

## Valeriya Mechkova

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### EDUCATION

#### **University of Gothenburg, Sweden**

PhD in Political Science.

Field: Comparative Politics

Expected graduation year: 2021

Thesis topic: Understanding the Conditions and Consequences of Women's Political Representation.

#### **Harvard University, USA**

Department of Government.

Exchange graduate student.

Autumn semester 2019-2020.

#### **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 on Electoral Misconduct.

#### **University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria**

B.A., International Relations, 2012.

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### EMPLOYMENT

#### **University of Gothenburg**

*Postdoctoral Researcher*

January 2022 - January 2024

*PhD Candidate*

September 2016 - December 2021

#### **V-Dem Institute**

October 2014 – September 2016

*Analyst and Data Operations Manager*

Main responsibilities: overseeing the data collection processes, and quality control of the V-Dem dataset; data collection and processing; 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 of policy analyses.

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### PUBLICATIONS

#### *Journal Articles*

Mechkova, Valeriya, and Steven L. Wilson. "[Norms and rage: Gender and social media in the 2018 US mid-term elections.](#)" *Electoral Studies* 69. 2021.

Previous version published as *DSP Working Paper* No. 2. 2019.

Lührmann, Anna, Kyle L. Marquardt, Valeriya Mechkova. "[Constraining Governments: New Indices of Vertical, Horizontal and Diagonal Accountability](#)", *American Political Science Review*. 2020

Previous version published as *V-Dem Working Paper* No. 46. April 2017

Mechkova, Valeriya, Carlitz, Ruth. [Gendered Accountability: When and Why Do Women's Policy Priorities Get Implemented?](#), *European Political Science Review*. 2020

Previous version published as *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, Valeriya, et al. [State of the world 2017: autocratization and exclusion?](#). Democratization, 1-20. 2018.

Mechkova, Valeriya; Anna Lührmann and Staffan I. Lindberg. "[How much democratic backsliding?](#)", *Journal of Democracy*, October 2017.

Mechkova, Valeriya; Anna Lührmann 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.

Edgell, Amanda, Valeriya Mechkova, David Altman, Michael Bernhard and Staffan I. Lindberg. "[When and Where do Elections Matter? A Global Test of the Democratization by Elections Hypothesis, 1900-2012](#)", *Democratization*, 2017.

### *Working Papers*

Mechkova, Valeriya. Substantive Representation in the Executive Branch. GLD Working Paper. Forthcoming. Available upon request.

Dahlum, Sirianne, Carl-Henrik Knutsen and Valeriya Mechkova, [Female Empowerment and Economic Growth](#). *V-Dem Working Paper* No. 46. June 2020

Dahlum, Sirianne, Constanza Petrarca and Valeriya Mechkova, Female Empowerment, Good Governance and Development. Available upon request.

["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. 2021. V-Dem Dataset v11. [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 v3](#), 2021.

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## **RESEARCH, POLICY AND TRAVEL GRANTS**

### CONSULTANCIES

- 2021 *(ongoing)*  
Twitter, Digital Society Project Global Candidate and Elections Data Compilation
- 2018 *(ongoing)*  
Facebook Inc., Digital Society Project Research and Analysis
- 2017 *(ongoing)*  
USAID Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance, DRG Measurement I and II
- 2017 International IDEA, Country analysis for Ukraine.

### TRAVEL GRANTS

- 2020 Travel and study grant.  
Swedish Network for European Studies (SNES). SEK 20,000 (\$2,200)  
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 Politician 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**

Seminar-leader, "Demokrati och demokratisering", Bachelor Course, UoG, 2021

Seminar-leader, "Research design and methods", Master Course, UoG, 2020

Lecturer and seminar-leader, "Varieties of Democracy and Democratisation", Master Course, UoG, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021.

Advisor for Master Thesis of four students, 2020.

Training workshops "How to Use the V-Dem Data?" – series of seminars for policy-practitioners for the World Bank (2018), International IDEA (2015, 2016), Community of Democracies.

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, 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2015, with Anna Lührmann.

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## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, 2019.

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meetings, 2019, 2018, 2015.

European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG) Annual Meeting, 2019.

Mid-West Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting, 2018, 2017.

Governance and Local Development GLD Annual Meeting, 2018, 2017.

Varieties of Democracy Annual Meeting, 2017, 2016, 2015.

### *Workshop Presentations:*

- 2019 Comparative Politics Seminar, Department of Government, Harvard University.
  - 2019 General Seminar, Medical School's Program in Global Surgery and Social Change, Harvard University.
  - 2019 General Research Seminar, University of Oslo, Norway.
  - 2019 Gender and Politics Workshop, UoG, Sweden.
  - 2018 Dimensions of Political Inequality, WZB, Berlin, Germany.
  - 2018 Gender and Politics Workshop, UoG, Sweden.
  - 2017 Democracy in Central and Easter Europe, CEU, Budapest, Hungary.
  - 2016 The role of constitutional courts, electoral justice, democracy and participation Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary, Mexico.
  - 2016 Development Research Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.
  - 2015 Measuring SDG 16, UN-organized workshop, Vienna, Austria.
  - 2015 Post-2015 Dialogue on Capacities and Institutions, UN-organized workshop, Chisinau, Moldova.
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## STATISTICAL TRAINING

Causal inference (Graduate-level course at Harvard University, with Prof. Kosuke Imai, 2019-2020)

Geographic data (Graduate-level short course at UoG with Dr. Erica Metheney, 2020)

Causal inference with observational data (University of Copenhagen, with Dr. Marc F. Bellemare, Short course, June 2018)

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).

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## **SKILLS**

Software: Stata, R, LaTeX.  
Languages: Bulgarian (native), English (proficient), Russian and Swedish (advanced).

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## **OTHER SERVICES**

Elected representative of the PhD students of political science in University of Gothenburg (Autumn 2017, Spring 2018)  
Reviewer for APSR, AJPS, Democratization, Electoral studies, Political Research Quarterly, among others.

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