Elizabeth Plantan

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020- **Assistant Professor of Political Science,** Stetson University, Deland, FL

2023-2025 **Public Intellectuals Program Fellow,** National Committee on U.S.-China Relations

2022-2023 **China Fellow**, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC

2018-2020 **China Public Policy Postdoctoral Fellow**, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation
Kennedy School of Government

EDUCATION

2018 **Ph.D. in Government,** Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Dissertation: "Authoritarian Politics and Environmental Activism in Russia & China"
Committee: Valerie Bunce (chair), Andrew Mertha, Ronald Herring, & Kenneth Roberts

2015 **M.A. in Government,** Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Subfields: Comparative politics (major); International relations (minor)

2012 **M.A. in Russian & East European Studies,** Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

2010 **B.A.** *(with high honors)*, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
Government, Russian & East European Studies (majors); Environmental Studies (minor)

RESEARCH

Book Manuscript in Preparation

Friends or Foes?: Authoritarian Politics and Environmental Activism in China and Russia

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2025. "Pivoting to Overseas Development: International NGOs' Changing Engagement with China" with Wendy Leutert and Austin Strange. *International Affairs*. (Expected in March issue).

2024. "Complementary Partners? Attitudes toward Multi-Actor Development Projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo" with Austin Strange and Wendy Leutert. *Journal of Politics* 86(4): 1446-1461.

2023. "Puzzling Partnerships: Overseas Infrastructure Development by Chinese State-Owned Enterprises and Humanitarian Organizations" with Wendy Leutert and Austin Strange. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 58: 195-223.

2022. "Activism in Exile: How Russian Environmentalists Maintain Voice after Exit" with Laura Henry. *Post-Soviet Affairs* 38(4): 274-292.

2022. "Not All NGOs Are Treated Equally: Selectivity in Civil Society Management in China and Russia." *Comparative Politics* 54(3): 501-524.
2018. "Mass Mobilization in China and Russia: From Unexpected Victories to Unintended Consequences." *Russian Politics* 3(4): 513-547.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

2022. "Civil Society and Social Movements." with Alfred B. Evans, Jr. In Darrell Slider, ed., *Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain*, 8th Edition. Rowman & Littlefield.
2020. "A Tale of Two Laws: Managing Foreign Agents and Overseas NGOs in Russia and China." In Karrie J. Koesel, Valerie J. Bunce, and Jessica C. Weiss, eds., *Citizens & the State in Authoritarian Regimes: Comparing Russia & China*. Oxford University Press.
2015. "Protecting Cultural Heritage: Unexpected Successes for Environmental Movements in China and Russia." In Carol Hager and Mary Alice Haddad, eds., *NIMBY is Beautiful: Cases of Local Activism and Environmental Innovation Around the World*. Berghahn Books.

Works in Progress

Under review or in press

"Disappearing Research: Academic Control and Self-Censorship in China" with Ning Leng (Accepted at *The China Journal*)

Selected manuscripts in preparation

"Opportunities and Constraints for Russian Activists-in-Exile in Estonia and Germany"
"Environmental Activism and Party Politics in Electoral Authoritarian Russia"
"Funding Foreign Agents in Russia" with Lisa McIntosh Sundstrom
"Authoritarian Politics and INGO Adaptation in China and Russia"

Book Reviews

2021. "Book Review: Alexander Libman and Michael Rochlitz, *Federalism in China and Russia: Story of Success or Story of Failure*." *The Russian Review* 80(2): 343-344.
2015. "Book Review: Ellen Mickiewicz, *No Illusions: The Voices of Russia's Future Leaders*." *The Soviet and Post-Soviet Review* 42(2).

Public Scholarship

"Is There More Hope or More Fear Among Russia's Exiled Activists After the August 2024 Prisoner Swap?" *PONARS Eurasia*, Policy Memo No. 924. December 2024.
"Green Collaboration: International NGOs and Chinese Partners Promoting Sustainable Overseas Investments." (with Wendy Leutert and Austin Strange). *New Security Beat*, the blog of the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Wilson Center. 11 April 2024.
"Transnational Civil Society & Authoritarian Politics in China and Russia." *2022-2023 Wilson China Fellowship Essays*. The Wilson Center. October 2023.
"Putin Called Fleeing Russians 'Traitors.' Who's Actually Leaving?" (with Laura Henry) *The Washington Post*. 31 March 2022.
"Opportunities and Constraints for Civil Society in China." *Communiqué*. Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School. 8 December 2021.
"Environmental Activism in Russia." *Russian Analytical Digest*, No. 261. December 2020. Appeared in German in *Russland-Analysen* in October 2020.
"Partnering for Overseas Development: International NGOs' Changing Engagement with China." (with Wendy Leutert and Austin Strange) *Harvard Fairbank Center Blog*. 29 June 2020.

"Comparing Recent NGO Laws in Russia and China: Do Russia's Laws Foreshadow China's Future?" *ChinaFile: The China NGO Project*. 10 August 2017.
"Putin Joins the Climate Change Deniers." (with Peter Rutland) *Transitions Online*. 18 April 2017.
"Rising Temperatures." *The New York Times*. 12 September 2012. Appeared in print in: *The International Herald Tribune*. 13 September 2012. Page 6.
"Deep Trouble." *Transitions Online*. 10 February 2010. Reprinted as: "A Setback for Russia's Lake Baikal." *Business Week* (now *Bloomberg*). 12 February 2010.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

Grants

Summer research grant, Office of Academic Affairs, Stetson University, Summer 2024
Summer research grant, Office of Academic Affairs, Stetson University, Summer 2022
Mercy Corps DRC research grant, with Wendy Leutert and Austin Strange, 2019-2021
Research Travel Grant (China), Graduate School, Cornell University, Winter 2017
International Research Travel Grant (Russia), Einaudi Center, Cornell University, Fall 2015
International Research Travel Grant (Russia), Einaudi Center, Cornell University, Summer 2014
Sustainability Grant (for research), Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, 2013-14
Hu Shih Travel Grant (China), East Asia Program, Cornell University, 2013-14

Fellowships

Public Intellectuals Program Fellowship, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, 2023-2025
Wilson China Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2022-2023
Sage Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Government Department, Cornell University, 2017-18
Lee Teng-hui Fellowship (China), East Asia Program, Cornell University, Spring 2016
Luigi Einaudi Fellowship (Russia), Institute for European Studies, Cornell University, 2015-16
Fulbright-Hayes Fellowship (China), 2015-16 *(Declined)*
Blakemore Freeman Fellowship (China), 2015-16 *(Declined)*
Chinese Scholarship Council Fellowship (China), 2015-16 *(Declined)*
FLAS Fellowship (Russian), Institute for European Studies, Cornell University, Summer 2014
FLAS Fellowship (Mandarin), East Asia Program, Cornell University, Summer 2013
Sage Fellowship, Government Department, Cornell University, 2012-13
Byrnes Fellowship, Russian & East European Institute, Indiana University, 2010-12

Awards

Breakiron-Evans/Brockway Pre-Tenure Faculty Excellence Award, Stetson University, 2023-2024
First-Year Advocate Award, Stetson University, May 2022

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

American Political Science Association (APSA)	2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020*, 2021*, 2022, 2024
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2015, 2019, 2025 *(planned)*
Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)	2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020*, 2021*, 2022, 2023, 2024
British Association for Slavonic & East European Studies	2023
Association for Asian Studies (AAS)	2023
Central Slavic Conference (CSC)	2023*

International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR)	2022, 2024
Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)	2023

Invited Talks

Asian Studies Spotlight Series, Stetson University, December 2024
New Voices on Eurasia Series, George Washington University, October 2023
Department of East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies, University of Vienna, June 2023
New York-Russia Public Policy Series, co-hosted by Columbia University's Harriman Institute and New York University's Jordan Center, February 2022*
Chinese Politics, Department of Government, Wesleyan University, October 2021*
Davis Center for Russian & Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, April 2021*
Project for Eastern European Relations, Swarthmore College, February 2020
Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, October 2019
Shasha Seminar for Human Concerns, Wesleyan University, October 2019

Workshops

Civil Society in Exile, invited presenter, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany, July 2024
Diaspora Dialogues, invited presenter and chair, Davis Center for Russian & Eurasian Studies Scholars Without Borders Initiative, Harvard University, April 2024*
Politics of Russia and Eurasia Seminar Series (PRESS), invited author, April 2023*
Global Challenges to Democracy: Cross-Regional Perspectives, discussant and participant, Cornell University, May 2022
Politics of Russia and Eurasia Seminar Series (PRESS), invited discussant on Lauren McCarthy's "Citizen Oversight of the Legal System in Russia," February 2021*
China Program postdoctoral fellows' workshop, Ash Center, Harvard Kennedy School, May 2020*
Institute for the Study of Institutions and Development Annual Workshop, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, June 2016 and June 2019
Competitive Authoritarian Protest Research Network, University of Manchester, UK, June 2019
Book manuscript development workshop, Ash Center, Harvard Kennedy School, May 2019
China Program doctoral fellows' workshop, Ash Center, Harvard Kennedy School, September 2018
Workshop on Russian civil society, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, February 2018
Russia-China Workshop, University of Notre Dame, March 2017
Graduate Seminar on China, Chinese University of Hong Kong, January 2017
Russia-China Workshop, Cornell University, September 2016
Comparative Workshop on Mass Protests, London School of Economics, UK, June 2014

**Denotes virtual event or participation*

TEACHING

Stetson University

Introduction to Political Science, Fall 2021 & Fall 2022
Comparative Politics, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, & Fall 2023
Russian Politics, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, & Fall 2022
Chinese Politics, Spring 2022 & Fall 2024
The Politics of Post-Soviet States, Fall 2023 & Spring 2025
Russia, China, & the World *(comparative foreign policy)*, Spring 2021 & Spring 2023
Russian Foreign Policy, Spring 2022 & Spring 2024
International Environmental Activism *(junior seminar)*, Spring 2021, Spring 2023, & Spring 2025

Senior Research I *(research design and methods)*, Fall 2022, Spring & Fall 2023, Spring & Fall 2024, Spring 2025
Senior Research II *(capstone research project)*, Spring & Fall 2023, Spring & Fall 2024, Spring 2025
Professional Development Workshop, Fall 2024 & Spring 2025

MENTORING

Stetson University

Faculty Advisor, Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Grant, Shadia Muñoz-Najar, "Explaining the Correlation between Compulsory Voting and COVID Death Rates in Latin America," Summer 2021

Faculty Mentor for 1st place Maris Award for best oral presentation at Stetson Showcase recipients Shadia Muñoz-Najar (April 2023) and Christa Assi (April 2024)

Faculty Advisor for T. Wayne Bailey Award for Outstanding Senior Research in Political Science recipient Yuliia Balan, April 2024

Honors Oral Examiner for: Ihsaan Fanusie (passed with distinction), April 2022; Neehal Amin (passed with distinction), Camilo Lilleslatten (passed), Shadia Muñoz-Najar (passed with distinction), Lily Pandelos (passed), April 2023; Sarah Joyner (passed), Arianna Thompson (passed), & Diana Nasreddine (passed with distinction), April 2024

FIELDWORK, ARCHIVAL VISITS, & OVERSEAS LANGUAGE TRAINING

June 2024	Archival research, Rockefeller Archive Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY
June 2023	Research fieldwork, Germany & Estonia
March 2023	Archival research, Rockefeller Archive Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY
Dec. 2022	Archival research, Rockefeller Archive Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY
July-Aug 2022	Research fieldwork, Germany & Estonia *(planned travel to Russia cancelled due to war)*
June 2020	Research fieldwork, mainland China *(cancelled due to Covid-19)*
March 2020	Research fieldwork, Democratic Republic of Congo *(cancelled due to Covid-19)*
June 2019	Research fieldwork, Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia
January 2017	Dissertation fieldwork, Hong Kong and mainland China
June-Sept 2016	Dissertation fieldwork, ICSID, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia
Jan-May 2016	Dissertation fieldwork & language training, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
Sept-Dec 2015	Dissertation fieldwork, ICSID, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia
August 2014	Pre-dissertation fieldwork, Moscow and Irkutsk, Russia
Winter 2014	Pre-dissertation fieldwork, Beijing and Harbin, China
June-Aug 2013	Princeton in Beijing (language training), Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China
May 2011	Independent research travel, Moscow, Irkutsk, and Chita, Russia
July-Aug 2010	Participant, U.S.-Russia Global Environmental Issues project, Tyumen, Russia
Jan-June 2009	Exchange student at Irkutsk State Linguistic University, Irkutsk, Russia

RESEARCH SKILLS

Languages: Russian (Advanced), Mandarin Chinese (Advanced), French (Elementary)

Software: Stata, R, LaTeX, Atlas.ti

PROFESSIONAL REVIEWING, AFFILIATIONS, & SERVICE

Peer Reviewer

Cambridge University Press, Rowman & Littlefield, Governance, Democratization, Comparative Politics, Social Movement Studies, *Mobilization*, *Environmental Politics*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Governance and Policy in China*, *Employment and Economy in Central and Eastern Europe*, and *Sibirica: Journal of Siberian Studies*

Independent Consultant, Expert Reviewer, or Expert Scorer

2025 Russia Report, Freedom House
2025 Global Philanthropy Environment Index (GPEI), Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

Professional Affiliations

Member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, May 2024 – present
Member of PONARS Eurasia, October 2024 – present
Member of the following academic and professional associations: American Political Science Association (APSA); Association for Asian Studies (AAS); Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES); International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR); Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)

External Committees or Service Roles

External Examiner in Government, College of Social Studies, Wesleyan University, May 2024
Founding Member, ASEEES Committee on Environmental Sustainability, 2020-2025
Co-Chair, Division 13: Politics of Communist and Former Communist Countries, APSA 2022

Internal Committees or Service Roles at Stetson University

University-level service

Faculty Co-Chair, Stetson Ukraine Initiative *(to support displaced students and scholars)*, 2022-2024
Member, University Admissions Committee, 2023-2025
Faculty Advisor for Stetson University, Truman Scholarship Competition, 2023-present

College of Arts & Sciences-level service

Member, Asian Studies Committee, 2020-present
Member, Stetson Program in Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies Committee, 2020-present
Member, Phi Beta Kappa Committee and Selection Sub-committee, 2023-present
Member, Internal Selection Committee, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Junior Fellows Program, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 selection cycles *(no applicants in 2024-2025)*
External Member, VAP Search Committee, Communication & Media Studies, 2021-2022

Department-level service

Assessment Coordinator, Department of Political Science, 2022-present
Faculty Co-Coordinator, Women in Politics Group, Department of Political Science, 2020-2024
Search Committee Member (*comparative politics*), Department of Political Science, 2024-2025
Search Committee Member *(on two searches)*, Department of Political Science, 2022-2023