

# Colleen Wood

Columbia University, Department of Political Science

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## Education

### **Columbia University**

Ph.D. in Political Science

Expected 2022

*Major:* Comparative Politics, *Minor:* International Relations

*Dissertation:* “Strategies and Symbols of Civic Engagement in Central Asia”

*Committee:* Timothy Frye, Jack Snyder, Alex Cooley

M.A. in Political Science

2019

### **Georgetown University**

B.S.F.S. in International Affairs, *Magna Cum Laude*

2014

## Grants, Fellowships

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	(\$138,000)	2019-22
PepsiCo Fellowship for Research Travel (for fieldwork in Russia and Kazakhstan)	(\$2,000)	2020
PepsiCo Fellowship for Research Travel (for fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan)	(\$4,300)	2019
PepsiCo Fellowship for Research Travel (for fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan)	(\$3,000)	2018

## Research and Writing

### *Academic Articles*

“Keeping Receipts: Lessons from Kazakh Advocacy for Xinjiang for Contentious Mobilization in Autocracies.” (Under review at *Central Asian Affairs*)

“The Mobilizing Potential of Communication Networks in Central Asia Introduction to Special Issue.” (Under review at *Central Asian Affairs*)

“Learning to Listen: Reflections on Fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan.” Accepted in *Fielding Positionalities: Reflections from the Post-Soviet Space* (Under review at *Routledge*)

“Teaching the Hidden Curriculum in Political Science.” With Elena Barham (Under review at *Political Science*).

### *Working Papers*

“Potemkin Schools: Reassessing Theories of Education, Language, and Identity in Kyrgyzstan.” (Winner of 2019 Doctoral Student Paper Award from Association of the Study for Nationalities)

“On the Run: Prospective Candidate Behavior in Hybrid Authoritarian Regimes.” With Alexis Lerner.

“In the Eye of the Receiver: Analyzing Turkey's Foreign Policy Ambitions in Central Asia.” With Gözde Böcü.

### *Book reviews*

“Slow Anti-Americanism” by Edward Schatz. (Forthcoming in *Central Asian Affairs*).

“Blood Ties and the Native Son: Poetics of Patronage in Kyrgyzstan” by Aksana Ismailbekova. *Europe-Asia Studies* 75, 9 (2019).

### *Public Scholarship (Selected)*

“Akim Elections: More Cosmetic Reform in Kazakhstan?” [The Diplomat](#), August 2021.

“Human rights and civil liberties in Kazakhstan: A matter of efficiency?” [Foreign Policy Center](#), July 2021.

“Local Council Elections a Big Test for Kyrgyzstan’s 2019 Gender Quota Law,” [The Diplomat](#), April 2021.

“Election officials annulled Kyrgyzstan’s October election. Here’s why,” [Washington Post \(Monkey Cage\)](#), October 2020 (with Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili).

“Is This the Beginning of Kyrgyzstan’s Next Revolution?” [Foreign Policy](#), October 2020.

“In conservative Tajikistan, Gen Z activists are using Instagram to fight for feminism,” [Calvert Journal](#), September 2020 (with Ardasher Khashimov).

“Fed Up Kyrgyz Forge Ahead with Online Protests,” [The Diplomat](#), May 2020.

“Wave of creative protests threaten Kazakhstan’s elite ahead of elections,” [Waging Non-Violence](#), May 2019.

“Can Social Media Change Governance in Central Asia?” [The Diplomat](#), April 2019.

## **Teaching Experience**

### *Instructor of Record*

Summer 2020     Nationalism and Ethnic Politics (The City College of New York, online)

Fall 2020        Research Skills in Political Science (Baruch College, online)

*Teaching Assistant, Columbia University*

Fall 2018 Introduction to International Relations, Professor Bruce Cronin

Spring 2019 Nationalism and Contemporary World Politics, Professor Jack Snyder

### **Invited Talks**

2021 “Border Regimes in Central Asia,” Guest lecture at the Foreign Service Institute, September 1.  
(Scheduled)

“Digital Resources for Researching Central Asia” at the panel “CASPIANA: Digital Toolbox for Students and Scholars of Central Asia and South Caucasus,” Davis Center at Harvard University, May 20.

Chair for roundtable “Women’s Activism in Central Asia,” Eurasian, East and Central European Studies Women Academic Form, March 9.

Discussant for Edward Schatz’s book talk “Slow Anti-Americanism” at the [Harriman Institute, February 24](#).

Panelist for UMass Amherst Ethnography Collective’s panel “Graduate Research and Digital Ethnography,” February 17.

2020 “Domestic Institutions and Political Unrest in Kyrgyzstan” at the panel “Unrest in Kyrgyzstan: Popular Uprisings in the 21st Century,” Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies at Indiana University, November 13.

“Institutional Design in Official and Activist Narratives in Kyrgyzstan” at the round table “The power of conflicts and protests in Central Asia: comparative analysis,” CABAR.asia and Institute for War and Peace Reporting, November 5.

“The Importance of Human Rights for Peaceful Elections” at John Jay College, October 27.

“Ethnographic Methods,” guest lecture in Caress Schenk’s MA seminar “Research Methods in Political Science” at Nazarbayev University, October 10.

“Women’s Activism and Activism by Women” at [Roundtable on Gender Equality and LGBT Rights in Central Asia](#) at Chatham House, September 25.

[“Kyrgyzstan’s Slide to Autocracy”](#) at George Washington University, April 13.

“YouTube as a Tool of Transnational Advocacy,” at Columbia University Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar Series, February 5.

## **Presentations and Conferences**

- 2021 Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Meeting (upcoming).  
UMass Amherst New Directions in Law and Society Virtual Workshop (upcoming).  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (upcoming).  
Asian Politics Online Seminar Series (upcoming).  
International Studies Association Annual Meeting.  
Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual Meeting.
- 2020 International Studies Association Annual Meeting (cancelled due to COVID-19).  
Association for the Study of Nationalities (cancelled due to COVID-19).  
University of Toronto Comparative Politics Workshop.
- 2019 City University of New York Graduate Center Comparative Politics Workshop.  
Center for Eurasian Studies Society Annual Meeting.  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.  
Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual Meeting.  
Carnegie Postcommunist Politics Workshop.  
Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences Conference.  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

## **Professional Development**

- 2020 Bridging the Gap New Era Workshop  
*Washington, DC (Virtual, due to COVID-19)*
- 2019-21 Teaching Development Program  
*Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning*
- 2019 Institute for Qualitative and Mixed-Methods Research  
*Syracuse University*

## **Professional Service**

- 2020-21 Co-Organizer, 4-part workshop on “Unpacking the Hidden Curriculum”  
*Columbia University Department of Political Science*
- 2020 Organizer, 3-part workshop on “Fieldwork in Political Science”  
*Columbia University Department of Political Science*
- 2019-20 Lead Teaching Fellow  
*Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning*
- 2018-19 Member, Columbia University Political Science Graduate Student Council
- 2018 Chair, “Eurasia at the Crossroads” Conference  
*Harriman Institute at Columbia University*

## **Professional Experience**

<i>Consultant, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty</i> Spot Check for Kyrgyz-Language Services	Nov 2020
<i>External Reviewer, Freedom House</i> Reviewed Freedom in Transition Report for Kyrgyzstan	2020, 2021
<i>United States Peace Corps, Kyrgyzstan</i> Teacher Trainer and Secondary School Instructor	April 2015 - June 2017

## **Research Languages**

English (native)  
Russian, Kyrgyz (advanced speaking, reading, writing)  
Kazakh, Spanish (intermediate speaking, reading, writing)  
Persian, Turkish (basic speaking, reading)

Last updated: July 2021