

# Elizabeth Plantan

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

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- 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

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### Research & Teaching Interests

Comparative politics; international relations; authoritarianism; civil society and philanthropy;  
transnational and domestic activism; environmental politics; Chinese politics; Russian politics

### Book Manuscript in Preparation

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

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

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).

## 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*, 8<sup>th</sup> 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*

- "Complementary Partners? Attitudes toward Multi-Actor Development Projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo" with Austin Strange and Wendy Leutert (*conditionally accepted at Journal of Politics*)

### *Manuscripts in preparation*

- "Pivoting to Overseas Development: INGOs' Changing Engagement with China" with Wendy Leutert and Austin Strange (*Conference draft; preparing to submit in fall 2023*)
- "Disappearing Research: Academic Censorship in Chinese Universities" with Ning Leng (*Conference draft; preparing to submit in fall 2023*)
- "Environmental Activism and Party Politics in Electoral Authoritarian Russia" (*Conference draft; aiming to submit in fall 2023*)
- "Funding Foreign Agents" with Lisa Sundstrom (*Conference draft*)
- "Should We Stay or Should We Go?: How International Foundations Respond to Restrictions in Authoritarian Contexts" (*Conference draft*)

## 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

- "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

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### Grants

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

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

## CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

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### Conferences

American Political Science Association (APSA)	2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020*, 2021*, 2022
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)	2015, 2019
Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)	2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020*, 2021*, 2022, 2023 ( <i>planned</i> )
British Association for Slavonic & East European Studies	2023
Association for Asian Studies (BASEES)	2023
International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR)	2022
Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)	2023 ( <i>planned</i> )

### Invited Talks

New Voices on Eurasia Series, George Washington University, October 2023  
Department of East Asian 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\*  
The 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**

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), 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

\**Virtual due to Covid-19*

## **TEACHING**

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### **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 & Spring 2024 (*planned*)  
Russia, China, & the World, Spring 2021 & Spring 2023  
International Environmental Activism (*junior seminar*), Spring 2021 & Spring 2023  
Russian Foreign Policy, Spring 2022, Spring 2024 (*planned*)  
Post-Soviet Politics, Fall 2023  
Senior Research I (*research design and methods*), Fall 2022, Spring & Fall 2023, Spring 2024 (*planned*)  
Senior Research II (*capstone research project*), Spring & Fall 2023, Spring 2024 (*planned*)

## **MENTORING**

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### **Stetson University**

Faculty Advisor, Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Grant, Summer 2021, Shadia Muñoz-Najar, "Explaining the Correlation between Compulsory Voting and COVID Death Rates in Latin America"  
Faculty Mentor, Shadia Muñoz-Najar senior research presentation, 1<sup>st</sup> place Maris Award for best oral presentation at Stetson Showcase, April 2023  
Honors Oral Examiner for Ihsaan Fanusie (passed with distinction), April 2022  
Honors Oral Examiner for Neehal Amin (passed with distinction), Camilo Lilleslatten (passed), Shadia Muñoz-Najar (passed with distinction), Lily Pandelos (passed), April 2023

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & LANGUAGE TRAINING ABROAD

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June 2023	Research fieldwork, Germany & Estonia
July-Aug 2022	Research fieldwork, Germany & Estonia ( <i>planned travel to Russia cancelled due to war</i> )
June 2020	Research fieldwork, mainland China ( <i>cancelled due to Covid-19</i> )
March 2020	Research fieldwork, Democratic Republic of Congo ( <i>cancelled due to Covid-19</i> )
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

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

**Software:** Stata, R, LaTeX

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

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### Reviewer

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

### Professional Affiliations

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); British Association for Slavonic & East European Studies (BASEES); Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)

### External Committees or Service Roles

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, 2023-2024  
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 selection cycles

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-present

Search Committee Member (*on two searches*), Department of Political Science, 2022-2023