



ACADEMIC AFFILIATION	Department of Political Science, University of Toronto George Ignatieff Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies (2025-present) Faculty Affiliate, Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society (2025-present) Associate Professor (2017-present) Assistant Professor (2011-2017)  Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Fung Global Fellow (2014-15)
CONTACT INFORMATION	3052 Sidney Smith Hall 100 St. George Street Toronto, ON, M5S3G3, Canada  seva1000@gmail.com <a href="http://individual.utoronto.ca/seva">individual.utoronto.ca/seva</a>
EDUCATION	Columbia University, New York, NY M.A., Political Science, 2006; Ph.D., Political Science, 2011  University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI B.A., Political Science and Economics, 2002
BOOK	<i>Aftershocks: Great Powers and Domestic Reforms in the Twentieth Century</i> (2017) Princeton University Press (Princeton Studies in International History and Politics)  <i>Foreign Affairs Best Books of 2017. H-Diplo Roundtable Forum. Perspectives on Politics Critical Dialogue</i> 📌. Reviewed in <i>The Washington Post</i> , <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , <i>International Organization</i> , <i>International Affairs</i> , <i>Peace Magazine</i> , <i>Choice</i> .
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	The Two Mearsheimers: Ukraine and the Tragedy of Offensive Realism. <i>International Studies Review</i> 27(4) (December 2025)  Anna Lysenko and Seva Gunitsky. <a href="#">The Invisible Front: Ukraine's IT Army and the Evolution of Cyber Resistance</a> . <i>Post-Soviet Affairs</i> , 41(4):263-288 (November 2025)  Kyungwon Suh, Ryan Griffiths, and Seva Gunitsky. <a href="#">Hegemonic Shocks and Patterns of Secession</a> . <i>International Interactions</i> 51(4):568-597 (October 2025)  Autocratic Diffusion and Great Power Politics. In <i>Before and After the Fall: World Politics and the End of the Cold War</i> , edited by Nuno P. Monteiro and Fritz Bartel, Cambridge University Press, December 2021 📌  <a href="#">Rival Visions of Parsimony</a> . <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 63.3, September 2019, p.707-716 📌  Seva Gunitsky and Andrei Tsygankov. <a href="#">The Wilsonian Bias in the Study of Russian Foreign Policy</a> . <i>Problems of Post-Communism</i> 65.6, Nov/Dec 2018, p. 385-393 📌  <a href="#">Democratic Waves in Historical Perspective</a> . <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 16.3, September 2018, p. 634-651 📌 • <a href="#">Featured in Lapham's Quarterly</a> .  <a href="#">Lost in the Grey Zone: Competing Measures of Democracy in the Former Soviet Republics</a> . In <i>Ranking the World: Grading States as a Tool of Global Governance</i> , Alexander Cooley and Jack Snyder, eds. Cambridge University Press, 2015 📌

[Corrupting the Cyber-Commons: Social Media as a Tool of Autocratic Resilience.](#)  
*Perspectives on Politics* 13.1, March 2015, p. 42-54 

[From Shocks to Waves: Hegemonic Transitions and Democratization in the Twentieth Century.](#)  
*International Organization* 68.3, July 2014, p. 561-97 

[Complexity and Theories of Change in International Politics.](#)  
*International Theory* 5.1, March 2013, p. 35-63 

[On Thin Ice: Water Rights and Resource Disputes in the Arctic Ocean.](#) *Journal of International Affairs* 61.2, Spring 2008, p. 261-271 

- Reprinted in *The Polar Age From a Global Perspective* (2015), edited by Harun Gumrukum, p.134-46. Istanbul: Siyasal Kitabevi.

PAPERS  
IN PROGRESS

Ivan Vadzinskyi, Olesia Buriak, and Seva Gunitsky. “Russia and the Evolution of Military AI.” Revise & resubmit.

“Authoritarian Resilience in the Age of AI.” Under review.

Semuhi Sinanoglu, Seva Gunitsky, and Sahib Jafarov, “Domestic Prosecutions of Democratic Leaders.” Working paper.


“Hegemonic Transitions and Norm Disputes in Global Politics.” Working paper.

PUBLIC  
WRITING

[The Personalist Global Order.](#) With Semuhi Sinanoglu.  
*Foreign Affairs*, January 26, 2026.


[A Long History of Betrayal: Why Washington keeps encouraging foreign uprisings—and then walking away.](#) *Foreign Policy*, January 16, 2026.

[Prosecuting the Powerful: Historical data shows putting leaders on trial is a healthy democratic practice.](#) With Semuhi Sinanoglu and Sahib Jafarov. *Foreign Policy*, October 28, 2025.


[The New Price of Statehood.](#) With Ryan D. Griffiths.  
*Foreign Affairs*, May 20, 2025. 

[The Forgotten Dystopian Vision That Explains Trump’s Canada Obsession.](#)  
*The New Republic*, March 31, 2025. 


[After Putin.](#) *Wall Street Journal*, November 4, 2022.

[The Bully in the Bubble.](#) With Adam Casey.  
*Foreign Affairs*, February 4, 2022. 


[Featured in New York Times, CBS Radio, RFE/RL, Washington Post, BBC Brazil]

[There’s Plenty of Blame to Go Around on Ukraine.](#)  
*Foreign Policy*, January 24, 2022. 

[Democracies Can’t Blame Putin for Their Disinformation Problem.](#)  
*Foreign Policy*, April 21, 2020. 

[The Weakness of the Strongman.](#) With Adam Casey.  
*Foreign Affairs*, March 24, 2020. 

[The Great Online Convergence: Digital Authoritarianism Comes to Democracies.](#)  
*War on the Rocks*, February 19, 2020.


[Critical Dialogue](#) (with Daniel Ziblatt) *Perspectives on Politics* 17(2):492-497. 

[Author's Response.](#) *H-Diplo Roundtable Forum* 20.22 (January 2019).

[A Country Illegible Even to Itself](#)

(Review of *The Future is History* by Masha Gessen.) *Inroads* 44(Dec 2018).

[Democracy's Future: Riding the Hegemonic Wave.](#)


*The Washington Quarterly* 41(2):115-135. (July 2018) 

[One Word to Improve US Russia Policy.](#) *The New Republic* April 27, 2018.

[The False Dawn of International Law.](#) (Review of *The Internationalists* by Oona Hathaway and Scott Shapiro.) *War on the Rocks* January 16, 2018.

[Defining the State: It's a Family Affair.](#) In *Comparing International Systems in World History*, ISQ Online Symposium, November 28, 2017.

[The Lost Leviathan.](#) (Review of *The H-Word* by Perry Anderson.)

*The American Interest*, August 24, 2017. 

[These are the three reasons fascism spread in 1930s America – and might spread again today.](#) *The Monkey Cage (Washington Post)*, August 12, 2017.

[Trump and the Russian Money Trail.](#) *Duck of Minerva*, July 14, 2017.

[Featured on NPR, Vox.com, Democracy Now, Sirius XM, Urgente 24, La Tercera, RTS radio]

[What Monday's subway bombings mean for Putin's Russia.](#)

*The Monkey Cage (Washington Post)*, April 6, 2017.


[How to unfreeze Canada's strategy in Ukraine.](#)

*The Globe and Mail*, March 20, 2017.

[How Norms Die.](#) With Tanisha Fazal.

*Political Violence @ A Glance*, March 13, 2017.

[Review of \*Expect Us: Online Communities and Political Mobilization\*](#) by Jessica Beyer

*Perspectives on Politics* 13(3), October 2015, p. 878-9. 

[How do you measure 'democracy'?](#)

*The Monkey Cage (Washington Post)*, June 24, 2015.

[Social media helps dictators, not just protestors.](#)


*The Monkey Cage (Washington Post)*, March 30, 2015.

[before 2015, selected publications only; full list [HERE](#)]

[An Arab Spring in Moscow?](#)

*The Monkey Cage (Washington Post)*, June 13, 2012.

[From Guns to Briefcases: The Evolution of Russian Organized Crime.](#)

*World Policy Journal* 21.1, Spring 2004, p. 68-74. 

[The Lessons of Chechnya in Iraq: A Realist Approach to Civilian Warfare.](#)  
*The National Interest*, November 19, 2003.

CONSULTANCIES

OpenAI (Microsoft), US Department of State, Department of National Defence (Canada)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

“Legacies of Blood and Law: State Formation in a Global System.” Social Science and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant (2018-23).  
Principal investigator. Co-PI Stephen Saideman, Carleton University. \$143,000

Dean’s Excellence Award, University of Toronto, 2017, 2018

“Expanding the Sovereign State System.” Co-PI. Australian Research Council Discovery Grant (2015-17). Ryan Griffiths (Principal Investigator, University of Sydney); Charles Butcher (co-PI, PRIO). \$245,000

International Program Development Fund (2014-2015). Co-PI. Ryan Griffiths, (Principal Investigator, University of Sydney); Charles Butcher (co-PI, PRIO). \$14,000

Connaught New Researcher Award, University of Toronto, 2015 \$10,000

Research Challenge Grant, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, (2012-2013). \$4,200

Carl Beck Award, Honorable Mention (best paper by a graduate student presented at the ISA annual meeting), 2011

Mayme and Herb Frank Award, Ashburn Institute, 2008

Andrew Wellington Cordier Prize, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, 2008

Rogers Fellowship, Dept. of Political Science, Columbia University, 2008-9

William T.R. Fox Fellowship, Dept. of Political Science, Columbia University, 2007-8

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Dissertation Seminar (POL2812) Ph.D. seminar

Theories of International Politics (POL2200) Ph.D. seminar

State Formation in a Global Perspective (POL466/2205) grad/undergrad seminar

The Soviet Collapse (POL466/2205) grad/undergrad seminar

The Global Politics of Science Fiction (POL467) undergraduate seminar

Democracy and the International System (POL486/2205) grad/undergrad seminar

Causes of War and Peace (PCJ460) undergraduate seminar

Introduction to International Politics (POL208) undergraduate lecture course

INVITED TALKS

“Authoritarian Resilience in the Age of AI.” Presented at the conference *Politics and Technology in Non-Democratic Regimes*, Abu Dhabi, UAE, May 2025.

“Convergence and Constraints in China-Russia Relations.” (panel) Presented at the Centre for China Policy Research, Global Affairs Canada, April 2025.

“Global Cultural Evolution and Artificial Intelligence”, Workshop on Cultural Evolution, Cooperation, and Peace, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, September 2024.

“Democracy in a Global System” – Georgian Triangle Life Learning Institute. April 2024

“A Specter Haunting Putin”. Presented at the workshop Seesaws of Power: Russia and the Future of Europe, Stanford University, March 2024.

“Democratic Rollback as a Systemic Phenomenon.” Presented at the workshop International Dimensions of Backsliding, Arizona State University, April 2024.

“After the Vote: Putin’s Russia” – Canadian International Council (April 2024)

“The Russian-Ukrainian War at Two Years” (panel) – Project Ploughshares. (February 2024)

“Democracy and Autocracy in the Age of AI” – Thornhill Learning Center. October 2023.

“Democracy and Autocracy in the Age of AI” Keynote speaker, Queens University Department of Political Science Graduate Student Conference, June 2023

“Lessons from Ukraine: Armed Conflict, Dictatorship, and Responses from Liberal Democracies.” (panel) Roger Gale Symposium, University of British Columbia, March 2023

“Ukraine-Russia Conflict.” (panel) Canadian Department of National Defense, MINDS briefing (March 2022)

“Ukraine-Russia: What Comes Next?” (panel) Oxford University, March 2022.

“Democracy, Authoritarianism, and Great Powers.” (panel) University of Berkeley, Department of Political Science (April 2021)

“Autocratic Diffusion and Great Powers.” MIT, Department of Political Science Speaker Series (Nov 2019)

“Digital Authoritarianism: Tools, Diffusion, and Responses.” (panel) Center for a New American Security, Washington DC (Sep 2019)

“The Use of Technology in Authoritarian Regimes.” (panel) Albright Institute of Global Affairs, Wellesley College (Jan 2019)

“Democratic Waves in Historical Perspective.” Order, Conflict, and Violence (OCV) speaker series, Yale University (April 2018)

“Through a Vodka Glass Darkly: Misperceptions in US-Russian Relations.” Royal Canadian Military Institute Lecture Series (Jan 2018)

“Russia and the US 2016 Presidential Election.” (panel) NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia (2017)

“State Formation in a Global System.” University of Texas-Austin, Mike Hogg Speaker Series (2017)

“From the Spring of Nations to the Arab Spring.” Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (2014)

#### *Podcasts*

“The Rupture of World Order: The Meaning of Mark Carney’s Speech.” [The Un-Diplomatic Podcast](#). January 22, 2026.

“Is Trump’s Venezuela operation a ‘gift to Putin,’ and what is the state of Russia’s ‘shadow fleet’?” [Meduza.io - The Naked Pravda](#). January 9, 2026.

“Whither Strong? Exploring Conceptions of Russian Power.” [Bear Market Brief](#). July 31, 2025.

“Do Putin and Trump see the World Alike” [The Global Agora](#). March 28, 2025.

“Why Do Autocrats Make Mistakes?” [Bear Market Brief](#). December 8, 2023.

“Seva Gunitsky on Coming to America and Political Science” [The Russia Guy](#). February 28, 2019.

ADDITIONAL  
TRAINING &  
DEVELOPMENT

International Summer Policy Institute (ISPI), American University, 2012.

Basin Harbor workshop on teaching security studies, Johns Hopkins University, 2012.

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMMR), Syracuse University, 2009.

New Era Foreign Policy Seminar, George Washington University, 2009.

Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), Cornell University, 2008.

PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE

Associate Editor, *Security Studies*, 2023-2025

Editorial Board Member, *Global Studies Quarterly*, 2021-present

Committee Member, Kenneth Waltz Dissertation Prize (2019)  
APSA International Security section

Committee Member, Comparative Democratization Best Book Award (2019)  
APSA Comparative Democratization section

Committee Member, Merze Tate Award (2019)  
American Political Science Association

Committee Chair, Outstanding Article Award (2018)  
APSA International History and Politics section

Committee Member, Alexander George Award (2018)  
APSA Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research section

Conference Panel Chair (C), Discussant (D), Co-Organizer (O):

“Complex Systems Approaches to Conflict and World Order.” ISA 2019 (D)

“Understanding State Responses to International Normative Pressure.” ISA 2019 (D)

“IR Theory and Foreign Policy.” ISA 2019 (D)

“Autocracies on Social Media.” APSA 2016 (C)

“Sovereignty in Contested Spaces.” Princeton University, 2016 (O)

“International Relations and Domestic Politics.” SPSA 2016 (D)

“Innovation in Diffusion Research.” Princeton University, 2016 (O)

“Diffusion and Regime Change.” APSA 2015 (C, D)

“The Long Reach of History in International Relations.” ISA 2014 (C, D)

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Television: *CBC News, The Agenda with Steve Paikin, CTV News, Sun News*  
Print: *The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, Vox.com, Bloomberg, Maclean's, CBC News, Toronto Globe and Mail, Vice, Toronto Star, The National Post*

MANUSCRIPT  
REVIEWER

*American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, American Politics Research, British Journal of Political Science, Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Canadian Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Convergence, Democratization, European Journal of International Relations, Foreign Policy Analysis, Global Environmental Politics, Global Studies Quarterly, Government & Opposition, Information, Communication, and Society, International Interactions, International Journal of Comparative Sociology, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, International Studies Review, International Theory, Journal of Communication, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Global Security Studies, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Journal of Ukrainian Politics and Society, Millennium, Perspectives on Politics, Political Research Quarterly, Post-Soviet Affairs, Review of Policy Research, World Politics.*  
Book publishers: Pearson, Princeton University Press, Oxford University Press, M.E. Sharpe, Palgrave. Grant organizations: National Science Foundation, the European Research Council, Social Science and Humanities Research Council, Australian Research Council

CITIZENSHIP

US citizen, Canadian permanent resident