

Steven Lloyd Wilson, Ph.D.
stevenwilson@unr.edu

Professional Affiliations

Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Nevada, Reno.
Project Manager of Computational Infrastructure for the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute

Education

University of Wisconsin, Madison	Political Science	Ph.D.	2016
University of Wisconsin, Madison	Political Science	MA	2010
University of San Diego	History	MA	2009
Harvey Mudd College	Engineering & History	BS	2001

Dissertation

"Information and Revolution: New Communications Technology and Authoritarian Regimes"
Committee: Yoshiko Herrera (chair), Scott Gehlbach, Theodore Gerber, Andrew Kydd, Alexander Tahk

Publications

Articles

- "Modelling and Measuring Class Conflict in Russia's Regions" (*Rationality and Society*, November 2019)
- "The Methodology of 'Varieties of Democracy' (V-Dem)" (with Lindberg, et al.) (*Bulletin de Methodologie Sociologique*, July 2019)
- "The 2018 Swedish Election Campaign on Twitter" (with Constanza Sanhueza Petrarca and Maria Tyrberg) (*Swedish Journal of Political Science*, 2019)
- "Teaching Computer Content Analysis" (with Yoshiko Herrera) (*PS: Political Science and Politics*, July 2019)
- "Detecting Mass Protest through Social Media: Ukraine, Twitter, and Euromaidan" (*Journal of Social Media in Society*, 2017)
- "Pinpointing the Powerful: Co-voting Network Centrality as a Measure of Political Influence" (with Nils Ringe) (*Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 2016)
- "Policy Leadership and Reelection in the European Parliament" (with Nils Ringe and Jack Thomme) (*Journal of European Public Policy*, 2016) selected for the (peer-reviewed) special issue featuring the best papers presented at the 2015 European Union Studies Association's Biennial Conference.
- "Social Identity, Cross-Cutting Cleavages, and Explaining the Breakdown of Interethnic Cooperation" (*Rationality and Society*, November 2015)
- "How to Control the Internet" (*First Monday*, February 2015)

Books

- "Social Media as Social Science Data", forthcoming 2020 (under contract with Cambridge University Press).
- "Handbook of Democracy and Security", editor (with Nicholas Seltzer), (under contract with Edward Elgar Publishing).

Under Review

- "#MeToo, Gender Norms and the 2018 Mid-Term Elections on Twitter" (with Valeriya Mechkova, under review at *Political Research Quarterly*)
- "Information and Revolution: New Communications Technology and Authoritarian Regimes" (under review at *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*)
- "Conditional Norms and the Stability of the Non-Proliferation Treaty" (with Jacques Hymans and Yoshiko Herrera, under review at *Journal of Global Security Studies*).
- "Experts versus crowds: Under what circumstances can crowd-sourced data substitute for expert-coded data?" (with Marquardt, et al., under review at *Political Science Research Quarterly*).

Other Publications

- "If any Iranians supported Soleimani's killing, it would've been dissidents on Twitter. The opposite happened." (with Layla Hashemi) (The Monkey Cage at The Washington Post, 1/8/20)
- "Book Review of Information, Democracy, and Autocracy: Economic Transparency and Political (In)Stability"

(in *Perspectives on Politics*, Sept 2019).

- “Using Social Media for Social Science Research” (SAGE Research Methods Video: Data Science, Big Data Analytics, & Digital Methods). DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781526492883> (SAGE Publications, 2019)
- “Will Kavanaugh’s Confirmation Affect the Midterms?” (with Jeremy Gelman) (The Monkey Cage at The Washington Post, 11/5/18)
- *APSA Comparative Democratization Newsletter*, Editor for Spring 2017 issue, author of introductory essay.
- "Uzbekistan" and "Ukraine" in *Online around the World: A Geographic Encyclopedia of the Internet, Social Media, and Mobile Apps* (May 2017)
- "The Logic of Russian Internet Censorship" (The Monkey Cage at The Washington Post, 3/16/14)

Datasets

- “*Digital Society Project Dataset v1.*” (With Mechkova, et al.). 2019. Digital Society Project.
- “*V-Dem [Country-Year/Country- Date] Dataset v9.*” (With Coppedge, et al.). 2019. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.
- “*V-Dem [Country-Year/Country- Date] Dataset v8.*” (With Coppedge, et al.). 2018. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.
- “*V-Dem [Country-Year/Country- Date] Dataset v7.*” (With Coppedge, et al.). 2017. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.
- *Geocoded Twitter Archive for the Social Sciences*: creator of this database of some seven billion tweets, fully searchable and GIS identified to the second subnational unit.
- "Ethnicity as a variable: An annotated bibliography for sources on ethnic and cultural diversity" (with Kyle Marquardt and Yoshiko Herrera) (online database)

Articles in Progress

- "Social Media and Subnational Protest in Latin America."
- “Games of Incomplete Information Technology”
- “The 2017 French Presidential Election Campaigns in Social Media” (with Constanza Sanhueza Petrarca)
- “Predicting the Future Using Expert Opinion Aggregation” (with Anna Lührmann and Richard Morgan)
- "Internet Policy in South Korea: A Distinct Expression of Democracy" (with Julia Eggleston).
- "Narrowing the Academic-Policy Gap: Evidence on the Role of Blogging" (with Paul Avey and Michael Desch).
- "State Capacity Types and Regime Outcomes" (with Rachel Sigman).
- "Signaling Influence and Leadership Selection in the European Parliament" (with Nils Ringe).
- "A formal model of center-periphery language policy" (with Kyle Marquardt).

Significant Grants

- World Social Media Survey: \$1,000,000. Co-PI (with Valeriya Mechkova, Daniel Pemstein, and Brigitte Seim). 2018-2020.
- Varieties of Democracy Institute Project Manager Grant: \$30,000. 2019-2020.
- Varieties of Democracy Institute Project Manager Grant: \$33,000. 2018-2019.
- USAID Learning, Evaluation, and Research Grant: \$327,000. Subcontractor, providing white papers and data visualization. 2017-2018.
- Varieties of Democracy Institute Project Manager Grant: \$58,000. 2017-2018.

Invited Talks & Fellowships

- Visiting Professor at New York University’s Jordan Center (Spring 2020)
- Invited participant at UCLA’s Computational International Relations Workshop (Feb 2020)
- Invited speaker at PONARS Eurasia (Washington DC, Nov 2019)
- Invited speaker at the United Nations Geneva Peace Week by the Swiss government (Geneva, Nov 2019)
- Invited participant at the Institute for Qualitative and Multimethod Research (IQMR) Authors Workshop (Syracuse University, June 2019)
- Invited participant presenting “The Digital Society Project” at the V-Dem Policy Dialogue Day (Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2019)
- Invited participant presenting “Social Media and the Former Soviet Sphere” at the RT and Propaganda Conference (George Washington University, April 2019)

- Invited participant at the Council on Foreign Relations College and University Educators Workshop (New York, April 2019)
- Invited guest on the Stats+Stories Podcast discussing the Digital Society Project (April 2019)
- Invited speaker presenting “Social Media and the Former Soviet Sphere” at the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post Soviet Studies Colloquia Series (Miami University, April 2019)
- Invited roundtable speaker at first annual UNR Cybersecurity Conference (April 2019)
- Invited participant presenting “The Digital Society Project” at the Global Populisms and their International Diffusion Workshop (Stanford University, March 2019)
- Invited speaker on resource usage and needs in research at UNR Cyberinfrastructure Workshop (March 2019)
- Invited presenter of “Information and Revolution” at the Political Instability Task Force’s Technology and Governance Conference, August 2018.
- Invited participant at the Institute for Qualitative and Multimethod Research (IQMR) Authors Workshop, (Syracuse University, June 2018).
- Invited participant at the “Cyberspace, Information Strategy, and International Security” conference at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, February 2018.
- “Web Scraping as Social Scientific Data Collection”, workshop course taught at the University of Gothenburg, January 2018.
- Visiting Professor/Researcher at Varieties of Democracy Institute, University of Gothenburg (January 2018).
- Keynote speaker at annual meeting of the League of Women Voters, Montgomery County, VA, March 2016.
- "Russia and the Near Abroad" Lecturer for Great Decisions program sponsored by the League of Women Voters and State Department, February 2015.
- "Russia and the Return of Geopolitics", Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought (ASPECT), October 2014.
- Appeared on Public Radio to discuss the Russian regime's attempts to control the Internet (audio available online at request), April 2014.
- "Russia Since 1991", Virginia Tech, March 2014.

Conference Presentations

- “Xenophobia and Social Media in Russia” (with Yoshiko Herrera & Alexander Verkhovskiy, ASEEEES, November 2019.
- “The Digital Society Project” (with Mechkova, et al.), V-Dem Conference, May 2019.
- “Social Identity and Social Media” (with Nataliia Kasianenko), ASEEEES, December 2018.
- “Social Media and Subnational Protest in Latin America”, APSA, August 2018.
- “Social Media and Social Identity in Russia”, Wisconsin Russia Project Young Scholars Conference, July 2018
- “Predicting the Future Using Expert Opinion Aggregation”, V-Dem Conference, May 2018.
- "Roundtable: Hacking, Trolling, Fake News, and Propaganda in Putin’s Russia", ASEEEES, November 2017.
- “Information and Revolution”, APSA, August 2017.
- "Signaling Influence and Leadership Selection in the European Parliament" (with Nils Ringe), EPSA, June 2017.
- "Experts versus crowds: Under what circumstances can crowd-sourced data substitute for expert-coded data?" (with Marquardt, et al.), EPSA, June 2017.
- "Social Media as Social Science Data," CLARIN-PLUS workshop on "Creation and Use of Social Media Resources" in Kaunas, Lithuania, May 2017.
- "Social Media and Subnational Protest in Latin America," MPSA, April 2017.
- "Internet Policy in South Korea: A Distinct Expression of Democracy" (with Julia Eggleston), MPSA, April 2017.
- "Experts versus crowds: Under what circumstances can crowd-sourced data substitute for expert-coded data?" (with Marquardt, et al.), MPSA, April 2017.
- "State Capacity Types and Regime Outcomes" (with Rachel Sigman), at Comparative Politics Conference of the DVPW, Tübingen, Germany, March 2017.
- "Social Media as Social Science Data," Big Data Workshop – Opportunities and Challenges in Contemporary Social and Political Research, Bergen, Norway, February 2017.
- "Roundtable: Russian-language Internet and New Media Technologies: State of the Medium, Medium of the State", ASEEEES, November 2016.
- "Conditional Norms and the Stability of the Non-Proliferation Treaty" (with Jacques Hyman and Yoshiko Herrera), MPSA, April 2016.

- "Permanent Revolution: Social Media and Regime Transition," MPSA, April 2016.
- "Roundtable: (Un)Patriotic Internet? The State of Civic Discourse on post-Crimea Runet," ASEEEES, November 2015.
- "Roundtable: Information Control in Post-Communist Eurasia: Development and Impact of State Media and Information Technology Policies," ASEEEES, November 2015.
- "Detecting Mass Protest through Social Media," PolNet, May 2015.
- "Policy Leadership and Reelection in the European Parliament" (with Nils Ringe), EUSA, March 2015.
- "Social Media and Protest in Russia's Regions," ASEEEES, November 2014.
- "Using Twitter to Measure Occurrence of Protest," Political Networks in a Transatlantic Perspective Workshop, July 2014.
- "Measuring Legislative Influence: A Social Network Approach" (with Nils Ringe), PolNet, May 2014.
- "Measuring Russian Regional Class Identity with Mass Automated Content Analysis," SSRC Quantitative Research Methods Workshop, August 2012.
- "The Hidden Market: The Invisible Hand of Political Competition within Russian Regional Authoritarianism," APSA, September 2011.

Fellowships & Awards

Nominee for the Carnegie Foundation Fellowship, University of Nevada, Reno's 2017 junior faculty nominee.

Honorary Fellow in the Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 2018 to August 2019.

Project Manager of Computational Infrastructure for the Varieties of Democracy Institute, University of Gothenburg, April 2017 to Present.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow: 2016-2017 at the Varieties of Democracy Institute, University of Gothenburg.

Best Paper Award: Wilson, Ringe, and van Thomme (2016) selected for inclusion in a (peer-reviewed) special issue of *Journal of European Public Policy* featuring the best papers presented at the 2015 European Union Studies Association's Biennial Conference.

Virginia Tech Favorite Faculty: 2013, received by less than 5% of faculty

Research Assistant at University of Wisconsin, 2010-present for the following faculty and projects:

- Katja Favretto 2010-2012: Research on international crises since 1945
- Susannah Tahk 2012: Research on state and local governmental earmarks
- Department of Distance Education 2013-2016: Developing course materials

Research Fellow:

- Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center Summer Research Laboratory, University of Illinois, Summer 2013
- SSRC Eurasia Program Summer Workshop in Quantitative Methods, Summer 2012

FLAS Fellow (Russian):

- American Councils in St. Petersburg, Russia Summer 2011
- University of Wisconsin, Madison 2010-2011

Professional Activities

Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Political Analysis*, *First Monday*, *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *Media and Communication*, *Rationality and Society*, *Research & Politics*.

Book Reviewer: Sage CQ, Oxford University Press.

Editorial Board Member: American Political Science Association Comparative Democratization (APSA-CD) Newsletter.