

Sergey Sanovich

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Princeton, NJ 08544 Google Scholar: [Sergey Sanovich](#)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS **Princeton University** Princeton, NJ
Postdoctoral Research Associate, CITP 2019 –

Stanford University Palo Alto, CA
Cybersecurity Postdoctoral 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

Higher School of Economics Moscow, Russia
M.S., Public Policy 2009
B.S., Economics

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

Sanovich, Sergey. “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.

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

Sanovich, Sergey and Denis Stukal. “Strategies and Tactics of Spreading Disinformation”. 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.

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

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| | <p>Jakobson, Lev and Sergey Sanovich. “The Russian Third Sector: New Driving Forces”, <i>Journal of Civil Society</i>, 2011, 7 (2): 233–239.</p> <p>Jakobson, Lev and Sergey Sanovich. “The Changing Models of the Russian Third Sector”, <i>Journal of Civil Society</i>, 2010, 6 (3): 279–300.</p> |
| UNDER REVIEW | <p>Peisakhin, Leonid, Arturas Rozenas, and Sergey Sanovich. “Mobilizing Opposition Voters Under Electoral Authoritarianism: A Field Experiment in Russia”.</p> |
| POLICY PAPERS | <p>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)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5: “Combatting Organized Disinformation Campaigns from State-aligned Actors” (<i>major contribution</i>) • Chapter 7: “Establishing International Norms and Agreements to Prevent Election Interference” (<i>minor contribution</i>) <p>Stukal, Denis, Sergey Sanovich, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker. “The Use of Twitter Bots in Russian Political Communication”, <i>PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 564</i>, 2019.</p> |
| WORK IN PROGRESS | <p>Sanovich, Sergey, Jonathan Mayer, Ben Kaiser, and Andrew Guess. “Labeling On-line Disinformation: Experts vs. Crowdworkers”.</p> <p>Sanovich, Sergey. “Stop Our Lies, Subscribe to Our Rules: Strategic Goals of Digital Disinformation Campaigns”.</p> <p>Stukal, Denis, Sergey Sanovich, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker. “Social Media Bots for Autocrats: How Pro-Government Bots Fight Opposition in Russia”.</p> <p>Sanovich, Sergey. “Who’s Cueing Voters: Parties or Leaders? Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Russia”.</p> <p>Keller, Franziska Barbara and Sergey Sanovich. “Public Co-Appearances of Political Elites in Opaque Regimes: Evidence from the USSR and contemporary China”.</p> <p>Sanovich, Sergey. A Review of: “From Russia with Code: Programming Migrations in Post-Soviet Times.” Invited by <i>Contemporary Sociology</i>.</p> |
| ORIGINAL DATASET | <p>“Elections and Dissent in the USSR” (with Arturas Rozenas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed results for 7088 district elections to both chambers of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, 1937–1962. • Biographical data coded for each candidate (up to 40 fields per name). • Geographic coding of each district at <i>rayon</i> level in progress. • Links to dissent and repression data in progress. |
| EVENT ORGANIZED | <p>“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</p> |

INVITED TALKS

- 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 University
- 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

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
- 2012–2018 Summer Research Assistantships, New York University
- 2012–2017 Henry MacCracken Fellowship, New York University
- 2009 M.S., Public Policy, End of the program ranking: 1st out of 45 students

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

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

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 Kotsonis (History) |

Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia)

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|------|------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | 2009 | | |
| Fall | 2008 | Institutional Economics | Prof. Marina Odintsova |
| | 2007 | | |

Guest Lectures

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| Stanford INTPOL 221 | “Data Localization Laws in Russia & Global Internet Control” |
| Stanford INTPOL 253C | “Computational Propaganda in Action: The Use of Twitter Bots in and by Russia” |
| Stanford INTPOL 321 | “Disinformation Campaigns: Action and Detection” |
| NYU POL 700 | “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 500 | “Politics of Russian Economic Reform” |
| NYU HIST 510 | “Winners Take All and Lose Everything: Russia from Yeltsin to Putin” |

PRESS
COVERAGE
& QUOTES

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.

RESEARCH
ASSISTANTSHIP

New York University

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|------|
| Prof. Joshua Tucker | Partisan Russian Twitter Bots: Patterns of Information Dissemination | 2018 |
| Prof. Joshua Tucker | Sentiment Analysis of Political Bots | 2017 |
| Prof. Arturas Rozenas | Elections, Repression, and Dissent in the USSR: Data Sources and Analysis | 2016 |
| Prof. Arturas Rozenas | Data Collection on Elections in the USSR | 2015 |
| Prof. Joshua Tucker | Classification of Government Activities in Social Media | 2014 |
| Prof. Adam Przeworski | The Party, the Government, and the State in the USSR: Amalgamation, Separation, and Competition | 2013 |

The University of Chicago

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|------------------------|---|------|
| Prof. Stanislav Markus | Data Collection on Russian Oligarchs Relations with the State | 2012 |
| Prof. Alberto Simpser | Electoral Manipulation and Bureaucratic Control in Russia and CIS countries: Case Studies | 2011 |

Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia)

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|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| Prof. Yevgeny Yasin | <i>Principal Investigator: Democracy Dynamics in Russia: an Expert Survey</i> | 2009 – 2010 |
| Prof. Lev Jakobson | <i>Permanent Research Fellow: Center for the Studies of Civil Society and Non-for-profit Sector</i> | 2007 – 2010 |
| Prof. Maria Yudkevich | <i>Permanent Research Fellow: Laboratory for Institutional Analysis of Economic Reforms</i> | 2006 – 2010 |

SUMMER AND
WINTER SCHOOLS

- 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

FIELD RESEARCH 2014–2018 Moscow, Russia: Data collection on elections and dissent at the State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)
2016 Moscow, Russia: Get out the vote field experiment, Duma elections in Leningradskiy single-member district

REFEREEING

Journal of Language and Politics, Policy & Internet, Post-Soviet Affairs, St Antony's International Review, Japanese Journal of Political Science, Problems of Post-Communism, Demokratizatsiya, Russian Journal of Communication, Journal of Civil Society, VOLUNTAS, *Voprosy Ekonomiki*

RELEVANT SKILLS

- R, Stata, SPSS
- Qualtrics (Advanced), SurveyMonkey
- Amazon mTurk, Crowdfunder (Figure Eight), Prolific
- L^AT_EX, beamer
- Online advertising tools (Google AdWords, etc.)
- Russian (native), English (fluent)