

Kirill Zhirkov

Assistant Professor

Department of Politics
University of Virginia

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Appointments

Assistant Professor, University of Virginia, 2021–present

Postdoctoral Fellow, Vanderbilt University, 2020–2021

Education

PhD in Political Science, University of Michigan, 2020

MA in Statistics, University of Michigan, 2020

MA in Social Psychology, Utrecht University (Netherlands), 2010

BA in Economics, Saint Petersburg State University (Russia), 2008

Publications

30. Americans' Perceptions about Immigrants from Different World Regions: Evidence from a Multinomial Conjoint Experiment. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. Published ahead of print. <https://doi.org/10.1017/XPS.2025.5>
29. Public and Expert Preferences in Foreign Policy Experiments: Evidence from Parallel Conjoint Analyses (with Melle Scholten). *Political Science Research and Methods*. Published ahead of print. <https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2025.10026>
28. Comparing Revealed and Expressed Populism: The Case of Voting for the “Alternative fur Deutschland” and “Die Linke” (with Fabian G. Neuner, Christopher Wratil, and Bruno Castanho Silva). *German Politics*. Published ahead of print. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09644008.2025.2483225>
27. Inconsistency of Americans' Opinions on Free Speech: Evidence from Three Survey Experiments (with Rachel Smilan-Goldstein). *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* 36, no. 1 (2026): 249–59. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17457289.2024.2421572>
26. Americans' Opposition to Muslim Immigration: Untangling Religion from Country of Origin (with Olyvia R. Christley). *Political Behavior* 47 (2025): 1435–57. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-024-09996-w>
25. Multidimensional Constructions of Target Groups and Their Political Implications: The Case of Immigrant [Il]legality (with Lauren Van De Hey). *PS: Political Science & Politics* 58, no. 4 (2025): 641–50. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096525000034>

24. Measuring Support for Welfare Policies: Implications for the Effects of Race and Deservingness Stereotypes (with Kristin Lunz Trujillo and C. Daniel Myers). *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 12, no. 1 (2025): 126–33. <https://doi.org/10.1017/XPS.2023.31>
23. Beliefs and Opinions about “Illegal” and “Undocumented” Immigrants: Conceptual Replication of a Null Result (with Robert H. Brehm). *Research & Politics* 12, no. 3 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680251355233>
22. U.S. Sanctuary Policies and Mexicans’ Migration Preferences: A Conjoint-Experimental Study (with Rachel Smilan-Goldstein). *International Migration Review* 59, no. 1 (2025): 260–73. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183231185120>
21. Perceived Opposition to Racially Progressive Policies and Negative Affect toward the Republican Party among Democrats (with Tyler Reny and Byengseon Bae). *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 10, no. 3 (2025): 664–73. <https://doi.org/10.1017/rep.2025.10011>
20. This Proposal is Racist: The [Muted] Consequences of Invoking Racism in Policy Arguments (with Eugenia Quintanilla). *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 13, no. 3 (2025): 727–36. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2024.2362687>
19. White Partisans’ Reactions to Real Politicians’ Tweets Framing White Supremacy and Radical Islam as Terrorist Threats (with Rachel Smilan-Goldstein). *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 13, no. 2 (2025): 485–93. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2024.2342830>
18. Revisiting the Measurement of Group Schemas in Political Science (with Nicholas A. Valentino). In *The Cambridge Handbook of Implicit Bias and Racism*, edited by Jon A. Krosnick, Tobias H. Stark, and Amanda L. Scott. Cambridge University Press, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108885492.013>
17. Business Deserts Politics under Weak Institutions: Evidence from Russia, 2003–2010 (with Ivan S. Grigoriev). *Business and Politics* 27, no. 2 (2025): 180–93. <https://doi.org/10.1017/bap.2024.31>
16. Who Is “On Welfare”? Validating the Use of Conjoint Experiments to Measure Stereotype Content (with C. Daniel Myers and Kristin Lunz Trujillo). *Political Behavior* 46 (2024): 89–110. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-022-09815-0>
15. Rethinking Measurement Equivalence in Comparative Political Research (with Christian Welzel). *Political Research Quarterly* 77, no. 3 (2024): 696–712. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10659129241241753>
14. Perceptions of Stereotypically Immigrant Groups as Darker-Skinned and Politics of Immigration in the United States and Britain. *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 11, no. 3 (2023): 667–76. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2021.1992285>
13. The Child-Rearing Scale as a Measure of Authoritarianism in a Non-Western Context: Evidence from Mass and Elite Surveys in Russia (with Eduard Ponarin and Sharon Werning Rivera). *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 35, no. 1 (2023): edad005. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijpor/edad005>
12. Estimating and Using Individual Marginal Component Effects from Conjoint Experiments. *Political Analysis* 30, no. 2 (2022): 236–49. <https://doi.org/10.1017/pan.2021.4>

11. The Origins and Consequences of Racialized Schemas about U.S. Parties (with Nicholas A. Valentino). *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 7, no. 3 (2022): 484–504. <https://doi.org/10.1017/rep.2022.4>
10. Social Dominance Orientation and Differential Affect toward Immigrant Origin Groups: Evidence from Three Immigration-Receiving Countries. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations* 85 (2021): 170–83. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2021.09.014>
9. Who Are “the Immigrants”? Beliefs about Immigrant Populations and Anti-Immigration Attitudes in the United States and Britain. *Social Science Quarterly* 102, no. 1 (2021): 228–37. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.12925>
8. Social Conformity and Prejudice toward Immigrants: The Role of Political Messaging (with Maykel Verkuyten and Eduard Ponarin). *Social Influence* 16, no. 1 (2021): 65–77. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15534510.2021.1989028>
7. Estimating Relative Prevalence of Competing Issue Voting Rules in Multiparty Elections Using Finite Mixture Modeling. *Electoral Studies* 69 (2021): 102249. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2020.102249>
6. Intraparty Polarization in American Politics (with Eric Groenendyk and Michael W. Sances). *Journal of Politics* 82, no. 4 (2020): 1616–20. <https://doi.org/10.1086/708780>
5. The Consequences of Personality Biases in Online Panels for Measuring Public Opinion (with Nicholas A. Valentino, D. Sunshine Hillygus, and Brian Guay). *Public Opinion Quarterly* 84, no. 2 (2020): 446–68. <https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfaa026>
4. Do Political Connections Make Businesspeople Richer? Evidence from Russia, 2003–2010 (with Ivan S. Grigoriev). *Research & Politics* 7, no. 4 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053168020979434>
3. Dogmatism and Militant Internationalism among Foreign Policy Elites: Evidence from Russia, 1995–2016. *Post-Soviet Affairs* 35, no. 5–6 (2019): 422–32. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1060586X.2019.1662199>
2. Nativist but not Alienated: A Comparative Perspective on the Radical Right Vote in Western Europe. *Party Politics* 20, no. 2 (2014): 286–96. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068813511379>
1. Perceptions of World Politics and Support for Terrorism among Muslims: Evidence from Muslim Countries and Western Europe (with Maykel Verkuyten and Jeroen Weesie). *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 31, no. 5 (2014): 481–501. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0738894213510121>

Forthcoming

1. Comparing Methods for Sampling Individuals Within Households: A Field Experiment in Costa Rica (with Noam Lupu, Daniel Montalvo, Mitchell Seligson, and Elizabeth Zechmeister). *Survey Methodology*

Under Review

4. Anti-American Attitudes from the Dual-Process Motivational Perspective: Evidence from Russia (with Eduard Ponarin, Sharon Rivera, and Shane Lin). R&R in *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations*
3. Marginal Component Effects from Conjoint Experiments Have Predictive Validity: Evidence from Individual-Level Analyses (with Fabian Neuner and Melle Scholten)
2. The Other Side of Sorting: Social Fractionalization of American Parties (with Eric Groenendyk)
1. Americans' Understanding of Ideological Labels: Evidence from Parallel Conjoint Experiments in Mass and Elite Samples (with Elizabeth Simas)

Book Project

As the Twig Is Bent: Race and Partisan Realignment in the United States (with David Sears and Nicholas Valentino)

Papers in Progress

5. The Centrality of Ethnicity in Perceptions about Immigration: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment in the United States
4. Drivers of Affective Polarization: The Relative Impact of Race, Religion, Income, and Ideology (with Nicholas Valentino)
3. Can Social Democratic Parties Attract Left-Authoritarian Voters? Evidence from Election Simulations in the Netherlands, 1994–2021 (with Zach Johnson)
2. Mental Images of the U.S. Parties and Political Polarization: A Reverse Correlation Analysis (with Anshita Singh, Jazmin Brown-Iannuzzi, and Jeremy Cone)
1. Firm Subsidies and Populism (with Sonal Pandya and Melle Scholten)

Awards and Honors

2. Best Dissertation Award, International Society of Political Psychology, 2021
1. Best Paper in Political Behavior Award, Midwest Political Science Association, 2018 (with Nicholas Valentino)

Grants and Fellowships

18. 3Cavaliers Seed Funding Program, University of Virginia, 2026: \$80,000 (with David Leblang and Kathleen Schiro)
17. Quantitative Collaborative Faculty Seed Grant, University of Virginia, 2025: \$5,000 (with Amanda d'Urso)
16. Quantitative Collaborative Faculty Seed Grant, University of Virginia, 2025: \$8,000 (with Sonal Pandya and Melle Scholten)
15. Quantitative Collaborative Faculty Seed Grant, University of Virginia, 2024: \$9,869 (with Elizabeth Simas)
14. Summer Research Stipend, University of Virginia, 2023–2024: \$11,000
13. Quantitative Collaborative Faculty Seed Grant, University of Virginia, 2023: \$15,000 (with Jazmin Brown-Iannuzzi)

12. Research Grant, Institute for Humane Studies, 2023: \$4,000
11. Quantitative Collaborative Faculty Seed Grant, University of Virginia, 2022: \$8,000 (with Melle Scholten)
10. Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies, 2018–2021: \$12,000
9. Gerald R. Ford Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2018–2020: \$50,500
8. Garth Taylor Fellowship in Public Opinion Research, University of Michigan, 2018–2019: \$10,000
7. Jean Monnet Graduate Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2018: \$5,000
6. Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Michigan, 2017–2018: \$4,500
5. Angus Campbell Scholars Fund, University of Michigan, 2017: \$7,000
4. International Institute Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2017: \$4,250
3. Summer Grant for Research on Europe and Eurasia, University of Michigan, 2016: \$1,500
2. Weiser Emerging Democracy Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2014–2015: \$26,000
1. Utrecht Excellence Scholarship, Utrecht University (Netherlands), 2008–2010: €27,000

Presentations and Talks

- 2026: Stony Brook University; Western Political Science Association (WPSA)
- 2025: European Political Science Association (EPSA); New York Area Political Psychology; Southwestern Social Science Association; University of Michigan; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2024: American Association for Public Opinion Research; American Political Science Association (APSA); American University; Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA); Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)
- 2023: APSA; MPSA; SPSA
- 2022: EPSA; International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP); MPSA; SPSA; WPSA
- 2021: APSA
- 2019: APSA; EPSA; ISPP; MPSA; Society for Political Methodology; SPSA
- 2018: APSA; EPSA; Indiana University Bloomington; MPSA
- 2017: APSA; ISPP; MPSA
- 2016: EPSA; MPSA
- 2015: EPSA; MPSA

Teaching

6. Bayesian Analysis and Hierarchical Modeling (graduate), University of Virginia
5. Statistical Measurement (graduate), University of Virginia
4. Regression Analysis (graduate), University of Virginia
3. Mathematics for Political Science (graduate), University of Virginia
2. Polarization in American Politics (undergraduate), University of Virginia
1. Introduction to Research Design (undergraduate), University of Virginia

Visiting Researcher

3. University of Gothenburg (Sweden), 2018
2. GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Germany), 2017
1. Higher School of Economics (Russia), 2016

Professional Service

2. Section Chair, Political Psychology, MPSA Conference, 2024
1. Awards Committee, International Society of Political Psychology, 2022

Departmental Service

6. Co-Chair, Political Methodology Study Group, University of Virginia, 2021–2025
5. Search Committee, Race and U.S. Politics, University of Virginia, 2023
4. Gender and Diversity Committee, University of Virginia, 2022–2023
3. Graduate Student Professional Development Committee, University of Michigan, 2019–2020
2. Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Workshop in American Politics, University of Michigan, 2018–2019
1. Graduate Student Member, Admissions Committee, University of Michigan, 2016–2017

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association; European Political Science Association; International Society of Political Psychology; Midwest Political Science Association; Society for Political Methodology; Southern Political Science Association

Reviewer

- 2026: American Journal of Political Science; Electoral Studies; International Migration Review; Journal of Experimental Political Science; Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies; Journal of Peace Research; Political Analysis; Political Behavior; Political Research Quarterly; Political Studies; PS: Political Science & Politics; Representation
- 2025: British Journal of Political Science; Electoral Studies; European Journal of Political Research; Group Processes & Intergroup Relations; International Migration; International Migration Review; Journal of Experimental Political Science; Journal of Politics; Nature Human Behavior; Party Politics; Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin; PLOS One; Policy Studies Journal; Political Analysis; Political Behavior; Political Communication; Political Psychology; Political Research Quarterly; Political Science Research and Methods; Political Studies; Politics, Groups, and Identities; Public Opinion Quarterly; Social Science Journal; Socius
- 2024: American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; American Politics Research; European Journal of Political Research; European Political Science; European Political Science Review; Europe-Asia Studies; Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies; Journal of Peace Research; Journal of Politics; Perspectives on Politics; PNAS Nexus; Policy Studies Journal; Political Analysis; Political Behavior; Political Research Quarterly; Politics, Groups, and Identities; Public Opinion Quarterly; World Politics

- 2023: American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; American Sociological Review; British Journal of Political Science; Foreign Policy Analysis; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Political Science Research and Methods; Public Opinion Quarterly; Race and Social Problems
- 2022: American Political Science Review; European Journal of Political Research; Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies; Journal of Politics; Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics; Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin; Perspectives on Politics
- 2021: American Journal of Political Science; Electoral Studies; European Political Science Review; International Interactions; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; International Migration Review; Journal of Politics; Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics; Perspectives on Politics; Political Behavior; Political Science Research and Methods; Social Forces; Social Science Journal; Terrorism and Political Violence
- 2020: American Political Science Review; Australian Journal of International Affairs; Bulletin of Latin American Research; European Journal of Political Research; Government and Opposition; Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics; Party Politics; Political Research Quarterly; Public Opinion Quarterly
- 2019: American Journal of Political Science; European Journal of Political Research; Party Politics; Political Research Quarterly
- 2018: European Journal of Political Research; European Political Science Review; PLOS One; Terrorism and Political Violence
- 2017: British Journal of Political Science; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Party Politics
- 2016: European Journal of Political Research; European Political Science Review; Foreign Policy Analysis; Social Currents
- 2015: Journal of Contemporary European Studies