

Denis Stukal

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School of Social and Political Sciences
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Academic Positions

- **Department of Government and International Relations (University of Sydney)**
Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Data Analytics in Social Sciences, January 2020 – now
- **Social Media and Political Participation Lab (New York University)**
Postdoctoral Fellow, September 2018 – January 2020
- **Department of Higher Mathematics; Laboratory for Political Studies (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia)**
Lecturer, September 2010 – September 2013

Education

- **New York University (USA)**
PhD in Politics, September 2018
Fields: Comparative Politics, Methodology
Committee: Joshua A. Tucker (chair), Nathaniel Beck, Richard A. Bonneau, Jonathan Nagler, Arturas Rozenas
- **New York University, New York City, NY (USA)**
M.A. in Politics, May 2015
- **National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow (Russia)**
M.A. in Applied Politics, June 2010 (summa cum laude)
- **National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow (Russia)**
B.A. in Politics, June 2008 (summa cum laude)

Research interests

- Authoritarian politics
- Propaganda and disinformation
- Social media and political behaviour
- Computational social sciences
- Deep learning and Bayesian inference

Working Papers

- Stukal, Denis, Sergey Sanovich, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker. (2020). "[Bots for Autocrats: How Pro-Government Bots Fight Opposition in Russia.](#)" *Under review.*
- Stukal, Denis, Zhanna Terechshenko, Angela Lai, Richard Bonneau, Joshua A. Tucker. (2020). "Bot Detection with Data-Driven Feature Extraction: Analyzing the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election" *Presented at the 2020 EPSA Virtual Conference*
- Rozenas, Arturas, Denis Stukal, and Georgiy Syunyaev. (2019). "How State-Controlled Media Shape Government Evaluation: Experimental Evidence from Russia." *Presented at the 2019 ASEES Convention.*
- Paskhalis, Tom, Denis Stukal, Gregory Eady, Joshua Tucker, and Jonathan Nagler. (2020). "Social Media and Electoral Integrity." *In progress.*
- Stukal, Denis. (2020). "Fast or/and Accurate: Scaling Up Bayesian Inference for Social Science Big Data." *In progress.*

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Talalakina, Ekaterina, Denis Stukal, and Mikhail Kamrotov. (2020). "Developing and Validating an Academic Vocabulary List in Russian: A Computational Approach." *The Modern Language Journal (forthcoming).*
- Stukal, Denis, Sergey Sanovich, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker. (2019). "[For Whom the Bot Tolls: A Neural Networks Approach to Measuring Political Orientation of Twitter Bots in Russia.](#)" *SAGE Open*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 1 – 16.
- Rozenas, Arturas, and Denis Stukal. (2019). "[How Autocrats Manipulate Economic News: Evidence from Russia's State-Controlled Television.](#)" *Journal of Politics* Vol. 81, No. 3, pp. 982 – 996.
- Gaber, Elena, Leonid Polishchuk, Kharis Sokolov, and Denis Stukal. (2019). "[Chronicles of a Democracy Postponed: Cultural Legacy of the Russian Transition.](#)" *The Economics of Transition*, Vol. 27, No. 1, pp. 99 – 137.
- Sanovich, Sergey, Denis Stukal, and Joshua A. Tucker. (2018). "[Turning the Virtual Tables: Government Strategies for Addressing Online Opposition with an Application to Russia.](#)" *Comparative Politics* Vol. 50, No. 3, pp. 435 – 482.
- Stukal, Denis, Sergey Sanovich, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker. (2017). "[Detecting Political Bots on Russian Twitter.](#)" *Big Data* Vol. 5, No. 4, pp. 310 – 324.
- Melville, Andrei, Denis Stukal, and Mikhail Mironyuk. (2014). "[Trajectories of Regime Transformation and Types of Stateness in Post-Communist Countries.](#)" *Perspectives on European Politics and Society* Vol. 14, No. 4, pp. 431 – 459.

Other Publications

- Stukal, Denis, Sergey Sanovich, Richard Bonneau, and Joshua A. Tucker. (2019). "[The Use of Twitter Bots in Russian Political Communication.](#)" *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo* No. 564.
- Tucker, Joshua A., Andrew Guess, Pablo Barberá, Cristian Vaccari, Alexandra Siegel, Sergey Sanovich, Denis Stukal, and Brendan Nyhan. (2018). "[Social Media, Political Polarization,](#)

[and Political Disinformation: A Review of the Scientific Literature.](#)” *William and Flora Hewlett Foundation*.

Rozenas, Arturas and Denis Stukal. (2018). “[How to Measure Information Manipulation?](#)” *Comparative Politics Newsletter*, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 59–65.

Melville, Andrei, Denis Stukal, and Mikhail Mironyuk. (2014). “["King of the Mountain, " Or Why Postcommunist Autocracies Have Bad Institutions.](#)” *Russian Politics and Law* Vol. 52, No. 2, pp. 7 – 29.

Ilyin, Mikhail, Elena Meleshkina, and Denis Stukal. (2012). “Two Decades of Post-Soviet and Post-Socialist Stateness.” *REGION: Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia* Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 177 – 211.

Melville, Andrei, Denis Stukal, and Mikhail Mironyuk. (2012). “Trajectories of Regime Transformation and Types of State Capacity.” *POLIS: Politicheskie issledovania* No. 2, pp. 8 – 30 (In Russian).

Nisnevich, Yuliy, and Denis Stukal. (2012). “Validity of Public Corruption Measurement in Research of International Organizations.” *Problemnii analiz i gosudarstvenno-upravlencheskoe proyektirovanie* Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 58 – 71 (In Russian).

Stukal Denis, and Tatyana Khavenson. (2012). “Modeling of State Capacity in Post-Socialist States.” *POLITEKS: Politicheskaya Ekspertiza* Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 233 – 260 (In Russian).

Nisnevich, Yuliy, and Denis Stukal. (2012). “Multifaceted Corruption and Its Measurement by International Organizations.” *World Economy and International Relations* No.3, pp. 83 – 90 (In Russian).

Melville, Andrei, and Denis Stukal. (2012). “Conditions of Democracy and Limits of Democratization. Factors of Regime Change in Post-Communist Countries: Comparative and Multivariate Statistical Analysis.” *POLIS: Politicheskie issledovania*, No. 3, pp. 164 – 183 (In Russian).

Book Chapters

Talalakina, Ekaterina V., and Denis Stukal. (2017). Incorporating Academic Skills into EFL Curriculum: Teacher Agency in Response to Global Mobility Challenges. In: Patrick C.L. Ng, and Esther F. Boucher-Yip (eds). *Teacher Agency and Policy Response in English Language Teaching*. New York: Routledge, pp. 120 – 132.

Stukal, Denis. (2011). Methodology of Modeling the Influence of Political Regimes on Income Inequality (On Cross-National Data). In *METHOD: Moscow Yearbook of Papers in Social Sciences*, edited by M. Ilyin. Moscow: INION, pp. 132 – 142 (In Russian).

Software

- Rvk (R package for scraping VKontakte, a popular Russian social media platform)
- twitter_bots (python module to prepare data for Twitter bot detection and to create Twitter account static snapshots for reproducible research on Twitter)

Programming

- Python, R, Stan, Java

Research Grants

- Facebook Foundational Integrity Research grant (2020). Project: "Unpacking Trust and Bias in Social Media News in Developing Countries" (Principal Investigator). \$86,000
- NYU Jordan Center Fellowship in Advanced Research (2017)
- NYU Jordan Center Fieldwork Fellowship (2015, 2016)
- National Research University Higher School of Economics, Basic Research Program (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013)

Teaching

- **University of Sydney:**
 - CISS 6022 Cybersecurity (Semester 2, 2020; (post)graduate course cross-listed for political science and computer science students)
 - SSPS4102 Data Analytics in Social Sciences (Semester 1, 2020; advanced undergraduate course)
- **New York University:**
 - Quant III Teaching Assistant (Fall 2017 and Fall 2018, advanced PhD-level methods course)
 - Data Teaching Assistant (Spring 2016 and Fall 2017, all undergraduate data analysis related courses)
 - Quantitative Methods in Political Science (Fall 2015, undergraduate course for Political Science students, NYU)
- **Higher School of Economics:**
 - Introduction to Probability Theory and Statistics (2010 – 2012, undergraduate course for Political Science students)
 - Multivariate Data Analysis (2010 – 2011, undergraduate course for Political Science students)
 - Econometrics for Political Scientists (2012, undergraduate course for Political Science students)
 - Data Analysis in SPSS (2008 – 2012, undergraduate course for Political Science and Management students)

Major conferences

- American Political Science Association (APSA) Conference: 2019, 2017, 2016
- European Political Science Association (EPSA) Conference: 2020, 2019
- International Communication Association (ICA) Conference: 2020
- International Conference on Computational Social Science: 2017, 2018
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Convention: 2019, 2018

Professional Awards and Honors

- Best Lecturer 2012, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia
- Best Academic Supervisor 2011, 2013, 2016, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia
- Grant for High Academic Results and Academic Publishing, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia (2012, 2013)

Professional Activities & Service

Reviewer: American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics, Perspectives on Politics; Political Communication; Post-Soviet Affairs; International Political Science Review; Information, Communication and Society; Polis. Political Studies; Sociology: Methodology, Methods, Mathematical Modeling.

Professional Membership: American Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association; European Political Science Association; Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Language Skills

Russian (native), English (fluent), German (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)

References

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