

John C. Stanko

Mailing Address:
1320 E 10th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405

E-mail: jcstanko@johncstanko.com
Website: www.johncstanko.com
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9934-1459>

Education and qualifications

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

Ph.D. in Political Science (sub-fields: International Relations and Comparative Politics)
Ph.D. Minor in Social Science Research Methods
Graduated June 30, 2025; GPA 3.96

University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, USA

Master of Arts degree in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Graduated with Honors May 12, 2018; GPA 3.95

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA

Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science
Minor: Russian Language & Area Studies
Graduated *Summa cum laude* May 17, 2013; GPA 4.00

Salem Community College, Carneys Point, New Jersey, USA

Associate of Arts degree in History/Political Science
Graduated with Honors May 18, 2011; GPA 3.99

Peer-reviewed publications

Stanko, John C. 2025. "Dynamic Legitimation Theory and Populist Authoritarian Leaders: The Rhetorical Framing of International Status for Domestic Legitimacy." *Political Communication*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2025.2529939>.

Stanko, John C. 2024. "Role Theory, Non-Coercive Influence, and the Agency of Target States: The Case of Kazakhstan's Ambassadorial Corps and the Russian Diplomatic Academy". *Foreign Policy Analysis* 20(3). <https://doi.org/10.1093/fpa/orae017>.

Stanko, John C. 2022. "The Future of Sino-Russian Relations in the Russian Far East: A Stable but Not Impervious Equilibrium." *Global Studies Quarterly* 2(4). <https://doi.org/10.1093/isagsq/ksac050>.

Formal teaching, research, and writing experience

Instructor of Record for POLS-Y 363: Comparative Foreign Policy, May – June 2025

Indiana University Department of Political Science, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

- Lead an upper-level summer course introducing students to foreign policy analysis
- In charge of developing the syllabus and assignments for my own section
- Provide students with constructive feedback to improve their analytical and critical thinking skills

Curriculum Assistant, August 2024 – May 2025

Robert F. Byrnes Russian and East European Institute, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

- Assisted the Institute's faculty affiliates with securing skill competency designations for their courses
- Created proposals for new course and degree offerings on the Institute's behalf
- Promoted the scholarly life of the Institute, including creating an area studies writing group for SP25

Associate Instructor for POLS-Y100: Political Controversies, 3 semesters (2023-2024)

Indiana University Department of Political Science, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

- Held office hours and provided advice and mentoring for undergraduate students
- Collaborated with co-workers to grade papers and examinations
- Discussed ways to improve the course pedagogical approach with the instructor of record

Associate Instructor for POLS-Y321: The Media and Politics, January – May 2023

Indiana University Department of Political Science, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

- Facilitated discussion during class sessions and handled most communication with students
- Edited and posted Canvas modules and assignments, and graded completed student work

Coding Research Supervisor, May – August 2022

Indiana University Department of Sociology, Bloomington, Indiana, United States

- Divided tasks among coding assistants and ran weekly project team meetings
- Conducted inter-coder reliability testing to ensure adherence to standardized coding classifications
- Performed post-coding allocation and finalized data for inclusion in the project dataset

Course Grader for INTL-I204: Human Rights and International Law, October – December 2021

Indiana University Department of International Studies, Bloomington, Indiana, United States

- Objectively evaluated student work based on assignment rubrics
- Provided constructive feedback to help students improve as emerging scholars
- Communicated promptly with any students seeking clarification on grading procedures

English Teacher, September 2018 – May 2020

Samantha School of Foreign Languages, Moscow, Moscow Oblast', Russian Federation

- Designed and implemented lesson plans for Russian students learning English
- Maintained an engaging atmosphere to foster student attentiveness and participation
- Completed required paperwork, such as end-of-year progress reports

Graduate Research Assistant, June 2017 – May 2018

Institute for Policy and Social Research, Lawrence, Kansas, United States

- Applied Russian language skills to extract open-source online data
- Compared data with alternative sources to verify reliability, as needed
- Manually coded data, sorting and labeling information in Excel spreadsheets for project use

Editorial Assistant, August 2016 – June 2017

The Russian Review, Lawrence, Kansas, United States

- Independently maintained the book reviews section of the journal
- Communicated with scholars around the world to arrange reviews of new books
- Copy-edited and filed received reviews for inclusion in the journal
- Proofread each quarter's journal prior to publication

Other relevant employment

Slavic Collection Student Language Specialist, November 2023 – June 2025

Indiana University Libraries, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

- Process and check in Slavic-language periodicals in WorkFlows using knowledge of Russian
- Confirm accuracy of bibliographic information of received titles
- Communicate with a variety of overseas vendors to claim late or missing volumes/issues

Website Manager for Digital Fieldwork Project, September 2022 – May 2023

Social Science Research Commons, Bloomington, Indiana, United States

- Managed the website for an initiative aimed at enhancing knowledge of digital fieldwork methods
- Provided input on ways to improve the reach of the website
- Corresponded with potential contributors to solicit articles for the site

Professional development activities

Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory Fellow, August 2023 – April 2024

Institute for Digital Arts & Humanities, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

- Conducted work on a project with a significant digital methodologies component
- Enhanced my understanding of project and data management while strengthening my methodological skills
- Attended monthly meetings and presented at the HASTAC Annual Symposium

Participant at the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, June 2023

Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs, Syracuse, New York, USA

- Gained exposure to and expertise in qualitative and multi-method research
- Received hands-on training in CausalQueries and Quanteda packages in R
- Presented my dissertation research design and provided feedback on the work of other participants

Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia Fellow, June – August 2021

Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Monterey, California, USA (remote)

- One of an exclusive group of students selected to meet with experts and practitioners focusing on Russia
- Attended daily seminars to learn about and discuss contemporary debates in the field of Russian Studies

Harvard Negotiation Boot Camp Participant, July 2021

Harvard Negotiation Task Force, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA (remote)

- Learned and applied principles of negotiation to simulated high stakes negotiation settings
- Took on leadership positions within mock delegations, facilitating communication without sacrificing goals

Preparing Future Faculty Seminar, August 2021 – May 2022

Indiana University Department of Political Science, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

- Studied best practices for leading an engaging and informative postsecondary course
- Completed tasks related to content presentation, discussion facilitation, and syllabus development

Policy-focused work**“Motives for Studying Chinese and Russian in Irkutsk”**, June – August 2018

- Selected for a prestigious Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad program in Irkutsk, Russia
- Designed and distributed a survey on students’ motives for studying either Chinese (for Russian students) or Russian (for Chinese students) at Irkutsk State University
- Created a bilingual website for the project: <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/portraits-of-irkutsk/motives-for-studying>

“Democracy in Donetsk?: Findings of the Diplomacy Lab Project”, August – December 2016

- Served as a group leader for a United States Department of State Diplomacy Lab project
- Identified and acquired relevant sources and data for the project
- Wrote the section on post-1991 domestic political circumstances in Ukraine
- Proofread the final version of project, with all group submissions

Policy Advisory Project Member, May 2011 – January 2012 (remote)

- Contributed to a campaign advisory project for a political candidate in Florida, USA
- Collected data on educational issues in Florida, focusing on graduation rates and state funding
- Synthesized the information and proposed feasible policy approaches based on compiled data

Public-facing publications

Stanko, John C., and Spenser A. Warren. April 02, 2024. “Russian Threat Perception and Nuclear Strategy in its Plans for War with China.” War on the Rocks. <https://warontherocks.com/2024/04/russian-threat-perception-and-nuclear-strategy-in-its-plans-for-war-with-china/>.

Language proficiency

- English (Native)
- Russian (Advanced Mid Reading, Advanced Low Speaking/Listening)
- Chinese (Intermediate Mid Reading, Intermediate Low Speaking/Listening)
- Kazakh (Novice Mid Reading, Novice Low Speaking/Listening)
- Spanish (Novice Low Reading, Novice Low Speaking/Listening)

Research articles in progress

- “Degrees of Engagement: Foreign Policy Role Theory and the Internationalisation of Higher Education in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan” – Revising for resubmission to *Central Asian Survey*
- “Revisiting the Periodization of Post-Imperial Russia-Kazakhstan Relations since 1992” – Preparing manuscript for submission to *Problems of Post-Communism*

- “The Impact of Climate Change on Soft Power Capability: A Study of EU National Ice Hockey Teams” – Preparing manuscript for submission to the *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*

Selected scholarships and grants

- Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory Fellowship (\$500): Indiana University (IU) Institute for Digital Arts & Humanities (IDAH), 2023-24 academic year
- REEI/Mellon Summer Pre-dissertation Research Grant (\$2,000): IU Robert F. Byrnes Russian & East European Institute, Summer 2023
- Bentley Pre-dissertation Writing Fellowship (\$1,000): IU Department of Political Science, Winter 2022
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Award for Kazakh (Tuition remission + \$15,000 stipend): IU Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, 2021-22 academic year
- Russian Studies Workshop Fellow (Tuition remission + \$20,000 stipend): IU Russian Studies Workshop, 2020-21 academic year
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Award for Chinese (Tuition remission + \$1,200 stipend): IU Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Summer 2020
- U.S. Russia Experts Program (\$5,000): International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), Summer 2018
- Phi Kappa Phi Chapter Fellowship (\$1,200): Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 2016-17 academic year
- John H. Nelson Scholarship (\$5,000): KU Office of Graduate Studies, Fall 2016
- H.Y. Price Scholarship (\$3,500): Texas Tech University (TTU), 2012-13 academic year
- Presidential Transfer Scholarship (\$2,500/academic year): TTU, 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years

Lectures and conference presentations

Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities Spring Symposium, Bloomington, IN, USA, April 05, 2024
 “Degrees of Engagement: Foreign Policy Goals and the Internationalization of Education in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan” (poster and abstract available at <https://hdl.handle.net/2022/29691>)

Harvard University Davis Center Graduate Student Conference on Central Asia, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, April 22, 2023

"The Russian Diplomatic Academy as Soft Power Resource: The Case of Kazakhstan's Ambassadorial Corps"

Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA, April 14, 2023

"Comparative Advantage or Resource Trap: The Linkages between National Ice Hockey Teams and the Development of Domestic Human Capital"

ASEES Annual Convention, Chicago, Illinois, USA, November 12, 2022

"International Partnerships within Kazakhstan's Higher Education System: Internationalization or Globalization"

Wisconsin Russia Project Young Scholars Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, June 03, 2022

"Examining Russian Influence on Kazakhstan via International Higher Education Partnerships"

World Politics Research Seminar, Bloomington, Indiana, USA, March 25, 2022

"Kazakhstan's Ambassadorial Corps: Toward an Independent Foreign Policy or Stuck in the Russian Diplomatic Track?"

ISA/APSA IS-ISSS Conference, Bloomington, Indiana, USA, November 13, 2021

"Economic Capabilities and Alliance Institutionalization: A Reexamination of Alternate Markets and the Imposition of Economic Sanctions"

KU CREES Brown Bag Talk, Lawrence, Kansas, USA, May 01, 2018

"The Relevancy Gambit: A Vision for the Future Evolution of the Russia-China Relationship"

Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, March 23, 2018

"Neighbors or Rivals?: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Central Asian Hegemony"

Central Slavic Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, October 21, 2017

"A Twenty-First Century Albazin?: The Russian Far East and Russia-China Relations"