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EDUCATION

University of Gothenburg, Sweden

PhD in Political Science.

Expected graduation year: 2021

Thesis topic: Accountability, Representation and Human Development.

University of Gothenburg, Sweden

M.Sc., International Administration and Global Governance, 2014, Pass with distinction.

Thesis topic: The Inequality of Fraud. Exploring the Effect of Societal Inequality of Electoral Misconduct.

University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria

B.A., International Relations, 2012.

EMPLOYMENT

- **University of Gothenburg** September 2016 - July 2021
PhD Candidate
 - **V-Dem Institute** October 2014 – September 2016
Analyst and Data Operations Manager
Main responsibilities: overseeing the data collection processes and quality control; participation in research projects and coordination of communication with partner organizations (examples include World Bank, UNDP, International IDEA, European Commission).

Research Assistant, May 2013 – September 2014;
Main responsibilities: data collection and writing policy analyses.
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PUBLICATIONS

Mechkova, Valeriya, Wilson, Steven. Does Gender Still Matter for Politics? The Case of the 2018 U.S. Elections on Twitter. Digital Society Project Working Paper, 2. 2019.

Mechkova, Valeriya, Carlitz, Ruth. Gendered Accountability: When and Why Do Women's Policy Priorities Get Implemented?. V-Dem Working Paper, 88. 2019.

Mechkova, Valeriya, Pemstein, D., Wilson, S. Seim, B. Measuring Internet Politics: Introducing the Digital Society Project (DSP). Digital Society Project Working Paper, 1. 2019.

- Wang, Yi-ting, Valeriya Mechkova, and Frida Andersson. "Does Democracy Enhance Health? New Empirical Evidence 1900–2012." *Political Research Quarterly*. 2018.
- Lührmann, Anna, Mechkova, Valerita, et al. State of the world 2017: autocratization and exclusion?. *Democratization*, 1-20. 2018.
- Mechkova, Valeriya; Anna Luhrmann and Staffan I. Lindberg. "How much democratic backsliding?", *Journal of Democracy*, October 2017.
- Mechkova, Valeriya; Anna Luhrmann and Staffan I. Lindberg. "From De-Jure to De-Facto: Mapping Dimensions and Sequences of Accountability", Washington DC, The World Bank, *World Development Report 2017*.
Revised version is published in *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 2018.
- Lührmann, Anna, Staffan I. Lindberg, Valeriya Mechkova, Moa Olin, Francesco Piccinelli Casagrande, Constanza Sanhueza Petrarca, Laura Saxer. "V-Dem Annual Report 2017. Democracy at Dusk?" May 2017.
- Lührmann, Anna, Kyle L. Marquardt, Valeriya Mechkova. "Constraining Governments: New Indices of Vertical, Horizontal and Diagonal Accountability", *V-Dem Working Paper* No. 46. April 2017
- Edgell, Amanda, Valeriya Mechkova, David Altman, Michael Bernhard and Staffan I. Lindberg. "Where do Elections Matter? A Global Test of the Democratization by Elections Hypothesis, 1900-2012", *Democratization*, 2017.
- "The Inequality of Fraud. Exploring the Effect of Societal Inequality on Electoral Misconduct." Presented at V-Dem Conference "Supporting Democracy – How?", May 2015, Gothenburg.
- V-Dem country reports on Ghana, Burma, Georgia, Saudi Arabia, among others.

DATASETS (Most Recent Release)

- Coppedge, M., J. Gerring, C. H. Knutsen, S. Lindberg, S. E. Skaaning, J. Teorell, D. Altman, M. Bernhard, M. S. Fish, A. Cornell, S. Dahlum, H. Gjerløw, A. Glynn, A. Hicken, J. Krusell, A. Lührmann, K. Marquardt, K. McMann, V. Mechkova, J. Medzihorsky, M. Olin, P. Paxton, D. Pemstein, J. Pernes, J. von Römer, B. Seim, R. Sigman, J. Staton, N. Stepanova, A. Sundström, E. Tzelgov, Y. Wang, T. Wig, S. Wilson, and D. Ziblatt. 2018. V-Dem Dataset v8. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.
• Winner of APSA-CP's 2016 Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Dataset Award (for v6).

- Mechkova, V., D. Pemstein, B. Seim, and S. Wilson. Digital Society Project Dataset v1, 2019.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2018 PI, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Sub-Contract for “Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) Measurement Activity” (with Brigitte Seim and Staffan Lindberg)
- 2018 PI, Digital Society Project Seed Grant. 2018--20. Facebook Inc. [Subcontracted to Gothenburg University] (PI, with Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven L. Wilson).
- 2018 Travel and study grant; Adlerbertska stipendium. SEK 20,000 (\$2,200)
- 2018 Travel and study grant; Vitterhetsakademiens stipendium. SEK 12,000 (\$1,200)
- 2018 Travel grant. American Politican Science Association. (\$250)
- 2017 Travel and study grant. Filosofiska fakultet Donationsnämndens stipendium. SEK 20,000 (\$2,200)
- 2017 Travel and study grant to attend ICPSR Summer school. Swedish National Data Service. SEK 20,000 (\$2,200)
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FIELD EXPERIENCE AND TEACHING

- Lectures and seminars in “Varieties of Democracy and Democratisation”, Master Course in University of Gothenburg, in the spring semesters of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.
 - Organized and conducted a survey for approximately 1,500 public service employees in Ghana for the project “Civil Service Reform and Anti-Corruption”, led by researchers in University of Nottingham and University College London; February 2017 with Dr. Rachel Sigman.
 - Organized and held “V-Dem Course on Statistical Methods for Democracy Research for Young Scholars, “in Alexandria, Egypt, 25th – 29th of October 2015, with Anna Lührmann.
 - Panel Organizer of “Democracy and development revisited”, at Development Research Conference, August 2016, Stockholm University.
 - Organized workshops for democracy practitioners: “How to Use the V-Dem Data?”:
 - “Democracy assessments, measurements and data validation in Melanisia”, 30-31 July 2015, Nadi, Fiji in cooperation with International IDEA, organized with Josefine Pernes.
 - Capacity Building Workshop, Stockholm, 14 April 2015, in cooperation with International IDEA, organized with J. Pernes and F. Andersson.
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CONFERENCES

- Presenter, American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA September 2018.
- Presenter and discussant, MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 2018
- Presenter, V-Dem Annual Meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2017
- Presenter, MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 2017
- Presenter, V-Dem Annual Meeting, Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2016
- Presenter, American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 2015

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Pooled time-series cross-section data analysis (Essex Summer School August 2018, with Dr. Robert Walker.)
- Field Experiments (with Dr. Alexander Coppock, Yale, June 2017). Time-Series Analysis and Regression III (ICPSR Summer School, June-July 2017; Scholarship Grant from Swedish National Data Service).
- Course on Advanced Regression Techniques (Spring 2017, UoG). Topic covered: Multiple and Logistic Regression Analysis (Dr. Nicholas Charon); Panel Data Analysis (Prof. Stefan Dahlberg); and Causality and Instrumentation (Prof. Alpaslan Akay).
- Training for International Electoral Observers – Training seminar for short- and long-term electoral observers, 18 – 23 April 2016, EIUC – European Inter-University Centre for Democratisation and Human Rights, Venice with trainers from OSCE/ODIHR, EU(EEAS), IFES.
- Statistical computing and presentation with R and LaTeX (February 2016, at UoG with Dr. Kyle Marquardt);
- Applied Bayesian statistics (February 2016, at UoG with Dr. Kyle Marquardt);
- Panel data analysis (June 15-18, 2015, UoG, with Prof. Steven E. Finkel).
- Data management and analysis using Stata (November 2014, Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels).

SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, LaTeX.

Languages: Bulgarian (native), English (proficient user), Russian and Swedish (independent user)

OTHER SERVICES

- Elected representative of the PhD students of political science in University of Gothenburg (Autumn 2017, Spring 2018)
- Reviewer for Political Research Quarterly and Government and Opposition.

REFERENCES

Ellen Lust, Professor of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
ellen.lust@gu.se

Steven Lloyd Wilson, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Nevada, Reno, stevenwilson@unr.edu

Eitan Tzelgov, Lecturer in Politics, University of East Anglia, UK,
tzelgov@gmail.com
