

Christine A. Sylvester

School of Government & Public Policy
University of Strathclyde

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APPOINTMENTS

Chancellor's Fellow & Lecturer (Assistant Professor)

School of Government & Public Policy, University of Strathclyde (September 2023-present)

Post-Doctoral Researcher

Norface funded EU-in-Action Project, University of Strathclyde (September 2020-September 2023)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, 2020

Binghamton University (SUNY), Fields Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, & International Relations

- Dissertation: "(Con)Textual Politics: Intra-Party Issue Raising, Issue Emphasis, and Issue Adoption"
- Committee: Robin Best (Chair), William Heller, and Ekrem Karakoc
- **SUNY Excellence in Teaching Award, 2020**
- **Online Teaching Certification**, BU Center for Learning and Teaching, 2016

M.A., Political Science, 2017

Binghamton University (SUNY)

University of Essex Summer School: Machine Learning, Introduction to Experiments (Nuffield College, Oxford), 2017

University of Mannheim EITM Summer Institute: Text-as-Data, Text Categorization and Classification, 2016

M.I.A., International Affairs, 2013

The Pennsylvania State University

- Thesis: "The Problems Posed by the Continuing Existence of Nuclear Weapons: A Possible Solution"
- Chair: Ambassador Richard Butler, AC
- Certificate: International Security Studies

B.A., Political Science, 2005

University of the Pacific, Dean's List

RESEARCH INTERESTS	Intra-Party Politics, Multi-lingual Text Analysis, Representation, Legislative Behavior, Coalition Formation, Electoral Competition, & Application of Language Models & Machine Learning
TEACHING INTERESTS	Party Politics, Political & Electoral Behaviour, Discrimination & Gender Politics, Political Representation, European Politics, Analyzing Politics in R, Political Text Analysis, Comparative Politics, & Research Methods
JOURNAL ARTICLES	<p>“Mr BERT Goes to Parliament: Classifying and Scaling Parliamentary Speech in Europe using Pre-trained Language Models”, with Benedikt Ebing, Fabian David Schmidt, Minh Duc Bui, Goran Glavaš, and Zachary Greene (first author, <i>under-review</i>)</p> <p>“Usurping the Leader: A Comparative Analysis of Party Leadership Changes”, with Julia Maynard (<i>under-review</i>)</p> <p>“Issue Emphasis and the slow process of Policy Formation in the context of UK Major Legislation”, (<i>under-review</i>)</p> <p>Aubree Calvin, Sara Moats, & Christine Sylvester. 2016. “Online Learning Track Summary”, <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i>, 49(3):578-79.</p> <p>Renée Van Vechten, Monti Datta, & Christine Sylvester. 2015. “Integrating Technology Track Summary”, <i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i>, 48(3):507-09.</p>
DATA SETS	<p>Sylvester, Christine; Greene, Zachary, 2023, “ParLEE plenary speeches V3 data set: Annotated full-text of 10 million sentence-level plenary speeches of six EU legislative chambers”, https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/IETNNB, Harvard Dataverse.</p> <p>Sylvester, Christine; Ershova, Anastasia; Khokhlova, Aleksandra; Yordanova, Nikoleta; Greene, Zachary, 2023, “ParLEE plenary speeches V2 data set: Annotated full-text of 15.1 million sentence-level plenary speeches of six EU legislative chambers”, https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/VOPK0E, Harvard Dataverse.</p> <p>Sylvester, Christine; Greene, Zachary; Ebing, Benedikt, 2022, “ParLEE plenary speeches data set: Annotated full-text of 21.6 million sentence-level plenary speeches of eight EU states”, https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ZY3RV7, Harvard Dataverse.</p>
WORKING PAPERS	“Screening Out Disagreement? Candidate Nomination Criteria and Preference Diversity in Parliamentary Debate”, with Zachary Greene

“Is it all Cheap Talk?: The effects of international climate agreements on domestic political debates”, with Patrick Bayer & Zachary Greene

“Building Castles Made of Sand? The Impact of Domestic Issue Dispersion on EP Party Unity”, with Anastasia Ershova, Aleksandra Khokhlova, Zachary Greene, and Nikoleta Yordanova

“Power of the Spoken Word: Targeted Representation by MEPs Language Choice”, with Anastasia Ershova

“What’s on the Agenda?: The Use of Parliamentary Questions on Intra-party Issue Raising”

“Expanded Representation: A Textual Analysis of Shifts in Parliamentary Discourse pre/post New Zealand’s Electoral System Change”, with Julia Maynard

“A Changing Agenda: The Impact of Leadership Shifts on Party Manifestos”, with Julia Maynard

“Are they really listening?: The Impact of Devolution on Politician Incentives for Representation”

**PAPERS
IN PROGRESS**

“Leveraging politicization? National governments’ success in defining Council position for legislative negotiations”, with Anastasia Ershova, Aleksandra Khokhlova, Zachary Greene, and Nikoleta Yordanova

“Sampling from Gold: Comparing sampling text vignettes with expert surveys to assess internal validity in a multilingual context”, with Zachary Greene

TALKS

American Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*Building Castles Made of Sand? The Impact of Domestic Issue Dispersion on EP Party Unity*”, 2023

European Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*Building Castles Made of Sand? The Impact of Domestic Issue Dispersion on EP Party Unity*”, 2023

PolMeth Europe Conference, “*Is it all cheap talk? The effects of international climate agreements on domestic political debates*”, 2023

Strengthening Democracy Ahead of the 2024 EP Elections, “*Great Divides?: Elections in Times of Fragmentation and Polarization*”, hosted by Norface Governance, 2023

COMPTTEXT 5th Annual Conference, “*Building Castles Made of Sand? The Impact of Domestic Issue Dispersion on EP Party Unity*”, 2023

Political Studies Association of Ireland Annual Conference, “*Mr BERT Goes to Parliament: Classifying and Scaling Parliamentary Speech in Europe using Pre-trained Language Models*”, 2022

American Political Science Association Conference, “*Mr BERT Goes to Parliament: Classifying and Scaling Parliamentary Speech in Europe using Pre-trained Language Models*”, 2022

Elections, Public Opinion and Parties Conference, “*Building Castles Made of Sand? The Impact of Domestic Issue Dispersion on EP Party Unity*”, 2022

European Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*Building Castles Made of Sand? The Impact of Domestic Issue Dispersion on EP Party Unity*”, 2022

Synergy '22, “*Policy responsiveness in national and European Union parliaments: analysing partisan preferences in multilevel settings from political speech*”, Hosted by the Dutch Research Council, 2022

COMPTExT 4th Annual Conference, “*Mr BERT Goes to Parliament: Classifying and Scaling Parliamentary Speech in Europe using Pre-trained Language Models*”, 2022

Standing Group on the European Union of the European Consortium for Political Research Bi-Annual Conference, “*Building Castles Made of Sand? The Impact of Domestic Issue Dispersion on EP Party Unity*”, 2022

Political Studies Association of Ireland Annual Conference “*Screening Out Disagreement? Candidate Nomination Criteria and Preference Diversity in Parliamentary Debate*”, 2021

American Political Science Association Conference, “*Screening Out Disagreement? Candidate Nomination Criteria and Preference Diversity in Parliamentary Debate*”, 2021

European Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*Usurping the Leader: A Comparative Analysis of Party Leadership Changes*”, 2021

American Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*Expanded Representation: A Textual Analysis of Shifts in Parliamentary Discourse pre/post New Zealand’s Electoral System Change*”, 2020

Coordinated Panel for American Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*Intra-Party Agenda Setting in Advanced Industrialized Democracies*”, 2020

European Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*A Changing Agenda: The Impact of Leadership Shifts on Party Manifestos*”, 2019

European Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*At a Glacial Pace: Policy formation in U.K. Major Legislation*”, 2019

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*The Shifting Agenda: Leadership Change and Issue Emphasis in Party Manifestos*”, 2019

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*Issue initiation and policy formation in a U.K. Major Legislation case*”, 2019

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, “*Where do new political issues come from: A process of intra-party agenda setting*”, 2018

Center for Global Studies, the Pennsylvania State University, “*Nuclear Disarmament: Creating a Nuclear Weapons Free Middle East*”, 2012.

**RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant to Dr. Michael Weintraub, Binghamton University, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016. (Conducted historical research, data collection and preparation for projects related to civil wars, violent crimes, military engagement, and experimental design, along with archival setup to facilitate optical character reading of primary source material, and the application of instruments)

Research Assistant to Dr. Amanda Licht, Binghamton University, Summer 2015. (Conducted content analysis on newspaper articles using LexisNexis of sanctioning to ascertain the impact of sanctioning and threat of sanctions has on leader survival)

Research Assistant to Amb. Richard Butler, the Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2012, Summer 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013. (Conducted research on the connection between diplomacy and nuclear security for an upcoming publication. Reviewed and provided manuscript comments on behalf of the Ambassador. Assisted in the development of a course on the practice of diplomacy)

Research Assistant to Amb. Dennis Jett, the Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2012. (Conducted content analysis of U.S. State Department Office of Inspector General Embassy Evaluations to create a novel dataset measuring Embassy efficiency to analyze the connection between financial contributions and the appointment of U.S. Ambassadors)

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE**

Instructor of Record

- *Discrimination & Politics*, Spring 2020
- *International Human Rights*, Spring 2020
- *Global Challenges: Introduction to Comparative & International Politics*, Fall 2019 & Spring 2020
- *Intro. to Comparative Politics*, Fall 2019

- *Civil Wars & Consequences*, Fall 2019
- *Nuclear Arms Control & Non-proliferation*, Winter 2019
- *Politics of Parliaments*, Spring 2018
- *Political Representation in Established and Emerging Democracies*, Spring 2017

Teaching Assistant

- *Introduction to World Politics*, Fall 2014, Fall 2016
- *Mentor Seminar*, Fall 2002, Spring 2003

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, Harpur College Dean's Office, 2018. (Conducted data collection and analysis of college wide faculty service to assess what if any gender or racial bias existed in University, College, Department and Community committee assignments. Responsible for review and data analysis of undergraduate student course fees based on State guidelines to ensure appropriate collection and use of student fees across years. Gathered individual data and developed approach for graphically displaying global impact of faculty research. Developed quantifiable measures for assessing university long-range plan to boost inter-disciplinary collaboration)

Articles Editor, Penn State Journal of Law and International Affairs, 2012-2013. (Responsible for reviewing and editing submissions of both articles and essays for publication. Supervised the work of multiple Associate Editors. Conducted above and below the line edits, full source checking, and Bluebook citation for numerous articles that went on to be published in the Journal. Served as the conference organizer for a Symposium to Consider Potential Outcomes of U.S.-Iran Relations)

U.S. Peace Corps Community & Organizational Development Volunteer, Republic of Moldova, 2009-2011.

Researcher, U.K. House of Commons, London, 2004.

Researcher, European Parliament, Brussels, 2004.

Congressional Intern, Office of the Honorable Congressman Brian Baird, Vancouver, WA, 2002.

METHODS TRAINING

Binghamton University: Research Methods and Statistics I and II, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Introduction to Formal Theory, STATA, R, & LaTeX

The Pennsylvania State University: Multi-Sector Quantitative Analysis, International Economics: Principles, Policies, & Practices

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS Junior Scholar Grant for American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2022.

Junior Scholar Grant for American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2021.

Binghamton University Graduate School Research Grant 2019.

Graduate Student Employees Union Professional Development Award 2019.

Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant Recipient 2019.

Travel Grant for European Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2019.

Travel Grant for Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2019.

Dissertation Fellowship, Binghamton University. Fall 2017 & Spring 2019.

Binghamton University Provost Research Fellowship. Summers 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.

Graduate Student Employees Union Professional Development Award 2018.

Binghamton University fellowship for graduate study. (2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, & 2018-2019).

Travel Grant for Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2018.

Travel Grant for Essex Summer Institute, Colchester, U.K. Summer 2017.

Travel Grant for Nuffield College Experimental Design Course, Oxford, U.K. Summer 2017.

Graduate Student Employees Union Professional Development Award 2016.

Travel Grant for the Empirical Implication of Theoretical Models Summer Institute, Mannheim, Germany. Summer 2016.

Travel Grant for the American Political Science Association Teaching & Learning Conference 2016.

Travel Grant for the American Political Science Association Teaching & Learning Conference 2015.

Asian Studies Fellowship, University of the Pacific, Summer 2002.

SOFTWARE & LANGUAGE TRAINING **Data Analysis & Presentation:** experienced with STATA, R, and LaTeX

Russian: studied to an intermediate speaking level with the U.S. Peace Corps while living and working for 2 years in the Republic of Moldova

SERVICE

University of Strathclyde:

- Conference Co-Host (*with Zac Greene*), COMPTXT 2023, University of Strathclyde
- Guest Lecturer, at University of Strathclyde’s Party Politics seminar (Nov 17, 2022) “Effect of Electoral Institutions on Political Representation”
- Invited Speaker, at University of Strathclyde’s Elections, Parties and Public Opinion seminar (Nov 14, 2022) “Party Politics and Policy Responsiveness of the EU”.
- Invited Speaker, “Approaching an academic career after the PhD”, 2022.

Binghamton University:

- Financial Consultant, Binghamton University Graduate Student Organization, 2019.
- Treasurer, Binghamton University Graduate Student Organization, 2016-2017, 2017-2018.
- Graduate Representative, Binghamton University Faculty Senate Budget Review Committee, 2016-2017, 2017-2018.
- Graduate Representative, Binghamton University Academic Honesty Committee, 2016-2018.
- Graduate Representative, Binghamton University Graduate Council, 2017-2018.
- Graduate Representative, Binghamton University Graduate Council Academic Standards Sub-committee, 2017-2018.
- Graduate Representative, Binghamton University Foundation Fellowship Review Board, 2017-2018.
- Committee Chair, Binghamton University Graduate Student Organization Budget Committee, 2016-2017, 2017-2018.
- Graduate Student Senator, Binghamton University Graduate Student Organization, 2015.
- Treasurer, Binghamton University Political Science Department Graduate Student Organization, 2015.
- Member, Binghamton University International Relations Workshop, 2014-Present.
- Member, Binghamton University Comparative Politics Workshop, 2014-Present.
- Member, Midwest Political Science Association, 2018-Present.
- Member, American Political Science Association, 2014-Present.

The Pennsylvania State University:

- Officer Manager, Graduate Student Association, 2013.
- Graduate Student Senator, Graduate Student Association, 2012-2013.

- Publicity & Media Outreach Chair, Graduate Student Association, 2012-2013.
- Event Planning Co-Chair, Graduate Student Association, 2012-2103.
- Articles Editor, Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs, 2012-2013.
- World on Trial Jury Foreman, 2013.
- Graduate Exhibition Judge, the Pennsylvania State University Graduate School Graduate Research Exhibition, 2013.
- Conference Organizer, Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs, “Symposium to Consider Potential Outcomes of U.S.-Iran Relationship”, February 15, 2013.
- Team Lead, Army War College, Nagorno-Karabakh border dispute resolution simulation, 2012.
- U.S. Peace Corps Recruitment, the Pennsylvania State University, 2011-2013.