

Dr. Otto Kienitz

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EMPLOYMENT

Academy Postdoctoral Fellow SNF Agora Institute, Johns Hopkins University	2024–2026
Graduate Student Instructor and Instructor of Record Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley	2017–2024

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley Ph.D. in Political Science, M.A. in Political Science with Departmental Distinction Subfields: Comparative Politics, Post-Soviet Studies, Methodology and Formal Theory	2017–2024
European University at St. Petersburg M.A. in Russian and Eurasian Studies (IMARES)	2016–2017
University of Pennsylvania B.A. in History and Political Science with Honors	2012–2016

PUBLICATIONS

“Comparative Politics in Borderlands: Actors, Identities and Strategies”
with Robert Braun, *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 25, pp. 219–240 (2022)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Between State and Democracy: The Historical Political Economy of State-Building
Book Manuscript: Book Workshop scheduled for June 2026
Dissertation Committee: Jason Wittenberg (Chair), Ruth Collier, Sean Gailmard, Victoria Frede

Reconceptualizing State Capacity: The Politics of Policy Implementation
with Ruth Collier (UC Berkeley). Target publication: *Cambridge Elements in Political Economy*

“Landowners into Bureaucrats: Decentralization and Local Administration in the Russian Empire” with Igor Kolesnikov (UC Berkeley). Target publication: *American Political Science Review*

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Reviewer, *American Political Science Review* (2020–)

Co-Founder and Graduate Student Organizer, *Berkeley Historical Social Science Workshop* (2019–2020)

Graduate Student Organizer, *Berkeley Comparative Politics Colloquium* (2019–2020)

Panel Organizer, “Historical Taxation and Representation,” *APSA* (2023)

Panel Chair, “Book Discussion: The Estate Origins of Democracy in Russia,” *ASEEES* (2022)

Panel Chair, “Imperial Russia in Transition,” *ASEEES* (2019)

Head Graduate Student Instructor (teaching administration), UC Berkeley (2018–2023)

LANGUAGES

	<i>Speaking</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Writing</i>
Russian	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Portuguese	Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate
English	Native	Native	Native

COMPUTATIONAL TOOLS

Python, R, QGIS, OCR pipeline development (Apple Vision, Claude API), probabilistic record linkage, LLM-assisted archival data extraction, ABBYY FineReader, Transkribus

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Computational Social Science for Mixed Methods Research *2024–2026*
Instructor, Graduate Student Workshop, SNF Agora Institute, Johns Hopkins University

- Designed and delivered monthly workshops for Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows covering Python, R, text-as-data, geospatial analysis, and AI-assisted data collection pipelines

PS 149 K: State and Democracy in Russia *2023*
Course Designer and Instructor of Record, UC Berkeley

- Original upper-division seminar blending history, comparative politics, and political economy

PS 141 C: Politics and Government in Eastern Europe *2018, 2020, 2022*
Head Graduate Student Instructor for Professor Jason Wittenberg, UC Berkeley

- Supervised and coordinated graduate student instructors; led discussion sections and grading

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

- Coordinated sections for introductory comparative politics course

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

- Supervised GSIs and led sections for undergraduate quantitative methods course

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Landowners into Bureaucrats: Decentralization and Local Administration in the Russian Empire,”
Loyola University (2026)

“Local Self-Government and State-Building in the Russian Empire,” *ASEEES* (2025)

“Capturing the State: Decentralization and Elite Representation in the Russian Bureaucracy,”
DMV-WEPS Workshop in Empirical Political Science (2025)

“Capturing the State,” *Virtual Workshop in Historical Political Economy* (2024)

“Historical Taxation and Representation,” *APSA* (2023)

Summer Workshop in the Historical Political Economy of Russia (2019, 2020, 2023)

“Local Self-Government,” *Midwest Eurasian Political Economy Workshop, MPSA* (2023)

“The Estate Origins of Democracy in Russia,” *ASEEES* (2022)

“Enterprise, Labor, and Taxation in the Russian Empire,” *ASEEES* (2022)

“Russia & Populism,” *APSA* (2019)

HONOURS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

SNF Agora Institute, Postdoctoral Student Research Grant, Johns Hopkins University (2024)
American Councils, Academic Fellowship in Russia, Carnegie Corporation (2022)
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley (2021)
Reinhard Bendix and Allan Sharlin Fellowship, Global International and Area Studies (2021)
Simpson ABD Research Grant in International Studies, Institute of International Studies (2021)
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Dissertation Award (2021)
Virtual Summer Research Laboratory, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (2020–2021)
Title VIII Fellowship, University of Indiana, Summer Russian Language Workshop (2020)
Institute of International Studies, Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Moscow, Russia (2019)
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Graduate Student Training Grant (2019)
Title VIII Fellowship, ASU Critical Languages Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia (2019)
Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Graduate Student Training Grant (2018)
Russian Studies Workshop, Summer Russian Study Fellowship, University of Indiana (2018)
Leonard Lauder Fellowship, European University at St. Petersburg (2016–2017)
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania (2016)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member, American Political Science Association (APSA)
Member, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)
Member, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)