

Sergey Sanovich

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434 Galvez Mall
Stanford, CA 94305

APPOINTMENTS

Stanford University Palo Alto, CA
Hoover Fellow, Hoover Institution 2022 –
Princeton University Princeton, NJ
Postdoctoral Research Associate, CITP 2019 – 2022
Stanford University Palo Alto, CA
Cyber Fellow, CISAC 2018 – 2019

EDUCATION

New York University New York, NY
Ph.D., Politics 2018
Dissertation Committee: [Joshua Tucker](#) (Chair), [Arturas Rozenas](#), [Patrick Egan](#), [Shanker Satyanath](#), [Adam Przeworski](#)
Research Associate: [Social Media and Political Participation \(SMaPP\) Lab](#)
The University of Chicago Chicago, IL
M.A., Social Sciences 2011
Advisers: [Stan Markus](#) & [Alberto Simpser](#)
Higher School of Economics Moscow, Russia
M.S., Public Policy 2009
Advisers: [Alexey Titkov](#) & [Lev Jakobson](#)
B.S., Economics
Advisers: [Maria Yudkevich](#) & [Yevgeny Yasin](#)

PUBLICATIONS

“[Why Botter: How Pro-Government Bots Fight Opposition in Russia](#),” (with Denis Stukal, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker), *American Political Science Review*, 2022, 116 (3): 843–857. [Supplemental Appendix](#). [Replication Data and Code](#). Selected for the APSA Public Scholarship Program.

“[Exiles from Their Own Success: How Do Russian Programmers Succeed under Putin and Why Do They Still Continue to Leave?](#)” *Contemporary Sociology*, 2020, 49 (6): 491–496.

“[Mobilizing Opposition Voters under Electoral Authoritarianism: A Field Experiment in Russia](#),” (with Leonid Peisakhin and Arturas Rozenas), *Research & Politics*, 2020, 7 (4): 1–23. [Supplemental Appendix](#). [Replication Data and Code](#).

[Securing American Elections: Prescriptions for Enhancing the Integrity and Independence of the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election and Beyond](#)

Michael A. McFaul, Ed. (Stanford Cyber Policy Center, June 2019)

- Chapter 5: “[Combating Organized Disinformation Campaigns from State-aligned Actors](#)” (*major contribution*)
- Chapter 7: “[Establishing International Norms and Agreements to Prevent Election Interference](#)” (*minor contribution*)

“For Whom the Bot Tolls: A Neural Networks Approach to Measuring Political Orientation of Twitter Bots in Russia,” (with Denis Stukal, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker), *SAGE Open*, 2019, 9 (2): 1–16. [Supplemental Appendix](#).

“The Use of Twitter Bots in Russian Political Communication,” (with Denis Stukal, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker), *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 564*, 2019.

“Computational Propaganda in Russia: The Origins of Digital Misinformation.” In: *Computational Propaganda: Political Parties, Politicians, and Political Manipulation on Social Media*, edited by Samuel C. Woolley and Philip N. Howard, 21–40. Oxford University Press, 2018.

“Turning the Virtual Tables: Government Strategies for Addressing Online Opposition with an Application to Russia,” (with Denis Stukal and Joshua A. Tucker), *Comparative Politics*, 2018, 50 (3): 435–454.

“Strategies and Tactics of Spreading Disinformation,” (with Denis Stukal) In: *Social Media, Political Polarization, and Political Disinformation: A Review of the Scientific Literature*, edited by Joshua A. Tucker and Brendan Nyhan, 30–39. Madison Initiative, The Hewlett Foundation, 2018.

“Detecting Bots on Russian Political Twitter,” (with Denis Stukal, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker), *Big Data*, 2017, 5 (4): 310–324.

“The Russian Third Sector: New Driving Forces,” (with Lev Jakobson), *Journal of Civil Society*, 2011, 7 (2): 233–239.

“The Changing Models of the Russian Third Sector,” (with Lev Jakobson), *Journal of Civil Society*, 2010, 6 (3): 279–300.

INVITED
TALKS

- 2023 “Global Knowledge Warfare after Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine: Strategic Narratives, Strategic Competition and Global Order,” Stanford University
- 2022 “The Transformation of Russian Propaganda During the Russian War Against Ukraine,” King’s College London
- 2022 “Platforming Dissent, Resistance, and Access to Information,” Fritt Ord Foundation and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
- 2022 “Digital Economy & Security Collaborative Workshop,” Mortara Center for International Studies, Georgetown University
- 2022 “Princeton voices: Speaking out on the Russian invasion of Ukraine: Russian Misinformation and Cybersecurity,” with Asha Rangappa, Jacob N. Shapiro, Alicia Wanless, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)
- 2022 The Propaganda Research Lab and the Center for Media Engagement (CME), the University of Texas at Austin (o)
- 2022 School of Cybersecurity and Privacy, Georgia Institute of Technology (o)
- 2022 School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2020 Georgetown University, Walsh School of Foreign Service (o)

- 2020 Namebase.IO, Los Angeles (o); Vontobel Asset Management, New York/Zurich (o)
- 2020 “Great Power Competition and Conflict: The Informational Power of USA, Russia, and China,” Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Ohio State University
- 2019 “Real and Fake News: How New Technology Is Changing Journalism,” ‘Media in the Post-Truth Age’ Series, Frontline Club (London) / University of Leeds
- 2019 “Securing Our Cyber Future: Innovative Approaches to Digital Threats,” Cyber Policy Center, Stanford University
- 2019 “Global Security and Counter-terrorism Workshop,” J. Robert Oppenheimer Center, Los Alamos National Laboratory
- 2019 Primer.AI, San Francisco
- 2018 Carnegie Russian Politics Workshop, Harriman Institute, Columbia U
- 2017 Data & Society, New York
- 2017 Google Jigsaw, New York
- 2017 “Russian Media Workshop,” The Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia (PONARS Eurasia)
- 2016 “Recognizing and Countering Russian Propaganda Workshop,” Atlantic Council & GWU Elliott School
- 2015 “Hybrid Warfare Workshop,” GWU Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies

EVENT ORGANIZED **“A Conversation with Meduza: Challenges and Opportunities for the Independent Media Competing with State-Sponsored Fake News”**, Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, New York University, May 12, 2017

CONFERENCE	21st Annual Aleksanteri Conference, University of Helsinki	2022
PRESENTATIONS	American Political Science Association (APSA)	2016–17, 2020
	International Communication Association (ICA)	2020
	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2016–18
	Western Political Science Association (WPSA)	2019
	Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)	2018
	Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics (SIOE)	2015, 2017
	[International Society for New Institutional Economics (ISNIE)]	
	International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR)	2008
	Higher School of Economics April International Academic Conference	2008

REFEREEING American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Journal of Comparative Economics ($\times 2$), International Organization ($\times 2$), International Security, Political Communication, Comparative Political Stud-

ies, International Journal of Press/Politics (×2), Journal of Quantitative Description, Polity Press (book proposal; book manuscript), Social Data Science Center (SoDa) at the University of Maryland (grant proposal), Information, Communication and Society, Journal of Language and Politics, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology, Policy & Internet, Conflict Management and Peace Science, New Media and Society, Post-Soviet Affairs (×2), St Antony's International Review, Japanese Journal of Political Science, Problems of Post-Communism (×2), Demokratizatsiya, Russian Journal of Communication, Journal of Civil Society, VOLUNTAS (×7), *Voprosy Ekonomiki*

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Spring 2022 Russian Politics since 1991 Graduate course cross-listed by International Relations, Politics, and Slavic departments

Teaching Assistant

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Fall	2017	Comparative Politics (Head TA)	Prof. Joshua Tucker
Spring	2017	International Politics (Head TA)	Prof. Jennifer Larson
Fall	2016	International Politics	Prof. Shanker Satyanath
Spring	2016	International Relations	Prof. Bruce Bueno de Mesquita
Fall	2015	International Politics	Prof. Shanker Satyanath
Spring	2015	Comparative Politics (Eastern Europe)	Prof. Joshua Tucker
Fall	2014	Comparative Politics (Western Europe)	Prof. Michael Laver
Spring	2014	Cultures and Context: Russia between East and West	Prof. Yanni Kotsionis (History)

HIGHER SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (MOSCOW, RUSSIA)

2009

Fall	2008	Institutional Economics	Prof. Marina Odintsova
	2007		

Guest Lectures

- “Social Media, Political Polarization, and Political Disinformation,” Virginia Tech PSCI/IS 3116
- “Russian Digital Disinformation in the U.S.: 2020 vs. 2016,” Princeton CS Interface
- “Data Localization Laws in Russia & Global Internet Control,” Stanford INTPOL 221
- “Computational Propaganda in Action: The Use of Twitter Bots in and by Russia,” Stanford INTPOL 253C
- “Disinformation Campaigns: Action and Detection,” Stanford INTPOL 321

- “Media Control and the Rise of Political Bots: From Russia with a Retweet,” NYU POL 700
- “Domestic Origins of the Russian Foreign Policy,” NYU POL 700
- “Politics of Russian Economic Reform,” NYU POL 500
- “Winners Take All and Lose Everything: Russia from Yeltsin to Putin,” NYU HIST 510

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS	2019	Visiting Fellowship, Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia
	2019	Hayek Fund for Scholars Travel Award, IHS
	2018	Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) at George Mason University
	2018	Hayek Fund for Scholars Travel Award, IHS
	2017	George Downs Prize, Wilf Family Department of Politics
	2017	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, New York University
	2017	Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) at George Mason University
	2017	Hayek Fund for Scholars Travel Award (×2), IHS
	2017	Fieldwork Fellowship, Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia
	2017	Center for Social and Political Behavior Travel Grant, NYU
	2017	Dean’s Student Travel Grant, New York University
	2016	Fellowship in Advanced Research, Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia
	2016	George Downs Prize, Wilf Family Department of Politics
	2016	Dean’s Student Travel Grant, New York University
	2016	Student Senators Council’s Conference Fund Award, NYU
	2016	Center for Social and Political Behavior Travel Grant, NYU
	2015	Conference and Research Grant, IHS
	2013–2018	Summer Research Assistantships, New York University (×6)
	2012–2017	Henry MacCracken Fellowship, New York University
	2009	M.S., Public Policy, End of the program ranking: 1st out of 45 students

PRESS
COVERAGE
& QUOTES

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), “[NATO Summit in Vilnius: Results and Russian Response](#)”, Tikhon Dzyadko & Valeria Ratnikova, July 14, 2023.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), “[NATO Summit in Vilnius](#)”, Anna Mongayt, July 10, 2023.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), “[Bill Burns Visit to Kyiv and the Conditions for Negotiations](#)”, Valeria Ratnikova, July 1, 2023.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), “[Criminal case against Donald Trump](#)”, Valeria Kirsanova & Ekaterina Kotrikadze, June 27, 2023.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), [“Criminal case against Donald Trump”](#), Alina Didkovskaya & Ekaterina Kotrikadze, June 20, 2023.

RTVI (video interview, in Russian), [“Trump Legal Troubles and 2024 GOP Primaries”](#), Diana Lesnichaya, June 13, 2023.

RTVI (video interview, in Russian), [“AI, Chatbots, and Deepfakes’ Impact on U.S. Elections in 2024”](#), Diana Lesnichaya, May 31, 2023.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), [“Peace Plans for Ukraine”](#), Alina Didkovskaya & Ekaterina Kotrikadze, May 23, 2023.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), [“Trump CNN Townhall”](#), Tikhon Dzyadko & Alina Didkovskaya, May 11, 2023.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), [“Intel Leaks”: Ukraine, Egypt, and China Angles”](#), Mikhail Fishman, April 14, 2023.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), [“Trump Arrested in New York”](#), Tikhon Dzyadko, April 4, 2023.

RTVI (video interview, in Russian), [“Musk Tries to Curb Ukraine’s Use of Starlink for Drones”](#), Natalya Romanova, February 9, 2023.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), [“Biden’s State of the Union”](#), Anna Mongayt, February 8, 2023.

RTVI (video interview, in Russian), [“McCarthy Loses the First Round of Speaker’s Elections”](#), Natalya Romanova, January 3, 2023.

RTVI (video interview, in Russian), [“Aid to Ukraine after Mid-Term Elections”](#), Natalya Romanova, November 23, 2022.

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), [“Twitter Lifts its Ban on Donald Trump”](#), Anna Mongayt, November 21, 2022.

RTVI (video interview, in Russian), [“U.S. Senators Visit Zelensky in Kyiv”](#), Natalya Romanova, November 4, 2022.

RTVI (video interview, in Russian), [“Republicans Debate Aid to Ukraine ahead of Mid-Term Elections”](#), Liza Kaymin, October 21, 2022.

WIRED, [“Google’s Russian Empire Faces an Uncertain Future”](#), Morgan Meaker, June 6, 2022.

ABC News Australia, [“Vladimir Putin Calls Them ‘Scum’ and ‘Traitors’. Here’s What Life Is Like for Russia’s New Exiles”](#), Avani Dias & Som Patidar, April 30, 2022.

De Groene Amsterdammer, [“De strijd om het Russische internet: Het digitale gordijn \[The Battle for the Russian Internet: The Digital Curtain\]”](#), Eva Hofman, April 27, 2022.

20 minutes, [“War in Ukraine: TikTok at the forefront of disinformation \[War in Ukraine: Tiktok at the Forefront of Disinformation\]”](#), Lina Fourneau, April 12, 2022.

WIRED, [“Russia Is Facing a Tech Worker Exodus”](#), Gian M. Volpicelli, March 23,

2022.

Newsweek, [“Telegram: Online for Putin, Offline for Bolsonaro”](#), Khaleda Rahman, March 20, 2022.

Agence France-Presse, [“Last Apps Standing? Telegram, Whatsapp Duck Russia Bans”](#), March 19, 2022.

TSN (The Sports Network), [“Ovechkin’s Social Media Dilemma Fuels Debate Amid Russia’s Crackdown on Free Speech: An Expert on Russia’s Surveillance Culture Argues the Potential Risk to Alex Ovechkin or His Family If He Changes His Social Media Profile Photo Is Overblown”](#), Rick Westhead, March 17, 2022.

France 24 (live TV interview), [“Facebook/Meta Allows Hate Speech About Russian Leaders and Army in Ukraine and Neighboring Countries”](#), at 4:04:45, William Hilderbrandt, March 12, 2022.

Washington Post, [“Putin’s Prewar Moves Against U.S. Tech Giants Laid Groundwork for Crackdown on Free Expression: Google and Apple Blinked After Threats from Russian Agents”](#), Greg Miller & Joseph Menn, March 12, 2022.

Times Radio Early Breakfast (live radio interview), [“War in Ukraine: Geopolitics and Human Tragedy”](#), Calum Macdonald, March 8, 2022.

The Guardian, [“Warnings Raised Over Russian Tech Giant Yandex’s Uk Operation”](#), Shanti Das, March 5, 2022.

Grid News, [“Pregnant, Posting, Then Detained: Russia Is Cracking down on Social Media Amid the Ukraine Invasion”](#), Anya van Wagtenonk & Benjamin Powers, March 1, 2022.

Grid News, [“In Ukraine’s Fog of War, Social Media Creates Further Confusion”](#), Anya van Wagtenonk, February 25, 2022.

The Economist, [“Russia Is Trying to Build Its Own Great Firewall”](#), Ludwig Siegele, February 19, 2022.

Communications of the ACM, [“Can a Free Internet Survive?”](#), Samuel Greengard, November 23, 2021.

Rest of World, [“How India Fell In, Then Out of Love with Twitter”](#), Nilesh Christopher & Meher Ahmad, June 1, 2021.

New York Times, [“Russia Raises Heat on Twitter, Google and Facebook in Online Crackdown”](#), Adam Satariano & Oleg Matsnev, May 26, 2021.

Rzeczpospolita, [“Wolność po Rosyjsku: Runet. Kreml Chce Kontrolować Internet”](#), Marcin Łuniewski, April 23, 2021.

FT, [“Russia Flexes Its ‘Sovereign Internet’ with Move to Curb Twitter”](#), Max Seddon, April 5, 2021.

Rest of World, [“Independent Russian Journalists Are Thriving on YouTube – for Now”](#), Maria Danilova, March 23, 2021.

RTVI (video interview, in Russian), [“Is Russia Helping Parler to Come Back Online”](#),

Harry Knyagnitsky, January 20, 2021.

The Square (video interview, in Russian), [“Twitter’s Ban of Trump: Censorship or Moderation?”](#), Daria Korneeva, January 15, 2021.

FT, [“Russian Troll Farm Makes US Comeback”](#), Max Seddon, September 4, 2020.

Santa Maria Times, [“Our View: Wading in Facts Swamp”](#), March 6, 2020.

The Columbus Dispatch, [“Voters Are Going to Face a Tsunami of Disinformation Again This Election Cycle, Experts Warn”](#), Darrel Rowland, February 24, 2020.

Communications of the ACM, [“The End of Internet Freedom?”](#), Samuel Greengard, February 13, 2020.

FT, [“Inside the Deal Between the Kremlin and Russia’s Top Search Engine”](#), Max Seddon, December 5, 2019.

CNBC, [“Russia Just Brought in a Law to Try to Disconnect Its Internet from the Rest of the World”](#), Elizabeth Schulze, November 1, 2019.

Bloomberg, [“Vladimir Putin Wants Everyone to Love the Way He Watches Them”](#), Jake Rudnitsky & Ilya Khrennikov, October 21, 2019.

AP, [“Outlawed App Emerges as Key Tool for Russian Protesters”](#), Francesca Ebel, September 6, 2019.

AP (video feature), [“Russian Protesters Aided by Digital Tools, Self-Organizing”](#), Francesca Ebel, September 6, 2019.

FT, [“Russian Technology: Can the Kremlin Control the Internet?”](#), Max Seddon & Henry Foy, June 4, 2019.

Handelsblad, [“Hoe de Petersburgse trollenfabriek te werk ging na de MH17-ramp”](#), Reinier Kist & Rik Wassens, May 13, 2019.

MIT Technology Review, [“Russia Wants to Cut Itself Off from the Global Internet. Here’s What That Really Means”](#), Charlotte Jee, March 21, 2019.

Washington Post, Monkey Cage, Tatsiana Kulakevich, [“Why is Belarus Cracking Down on Independent Journalists – and the Internet?”](#), August 15, 2018.

Wired UK, [“Think Russia’s Twitter Trolls are Bad? Startups do it Every Day”](#), Jake Higgins, March 7, 2018.

Vice News, [“Putin’s Archrival has Weaponized YouTube and Turned it against the Kremlin”](#), Greg Walters, January 8, 2018.

U.S. News & World Report, [“The Revolution Will Be Tweeted?”](#), James Warren, January 3, 2018.

Wall Street Journal, [“Scrutiny Over Fake Accounts Turns From Facebook to Twitter”](#), Georgia Wells and Robert McMillan, October 2, 2017.

La Tribune, [“Réseaux Sociaux: Comment les Gouvernements Désinforment L’opinion Publique”](#), Grégoire Normand, June 22, 2017.

Salon, [“Social media is a Very Good Way to Spread Bot-driven Propaganda: Re-](#)

port”, Matthew Rozsa, June 20, 2017.

La Repubblica, “Facebook & co., Maxistudio Internazionale: ‘Sfruttati per Manipolare L’opinione Pubblica’ ”, Simone Cosimi, June 20, 2017.

The Guardian, “Facebook and Twitter are Being Used to Manipulate Public Opinion – Report”, Alex Hern, June 19, 2017.

- SUMMER AND
WINTER
SCHOOLS
- [Becky Morton](#)’s Winter Experimental Social Sciences Institute (WESSI) at NYU Abu Dhabi: 2016
 - The Federalists and Anti-Federalists, Advanced Topics in Liberty, Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) at George Mason University: 2016
 - Coase Workshop on Institutional Analysis (Tel Aviv, Israel): 2015
 - European School on New Institutional Economics (ESNIE): 2009
 - Russian Summer School on Institutional Analysis (RSSIA): 2009
 - European Summer School on Social Economy: 2009
 - LSE Summer School: 2007
 - Cato.ru Summer Schools: 2007, 2008, 2009 (Crimea, Ukraine)