Valeriya Mechkova

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EDUCATION

University of Gothenburg, Sweden
PhD in Political Science.
Field: Comparative Politics
Graduation year: 2022
Thesis topic: Understanding the Conditions and Consequences of Women's Political Representation.
Advisors: Ellen Lust, Lena Wängnerud, Carl Henrik Knutsen.

Harvard University, USA
Department of Government.
Exchange graduate student.
Autumn semester 2019-2020.

University of Gothenburg, Sweden
M.Sc., International Administration and Global Governance, 2014, Pass with distinction.
Thesis topic: The Inequality of Fraud. Exploring the Effect of Societal Inequality on Electoral Misconduct.

University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria
B.A., International Relations, 2012.

EMPLOYMENT

University of Gothenburg

Postdoctoral Researcher	April 2022 - April 2024
PhD Candidate	September 2016 - March 2022

V-Dem Institute   October 2014 – September 2016
Analyst and Data Operations Manager

Main responsibilities: overseeing the data collection processes, and quality control of the V-Dem dataset; participation in research projects and coordination of communication with partner organizations (such as World Bank, UNDP, International IDEA, European Commission).

Research Assistant   May 2013 – September 2014

Main responsibilities: data collection and writing of policy analyses.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Dahlum, Sirianne, Carl-Henrik Knutsen and Valeriya Mechkova, "Women's Political Empowerment and Economic Growth." *World Development 156.* 2022.
Previous version published as *V-Dem Working Paper* No. 46.

Mechkova, Valeriya, and Steven L. Wilson. "Norms and rage: Gender and social media in the 2018 US mid-term elections." *Electoral Studies* 69. 2021.
Previous version published as *DSP Working Paper* No. 2.

Mechkova, Valeriya, Carlitz, Ruth. Gendered Accountability: When and Why Do Women's Policy Priorities Get Implemented?. *European Political Science Review 13:1.* 2021.
Previous version published as V-Dem Working Paper, 88.

Lührmann, Anna, Kyle L. Marquardt, Valeriya Mechkova. "Constraining Governments: New Indices of Vertical, Horizontal and Diagonal Accountability", *American Political Science Review* 114:3. 2020
Previous version published as *V-Dem Working Paper* No. 46.

Wang, Yi-ting, Valeriya Mechkova, and Frida Andersson. "Does Democracy Enhance Health? New Empirical Evidence 1900–2012." *Political Research Quarterly 72:3.* 2018.

Lührmann, Anna, Mechkova, Valeriya, et al. State of the world 2017: autocratization and exclusion?. Democratization, 1-20. 2018.

Mechkova, Valeriya; Anna Luhrmann and Staffan I. Lindberg. "How much democratic backsliding?", *Journal of Democracy 28:4*, 2017.

Mechkova, Valeriya; Anna Luhrmann and Staffan I. Lindberg. "From De-Jure to De-Facto: Mapping Dimensions and Sequences of Accountability", Washington DC, The World Bank, *World Development Report* 2017.
Revised version is published in *Studies in Comparative International Development 54*, 2018.

Edgell, Amanda, Valeriya Mechkova, David Altman, Michael Bernhard and Staffan I. Lindberg. "When and Where do Elections Matter? A Global Test of the Democratization by Elections Hypothesis, 1900-2012", *Democratization 25:3*, 2017.

Work in Progress

Mechkova, Valeriya. "Women Leaders: Exploring the Effects of the Chief Executive Gender on Budget Composition in Comparative Perspective." GLD Working Paper N 46, 2021. Under review. Conference paper presented at General research seminar at UoG 2021, and GLD Work-in-progress series.

Dahlum, Sirianne, Constanza Petrarca and Valeriya Mechkova, Female Emowerment, Good Governance and Development. Revise and resubmit, Governance. Manuscript available upon request. Conference paper presented at V-Dem Work-in-progress series and USAID DRG Partners Forum 2020.

Gruneau, Moa Frödin and Valeriya Mechkova. Examining the Descriptive-Substantive Link of Women's Representation: Historical Evidence from Sweden. Manuscript available

upon request. Conference paper presented at CES, Lisbon, 2022, and ECPG, Ljubljana, 2022.

Mechkova, Valeriya and Amanda Edgell. Substantive Representation for Women in Authoritarian Regimes: Myth or Reality? Manuscript available upon request. Conference paper presented at Gender and Politics in the Middle East and North Africa, Varberg, 2022, and invited for submission for a special issue on Gender and Politics in Authoritarian countries in Comparative Politics Studies (due October 2022).

Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven L. Wilson. Measuring Online Political Activity: Introducing the Digital Society Project Dataset. Manuscript available upon request. Conference paper presented at ISA 2022.

Gruneau, Moa Frödin, Johannes Lindvall and Valeriya Mechkova. The Suffrage Movement and the Welfare State: Evidence from Inter-War Sweden. Ongoing data collection.

Lindvall, Johannes and Valeriya Mechkova. Public Services, Female-Dominated Occupations, and the Political Mobilization of Women. Ongoing data collection.

Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven L. Wilson. Candidate Campaign Strategies on Twitter: Comparative Study of Eleven Cases. Edited Volume Book Proposal. Ongoing work with contributors.

Carlitz, Ruth and Valeriya Mechkova. Women's Representation and Gender-Sensitive Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis. Manuscript available upon request. Conference paper presented at GLD Work-in-progress series 2021.

Commissioned Reports

Mechkova, Valeriya. Women's Participation and Influence as Pillar of Democracy. Varieties of Democracy Institute: V-Dem Briefing Papers Series, No. 7, 2020.

Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim and Steven Wilson. 2020. "Digital Society Project: Threat or Tool? Online Media in Authoritarian Regimes." USAID DRG Learning, Evaluation, And Research (DRG-LER) Activity Tasking N009.

Mechkova, Valeriya, Pemstein, D., Wilson, S. Seim, B. "Measuring Internet Politics: Introducing the Digital Society Project (DSP)." Digital Society Project Working Paper, 1. 2019. Commissioned from Facebook Inc.

Mechkova, Valeriya, Michael Bernhard, and Anna Lührmann. "Diagonal Accountability and Development Outcomes." 2019. Commissioned from Open Government Partnership.

Lührmann, Anna, Lisa Gastaldi, Sandra Grahn, Staffan I. Lindberg, Laura Maxwell, Valeriya Mechkova, Richard Morgan, Natalia Stepanova, and Shreeya Pillai. "Democracy facing global challenges: V-Dem annual democracy report 2019." *V-Dem Institute,* 2019.

Mechkova, Valeriya and Rachel Sigman. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem). Varieties of Democracy Institute: V-Dem Policy Brief, No. 5, 2018.

Lührmann, Anna, Sirianne Dahlum, Staffan I. Lindberg, Laura Maxwell, Valeriya Mechkova, Moa Olin, Shreeya Pillai, Constanza Sanhueza Petrarca, Rachel Sigman, Natalia Stepanova. V-Dem Annual Democracy Report 2018. Democracy Facing Global Challenges. V-Dem Institute. 2018.

Lührmann, Anna, Staffan I. Lindberg, Valeriya Mechkova, Moa Olin, Francesco Piccinelli Casagrande, Constanza Sanhueza Petrarca, Laura Saxer. "V-Dem Annual Report 2017. Democracy at Dusk?" V-Dem Institute. 2017.

V-Dem country reports on Ghana, Burma, Georgia, Saudi Arabia, among others.

USAID DRG Learning, Evaluation, And Research (DRG-LER) Activity Tasking N009. Country Portraits on Mozambique, Pakistan, Malawi, Zambia.

Datasets (Most Recent Release)

Coppedge, Michael, John Gerring, Carl Henrik Knutsen, Staffan I. Lindberg, Jan Teorell, Nazifa Alizada, David Altman, Michael Bernhard, Agnes Cornell, M. Steven Fish, Lisa Gastaldi, Haakon Gjerløw, Adam Glynn, Sandra Grahn, Allen Hicken, Garry Hindle, Nina Ilchenko, Katrin Kinzelbach, Joshua Krusell, Kyle L. Marquardt, Kelly McMann, Valeriya Mechkova, Juraj Medzihorsky, Pamela Paxton, Daniel Pemstein, Josefine Pernes, Oskar Rydén, Johannesvon Römer, Brigitte Seim, Rachel Sigman, Svend-Erik Skaaning, Jeffrey Staton, Aksel Sundström, Eitan Tzelgov, Yi-ting Wang, Tore Wig, Steven Wilson and Daniel Ziblatt. 2022. *V-Dem [Country–Year/Country–Date] Dataset v12*. Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project.

- Winner of APSA-CP's 2016 Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Dataset Award (for v6).

Mechkova, Valeriya, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven L. Wilson. Digital Society Project Dataset v4, 2022.

Bäuerle, Joscha, Manuela Blumenberg, Marius Sältzer, Sebastian Stier, Valeriya Mechkova, Daniel Pemstein, Brigitte Seim, and Steven Wilson. 2021. *Germany Candidate Dataset 2021*. GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, German Longitudinal Election Study, and Digital Society Project.

RESEARCH, POLICY AND TRAVEL GRANTS

CONSULTANCIES AND GRANTS

2021	Co-PI, USAID Senior Technical Partner via Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS) for Democratic Elections and Political Processes (DEPP) (with Democracy Arch: Staffan I. Lindberg, Brigitte Seim, and Josefine Pernes) ($415,724)
2021	Collaborator, Human Networks and Data Science Infrastructure Grant, National Science Foundation (PIs: Brigitte Seim, Daniel Pemstein and Steven L. Wilson) ($1,099,872)
2021	Co-PI, Twitter, Digital Society Project Global Candidate and Elections Data Compilation (with Brigitte Seim, Daniel Pemstein, and Steven L. Wilson) ($1,273,425)
2020	Co-PI, Facebook Inc. Digital Society Project Maintenance Grant (with Brigitte Seim, Daniel Pemstein, and Steven L. Wilson) ($335,500)

2019	Co-PI, USAID subcontract via NORC for DRG Measurement II (~$200,000) (with Democracy Arch: Staffan I. Lindberg, Brigitte Seim, and Josefine Pernes)
2018	Co-PI, Facebook Inc. Seed Grant for Digital Society Project (with Brigitte Seim, Daniel Pemstein, and Steven L. Wilson) ($599,894)
2018	Co-PI (with Brigitte Seim), USAID Sub-Contract for DRG Measurement I ($285,200)
2017	International IDEA, Country analysis for Ukraine.

TRAVEL GRANTS

2020	Travel and study grant. Swedish Network for European Studies (SNES). SEK 20,000 ($2,200)
2018	Travel and study grant; Adlerbertska stipendium. SEK 20,000 ($2,200)
2018	Travel and study grant; Vitterhetsakademiens stipendium. SEK 12,000 ($1,200)
2018	Travel grant. American Politican Science Association. ($250)
2017	Travel and study grant. Filosofiska fakultet Donationsnämndens stipendium. SEK 20,000 ($2,200)
2017	Travel and study grant to attend ICPSR Summer school. Swedish National Data Service. SEK 20,000 ($2,200)

FIELD EXPERIENCE AND TEACHING

Lecturer and Seminar-leader, "Demokrati och demokratisering", BA Course (2021, 2022).

Seminar-leader, "Research design and methods", Master Course, UoG, (2020).

Lecturer and seminar-leader, "Varieties of Democracy and Democratisation", Master Course, UoG, (2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022).

Advisor for Master and Bachelor Thesis of seven students. (2021, 2022).

Training workshops "How to Use the V-Dem Data?" – series of seminars for policy-practitioners for the World Bank (2018), International IDEA (2015, 2016), Community of Democracies (2017).

Organized and conducted a survey for approximately 1,500 public service employees in Ghana for the project "Civil Service Reform and Anti-Corruption", led by researchers in University of Nottingham and University College London; February 2017 with Dr. Rachel Sigman.

Organized and held "V-Dem Course on Statistical Methods for Democracy Research for Young Scholars, "in Alexandria, Egypt, 25th – 29th of October 2015, with Anna Lührmann.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting,	2019.
American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meetings,	2015, 2018, 2019, 2021.
Council for European Studies Annual Meeting,	2022.
European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG) Annual Meeting,	2019, 2022.
Mid-West Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting,	2017, 2018.
Governance and Local Development GLD Annual Meeting,	2017, 2018.
Varieties of Democracy Annual Meeting,	2015, 2016, 2017.

Workshop Presentations and Invited Talks:

2022   Invited talk. Bohuslän museum. Uddevalla.

2022   Gender and Politics Workshop, Uppsala University, Sweden.

2022   Gender and Politics Workshop, UoG, Sweden.

2021   Presenter, *USAID DRG Partners Forum,* representatives from USAID DRG and USAID partners, Washington DC, USA.

2019   Presenter, *USAID DRG Parners Forum,* representatives from USAID DRG and USAID partners, Washington DC, USA.

2019   Comparative Politics Seminar, Department of Government, Harvard University.

2019   General Seminar, Medical School's Program in Global Surgery and Social Change, Harvard University.

2019   General Research Seminar, University of Oslo, Norway.

2019   Gender and Politics Workshop, UoG, Sweden.

2018   Presenter, *USAID DRG Partners Forum,* representatives from USAID DRG and USAID partners, Washington DC, USA.

2018   Dimensions of Political Inequality Workshop, WZB, Berlin, Germany.

2018   Gender and Politics Workshop, UoG, Sweden.

2017	Democracy in Central and Easter Europe Workshop, CEU, Budapest, Hungary.
2016	The role of constitutional courts, electoral justice, democracy and participation Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary, Mexico.
2016	Development Research Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.
2015	Measuring SDG 16, UN-organized workshop, Vienna, Austria.
2015	Post-2015 Dialogue on Capacities and Institutions, UN-organized workshop, Chisinau, Moldova.

STATISTICAL TRAINING

Causal inference (Graduate-level course at Harvard University, with Prof. Kosuke Imai, 2019-2020)

Geographic data (Graduate-level short course at UoG with Dr. Erica Metheney, 2020)

Causal inference with observational data (University of Copenhagen, with Dr. Marc F. Bellemare, Short course, June 2018)

Pooled time-series cross-section data analysis (Essex Summer School August 2018, with Dr. Robert Walker.)

Field Experiments (with Dr. Alexander Coppock, Yale, Summer School, June 2017).

Time-Series Analysis and Regression III (ICPSR Summer School, June-July 2017; Scholarship Grant from Swedish National Data Service).

Course on Advanced Regression Techniques (Spring 2017, UoG). Topic covered: Multiple and Logistic Regression Analysis (Dr. Nicholas Charon); Panel Data Analysis (Prof. Stefan Dahlberg); and Causality and Instrumentation (Prof. Alpaslan Akay).

Training for International Electoral Observers – Training seminar for short- and long-term electoral observers, 18 – 23 April 2016, EIUC – European Inter-University Centre for Democratisation and Human Rights, Venice with trainers from OSCE/ODIHR, EU(EEAS), IFES.

Statistical computing and presentation with R and LaTeX (February 2016, at UoG with Dr. Kyle Marquardt);

Applied Bayesian statistics (February 2016, at UoG with Dr. Kyle Marquardt);

Panel data analysis (June 15-18, 2015, UoG, with Prof. Steven E. Finkel).

Data management and analysis using Stata (November 2014, Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels).

SKILLS

Software: Stata, R, LaTeX.
Languages: Bulgarian (native), English and Swedish (proficient), Russian (advanced).

OTHER SERVICES

Elected representative of the PhD students of political science in University of Gothenburg (Autumn 2017, Spring 2018)
Reviewer for APSR, AJPS, Democratization, Electoral studies, Political Research Quarterly, among others.