

SARAH J. HUMMEL
Curriculum Vitae

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Harvard University
Lecturer, Fall 2021-present
Visiting Assistant Professor, Fall 2018 - Spring 2021

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Assistant Professor, Fall 2014-Summer 2018

University of Pittsburgh
Visiting Scholar, Fall 2013-Spring 2014

EDUCATION

PhD Politics, 2014

Princeton University

Dissertation: “Nondemocratic Politics, Targeted Goods Provision, and International Policy: Water and Energy Management in Post-Soviet Central Asia”

Committee: Mark Beissinger, Adam Meirowitz, Grigore Pop-Eleches

MA Politics, 2009

Princeton University

BA Political Science, 2006

Yale University

PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)

“Mutual Restraint in Nondemocratic Legislatures,” 2026. *American Journal of Political Science*

“Leaders Online: Social Media Communication by Political Leaders Across Regime Type,” *co-authored with Philipp Zimmer*. 2026. *Political Research Quarterly*.

“Elections, War, and Gender: Self-Selection and the Pursuit of Victory,” *co-authored with Stephen Chaudoin and Yon Soo Park*. 2024. *International Organization*, 78(4): 853-875.

“The Election Effect: Democratic Leaders in Inter-Group Conflict,” *co-authored with Stephen Chaudoin and Yon Soo Park*. Forthcoming. *International Studies Quarterly*, 68:1.

“Leader Age, Death, and Political Liberalization in Dictatorships.” 2020. *Journal of Politics*, 82(3): 981-995.

“Sideways Concessions and Individual Decisions to Protest.” 2019. *Comparative Politics*, 52(1): 65-96.

“Relative Water Scarcity and Country Relations along Cross-Boundary Rivers: Evidence from the Aral Sea Basin” 2017. *International Studies Quarterly*, 61(4): 795-808.

WORKING PAPERS

“Gender and Law-making in Authoritarian Regimes: The Case of Russia.” *Co-authored with Valeria Umanets*

PUBLICATIONS (NOT PEER REVIEWED)

“Nuclear Arms Control and U.S.- Russian Relations.” 2018. *Co-authored with Andrey Baklitskiy*. Working Group on the Future of U.S.-Russia Relations, Working Group Paper 9.

“Domestic Uncertainty and Flexible Policy Formation in Authoritarian Regimes.” 2014. *APSA-Comparative Politics Newsletter*, 24(1):8-10.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant in Political Science
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, 2011-2012, 6 months field research

Social Research Center Fellow at the American University of Central Asia
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, duration of NSF-funded research

IREX Title VIII Policy Fellow
Kyrgyzstan, 2011- 2011, 2 months field research
Related Research Brief: “Anti-Corruption Reforms in the Kyrgyz Republic”, September 21, 2012

The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice Research Grant
Kyrgyzstan, January 2011, 3 weeks field research

TEACHING

Harvard Classes:

GOV 1248: Women & Politics
Spring 2026.

GOV 1249: Authoritarianism
Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020.

GOV1015: Strategic Models of Politics
Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

GOV1125: The Success and Failure of Protest Movements
Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

GOV94HS: The Success and Failure of Protest Movements
Spring 2021

Advising:

PhD Dissertation Committees: Jason Renn (UIUC, 2017), Kyle Estes (UIUC, 2019) , Peter Cherson (UIUC, 2019), Tolgahan Dilgin (UIUC, 2023)

MA Thesis Advising: Katrina Keegan (Harvard, REECA '22), Colman Scanlon (Harvard, REECA '23)

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCES

Member, Working Group on the Future of US-Russia Relations, 2016-2017.

Conferences attended: May 2016 (Moscow), December 2016 (Moscow), May 2017 (Washington D.C.), December 2017 (Moscow)

“New Approaches to International Security and Cooperation Challenges,” Bozeman, MT, June 2019

Presented “Selection Regimes, Institutional Constraints and Idiosyncratic Leader Effects.”

“Political Economy of Emerging Market Countries: The Challenges of Developing More Humane Societies,” Kolkata and New Delhi, India, December 2016 - January 2017.

Harvard University, February 2016