

Nicole M. Daphnis

Department of Political Science
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Academic Appointments

- 2025- **Lecturer, California Polytechnic State University**
Department of Political Science
- 2025-2025 **Lecturer, Rutgers University New Brunswick**
Department of Political Science

Education

- 2025 **PhD in Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst**
Subfields: Comparative Politics; Law, Anthropology, and Protest (Distinction)
Dissertation: *Varieties of Exile: Russian Activism and Emigration during the War in Ukraine*
Committee: Lauren McCarthy (Chair), Sonia Alvarez, Julie Hemment
- 2022 **MA in Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst**
- 2018 **BA cum laude in Politics and Russian & Eurasian Studies, Mount Holyoke College**

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2025 “A Hidden Form of Mass Event: The Law, Politics, and Practice of Single Pickets in Russia,” *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 41:1, 83-97 (online first, July 2024).
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1060586X.2024.2380225>

Works in Progress

“Small Deeds: Rethinking ‘Volunteerism’ as Activism among Russian Political Migrants”
(Article manuscript in drafting stage, article proposal accepted for a special issue in *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization*)

“Putin’s War or Russia’s? How Russian Political Migrants Conceive of the War in Ukraine”
(Article manuscript in drafting stage)

Grants and Awards

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| 2024 | Autocracy & Democracy Conference Travel Grant, American Political Science Association (\$500) |
| 2023 | American Political Science Association Travel Grant (\$150) |
| 2022 | Fieldwork Grant, Graduate School, University of Massachusetts Amherst (\$4,700) |
| 2022, 2024 | Conference Travel Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst (\$300-\$500) |
| 2022 | American Councils Title VIII Research Scholar Program (\$18,000) |
| 2020
2022-25 | Summer Research and Writing Grant, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst (\$2,500) |
| 2019 | Civil Society in Russia Research Grant, Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (\$6,000) |
| 2018 | Ruth C. Lawson Fellowship in International Politics, Department of Politics, Mount Holyoke College (\$10,000) |
| 2017 | Post-Secondary Russian Scholar Laureate, American Council of Teachers of Russian |

Teaching Experience

California Polytechnic State University

POLS 112: American and California Government (Spring 2026)

POLS 229: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2025)

POLS 384: Comparative Law (Winter, Spring 2026)

POLS 428: Immigration Politics and Policy (Fall 2025)

POLS 428: Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe (Winter 2026)

Rutgers University New Brunswick

POLISCI 381: Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe (Spring 2025)

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Instructor

POLISCI 377: Interpretation & Analysis - Junior Year Writing (Fall 2021 and Spring 2022)

POLISCI 111: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2024)

Teaching Assistant

POLISCI 101: Introduction to American Politics (Fall 2018)

POLISCI 171: Introduction to Political Theory (Spring 2019, 2020, and 2024)

POLISCI 111: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2019, 2020)

POLISCI 297PW: The ‘Other’ Strikes Back: Problematizing Western Notions of Global Politics
(Spring 2021)

POLISCI 281: Comparative Political Economy (Fall 2023)

Conference Presentations

- 2025 “Small Deeds and Larger Acts: Russian Political Migrant Activism,” American Political Science Association, Vancouver, Canada
- 2024 “Putin’s War or Russia’s? How Russian Political Migrants Conceive of the War in Ukraine,” American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA
- 2023 “Varieties of Exile: Russian Activism and Emigration during the War in Ukraine,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Philadelphia, PA and American Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021, 2022 “‘The Most Meaningless Form of Protest?’ The Law, Politics, and Practice of Single Pickets in Russia,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, online, and Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR
- 2020 “Refining the Leninist Legacy: Articulating Cultural Causation in the Relationship Between Labor and Democracy in Russia,” Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, online

Invited Talks and Workshop Participation

- 2024 “Putin’s War or Russia’s? How Russian Political Migrants Conceive of the War in Ukraine,” UMass Amherst Russian, Eurasian, and Polish Studies Social Science Working Group
- 2024 “Finding Safety and Creating Community in the Post-Soviet Periphery,” UMass Amherst Russian, Eurasian, and Polish Studies Social Science Working Group
- 2023 “Neoliberalism and Russia’s Post-Soviet Transition,” Comparative Political Economy, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2023 “Varieties of Exile: Russian Emigration and Activism during the War in Ukraine,” Caucasus Research Resource Center Georgia Works-In-Progress Series (Tbilisi)

- 2019 “Допускай! The Politics of Contested Space in Moscow’s Summer Protests,”
UMass Amherst Russian, Eurasian, and Polish Studies Works-in-Progress
Seminar
- 2019 “On Lydia Chukovskaya’s *Sofia Petrovna*,” Diabolic Carnival: Bulgakov’s
Master and Margarita and Its Contexts (undergraduate Russian & Eurasian
Studies course), Mount Holyoke College

Service

Reviewer: *Post-Soviet Affairs*

Graduate Employee Organization (GEO-UAW 2322):

2021 Bargaining Committee Member

2018-2021 Department Steward

Languages

Russian (advanced)

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association
Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies