
CONTACT INFORMATION	Harvard Kennedy School 79 John F. Kennedy Street Cambridge, MA 02138	✉ roya_talibova@hks.harvard.edu 🎓 http://bit.ly/3jFK2KQ 🌐: www.royatalibova.com
RESEARCH INTERESTS	<p><i>Substantive:</i> political violence and state repression, legacies of conflict, political economy of conflict and development, Russian and Eurasian politics</p> <p><i>Methodological:</i> applied statistics, machine learning, spatial and computational analysis, causal inference, text analysis, formal theory, Bayesian modeling</p>	
ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT	<p>Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA</p> <p>Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman Assistant Professor of Public Policy 2024 – 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</p> <p>Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN Assistant Professor (on leave in Fall 2023) 2023 – 2024 Faculty Associate, Data Science Institute</p> <p>University of Pennsylvania, DevLab@Penn, Philadelphia, PA Postdoctoral Research Associate 2022 – 2023</p>	
EDUCATION	<p>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2022 Ph.D., Political Science and Scientific Computation (dual degree) <i>Fields:</i> International Relations (with Distinction), Political Methodology, Comparative Politics</p> <p>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2022 M.S., Statistics</p> <p>Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2014 M.P.A., Public Administration</p> <p>Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ 2009 M.A., International Relations</p> <p>Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku, Azerbaijan 2007 B.A., International Relations (with Highest Distinction)</p>	
DISSERTATION	<p><i>Why Fight? The Causes and Consequences of Joining an Autocrat's Army</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

3. “Choosing Sides: The Price of Battlefield Loyalty under Autocracy”, *Comparative Political Studies*, Forthcoming
 - Winner: 2023 David Brian Robertson Best Paper Award, APSA Politics & History Section
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

1. **“Mobilizing the Marginalized: Repression, Recruitment, and Revolution in Imperial Russia”**
 - 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

Drafting Dissent: Repression, Recruitment, and Revolution

- In preparation

WORKING PAPERS

4. **“The Repression Paradox: How Authoritarian States Draft Their Own Enemies”**
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: Crafting Wartime Narrative Through Social Media”** [with Erik Wibbels and Ernesto Calvo]

RESEARCH IN
PROGRESS

7. **“Napoleon’s Long Shadow: Institutional Legacies from the Grand Armée to the Great War”**
6. **“The Loyalty-Competence Tradeoff: Officer Selection and Battlefield Performance in WWII”**
5. **“The Mobilization Dividend: How WWII Reshaped Female Labor in Russia”**
4. **“Coercive Brain Drain: Forced Displacement, Human Capital Flight, and Long-Run Development”**

3. “The Moral Atlas: Locally Transmitted Norms and Political Behavior in Imperial Russia” [with Volha Charnysh]
2. “Legitimacy of Transitional Justice Institutions in Comparative Perspective: Evidence from Colombia, Iraq, and Ukraine” [with Gabriella Levy and Mara Revkin]
1. “Constrained Classification: A Framework for Observation-Specific Feasibility in Supervised Learning”

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.

INVITED TALKS
AND WORKSHOPS

- **Yale University** (scheduled)
Economic History Seminar, December 2026
- **Georgetown University** (scheduled)
Washington-area Political Economy Conference (WPECO), May 2026
- **European University Institute** (scheduled)
Workshop on the Advances in Research on Political Violence, May 2026
- **Washington University in St.Louis**
13th Comparative Politics Annual Conference, April 2026
- **Stanford University**
Text-as-Data in Policy Analysis Conference, February 2026
- **Duke University**
Transitional Justice Workshop, January 2026
- **The University of British Columbia**
Political Economy of Europe Pre-APSA (PEEP) Workshop (D), September 2025
- **University of New South Wales - Sydney**
Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics Annual Conference, August 2025
- **Columbia University**
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, 2018-2026
- European Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2025
- 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, 2024-2025
- 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 AND
HONORS

- 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-Skjoldt 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)

- Rackham 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

- Weatherhead Center for Foreign and International Affairs Medium Faculty Research Grant, 2025-2026. (\$24,850)
- Undergraduate Research Scholars Program Grant, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University, 2025.
- National Science Foundation (NSF), 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, University of Michigan, 2021. (\$5,500)
- Political Science DGS Research Grant, University of Michigan, 2021. (\$1,500)
- Carnegie Foundation Dissertation Research Grant (Harriman Institute), Columbia University, 2020. (\$16,000)
- Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan, 2019. (\$2,500)
- Rackham Graduate Student Pre-doctoral Research Grant, University of Michigan, 2018. (\$1,500)
- Political Science Department Summer Collaboration Grant, University of Michigan, 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 x3)
- 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 School of Government, Harvard University.	
Global Ethnic Politics	Spring 2025
IGA 315, Kennedy School 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 EXPERIENCE	Advanced Quantitative-Empirical Methods	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
	URO, 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 Titunik	
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Member, Politics & Institutions Track Ranking Committee for the Ph.D. in Public Policy program, Harvard Kennedy School, 2026 • 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

- Paula D. McClain Award for the MPSA Best Paper Committee, MPSA, 2025
- Ronald Harry Coase Best Dissertation Committee, Society for Industrial and Organizational Economics, 2025
- Democracy and Autocracy Best Paper 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

ADVISING AND
MENTORSHIP

Current Doctoral Students

Jack Keating

Master's students

Caroline Bilbray-Kohn

Dhanush Girish

Tzur Goldin

Josh Levy

Julia Long

Soohyun Shim

MANUSCRIPT
REVIEWER

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

GRANT REVIEWER

National Science Foundation, Agence Nationale de la Recherche, Harvard Data Science Initiative

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, 2012 – 2015
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
Program Manager, Cambridge, MA

Office of the President of Azerbaijan Republic, 2009 – 2012
Department of Political Analysis
Senior Advisor, Baku, Azerbaijan

United Nations, 2008 – 2009
Department of Political Affairs, Asia-Pacific Division

Consultant/Research Assistant, New York, NY

- POLICY-ORIENTED CONFERENCES
- 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.

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

James Morrow A.F.K. Organski Professor Department of Political Science University of Michigan ✉ jdmorrow@umich.edu	Yuri Zhukov Associate Professor Department of Government Georgetown University ✉ ymz2@georgetown.edu	Christian Davenport Professor Department of Political Science University of Michigan ✉ 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 ✉ kmq@umich.edu	Christopher Fariss Professor Department of Political Science University of Michigan ✉ cjfariss@umich.edu