

Henry Thomson

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Employment

Associate Professor, **Arizona State University**, School of Politics and Global Studies, 2022–present

Fellow, Center for Constitutional Design, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, 2022–23

Faculty Affiliate: Center for the Study of Economic Liberty; Center on the Future of War; Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies

Co-host, Keeping it Civil Podcast, Arizona PBS and School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership.

Assistant Professor, **Arizona State University**, School of Politics and Global Studies, 2017–2022

Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow, **University of Oxford**, Nuffield College, 2014–2017

Visiting and Part-Time Positions

Visiting Fellow, Program on Pluralism and Civil Exchange, Mercatus Center, **George Mason University**, Arlington, VA, Summer 2021–present

Visiting Fellow, School of Politics and International Relations, **Australian National University**, Canberra, Summer 2018

Visiting Researcher, **German Institute for Global and Area Studies**, Berlin, Summer 2017

College Lecturer, **University of Oxford**, Worcester College, 2015–2017

Education

Ph.D. (2014), Political Science, **University of Minnesota**, Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

M.S. (2013), Applied Economics, **University of Minnesota**, Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

M.A. (2007), International Relations, **Freie Universität Berlin**

B.A. (Hons.) (2004), Political Science & German, **Victoria University of Wellington**

Research Interests

Comparative Politics: Authoritarian politics; Coercive institutions and repression; Democratization; Mobilization and social disorder.

International Relations: Civil conflict and political instability; Trade and agricultural policy; Economic globalization.

Political Economy: Comparative and international political economy; Policymaking under authoritarian regimes; Economic nationalism; Institutions and economic development.

Publications

Book

2019. *Food and Power: Regime Type, Agricultural Policy and Political Stability*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Reviews:

John K. Yasuda in *Critical Dialogue, Perspectives on Politics* 18(2): 568–569.

Brian Palmer-Rubin in *Governance* 33(3): 720–722

Richard M. Fulton, *CHOICE Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* 57(4): 477

Media coverage: Interviewed on book by “The Food Chain”, *BBC World Service*, May 2018.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- (11) “Urban Social Disorder 3.0: A Global, City-Level Event Dataset of Political Mobilization and Disorder” (with Karim Bahgat, Halvard Buhaug, Henrik Urdal). *Journal of Peace Research*, forthcoming.
Dataset available at <https://www.prio.org/Data/Armed-Conflict/Urban-Social-Disorder/>.
- (10) 2022. “Authoritarian Repression and Electoral Opposition: Mobilization Under Germany’s Antisocialist Law.” *Comparative Politics* 54(4), 621–43.
- (9) 2021. “Lord, Peasant... and Tractor? Agricultural Mechanization, Moore’s Thesis, and the Emergence of Democracy” (with David Samuels). *Perspectives on Politics*. 19(3): 739–753.
Included in special issue on Comparative Historical Analysis edited by Michael Bernhard and Daniel O’Neil.
- (8) 2021. “Agricultural Mechanization, Moore’s Thesis and Rural Elites’ Attitudes Towards Democracy in Asia” (with David Samuels). *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*. 17(1): 1–20.
- (7) 2021. “Group Organization, Elections and Urban Social Disorder in the Developing World” (with Henrik Urdal, Halvard Buhaug, Elisabeth Rosvold). *Democratization* 28 (8): 1525–1534.
- (6) 2019. “Conflict Termination, Signals of State Weakness and Violent Urban Social Disorder in the Developing World”. *Third World Thematics* 4(2-3): 94–113.
Lead article in special issue on the Spatiality of Violence in Postwar Cities, Vulnerable Cities Project.
Also published in Emma Elfversson, Ivan Gusic and Kristine Höglund (Eds). 2020. *The Spatiality of Violence in Postwar Cities*. Routledge.
- (5) 2018. “Grievances, Mobilization and Mass Opposition to Authoritarian Regimes: A Subnational Analysis of East Germany’s 1953 Abbreviated Revolution.” *Comparative Political Studies* 51(12): 1594–1627.
- (4) 2017. “Food and Power: Agricultural Policy under Democracy and Dictatorship.” *Comparative Politics* 49(2): 273–293.
- (3) 2017. “Repression, Redistribution and the Problem of Authoritarian Control: Responses to the 17 June Uprising in Socialist East Germany.” *East European Politics and Societies* 31(1): 68–92.
- (2) 2016. “Rural Grievances, Landholding Inequality, and Civil Conflict.” *International Studies Quarterly* 60(3): 511–519.
Winner, best paper in International Relations, Midwest Political Science Association, 2016.
- (1) 2015. “Landholding Inequality, Political Strategy, and Authoritarian Repression: Structure and Agency in Bismarck’s ‘Second Founding’ of the German Empire.” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 50(1): 73–97.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- (3) 2022. "Globalization's Nationalist Future: Migration, Citizenship and the Pandemic." Trevor M. Shelley and Carol McNamara (Eds.), *Citizenship and Civic Leadership in America*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Press, forthcoming.
- (2) 2020. "The Authoritarian Governor's Dilemma: Controlling the Secret Police in Socialist Poland and East Germany." Kenneth W. Abbott, Philipp Genschel, Duncan Snidal and Bernhard Zangl (Eds.), *The Governor's Dilemma: Indirect Governance Beyond Principals and Agents*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- (1) 2013. "Universal, Unequal Suffrage: Authoritarian Vote-Seat Malapportionment in the 1907 Austrian Electoral Reform." Marija Wakounig and Markus P. Beham (Eds.), *Transgressing Boundaries: Humanities in Flux*. Vienna: LIT Verlag.

Reviews, Commentary and Other Scholarly Publications

2022. "The GOP's Embrace of Economic Nationalism." With Michael Hechter. In *Persuasion*, July 22.
2022. "The Rising Influence of Economic Nationalism." With Michael Hechter. In *Discourse*, May 6.
2022. "The Rise of Economic Nationalism Ushers in an Era of Uncertainty." With Michael Hechter. In *Discourse*, February 2.
2020. Review of John K. Yasuda, *On Feeding the Masses: An Anatomy of Regulatory Failure in China*. In *Perspectives on Politics* 18(2): 568–569.
2018. "Coercive Institutions and Repression Under Authoritarian Regimes: Potential Insights from Archives in Central and Eastern Europe." In *Comparative Politics Newsletter* 28(1): 79–86.

Ongoing Research

Books

- Watching the Watchers: Controlling the Secret Police and Maintaining Authoritarian Social Order in Socialist Central and Eastern Europe*. Under contract, Cambridge University Press.
- Back to the Nation: Navigating the Post-Pandemic Order* (with Michael Hechter).

Working Papers

- "The Bureaucratic Politics of Authoritarian Repression: Intra-Agency Reform and Surveillance Capacity in Communist Poland." Under review.
- "Uncertainty, Pre-Election Polling and Electoral Mobilization Under Authoritarian Regimes" (with Svitlana Chernykh (Australian National University)). Under review.
- "Does Trade Decrease Protest?" (with Haeyong Lim (Jeju Peace Institute)).

Awards & Scholarships

2022. Fellowship, Center for Constitutional Design, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University.
2022. Travel Grant, Hayek Fund for Scholars, Institute for Humane Studies.
2021. Visiting Fellowship, Program on Pluralism and Civil Exchange, Mercatus Center, George Mason University
2020. Michael Mitchell Outstanding Teaching Award, School of Politics and Global Studies, Arizona State University
2019. Travel Grant, Institute for Humane Studies
2018. Visiting Fellowship, School of Politics and International Relations, Australian National University
2017. Summer Fellowship, German Academic Exchange Service and German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Berlin
2016. Best Paper in International Relations, Midwest Political Science Association
2015. Juan Linz Prize for Best Dissertation in the Study of Democracy, American Political Science Association
2014. Travel Grant, Austrian Ministry of Science, Research and Economy
- 2013–2014. Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Minnesota
2013. Asher N. Christenson Memorial Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota
2013. David and Janis Larson Graduate Research Fellowship in Political Economy, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota
- 2012–2013. Graduate Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service and Freie Universität Berlin
2012. Summer Fellowship, Center for Austrian Studies, University of Minnesota
2011. Graduate Research Partnership Grant, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- 2009–2010. David and Janis Larson Fellowship in Political Economy, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota
- 2005–2007. Graduate Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service and Freie Universität Berlin
- 2004–2005. Semester Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service and Eberhart-Karls Universität Tübingen
2004. Eichelbaum Prize, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington
2004. Graduate Award, Victoria University of Wellington

External Funding

Awarded

2022. Stipend, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University. Teaching Civil Discourse in the College Classroom Summer Seminar. \$5,000.
2022. Research Fellowship, Center for Constitutional Design, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University. \$5,000.
2022. Research Grant, Mercatus Center, George Mason University, Program on Pluralism & Civil Exchange, "The New Economic Nationalism." \$38,000.
2021. Visiting Fellowship, Mercatus Center, George Mason University. \$7,000.
2021. Project Grant, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Washington DC, "Campus Weeks 2021 – Time to Act." \$5,000. With Volker Benkert, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and Christiane Reves, School of International Letters and Cultures.
2020. Project Grant, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Washington DC, "Campus Weeks 2020 – Building Tomorrow." \$4,600. With Volker Benkert, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies.
2019. Research Grant, Charles Koch Foundation, "Watching the Watchers: Controlling the Secret Police and Maintaining Authoritarian Rule in Socialist Central and Eastern Europe." \$69,981.
2019. Research Grant, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Peace Research Institute Oslo, "Global Conflict Trends." \$7,445.
2018. Visiting Fellowship, School of Politics & International Relations, Australian National University, Canberra.

Teaching

Awards

2020. Michael Mitchell Outstanding Teaching Award, School of Politics and Global Studies, Arizona State University
2019. *Nominated for* Zebulon Pearce Distinguished Teaching Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Arizona State University. Nominated by students (not awarded)

Instructor

- POS 351: Democratization, Arizona State University
- POS 485: Political Economy, Arizona State University
- POS 486. International Political Economy, Arizona State University
- Politics, Philosophy and Economics (International Relations), Worcester College, University of Oxford
- POS 503: Empirical Political Inquiry (Graduate), Arizona State University
- POS 586: International Political Economy (Graduate), Arizona State University

Graduate Advising

2017–present. PhD Committee Member, Political Science, Arizona State University

Chen Jiang

Will Rector

Ricardo Romero

Jonathan Turner

Weining Ai

Angguntari Ceria Sari, *Graduated Summer 2022*. Lecturer, Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung, Indonesia.

Fanying Kong, *Graduated Spring 2021*. Assistant Professor, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, China.

Alicia Ellis, *Graduated Spring 2019*. Lecturer, School of Politics and Global Studies, Arizona State University.

2020–present. MA Thesis Chair, Political Science, Arizona State University

Kelly Nguyen-Morris, *Graduated Fall 2021*. Winner, ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Graduate Award, Social Sciences Division, Fall 2021.

2020–21. MA Thesis Committee Member, Political Science, Arizona State University

Camila Paez Bernal, *Graduated Spring 2021*. Winner, ASU Institute for Social Science Proposed Research Poster Contest, Fall 2020; Honorable Mention, Completed Research Category, Fall 2021.

Undergraduate Advising

Honors Theses, Political Science, Arizona State University

2022–2023. Justin Schwager (Adviser)

2021–2022. Jonah McCoy (Third Reader), Zachary Radu (Second Reader)

2020–2021. Erin Granillo-Walker & Livingstone Gomez (Second Reader)

2019–2020. Miria Mitina (Adviser)

2018–2019. Sydnee Hertle, Daniel Loonam (Adviser), Austin Fairbanks (Second Reader)

2017–2018. Natalie Hochhaus, Jaylia Yan (Adviser)

Honors Theses, Political Science, Worcester College, University of Oxford

2015–2016. Clare Butler

Junior Fellows, Political Science, Arizona State University

2021–2022. Elise Ashby, Luke Macomber

2019–2020. Sarah Cichomski

2018–2019. Sydnee Hertle, Ryan Lipparelli, Quinton Macdonald, Rachel Fletcher

Honors Contract Advising, Political Science, Arizona State University

2020–2021. Jack Hochhaus, Sierra Porritt

2019–2020. Allison Sluga

2018–2019. Jake Damle, Austin Fairbanks, Joel Sand

Service

To the Discipline

2022. Co-Organizer, Autocratic Politics Mini-Conference, Western Political Science Association, Portland

2021. Annual Meeting Program Chair, Democracy and Autocracy Section, American Political Science Association
- 2019–2021. Faculty Discussant, Workshop on Historical Study of States and Regimes, Council for European Studies.
- 2016–present. Discussant, Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes
- 2021 Discussant, Asian Online Political Science Seminar Series
2020. Selection Committee Member, Mancur Olson Prize for Best Dissertation in Political Economy, American Political Science Association
2020. Co-Organizer, Autocratic Politics Mini-Conference, Western Political Science Association, Los Angeles
2018. Organizer, Panel on Politics of Authoritarian Regimes, American Political Science Organization, Boston
2017. Graduate Student Mentor, Midwest Political Science Association
2016. Selection Committee Chair, Juan Linz Prize for Best Dissertation in Democratization, American Political Science Association
- 2014–present, Reviewer, *American Political Science Review*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *World Politics*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Government and Opposition*, *Political Geography*, *European Journal of Political Economy*, *European Journal of International Relations*, *Political Studies*, *Business & Politics*, *Comparative Economic Studies*, *Regulation & Governance*, *Policy Sciences*, *Extractive Industries and Society*

To the School of Politics & Global Studies, Arizona State University

- 2022–23. Member, Advisory Committee
- 2019–present. Faculty Honors Advisor
- 2021–22. Member, Faculty Search Committee
For tenure-track position in Global Democracy and Social Justice.
- 2019–21. Member, International Relations Field Exam Committee
- 2018–20. Member, Advisory Committee
Junior faculty representative.
- 2019–20. Organizer, Warren Miller Colloquium
Arranged visit by Milan Svobik (canceled due to Covid-19).
- 2018–19. Member, Faculty Search Committee
For tenure-track position in Political Psychology.
- 2017–21. Member, Colloquium Committee
2018. Co-Organizer, New Perspectives on State-Building Workshop
- 2017–19. Organizer, School Workshop

Invited Presentations

2022. "The New Economic Nationalism." Liberalism e-Salon, Mercatus Center & Brookings Institution, Washington, DC.
2020. "Watching the Watchers: Elite Cohesion & Coercive Capacity in Socialist Central/Eastern Europe." Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of Minnesota.
2020. "Watching the Watchers: Elite Cohesion & Coercive Capacity in Socialist Central/Eastern Europe." Politics, Philosophy & Economics Workshop, Mercatus Center, George Mason University (Canceled due to Covid-19).
2020. "Watching the Watchers: Elite Cohesion & Coercive Capacity in Socialist Central/Eastern Europe." Center for the Study of Economic Liberty, Arizona State University.
2019. "Food and Power: Agricultural Policy, Regime Type & Political Stability." Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Halle.
2019. "Sanctioning Electoral Opposition: Repression and the Growth of German Social Democracy." Institutions & Political Economy Research Group, University of Barcelona.
2019. "'Terrifyingly Normal' Authoritarian Bureaucracies: Secret Police Administration and Surveillance in Socialist Poland." Historical Legacies Workshop, University of Michigan.
2019. "'Terrifyingly Normal' Authoritarian Bureaucracies: Secret Police Administration and Surveillance in Socialist Poland." Conflict Consortium Virtual Workshop.
2019. "Conflict Termination, State Weakness and Violent Urban Mobilization in the Developing World." Spatiality of Violence in Postwar Cities Workshop, University of Uppsala.
2019. "'Terrifyingly Normal' Authoritarian Bureaucracies: Secret Police Administration and Surveillance in Socialist Poland." Louisiana State University.
2019. "'Terrifyingly Normal' Authoritarian Bureaucracies: Secret Police Administration and Surveillance in Socialist Poland." Tulane University.
2018. "Democratization, Elections and Urban Social Disorder in the Developing World, 1960-2011." Australian Defense Force Academy, University of New South Wales, Canberra.
2018. "Ministerial Turnover and Heads of Secret Police Agencies." Comparative Ministerial Elites Workshop, Australian National University, Canberra.
2018. "Exploring the Political Logic of Urban Bias: Consumer Food Taxes and Contentious Mobilization in the Global South, 1960-2010." Australian National University, Canberra.
2018. "Watching the Watchers: Controlling Coercive Institutions in Cold War Central and Eastern Europe." German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg.
2018. "Indirect Authoritarian Governance Through Coercive Institutions: Secret Police and their Socialist Governors in East Central Europe." Governor's Dilemma Workshop, European University Institute, Florence.
2018. "Food and Power: Regime Type, Agricultural Policy and Political Stability." Institute for European Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
2017. "Delegation Under the Shadow of Cooptation: Authoritarian Governance Through Secret Police." Governor's Dilemma Workshop, Nuffield College, Oxford.

2017. "Agricultural Rents, Landholding Inequality and Authoritarian Regime Durability." Workshop on Comparative Authoritarianism, Nuffield College, University of Oxford.

2017. "Food and Power: Agricultural Policy, Regime Type & Political Stability." Department of Peace and Conflict Research, University of Uppsala.

Conference Presentations

2022. "The Bureaucratic Politics of Authoritarian Repression: Intra-Agency Reform and Surveillance Capacity in Communist Poland." Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics.

2021. "The Green Revolution is Not Always Bloodless: Agricultural Modernization and Rural Conflict in Brazil." Agriculture Policy Research Group. With David Samuels.

2021. "The Green Revolution is Not Always Bloodless: Agricultural Modernization and Rural Conflict in Brazil." American Political Science Association. With David Samuels.

2020. "Does Trade Increase Protests?." American Political Science Association. With Haeyong Lim.

2020. "Agricultural Mechanization Changes Landowners' Preferences." American Political Science Association. With David Samuels.

2020. "Controlling the Secret Police in Socialist Central & Eastern Europe." American Political Science Association.

2020. "'Terrifyingly Normal' Authoritarian Bureaucracies: Secret Police Administration and Surveillance in Socialist Poland." American Political Science Association.

2019. "Terrifyingly Normal Authoritarian Bureaucracies: Secret Police Administration and Surveillance in Socialist Poland." Western Political Science Association, San Diego.

2019. "Terrifyingly Normal Authoritarian Bureaucracies: Secret Police Administration and Surveillance in Socialist Poland." Southern Political Science Association, Austin.

2018. "Electoral Competitiveness, Uncertainty and Urban Mobilization Under Authoritarian Regimes". With Svitlana Chernykh (ANU). Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science, Canberra.

2018. "Sanctioning Electoral Opposition: Repression and the Growth of German Social Democracy." Social Science History Association, Phoenix.

2018. "Redistribution and Voluntary Military Service in Young Democracies: Land Ballots and Overseas Service, 1891-1918". With Evan Roberts (Minnesota) and Robert Schub (Nebraska). Social Science History Association, Phoenix.

2018. "Terrifyingly Normal Authoritarian Bureaucracies: Secret Police Administration and Surveillance in Socialist Poland." New Perspectives on State-Building Conference, Arizona State University, Tempe.

2018. "Watching the Watchers: Delegation, Control and Secret Police Chief Tenure under the European Socialist Dictatorships." American Political Science Association, Boston.

2018. "Indirect Authoritarian Governance Through Coercive Institutions: Secret Police and their Authoritarian Governors in East Central Europe." American Political Science Association, Boston.

2017. "Democratization, Elections and Urban Social Disorder in the Developing World, 1960-2011." Australian Society for Quantitative Political Science, Wellington.

2017. "Democratization, Elections and Urban Social Disorder in the Developing World, 1960-2011." Peace Science Society International, Tempe.

2017. "Democratization, Elections and Urban Social Disorder in the Developing World, 1960-2011." American Political Science Association, San Francisco.

2017. "Repression, Inequality and Opposition under Electoral Authoritarianism: The Growth of the German Social Democratic Party." Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago.

Last updated: August 1, 2022