

Nicholas J. Spina

Edgewood College
Social Science Department
1000 Edgewood College Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53711
E-mail: nspina@edgewood.edu
Phone: 517-316-6803

Academic Positions

Associate Professor of Political Science, Edgewood College, 2017 – Present

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Edgewood College, 2014 – Present

Assistant Professor of Political Science, American University in Bulgaria, 2012 – 2014

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Missouri, 2012

B.A., Policy and Applied Economics (with honors), Michigan State University, 2004

Research and Teaching Interests

Comparative Politics, Post-Communist Democratization, European Political Institutions, Political Science Research Methods, Social Capital, Civil Society, Social Tolerance

Publications

“Out-Migration, Social Capital, and the Cooperative Dilemma: Evidence from Bulgaria’s Population Crisis.” Forthcoming in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

“The Religious Authority of the Orthodox Church and Tolerance toward Homosexuality.” *Problems of Post-Communism* 63:1 (January 2016): 1-13.

“Faith in Democracy.” In A.C. Michalos (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research* (2014) Springer, Dordrecht, Netherlands. (with Doh Shin).

“Civil Society Aid to Post-Communist Countries.” *Political Studies* 62:4 (December 2014): 878-894. (with Christopher Raymond).

“Decentralization and Political Participation: An Empirical Analysis in Western and Eastern Europe.” *International Political Science Review* 35:4 (September 2014): 448-462.

“Explaining Political Decentralization in Parliamentary Democracies.” *Comparative European Politics* 11:4 (August 2013):428-457.

“Confucianism and Democracy: A Review of the Opposing Conceptualizations.” *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 12:1 (April 2011):143-160. (with Doh Shin and Dana Cha).

On-Going and Working Papers

“The Armenian-Turkish Dispute: Exploring Armenian Public Opinion and Assessing the Prospects of Reconciliation.”

“Reliance on Remittances and the Subjective Well-Being of Women Left Behind: An Analysis of the Caucasus Barometers.”

“The State-Religious Association and Tolerance: A Cross-National Test of Religious Authority.”

Courses Taught

American Foreign Policy, Political Science Research Methods, Introduction to Comparative Politics, Introduction to International Relations, Political Thought, Communist Politics, American Government, Russian and Post-Soviet Politics, Comparative Political Systems, Politics of Europe, Democracy and Authoritarianism, Politics of Latin America, Peace and Conflict Studies.

Additional Teaching Related Experience

Minor in College Teaching, Department of Education, University of Missouri, 2011
Coordinator, Developing Dynamics of Democracy Study Abroad, Holland and Belgium, 2011
Instructor, Youth and Inequality, MU Office of Service Learning, 2009
United States Peace Corps, Community Development Volunteer, Armenia, 2004-2006

Conference Presentations and Participation

“The Armenian-Turkish Dispute: Identifying Barriers to Reconciliation for the Armenian Government and Public.” Prepared for the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 6-9, 2017.

Participant, Institute for Curriculum and Campus Internationalization (ICCI), Indiana University, May 22-25, 2016

“The Effects of Emigration on the Social Capital of Sending Communities.” Prepared for the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 7-9, 2016

Guest Presenter, Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies Conference, Faculty Workshop on Teaching Peace and Conflict, Edgewood College, October 9, 2015

“Out-Migration and Gender Equality in Sending States.” Prepared for the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 16-19, 2015

“Regional Emigration and Social Capital: Evidence from Bulgaria.” Prepared for the Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 8-10, 2014

“Social Tolerance in Eastern Europe: The Role of the Orthodox Church and Socioeconomic Development.” Athens Institute for Education and Research 11th Annual International Conference on Politics & International Affairs, Athens, Greece, June 17-20, 2013

“The Choice of Presidential Powers in Post-Communist Countries.” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, September 1-4, 2011

“On the Form and Degree of Decentralization.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 31-April 2, 2011

“The Many Objectives of Political Science Education across Institutional Type.” American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 3-5, 2011. (with Tara Parsons)

“Minority Political Equality in Post-Communist Europe: An Institutional Approach.” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2010

“Confucianism and Democracy: A Review Article.” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2010. (with Doh C. Shin and Dana Cha)

“Regional Allegiances and Democratic Attitudes in Central and Eastern Europe.” Central Slavic Conference, St. Louis, MO, November 6-8, 2009

Awards, Honors, and Grants

Educational Programming Board Grant (\$500), Social Science Documentary Film Series, 2016
Global Faculty Development Grant (\$1200), Institute for Curriculum and Campus Internationalization (ICCI), Indiana University, 2016

Edgewood College Mini-grant (\$1000), Midwest Political Science Conference, 2015

Edgewood College Mini-grant (\$1000), Midwest Political Science Conference, 2016

Artinian Award, Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2014

Summer Research Associateship, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, 2013

David M. Wood Excellence in Political Science Research Award, 2012

Nominee –Graduate Assistant Choice Award, Missouri Students Association, 2011

APSA National Conference Travel Grant, 2011

Bryan L. Forbis Scholarship in American Politics, 2011

Missouri Excellence in Political Science Teaching Award, 2010

J.G. Heinberg Scholarship in Comparative Politics, 2009

University of Missouri Peace Corps Fellowship, 2008-2010

Professional Memberships and Service

Member, Executive Council, Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, 2016-Present

Member, Midwest Political Science Association

Referee, Peer-Reviewed Academic Journals (2014-Present): *Political Studies*, *Democratization*, *International Political Science Review*, *Comparative European Politics*

University Service

Edgewood College

Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2015-2018

Search Committee Chair, Department Career Development Coordinator, 2016

Member, General Education Curriculum Revision Team, Spring 2016

Member, International Student Scholarship Committee, Spring 2016

Search Committee Member, Administrative Assistant, Summer 2015

Academic Advisor, International Relations Program, 2015-Present

American University in Bulgaria

Undergraduate Academic Advisor, 2013-2014

Faculty Representative, Accreditation Sub-Committee on Academic Affairs, 2013-2014

Member, Human Subjects Review Committee, 2013-2014
Member, Graduation and Commencement Committee, 2012-2013
Member, Senior Speaker Sub-Committee, 2012-2013
Participant, International Recruitment, Romania, 2012

References

Dr. Leslie Schwindt-Bayer
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251
schwindt@rice.edu
(713) 348-4842

Dr. L. Marvin Overby
Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Missouri
305 Professional Building
Columbia, MO 65201
overby@missouri.edu
(573) 882-2130

Dr. James Endersby
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Missouri
316 Professional Building
Columbia, MO 65201
endersby@missouri.edu
(573) 882-4238

Dr. Robert Phillips
Associate Professor
Department of Politics
American University in Bulgaria
316 Balkanski Academic Center
Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria 2700
bobby@aubg.edu
(+359 73) 888-111, ext. 492