

Valery Dzutsati, Ph.D.

✉ vdzutsati@augusta.edu
🌐 dzutsati.com
🐙 github.com/chermen
🔗 scholar.google.com

Department of Social Sciences
Augusta University
2500 Walton Way, Allgood Hall
Augusta, Georgia 30904

Academic Appointments

- 2025-present Assistant Professor
Department of Social Sciences, Augusta University
- 2023-2025 Assistant Professor of Practice
School of Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology, Southern Illinois University
- 2021-2023 Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science, University of Kansas
- 2020-2021 Visiting Postdoctoral Researcher
Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2019-2020 Postdoctoral Research Scholar
Center for the Study of Economic Liberty, Arizona State University

Education

- 2017 Ph.D., Political Science, Arizona State University, AZ
- 2009 M.P.P., Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- 2000 B.A., History, North Ossetian State University, Vladikavkaz, Russia

Books

- 2022 David S. Siroky, Valery Dzutsati & Lenka Bustikova. *Defection Denied: A Study of Civilian Support for Insurgency in Irregular War*. Cambridge Elements Series in Experimental Political Science. Cambridge University Press, [doi](#)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2024 Valery Dzutsati & Michael Wuthrich “Liberalism of religious Muslims in illiberal Muslim-majority and minority societies: evidence from Azerbaijan and Georgia” *Politics and Religion*, 17(4), 605–626 [doi](#)
- 2024 Valery Dzutsati & Dinara Rakhmatullayeva “Browsing and Believing: Divergent Effects of Internet Use on Government Trust in Central Asia” *Central Asian Survey*, [doi](#)
- 2024 Hannah Chapman, Margaret Hanson, Valery Dzutsati & Paul DeBell. “Under the Veil of Democracy: What Do People Mean When They Say They Support Democracy?” *Perspectives on Politics*, 22(1), 97–115, [doi](#), *The 2025 Heinz I. Eulau Award for Best Article in Perspective on Politics*
- 2023 Valery Dzutsati. “Explaining Diversionary Domestic Conflict: Inequality and Communitarianism in Russia” *Ethnopolitics*, 22(3), 290–314, [doi](#)
- 2022 Valery Dzutsati. “Secessionist Conflict as Diversion from Inequality: the Missing Link between Grievance and Repression” *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 39(6), 706–730, [doi](#)
- 2021 Valery Dzutsati. “Social alienation and cultural distance in the context of secession in the South

Caucasus” *Nations and Nationalism*, 27(4), 1127–1148

- 2021 Valery Dzutsati. “Geographies of Hybrid War: Rebellion and Foreign Intervention in Ukraine” *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 32(3), 441–468
- 2021 Valery Dzutsati & Carolyn M. Warner. “The Socio-Economic Matrix of Support for Sharia: a Cross-National Study of Muslims’ Attitudes” *Religion, State & Society*, 49(1), 4–22
- 2021 Valery Dzutsati. “Ethnicity or Religion?: A Theory of Identity Choice with Evidence from the Russian North Caucasus” *Nationalities Papers*, 46(1), 30–53
- 2016 Valery Dzutsati, David S. Siroky & Khasan Dzutsev. “The Political Economy of Support for Sharia: Evidence from the Russian North Caucasus,” *Politics and Religion*, 9(4), 695–719
- 2015 David S. Siroky & Valery Dzutsati. “The Empire Strikes Back: Ethnicity, Terrain and Indiscriminate Violence in Counterinsurgencies,” *Social Science Quarterly*, 96(3), 807–829
- 2013 David S. Siroky, Valeriy Dzutsev & Michael Hechter. “The Differential Demand for Indirect Rule: Evidence from the North Caucasus,” *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 29(3), 268–286
- 2013 Valeriy Dzutsev & Khasan Dzutsev. “Comparative analysis of public opinion and hostage attack victims’ attitudes: evidence from Beslan, September 2004,” *Caucasus Survey* 1(1), 27–42
- 2012 David S. Siroky & Valeriy Dzutsev. “Rational or Reckless? Georgia’s Zugzwang in the Caucasus,” *Nationalities Papers* 40(3), 303–314

Select Editor-Reviewed Articles

- 2018 Emil A. Souleimanov and Valery Dzutsati. “Russia’s Syria War: A Strategic Trap?” *Middle East Policy* XXV(2), 48–50
- 2018 Valery Dzutsati and Emil A. Souleimanov. “Schrecken ohne Ende Russland im Syrienkrieg” *Osteuropa* 10-12, 381–392

Published Working Papers

- 2018 Emilia M. Wysocka, Valery Dzutsati, Tirthankar Bandyopadhyay, Laura Condon, and Sahil Garg. “Building Models for Biopathway Dynamics Using Intrinsic Dimensionality Analysis,” [arXiv:1804.11005v3](https://arxiv.org/abs/1804.11005v3)
- 2015 Valery Dzutsati. “An Agent-Based Model of Corruption: A Micro Approach.” *CoMSES Computational Model Library*, comses.net

Works in Progress

- “The Discrete Charm of Annexation: Insights from Russia’s Relations with Abkhazia and South Ossetia” (*Journal of Borderland Studies*)
- “Liberal Values and Democratic Support: Individual Factors and American Influence” (*Acta Politica*)
- “Economic Liberalization and State Repression: The Role of Elite Dynamics and State Capacity” with Haeyong Lim (*Studies in Comparative International Development*)
- “Ethnic Identity, Language, and Support for Major Powers: A Study of Public Opinion in Central Asia” with Stephen Bloom, Oleg Golishnikov, and Odil Gafarov (*Ethnopolitics*)
- “Defining Democracy: The Origins of Democratic Conceptualization” with Hannah Chapman, Margaret Hanson, & Paul DeBell

“Inequality, Threat of Redistribution, and Interstate Conflict” *The 2025 David Hughes Memorial Award for Best Faculty Paper, Kentucky Political Science Association*

“Post-Imperial Nostalgia and Geopolitical Revanchism: Explaining the Support of the Military for Empire Restoration in Russia”

“Muslims’ Perceptions of Islamic Radicalism: Evidence from Central Asia”

Teaching

- 2025, Fall SECR 760I. Introduction to Statistical Analysis for Security Studies
 SECR 7107. Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
- 2025, Spring POLS 270. Introduction to International Relations
 POLS 372i. Politics of Global Economy
 POLS 569. Graduate Seminar on Ethnic Politics and Nationalism
- 2024, Fall POLS 270. Introduction to International Relations
 POLS 460. European Politics
 POLS 580. Graduate Seminar on Interstate War
- 2024, Spring POLS 372i. Politics of Global Economy
 POLS 416. Civil War
 POLS 475. International Law

Grants, Honors & Awards

- 2025 Heinz I. Eulau Award for Best Article, *Perspective on Politics*
- 2025 David Hughes Memorial Award for best faculty paper, Kentucky Political Science Association
- 2016 U.S. Department of State, Title VIII Fellowship
- 2016 American Political Science Association, Graduate Student Travel Stipend in Comparative Politics
- 2014 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Main Archive, Researcher in Residence
- 2014 Arizona State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Excellence Award
- 2014 Smith Richardson Foundation, World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship
- 2012 Jamestown Foundation, Washington, DC, Senior Non-Resident Fellow
- 2008 Human Rights Watch, Washington, DC, Hellman/Hammett Grant
- 2007 U.S. Department of State, College Park, MD, Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship

Invited Talks

- 2025 “Ethnic Identities, Language, and Major Powers: A Study of Public Opinion in Central Asia,” *University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS*
- 2025 “Threat of Redistribution and Conflict]Inequality, Threat of Redistribution, and Diversionary Interstate Conflict,” *Augusta University, Augusta, GA*
- 2022 “Political Science Theories and Russian Foreign Policy,” *Missouri State University, Springfield, MO*
- 2020 “After insurgency and separatism: recent developments in the Russian North Caucasus,” *Foreign Service Institute, Washington, DC*
- 2019 “Secession, expansion, hybrid war, and anomie,” *University of Kent, Canterbury*
- 2019 “Secession, expansion, hybrid war, and anomie,” *University of California, San Diego*

- 2019 “The Power of Alienation: Anomie and Cultural Distance during Secession in the South Caucasus,” *Postwar Voters: Violence, Loss, and Exile as Electoral Currencies*, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- 2018 “Does international mediation work to resolve conflict? Research design challenges,” *University of Oxford, Oxford*
- 2018 “Salafi-jihadism,” *Charles University, Prague*
- 2017 “The Russian-Georgian War of 2008,” *Charles University, Prague*
- 2014 “The Political Economy of Islam in a Muslim-Minority Country,” *Universite libre de Bruxelles, Brussels*
- 2014 “Russia and the North Caucasus After the Sochi Olympics,” *Jamestown Foundation, Washington, DC*
- 2012 “Who Are the Islamists and the Separatists in the North Caucasus?” *Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge*
- 2012 “The Circassian Factor in Preparations for the Sochi Olympics,” *Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC*
- 2007 “Forgotten, Not Frozen: A Roundtable on Violent Conflict in Chechnya and the North Caucasus,” *Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, Princeton*

Conference Presentations

- 2024 “Ethnic Identities, Language, and Major Powers: A Study of Public Opinion in Central Asia,” *The Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Conference, Chicago*
- 2024 “Divergent Effects of Internet Use on Government Trust and Political Participation in Central Asia,” *The Association for the Study of Nationalities, World Convention, New York*
- 2023 “Interstate Conflict as Diversion from Inequality,” *The American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting, Los Angeles*
- 2022 “Regime Guardians and the New Rich: The Patterns of Repression and Adaptation in Liberalizing Economies,” *The International Studies Association, Annual Meeting, online*
- 2020 “The Logic of Violent Action against Secession: Inequality, Redistribution, and Culture,” *The American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting, online*
- 2019 “Hybrid Warfare and Its Limits: Rebellion and Foreign Intervention in Ukraine,” *The American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting, Washington DC*
- 2018 “Why Do Civilians Support Insurgents? Evidence from Endorsement Experiments in Dagestan, Russia,” *European Political Science Association, Vienna, Austria*
- 2017 “Support for Territorial Integrity: Prosperity, Culture, and External Threat,” *The American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting, San Francisco CA*
- 2016 “Russians’ Love-Hate Relationship with Secession in the North Caucasus,” *The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Annual Convention, Washington DC*

Original Data Collection

- 2023 “Bilateral Treaties between Russia, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia”
- 2018 “Hybrid War in Ukraine” (crowdsourced geo-referenced data on the heavy military equipment losses)
- 2016 “Secessionist movements since the end of WWII”

- 2015 “Civilians and Insurgents: Evidence from Dagestan using Endorsement Experiments”, with Lenka Bustikova (co-P.I.) and David S. Siroky (co-P.I.)

Field Research

- 2016 Interviews and language training in Armenia, with the financial support of the U.S. State Department Title VIII Fellowship.
- 2014 Interviews, data collection, and archival work conducted in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Serbia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Croatia, and Slovenia, with the financial support of the World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship from the Smith Richardson Foundation.

Service

- books Review: “Organized crime, political transitions and state formation in post-Soviet Eurasia” by Alexander Kupatadze, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, *East European Politics*, 29(2), 255-256
- conferences Paper reviewer for the *Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing* annual conference
- journals Article reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *Caucasus Review*, *Central Asian Survey*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Connexe Les espaces postcommunistes en question(s)*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Ethnopolitics*, *Journal of Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Economic Interaction and Coordination*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Nationalities Papers*, *Political Studies*, *Politics & Religion*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Security Studies*

Additional Training

- 2016 Behavioral Models of Politics, University of Pittsburgh
- 2015 Complex Systems Summer School, Santa Fe Institute
- 2014-2016 Head Research Assistant, National Science Foundation, Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Sciences, Carolyn Warner P.I., Steven Neuberg, co-P.I. and David S. Siroky, co-P.I.
- 2014 Summer Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University
- 2012 Summer Workshop in Quantitative Methods, Social Science Research Council, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Other Work Experience

- 2017-2019 Journalist, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2011-2016 Research/Teaching Assistant, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 2009-2016 Contributing Writer, Jamestown Foundation, Washington, DC
- 2013-2015 Contributing Writer, Central Asian and Caucasus Analyst, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC
- 2002-2007 Country Director, Institute for War and Peace Reporting, Vladikavkaz, Russia
- 2005-2006 Monitoring Journalist, BBC Monitoring Service Caucasus Unit, Vladikavkaz, Russia
- 1999-2004 Coordinator for North Ossetia, Centre For Peacemaking And Community Development, Vladikavkaz, Russia

Professional Memberships

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

Skills

Languages: English (Fluent), Ossetian & Russian (Native), Armenian (Beginner), German (Beginner), Italian (Beginner)

Computational: GIS, $\text{\LaTeX}$, NetLogo, Python, $\mathcal{R}$, Stata, & Qualtrics

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<http://www.dzutsati.com>