

# Sergey Sanovich

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## CONTACT

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📍 HHMB, Office 133  
Hoover Institution  
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

- 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 NATO, Briefing for the Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy (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 PRESENTATIONS | 21st Annual Aleksanteri Conference, University of Helsinki           | 2023          |
|                          | 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          |

REFEREING American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Journal of Comparative Economics (×2), International Organization (×2), International Security, Political Communication, Comparative Political Studies, 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), Journal of Language and Politics, Journal of Information Technology & Politics, Policy & Internet, Conflict Management and Peace Science, New Media and Society, Post-Soviet Affairs ( $\times 2$ ), St Antony's International Review, Japanese Journal of Political Science, Problems of Post-Communism, Demokratizatsiya, Russian Journal of Communication, Journal of Civil Society, VOLUNTAS ( $\times 7$ ), *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 Kottsonis (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

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|---------------------------|-----------|--|
| FELLOWSHIPS<br>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

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.

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

TV Rain (video interview, in Russian), [“Twitter Lifts its Ban on Donald Trump”](#),

Anna Mongayt, November 21, 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”](#), Niles 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 Luniewski, 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: Report"](#), 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)