

# Otto Kienitz

2913 Regent Street, Berkeley, CA 94705

ojk@berkeley.edu ◊ ottokienitz.com

## EDUCATION

---

**University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)**

*Fall 2017 – May 2024*

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science

M.A. in Political Science with Departmental Distinction

*Spring 2019*

Subfields: Comparative Politics, Methodology and Formal Theory, Post-Soviet Studies

**European University at St. Petersburg (Russia)**

*Fall 2016 – Summer 2017*

MA in Russian and Eurasian Studies (IMARES)

Leonard Lauder Fellowship, Dean's List

**University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)**

*Fall 2012 – Spring 2016*

B.A. in History and Political Science with Honors

Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, Rose Award for Undergraduate Research, Dean's List

## RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

---

**Between State and Democracy: The Historical Political Economy of State-Building**

*Ph.D. Dissertation*, University of California, Berkeley (May 2024)

Committee Members: Jason Wittenberg (Chair), Ruth Collier, Sean Gilmard, Victoria Frede (History)

**Comparative Politics in Borderlands: Actors, Identities and Strategies**

*Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 25 (2022) with Robert Braun

**Working Papers**

“Local Bureaucratic Selection and Social Representation in the Russian Empire,” with Igor Kolesnikov

“The State of the State in Historical Democratization Studies” (Review Essay)

**Research Assistance**

Andrew Little and Ryan Hubert, “Kompromat Can Align Incentives but Ruin Reputations,”

*American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 66 (2022)

Andrew Little and Jack Paine, “Stronger Challengers can Cause More (or Less) Conflict and Institutional Reform,” *Comparative Political Studies*, Online First (2023)

**Democratization out of State Capacity: Bureaucracy and Reform in the Russian Empire**

*M.A. Thesis*, University of California, Berkeley (2019)

Co-Chairs: Jason Wittenberg and Ruth Collier

**Engineering Russian Imperial Electoral Law: Minority Representation in the First Duma**

*M.A. Thesis*, European University at St. Petersburg (2017)

Co-Chairs: Alexey Miller (History) and Vladimir Gel'man (Political Science)

## SKILLS

---

**Computational Tools**

R, Python, GIS, ABBYY, Transkribus, Computational Methods

**Foreign Languages**

Russian (Advanced), English (Native), Portuguese (Beginner)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

**PS 149 K: State and Democracy in Russia**

*Summer 2023*

*Instructor of Record*

## Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award

*Awarded 2021*

**PS 141 C: Politics and Government in Eastern Europe** *Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Summer 2022*  
*Head GSI for Professor Jason Wittenberg*

**PS 2: Comparative Politics** *Spring 2019, Spring 2020*  
*Head GSI for Professor Pradeep Chhibber, GSI for Professor Steven M. Fish*

**PS 3: Introduction to Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods** *Fall 2019, Fall 2023*  
*Head GSI for Professor Jason Wittenberg*

## FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

---

American Councils, Academic Fellowship in Russia (Remote), Carnegie Corporation (Fall 2022)  
Reinhard Bendix and Allan Sharlin Fellowship, Global International and Area Studies (Summer 2021)  
Simpson ABD Research Grant in International Studies, Institute of International Studies (Fall 2021)  
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Dissertation Award (Spring 2021)  
Virtual Summer Research Laboratory, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (2020 – 2021)  
Title VIII Fellowship, University of Indiana, Summer Russian Language Workshop (Summer 2020)  
Institute of International Studies, Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Moscow, Russia (Summer 2019)  
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Graduate Student Training Grant (2019)  
Title VIII Fellowship, ASU Critical Languages Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia (Summer 2019)  
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Graduate Student Training Grant (2018)  
Russian Studies Workshop, Summer Russian Study Fellowship, University of Indiana (Summer 2018)  
Leonard Lauder Fellowship, European University at St. Petersburg (2016 – 2017)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

---

Co-Founder and Graduate Student Organizer, *Berkeley Historical Social Science Workshop* (2019 –)  
Organizer and Presenter, “Historical Taxation and Representation,” *APSA* (2023)  
Presenter, *Summer Workshop in the Historical Political Economy of Russia* (2019, 2020, 2023)  
Presenter, “Midwest Eurasian Political Economy Workshop,” *MPSA* (2023)  
Chair and Presenter, “Book Discussion: The Estate Origins of Democracy in Russia,” *ASEEES* (2022)  
Presenter, “Enterprise, Labor, and Taxation in the Russian Empire,” *ASEEES* (2022)  
Chair, “Imperial Russia in Transition: Social Science Approaches to Russian History,” *ASEEES* (2019)  
Graduate Student Organizer, *Berkeley Comparative Politics Colloquium* (2019 – 2020)  
Reviewer, *American Political Science Review* (2020 –)  
Presenter, “Russia & Populism,” *APSA* (2019)  
Participant, “Critical Issues in the Research of Contemporary Russia,” *Aleksanteri Institute* (2017)