

# Roman-Gabriel Olar

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## Research Interests

Democratization, Authoritarianism, Historical Legacies, Conflict Processes, Human Rights, Maximum Likelihood, Spatial Econometrics.

## Employment

- 2021 – present Assistant Professor, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University, Ireland.  
2018 – 2021 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

## Education

- 2014 – 2018 PhD in Government, University of Essex (July 2018)  
2012 – 2013 MSc (with Distinction) International Public Policy, University College London.  
2008 – 2011 BA in European Administration, Babes-Bolyai University.

## Research

### *Peer Reviewed Publications*

10. 2026. Purges or reshuffles? Elite management strategies and autocratic survival (with Alex Baturo) - *Forthcoming at World Politics*.
9. 2025. Autocratic Revolving Doors: The Return of Authoritarian Elites to Democratic Cabinets - *First View at Perspectives on Politics*.
8. 2025. Democratization, autocratic elites and human rights treaty commitment - *Online First at Review of International Organizations*.
7. 2025. Winds of change: Democratic transitions and long-term democratic support (with Anja Neundorff) - *Democratization*, 32(1): 123-145..
6. 2024. Copy thy neighbour: Spatial interdependence in the democracy-repression nexus - *Journal of Human Rights*, 23(1): 19-37.
5. 2024. Democratization boost or bust? Voter turnout after democratic transitions - *Comparative Political Studies*, 57(10): 1735-1766.
4. 2023. Going, going, gone? Varieties of dissent and leader exit (with Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Marius Radean) - *Journal of Peace Research*, 60(5): 729-744.

3. 2020. How do inclusionary and exclusionary autocracies affect ordinary people? (with Anja Neundorf and Johannes Gerschewski). *Comparative Political Studies*, 53(12): 1890-1925.
2. 2019. Do they know something we don't? Diffusion of repression in authoritarian regimes. *Journal of Peace Research*, 56(5): 667-681.
1. 2019. Fait accompli, or live to fight another day? Deterring and surviving coups in authoritarian regimes, 1950-2007. *Research&Politics*, 6(1).

### *Under Review*

1. Authoritarian imprinting: The long-term impact of authoritarian education on democratic support (with Anja Neundorf, Natasha Ezrow, Johannes Gerschewski and Rosalind Shorrocks) - R&R.
2. The Mixed Legacy of Conflict Exposure on Individual Support for Democracy (with Manuel Vogt) - R&R.
3. Voting for Democracy? Candidates' Autocratic Background and Vote Share in Presidential Elections. - *Under Review*.

### *Work in Progress*

1. The Price We Paid: Democratic Transitions, Violence and the Resilience of Anti-Autocratic Attitudes (with Aurelian Plopeanu and Vlad Surdea-Hernea).
2. The Origin Story: Leaders' Political Socialization and Repression (with Manuel Vogt).
3. Economic Crises, Elite Management and Blame-Shifting in Autocracies (with Alex Baturo).

### *Media Writing & Non-Peer Reviewed*

6. 2024. Can democracy be saved by cancelling an election?. *The Journal Voice*, 15th December.
5. 2024. Romania's democracy is in real danger – and so is Eastern Europe's peace and stability. *The Journal Voice*, 6th December.
4. 2023. People love to vote in a new democracy – and then they rapidly lose interest. *The Conversation*, 20th December.
3. 2020. Militaries and COVID-19: Implications for Human Rights and Democracy (with Katariina Mustasilta). *Political Violence @ a Glance*, 19th May.
2. 2020. The (Non)Democratic Effects of COVID19. Which regimes will recover?. *Political Violence @ a Glance*, 16th April.
1. 2014. Peace and Power Sharing in Sudan. *Conflict Studies Quarterly*, 8, July, 17-25.

## Teaching Experience

- Lecturer**, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University, August 2021 - present.
- Data Analysis for Social Sciences (PhD, MPP and BA)
  - International Relations Theory (MA).
  - Political Ideologies (BA)
  - Introduction to Research Design and Methods (BA and MPP).
  - Applied Comparative Research (BA).

**Lecturer**, Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin, August 2018 - July 2021.

- International Politics (MSc).
- Human Rights (BA)
- Autocracy (BA).
- Democracy and Development (Corruption) (BA).

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Government, University of Essex, October 2015 – April 2018.

- Scientific Reasoning for Social Sciences.
- Comparative Political Analysis.
- Conflict and Cooperation.
- Introduction to OLS.
- Authoritarianism and Corruption.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Essex Summer School in Social Science Analysis, University of Essex, July 2015 - August 2018.

- Panel Data Analysis for Comparative Research (July 2018).
- Spatial Econometrics (August 2017).
- Survival Analysis and Event History Modelling (July 2017).
- Beyond OLS: Count and Duration Models (July 2016).
- Applying Regression (July 2015).

## Selected Funding Awards

Support Grant for ERC StG Application, Enterprise Ireland, 2023, \$15,000.

Visiting Research Fellowship, Carlo Alberto College, Turin, Italy, May-June 2023, \$4,500. (declined).

Research Mobility Fund, European Consortium of Innovative Universities, 2022, \$3,850.

Charlemont Grant, Royal Irish Academy, 2022, \$3,000.

"Novel Research in People Power, Peace Processes, and Democratization", United States Institute of Peace, 2020-2021, \$31,000.

Arts and Social Sciences Benefactions Fund, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 2019-2021, \$3,500.

Visiting Professorship Fund, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 2019, \$1,000.

University of Essex Doctoral Scholarship, 2014-2017, \$55,000.

Visiting Researcher Fellowship, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Oslo, Norway, May 2017, \$1,500.

International Studies Association conference travel grant, March 2016, \$400.

Peace and Conflict Research Workshop Grant, Uppsala University, Sweden, December 2015, \$4,500.

American Political Science Association conference travel grant, September 2015, \$400.

Olympia Summer Seminar participation scholarship, July 2012, \$800.

North American European Summer Academy scholarship, July 2010, \$1,200.

Student Excellence Scholarship, Faculty of European Studies, University of Babeş-Bolyai, 2008-2011, \$1,000.

## Research Visits and Stays

University of Oslo, Norway, April 2023.

University of Chicago, USA, October 2022.

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, June 2022.

Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Oslo, Norway, May 2017.

## Policy Consultancy Work

**December 2023 – June 2024.**    **Research Consultant**, National Democratic Institute, Washington, DC.

**August 2020 – April 2021.**    **Research Consultant**, United States Institute for Peace, Washington, DC.

**July – December 2020.**    **Research Consultant**, NORC at the University of Chicago,  
(for USAID's Democracy, Rights, and Governance (DRG) Center, Washington, DC).

## Invited Talks and Presentations

Annual Conference of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2025.

WhoGov Workshop, University of Oslo, August 2024.

Comparative Institutions and Regimes Workshop, University of Oslo, April 2023.

Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Chicago, October 2022.

Democracy, Elections and Citizens Research Group, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, June 2022.

"Securing the Victory" Workshop, Peace Research Institute Oslo, December 2021, 2022.

"Civil Resistance Transitions: Dialogue, Trust, and Democracy", United States Institute of Peace, April 2021.

Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Annual General Conference of the European Political Science Association, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2023.

Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2017, 2021, 2023.

Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, 2016, 2021, 2023, 2024.

"Inequality in Autocracies" Workshop, University of Konstanz, Germany, December 2019.

"Covid-19 and Challenges to Democracy", Trinity Research in Social Sciences Webinar, June 2020.

"East-West Relations, 30 years on from the Cold War", Trinity Research in Social Sciences, Dublin, Ireland, November 2019.

International Relations Workshop, Stanford University, United States of America, October 2019.

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2015, 2017, 2019.

"Civil Resistance and Democratization" Workshop, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway, November 2018.

Nuffield Annual Graduate Conference, University of Oxford, June 2017, Oxford, United Kingdom.

“Institutions and Conflict” Workshop, June 2016, University of Genoa, Italy.

Uppsala-Essex Conflict Research Workshop, December 2015, Uppsala University, Sweden.

PhD Colloquium of the Research School of Peace and Conflict, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), April 2015, Oslo, Norway.

Conflict Consortium Virtual Workshop, February 2013.

## Research Methods Training

Generalized Linear Models, Essex Summer School in Social Science Analysis, July 2017.

Spatial Econometrics, Essex Summer School in Social Science Analysis, August 2016.

Data Analysis with R, Essex Summer School in Social Science Analysis, July 2016.

Geographic Information Systems for Political Analysis, University of Essex, May 2016.

Maximum Likelihood Models, Essex Summer School in Social Science Analysis, August 2015.

Panel Data Analysis for Comparative Research, Essex Summer School in Social Science Analysis, July/August 2015.

Advanced Research Methods, University of Essex, 2014-2015.

Stata and Mathematics Boot Camp (STAMP), University of Essex, October 2014.

## Administrative and Project Experience

Host and co-organizer of the 2024 Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference, Dublin City University, June 2024.

Co-convener of Brownbag Research Seminar, Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin, September 2019 – July 2021.

Organizer of Friday Research Seminar, Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin, August 2018 – July 2021.

Field research, focus group coordination and data collection in Uganda, January 2018.

Research Assistant “Legacy of Authoritarian Regimes”, Economic and Social Research Council grant (PI: Anja Neundorf), University of Nottingham, May 2016 – August 2017.

Research Fellow “Conflict, Strategies, and Violence”, European Research Council grant (PI: Kristian Skrede Gleditsch), University of Essex, July 2015 – March 2016.

Organizer of the Uppsala-Essex Conflict Research Workshop, December 2015, Uppsala University, Sweden.

## Professional Affiliations

Member of the American Political Science Association; European Political Science Association; Network of European Peace Scholars; International Studies Association; Mid-West Political Science Association, March 2015 - present.

Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, United Kingdom, August 2016 – present.

Fellow at the Michael Nicholson Centre for Conflict and Cooperation, University of Essex, May 2015 – present.

PhD Fellow of the Research School on Peace and Conflict, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), April 2015 – July 2018.