

Maria Popova

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Academic Positions

McGill University

Assistant Professor, 2007-2014
Associate Professor (with tenure), 2014-

Education

Harvard University, MA, PhD in Political Science, 2006

Dartmouth College, B.A. *summa cum laude*, High Honors in Government and Spanish Literature, 1997

Awards

- 2021 American Association of Ukrainian Studies Best Article Prize
- 2017 Jean Monnet Chair “Europe and the Rule of Law,” European Commission
- 2013 Best Book in Ukrainian History, Politics, Language, Literature and Culture, American Association of Ukrainian Studies
- 2007 *Edward S. Corwin Award*, American Political Science Association (APSA) award for best dissertation in the field of public law
- 2006 *Sumner Dissertation Prize*, Harvard University

Research Grants

- 2022-2027 International Partnerships for Excellent Education, Research and Innovation (INTPART) for project “Autocratization Dynamics” based at University of Bergen, Norway, 10 mln NOK (~1.4mln CAD); McGill is one of 14 partner institutions (Principal Investigator from McGill; co-applicant)
- 2019-2022 Erasmus+ Grant to support Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Montreal, €100,000 (Scientific Co-Director)
- 2017-2021 Jean Monnet Chair, Erasmus+ Programme, European Commission for project “Europe and the Rule of Law” €50,000 (Principal Investigator)
- 2011-2016 Standard Research Grant for project “Prosecuting Corruption in Eastern Europe,” Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), \$111,000 (Principal Investigator)

- 2011- 2016 New Professor-Researcher Grant for project “Lutte contre le corruption,” Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC), \$39,600 (Principal Investigator)
- 2010 Social Sciences and Humanities Development Grant, McGill University, \$2,500 (Principal Investigator)
- 2007 SEED Collaborative Grant for project “The Radical Right in Bulgaria,” (with Stoyan Sgourev, ESSEC, France), Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University, \$5000

Administrative and Leadership Roles

- 2019-2022 Elected Member of the Board of Directors of the *Association for Slavic, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)*
- 2018- Scientific Co-Director, Jean Monnet Centre Montreal
- 2018-2021 Graduate Program Director, Political Science Department, McGill
- 2018-2021 Executive Committee Member, PONARS Eurasia

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2012. *Politicized Justice in Emerging Democracies: A Study of Courts in Russia and Ukraine*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2012.
- Winner, 2012-2013 American Association for Ukrainian Studies prize for best book in the fields of Ukrainian history, politics, language, literature, and culture.
 - Featured in a Critical Dialogue in *Perspectives on Politics* and reviewed in over a dozen other journals in comparative politics, area studies, law, and anthropology.

Journal Articles

- 2021 “Will the Real Conspiracy Please Stand Up: Sources of Post-Communist Democratic Failure,” *Perspectives on Politics* 19 (4). With Nikolay Marinov
- 2020 “Can A Leopard Change Its Spots? Strategic Behavior vs. Professional Role Conception During Ukraine’s 2014 Court Chair Elections” *Law & Policy* 42(4): 365-381.
2020. “No Revolution of Dignity for Ukraine’s Judges: Judicial Reform After Maidan” *Demokratizatsiya* 28 (1): 113-142. With Daniel Beers.
- Winner, 2020 American Association for Ukrainian Studies best article prize
2018. “Prosecuting High-Level Corruption in Eastern Europe.” *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 51 (3): 231-244. With Vincent Post.
2017. "Putin-Style “Rule of Law” & the Prospects for Change." *Daedalus* 146 (2): 64-75.

2016. "Fear and Loathing on the Post-Communist Street: Why Bulgaria's DANSwithme Protest Fizzled out, but Ukraine's Euromaidan Escalated." *Critique and Humanism* 46 (2): 109-127.
- A Bulgarian version: „Страх и омраза на посткомунистическите улици: защо българският протест ДАНС затихва, а украинският Евромайдан ескалира?“, кн. 45, бр. 1/2016, стр. 107-129.
2015. "Die Entwicklung der ukrainischen Justiz seit dem Euromaidan." *Transit: Europäische Revue* 48: 136-156. ("Ukraine's Judiciary After Euromaidan" *Transit: European Review*)
2014. "Why the Orange Revolution Was Short and Peaceful and Euromaidan Long and Violent" *Problems of Post-Communism* 61 (6): 64-70.
2012. "Why Doesn't the Bulgarian Judiciary Prosecute Corruption?" *Problems of Post-Communism* 59 (5): 35-49.
2010. "Political Competition as an Obstacle to Judicial Independence: Evidence from Russia and Ukraine." *Comparative Political Studies* 43 (10): 1202-1229.
2010. "Be Careful What You Wish For: A Cautionary Tale of Post-Communist Judicial Empowerment." *Demokratizatsiya* 18 (1): 56-73.
2006. "Watchdogs or Attack Dogs? The Role of the Russian Courts and the CEC in the Resolution of Electoral Disputes." *Europe-Asia Studies* 58 (3): 391-414.
2004. "Implicit Objections to the Rule of Law Doctrine in Russian Legal Thought", *Journal of East European Law* 11 (2-3): 205-229.
2003. "Rossiiskaya Pravovaya Mysl' i Printsip Verkhovnstva Prava: Problemy Adaptatsii i Neobkhodimost' Dialoga." *Konstitutsionnoe Pravo: Vostochnoevropeiskoe Obozrenie* 3(44).

Book Chapters

2020. "The Post-Communist Judiciary: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back" in Engelbrekt, K. and Petia Kostadinova (eds.), *Bulgaria's Democratic Institutions at Thirty: A Balance Sheet*. Lexington Books.
2019. "Prosecuting Corruption in Eastern Europe" (with Vincent Post) in Solomon, P. and Kaja Gadowska (eds.), *Legal Change in Post-Communist States: Progress, Reversions, Explanations*. Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society Series, ibidem Press
2018. "Journalists, Judges and State Officials: How Russian Courts Adjudicate Defamation Lawsuits Against Media" in Kurkchian, M. and Agnieszka Kubal (eds.), *A Sociology of Justice in Russia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 141-169.
2016. "Ukraine's Politicized Courts" in Hale, H. E. and Robert W. Orttung (eds.), *Beyond the Euromaidan: Comparative Perspectives for Advancing Reform in Ukraine*, Redwood City: Stanford University Press: 143-161.
2016. "Who Brought Ataka to the Political Scene: Analysis of the Vote for Bulgaria's Radical Nationalists" in Dragostinova, T. and Yana Hashamova (eds.), *Beyond Mosque, Church, and State: Alternative Narratives of the Nation in the Balkans*, Budapest and New York: Central European University Press: 259-287.

2012. "Politizirovannoe pravosudie v novykh demokratiyakh: politicheskaya bor'ba i sudebnaya nezavisimost' v Rossii i Ukraine" in Volkov, V. (ed.), *Kak Sud'i Prinimayut Resheniya: Empiricheskie Issledovaniya Prava*, Moscow: Statut: 199-224.

Book Reviews

2016. Tom Ginsburg and Alberto Simpser, eds. *Constitutions in Authoritarian Regimes*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013
Nick Cheesman, *Opposing the Rule of Law: How Myanmar's Courts Make Law and Order*, New York, Cambridge University Press, 2015
Perspectives on Politics 14 (3):51-53.
2013. Justin Crowe, *Building the Judiciary: Law, Courts, and the Politics of Institutional Development*, Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2012
Critical Dialogues, *Perspectives on Politics* 11 (1): 216-218.
2013. Response to Justin Crowe's review of Politicized Justice in Emerging Democracies: A Study of Courts in Russia and Ukraine"
Perspectives on Politics 11(1): 215-216.
2009. Verkhovskii, A., 2006 *Demokratiya Vertikali*, Moskva: Informatsionno-Analiticheskii Tsentr "Sova" i Informatsionno-Issledovatel'skii Tsentr "Demos", *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 51 (1): 124-128.

Other Academic Writing

- 2015 "Ukraine and Russia," Special Report, The 2015 World Book Yearbook: A Review of the Events of 2014 (World Book Inc. 2015): 376-384. With Juliet Johnson.
2015. "Ukraine's Judiciary After Euromaidan." *Comparative Politics Newsletter* 25 (2): 32-36.
2015. "The 2014 Parliamentary Elections in Bulgaria." *Electoral Studies* 38: 114-118. with Petia Kostadinova.
2014. "The 2013 parliamentary elections in Bulgaria." *Electoral Studies* 34: 365-368. with Petia Kostadinova.
2012. "Post-Communist Courts: Independence, Accountability, and Popular Trust," Guest Editor's Introduction, *Problems of Post-Communism* 59 (5): 3-5.

Policy Articles, Blogs and Op-eds

2021. "The 2021 Bulgarian Election: A "QAnon" Turn for Eastern European Politics?" *LSE EUROPP Blog*, April 13. With Nikolay Marinov.
2020. "Das Trugbild vom Durchbruch zum Rechtsstaat: Justizreform nach der Revolution der Würde," *Ukraine-Analysen*, Ausgabe 238, Oct 9. With Mykhailo Zhernakov

2017. “How Can the EU Help Ukraine Build the Rule of Law and Fight Corruption? Romania and Bulgaria as Guideposts,” *PONARS Policy Memo*, No. 469
2015. “Will There Be a “Full, Rapid and Transparent Investigation into Nemtsov’s Murder,” *The Monkey Cage@The Washington Post*, March 7, 2015
2014. “Ukraine’s Judicial Reforms,” *VoxUkraine*, December 15, 2014 (translated and reprinted by *Ukrainska Pravda*, December 17, 2014)
2014. “Ukraine’s Legal Problems: Why Kiev’s Plans to Purge the Judiciary Will Backfire,” *Foreign Affairs*, April 15, 2014
2014. “Statement of Concerned Scholars Regarding the Conflict in Ukraine,” March 2014, <http://concernedscholars.blogspot.ca/>. With Juliet Johnson.
2014. “The Kremlin, Not Language, is Driving Ukraine Apart,” *The Globe and Mail*, April 15, 2014. With Matthew Light
2014. “What is Lustration and Is It a Good Idea for Ukraine to Adopt it?,” *The Monkey Cage@ Washington Post*, April 9, 2014 (reprinted by *Kyiv Post*). With Vincent Post.
2014. “Was Yanukovich’s Removal Constitutional?” *PONARS Eurasia Commentary*, March 20, 2014
2014. “What Doesn’t Kill Ukraine...,” *Foreign Policy*, March 12, 2014. With Oxana Shevel
2014. “Why Domestic Developments in Ukraine Still Matter,” *The Monkey Cage @ Washington Post*, March 5, 2014
2013. “The Strange Court Case of Alexey Navalny,” *The Monkey Cage*, July 22, 2013

Recent Invited Talks and Presentations

2021. University of Oxford, Nuffield College, The Politics of Corruption Prosecutions: Varieties of Anticorruption Campaigns
2021. University of Bergen, LawTransform, Autocratic Legalism roundtable
2021. Bertelsmann Foundation/Chatham House, Systema vs. the Rule of Law in Ukraine
2021. JUSTIN Institute, Masaryk University, Czechia. Post-Maidan Judicial Reform
2020. PONARS Eurasia, George Washington University. The Politics of Corruption Prosecutions.
2019. University of Manchester. Post-Maidan Judicial Reforms.
2019. University of Oxford, St. Anthony’s College. Post-Maidan Judicial Reforms.
2019. Miami University of Ohio. Havighurst Center. Rule of Law Backsliding in Eastern Europe
2019. Carleton University, Centre for European Studies. The Rule of Law in Eastern Europe 15 Years after EU Accession
2018. Embassy of Austria, Ottawa. Rule of Law in Europe: Threats and Resilience
2018. Yale University, McMillan Centre. The Weaponization of Law in Russia
2018. Columbia University, Harriman Institute. Putin-Style “Rule of Law”
2017. Princeton University. Ukraine’s Anti-Corruption and Judicial Reforms.
2017. Georgetown University. Weaponization of Law. Data and Methods in the Comparative Study of Legal Institutions Collaborative Workshop

- 2016. American Academy of Arts and Science, Harvard University. Can Russia Become a Rule of Law State? *Daedalus* Authors' Workshop
- 2016. Georgetown University. Instrumental Politicization of Judicial Output. Data and Methods in the Comparative Study of Legal Institutions Collaborative Workshop.
- 2015. University of Oxford. How Politicized are the Russian Courts? Sociology of Justice in Russia Workshop
- 2015. Université Libre de Bruxelles. Ukraine's Judiciary After Euromaidan.
- 2015. Sciences Po, Centre de Recherches Internationales. Ukraine's Judiciary After Euromaidan.
- 2015. Leiden University. Prosecution of Political Corruption in Eastern Europe
- 2015. Kyiv School of Economics, University of California-Berkeley, USAID, and Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, Kyiv, Ukraine. Symposium EscapeUSSR? Judicial Reform After Maidan.
- 2015. Università di Bologna. Prosecution of Political Corruption in Eastern Europe

Recent Conference Presentations

- 2021 "Will the Real Conspiracy Please Stand Up: Sources of post-Communist Democratic Failure," *New Challenges Conference*, Sofia University, October 14, 2021
- 2021 "Will the Real Conspiracy Please Stand Up: Sources of post-Communist Democratic Failure" American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, Sep 28
- 2021 "Ukraine's Constitutional Court Crisis," Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual Convention, May 5-8.
- 2019. "Anticorruption in Bulgaria and Romania: Similar Pressures, Different Outcomes," Annual Convention of Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, San Francisco, Nov 23-26.
- 2019. "Politicization of the Judiciary" RESTEP Summer Retreat Workshop, Sep 1-3
- 2019. "The Rule of Law Breakthrough that Wasn't: Judicial Reform After Maidan" (with Daniel Beers), Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University, May 2-4.
- 2019. "The Weaponization of Law," Joint Sessions of Workshops, European Consortium for Political Research, Mons, Belgium, April 8-12.
- 2018. "Rule of Law in Europe: Threats and Resilience," co-panelist at roundtable entitled "Illiberal democracy in Central and Eastern Europe: What – if anything – can the EU do?," European Studies Community Association – Canada (ECSA-C) Biennial Conference, Toronto, May 10-12.
- 2018. "Weaponized Legalism," Academic Workshop "Rule of Law in Europe: Threats and Resilience", Jean Monnet Centre Montreal, McGill University, April 19-20.
- 2017. "Judicial Reform After the Euromaidan: The More Things Change..." 14th Danyliw Research Seminar on Contemporary Ukraine, University of Ottawa, November 16-18.
- 2016. "Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law Reforms in Ukraine," PONARS Policy Workshop, Montreal, December 3-5.

2016. “Post-Communist Protests and the Rule of Law,” Between Europe and Russia Network Workshop, McGill University, September 29-30.
2015. “Fear and Loathing on the Post-Communist Street: Why Bulgaria's DANSwithme Protest Fizzled Out, but Ukraine's Euromaidan Escalated,” 22nd Conference of Europeanists, Paris, July 8-10.
2015. “Ukrainian Judicial Reform after Euromaidan,” Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, San Antonio, November 20-23

Professional Service

- 2022 Article prize committee, American Association for Ukrainian Studies
- 2021 Academic Workshop organizer, “The Politics of Corruption Prosecutions,” Jean Monnet Chair, Europe and the Rule of Law, McGill University, February.
- 2019, 2020 Book prize committee, Heldt Prize, Association for Women in Slavic Studies
- 2019- Editorial Board Member, *East European Politics*
- 2018 Academic Workshop organizer, “Rule of Law in Europe: Threats and Resilience,” Jean Monnet Centre Montreal, McGill University, April 19-20
- 2016 Book prize committee, American Association for Ukrainian Studies
- 2013- Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Ukrainian Politics and Society*, published by Krytyka Institute, Ukrainian Research Institute Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2012 Guest Editor, *Problems of Post-Communism*, vol. 59, no. 5 (September-October 2012)
- 2010- Member, PONARS Eurasia—an international network of academics that advances new policy approaches to research and security in Russia and Eurasia, <http://www.ponarseurasia.org/>
- 2007- Editorial Committee and Advisory Board Member, *Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Societies Book Series*, published by Ibidem, Stuttgart, Germany, ISSN 1614-3515

Referee

Cambridge University Press, American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Political Research Quarterly, European Journal for Political Research, International Political Science Review, Studies in Comparative and International Development, Canadian Journal of Political Science, Law and Society Review, Law and Social Inquiry, Journal of Law and Courts, Slavic Review, Europe-Asia Studies, Post-Soviet Affairs, East European Politics and Societies, Demokratizatsiya, Problems of Post-Communism, Comparative European Politics, Nationalities Papers, Journal of International Relations and Development, World Development.

University Service

2018-2021	Graduate Program Director, Department of Political Science
2017-	University Tenure Committee
2017	Search Committee, Comparative Politics-Behavior, Department of Political Science
2013-18	Associate Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science
2010-	Admissions and Graduate Affairs Committee, Department of Political Science
2011-	Distinguished Lectureships Committee, Faculty of Arts
2012	Search Committee, Canadian and European Politics, Department of Political Science
2012	Search Committee, Russian Literature, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
2011	Search Committee, Papachristidis Chair in Modern Greek Studies, Department of History
2010	Search Committee, Chinese Politics, Department of Political Science
2007-08	Minors advisor
2007-10	Library liaison

Teaching Experience

Seminars:

Research Methods in Political Science, McGill University
Mixed Methods Research in European Studies, McGill University
Interdisciplinary Seminar in European Studies, McGill University
Post-Communist Transformations, McGill University
Rule of Law, Corruption, and Good Governance, McGill University
Judicial Politics and Corruption, McGill University
Nationalism, Myth, and Identity: Ukraine and the CIS, University of Toronto

Lecture courses:

The European Union, McGill University
Transitions from Communism, McGill University
Politics in East Central Europe, McGill University
Law and Courts in Europe, McGill University

Independent studies:

Polish Judicial Reforms, Hungarian Rule of Law Backsliding, Protest and Revolutions, Russian Politics, Post-Communist Party Politics, Georgian Politics, Corruption, Constitutional Politics in Asia, Water Resources Management in Central Asia, Central European Politics, Mongolian Politics.

Languages

Functional Native Proficiency: Bulgarian and English

Advanced Professional Proficiency: Russian and Spanish

General Professional Reading Proficiency: Ukrainian, Macedonian, Italian, French

Career Breaks

Maternity leaves: 2005, 2009, 2016