 2022

• University of Chicago

History, Geography, and Political Economy Workshop, May 2022

• Rice University

V Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science, May 2022

• Northwestern University

Center of Economic History Workshop - "War and Economic History," March 2022

• University of Chicago

Workshop in the Economic History and Historical Political Economy of Russia, December 2021

• University of Wisconsin-Madison, (online)

VII Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science, November 2021

• University of Zurich, (online)

Department of Economics, Political Economy Reading Group, October 2021

• CUNY (online)

Guest Lecture on Political Violence, October 2021

Online

ESOC (Empirical Studies of Conflict Project) Annual Conference - "9/11 in the Rearview Mirror," September 2021

• Council for European Studies (online)

8th Annual Graduate Workshop on Comparative Historical Research on Europe, June 2021

• Claremont Graduate University

IPRC (Inequality and Policy Research Center) Research Talk Series, November 2020

• Stanford University

ESOC (Empirical Studies of Conflict Project) Annual Conference - "Technology, Fragility and Development," September 2020

• University of Minnesota

Minnesota Political Methodology Graduate Student Conference, May 2020 (canceled due to COVID)

• University of Michigan

Historical Legacies Mini-Conference, May 2020 (canceled due to COVID)

• University of Pittsburgh, (online)

IV Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science, April 2020

• Vanderbilt University

Formal Models of International Relations Conference, February 2020

• University of Michigan

Political Economy Workshop, February 2020

• Columbia University-NYU

Joint Graduate Student Workshop - "Studying Russia and the Postcommunist World", December 2019

• Online Peace Science Colloquium, December 2019

• University of California Berkeley

Comparative Politics and Formal Theory Conference, October 2019

• UCLA

8th Annual Graduate Student Conference in Comparative Politics (COMPASS), June 2019

• University of Wisconsin

CREECA Summer Workshop in the Economic History and Historical Political Economy of Russia, May 2019

• University of Georgia

Visions in Methodology Conference, May 2019

• Michigan State University

Midwest Regional Peace and Conflict Workshop, February 2019

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2018-2024
- The Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, 2018-2019, 2022, 2024
- International Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2017-2019, 2022-2023, 2025
- Mid-West Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2016, 2022-2024
- Peace Science Society Annual Meeting, 2016, 2019, 2022, 2024
- Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2020
- European Peace Science Association Annual Meeting, 2017, 2022
- Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual Meeting, 2008, 2017

AWARDS

- 2024 APSA Juan Linz Best Dissertation Award in Democracy and Autocracy, 2024
- 2023 Ronald Harry Coase Best Dissertation Award, Society of Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE), 2023
- 2023 APSA David Brian Robertson Best Paper Award, 2023
- 2023 MPSA Pi Sigma Alpha Overall Conference Best Paper Award, 2023
- 2023 MPSA Kellogg/Notre Dame Best Paper Award in Comparative Politics, 2023
- 2023 MPSA Robert H. Durr Best Paper Award in Quantitative Methods, 2023
- 2023 MPSA Best Paper Award in International Relations, 2023
- 2023 MPSA Best Paper Award in Political Behavior, 2023
- 2023 MPSA Best Paper by a Graduate Student, 2023
- 2023 ISA Patricia Weitsman Best Paper Award, 2023.
- 2023 ISA Dina Zinnes Best Paper Award, 2023.
- 2022 APSA Best Paper Award in Democracy and Autocracy, 2022.
- Runner-up for the 2018 Nils Petter Gleditsch JPR Article of the Year Award, 2018.
- Best Data Introduction Paper Award, Conflict & Peace, Research & Development Group, University of Michigan,
- Academic Award of Excellence, Ministry of Education & University of Languages, 2007.

Fellowships

- Simon-Skjodt Genocide and Atrocity Prevention Research Fellowship 2025-2026. (\$30,000)
- Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Fellowship 2020-2021. (\$20,000)
- Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship 2020-2021. (\$35,000)
 - * Awarded by the University of Michigan to an "outstanding doctoral candidate" in each department.
- Mary Malcomson Raphael Fellowship 2020-2021. (\$7,000)
 - * Awarded by the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan to women graduate students in social sciences "held in the highest esteem by their faculty."
- Vivian Fell Sangunett Fellowship 2020. (\$8,000)
- Clark and Robin Chandler Graduate Fellowship 2020. (\$1,333)
- William Zimmerman Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2020. (\$4,000)
- Marshall Weinberg Population, Development & Climate Change Fellowship, 2016-2017. (\$7,500)
- ISR-Rackham Summer Training Award (ICPSR), University of Michigan, 2016-2017. (\$15,000)
- Rackham International Student Fellowship/Chia-Lun Lo Fellowship, 2016-2017. (\$10,000)
- Diplomacy and Diversity Fellowship, Humanity in Action Program, 2016.
- Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Fellowship, 2015-2016. (\$23,000)
- Rachkam Graduate Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2015-2020.
- Azerbaijan State Oil Fund Scholarship, 2012-2014.
- Black Sea Young Reformers Fellowship R.Bosch Stiftung & German Marshall Fund, 2010.
- Azerbaijan State Presidential Fellowship for Education Abroad, 2007-2009.
- Ministry of Education of Turkey fellowship for graduate studies (declined), 2007.
- Merit-Based Fellowship, University of Languages, Academic Years 2003-2007.
- FSA Future Leaders Exchange Program Scholarship, U.S. Department of State, 2001-2002.

Research Grants

- National Science Foundation, 2024-2027. (\$612,494)
 - Law and Science Program, Security and Preparedness Program, Accountable Institutions and Behavior Program (with Gabriella Levy and Mara Revkin)
- Rackham International Research Award, International Institute, 2021. (\$5,500)
- Political Science DGS Research Grant, University of Michigan, 2021.
- Carnegie Foundation Dissertation Research Grant (Harriman Institute), 2020. (\$16,000)
- Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Graduate Student Research Grant, 2019. (\$2,500)
- Rackham Graduate Student Pre-doctoral Research Grant, 2018.
- Political Science Department Summer Collaboration Grant, 2018. (\$1,500)
- Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Summer Grant, University of Michigan, 2016. (\$3,000)

TRAVEL GRANTS

- American Political Science Association Conference Travel Grant, 2021. (\$300)
- SPSA Prestage-Cook Travel Award, 2019. (\$300)
- National Science Foundation VIM Conference Travel Grant, 2019. (\$1,000)
- National Science Foundation PolMeth Conference Travel Grant, 2018, 2019, 2022. (\$1,300
- American Political Science Association Conference Travel Grant, 2018. (\$200)
- Rackham Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan, 2016-2022. (\$800 x5, 1000 x2)
- International Studies Association Conference Travel Grant, 2016. (\$150)

Courses Taught Empirical Methods

Spring 2026 (scheduled)

API 202. Kennedy Shool of Government. Harvard University.

Global Ethnic Politics Spring 2025

IGA 315, Kennedy Shool of Government, Harvard University.

Statistics for Political Research II Spring 2024

PSCI 8357, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University.

Data Science Ethics, Rights and Responsibilities Spring 2024

DS 5340, Data Science Institute, Vanderbilt University.

Introduction to Data Science Summer 2023

PSCI 1800, Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania.

Introduction to International Relations Spring 2022

PS 160, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

Math Camp for Incoming Graduate Students Summer 2019

Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

Political Violence: State and Non-State Terror Summer 2019

PS 389, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

Asymmetric Wars: Insurgents, Terrorists, and Civilians Summer 2018

PS 389, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods and Programming Spring 2019

PS 300, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

OTHER TEACHING Advanced Quantitative-Empirical Methods EXPERIENCE

Fall 2021

PS 799, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

• Graduate Student Instructor. Course head: Prof. Walter Mebane

Directed Research 2019-2021

PS 383, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

• Research Mentor. Course head: Prof. Yuri Zhukov, Prof. Christopher Fariss

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

2019-2021

UROP, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

• Research Mentor

Modern Wars Fall 2016, Fall 2018

PS 368, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

• Graduate Student Instructor. Course head: Prof. Yuri Zhukov

Political Science Computer Lab

Fall 2017

Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

• Graduate Student Instructor

Empirical Quantitative Methods of Political Science

Winter 2017

PS 300, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

• Graduate Student Instructor. Course head: Prof. Rocio Titiunik

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant for Christopher Fariss, University of Michigan, 2018-2022
- Research Assistant for Christian Davenport, University of Michigan, Summer 2017
- Research Assistant for Yuri Zhukov, University of Michigan, Summer 2016
- Research Assistant for Timothy Colton, Harvard University, Summer 2014

Additional Training

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM)

Summer 2021

EITM Summer Institute, Duke University (online).

• Faculty Director: Prof. Scott de Marchi

Applied Multilevel Modeling

Summer 2018

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan.

• Course instructor: Prof. Mark Manning

Advanced Game Theory

Summer 2017

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan.

• Course instructor: Prof. James Morrow

Scaling and Dimensionality Analysis

Summer 2016

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan.

• Course instructor: Prof. William Jacoby

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Robert S. McNamara Lecture on War and Peace Selection Committee, Harvard Kennedy School, 2025-2028
- Committee Member, Politics & Institutions Track Ranking Committee for the Ph.D. in Public Policy program, Harvard Kennedy School, 2025
- Organizer, Conflict & Peace, Research & Development, University of Michigan, 2018-2021
- Graduate Student Associate, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, University of Michigan, 2018-2022
- Undergraduate Student Mentor, University of Michigan, 2019-2020
- Undergraduate Honors Thesis Third Reader, University of Michigan, 2019-2020
- Committee Member, Political Science Graduate Admissions Committee, 2018-2019
- Organizer, Political Science Professional Development Committee, University of Michigan, 2018-2019

DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

- Ronald Harry Coase Best Dissertation Committee, Society for Industrial and Organizational Economics, 2025
- Juan Linz Dissertation Award, Democracy and Autocracy Best Dissertation Committee Chair, APSA, 2025
- Paper Selection Committee, Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC) Annual Conference, 2024
- Executive Committee, Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science, 2023-2024
- Organizer, Junior Scholars in Quantitative Conflict and International Security Workshop, 2023-present

Professional Associations

American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Peace Science Society International, Association for the Study of Nationalities, The Society for Political Methodology, Women in Conflict Studies, Women in High Performance Computing

Professional EXPERIENCE

Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Program Manager, Cambridge, MA

2012 - 2015

Office of the President of Azerbaijan Republic,

Department of Political Analysis Senior Advisor, Baku, Azerbaijan 2009 - 2012

2008 - 2009

United Nations. Department of Political Affairs, Asia-Pacific Division

Consultant/Research Assistant, New York, NY

Conferences

- POLICY-ORIENTED Summit on Modern Conflicts and Emerging Threats, Nashville, TN, 2023
 - Future of Afghanistan Conference, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, 2013.
 - Council of Europe Seminar: "Information, Social Media & Civil Service," Trieste, Italy, 2011.
 - Redefining Cooperation in the Black Sea Region Conference, Berlin, Germany, 2010.
 - First Annual Symposium of International Relations Scholars, Baku, Azerbaijan, 2010.
 - Security, Development, & Regional Cooperation in the Black Sea, Varna, Bulgaria, 2010.
 - United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit, NYC, 2006.
 - Plenary Meetings of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France, 2006.
 - UNESCO Conference "Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures & People," Paris, France, 2005.

Peer Reviewer

American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Explorations in Economic History, Journal of Global Security Studies, International Studies Quarterly, Conflict Management and Peace Science, International Interactions

National Science Foundation, Agence Nationale de la Recherche

LANGUAGES

Azerbaijani (native), English (fluent), Turkish (fluent), Russian (fluent), Italian (upper-intermediate), Spanish (upper-intermediate), French (intermediate), German (basic)

COMPUTER SKILLS Operating systems: Linux/Unix, Mac OS X, Windows family

Programming Languages: R, Python, SQL Statistical software: STATA, SAS, MATLAB

Web Programming: CSS, HTML

References

Yuri Zhukov Christian Davenport James Morrow A.F.K. Organski Professor Associate Professor Professor Department of Political Science Department of Government Department of Political Science University of Michigan Georgetown University University of Michigan ⊠ jdmorrow@umich.edu ⊠ vmz2@georgetown.edu ⊠ cdavenpt@umich.edu

Walter Mebane Professor Department of Political Science Department of Statistics University of Michigan ⊠ wmebane@umich.edu

Kevin Quinn Professor Department of Political Science Department of Statistics University of Michigan \bowtie kmq@umich.edu

Christopher Fariss Professor Department of Political Science University of Michigan ⊠ cjfariss@umich.edu