Adam C. Lenton

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Professional Appointments

2023- **Wake Forest University**
Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs

Education

2023 Ph.D. Political Science, *The George Washington University*, USA
Dissertation: Echoes of Empire: Subnationalism and Political Development in the Russian Federation
Committee: Henry Hale (chair), Harris Mylonas, Marlene Laruelle
Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Theory

2017 M.A. International Relations, *Moscow State Institute of International Relations*, Russia (in Russian)

2016 M.A. International Security, *Sciences Po Paris*, France (in English and French)

2014 B.A. Russian and International Relations, *University of Exeter*, UK
First-Class Honors

Co-authored book

2025 *Decolonizing Russia? Disentangling Debates* (Cambridge University Press, Elements in Soviet and Post-Soviet History)

Book Manuscript

Echoes of Empire: The imperial origins of nationalist mobilization in Eurasia

Peer-reviewed Articles

2025 "Multinational in Form, Russkii in Content: Explaining Russian Citizens' Enduring Preference for a Multinational State" *Nationalities Papers,* 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1017/nps.2025.23

2024 "Dear Compatriots: New Year Speeches as Sites for Post-Soviet Political Communication," with Akbota Karibayeva, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies,* 1–28. https://doi.org/10.1525/cpcs.2024.2415754 [4]

"Do Authoritarians Need a Foreign Enemy? Evidence from Fortress Russia," with Henry Hale, *International Security,* 49(1): 9–50. https://doi.org/10.1162/isec_a_00486. [3]

2022 "Why Didn't Ukraine Fight for Crimea? Evidence from Declassified National Security and Defense Council Proceedings," *Problems of Post-Communism* 69(2): 145-154. https://doi.org/10.1080/10758216.2021.1901595. [2]

2021 "Office Politics: Tatarstan's Presidency and the Symbolic Politics of Regionalism," *Russian Politics* 6(3): 301-329. https://doi.org/10.30965/24518921-00603002. [1]

Working Papers

"Soft Power in Hard Times: Strategic Narratives and Public Opinion on the Russia-Ukraine War," with Raushan Zhandayeva. [3]

"Flagging the nation: can state symbols promote attachment to the nation in multiethnic societies?" [2]

"State formation in medieval Russia: *Pax Mongolica* and church-state cooperation" [1]

Chapters in Edited Volumes

2021 "Tatar Studies in Political Science Research: Trends and Challenges." In *Tatar Studies in Paradigms' Change: Theory, Methodology, Practice: I International Scientific and Practical Workshop, 2–3 December, 2021, Kazan, Russia.* 30-35. Kazan: Institute of Language, Literature and Art, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan. [2]

2019 "Creating De Facto States: Narrative Frameworks and State Autonomy in Abkhazia and South Ossetia." In *Europe in the Caucasus, Caucasus in Europe: Bridging Academic and Political Gaps*. Ed. Andrey Makarychev and Thomas Kruessmann. Stuttgart: Ibidem-Verlag. [1]

Op-eds and Other Publications

2025 "As the Kremlin eyes a thaw with the White House, Russia's pro-war hawks aren't too happy," *The Conversation,* https://theconversation.com/as-the-kremlin-eyes-a-thaw-with-the-white-house-russias-pro-war-hawks-arent-too-happy-250716. [8]

2024 "3 things to watch for in Russia's presidential election – other than Putin's win, that is," *The Conversation*, https://theconversation.com/3-things-to-watch-for-in-russias-presidential-election-other-than-putins-win-that-is-225013. [7]

2023 "Russia's changing ethnic landscape: Three takeaways from the 2021 census," *Russia.Post*, https://russiapost.info/society/ethnic_landscape. [6]

2022 "Mobilizing dissent: interpreting the protests in the North Caucasus," *Russia.Post,* https://russiapost.info/society/mobilizing_caucasus. [5]

"How grassroots activism in the North Caucasus is using technology to develop regional languages," *Russia.Post,* https://russiapost.net/regions/north_caucasus. [4]

"Who is dying for the 'Russian World'?" *Riddle.Russia,* https://ridl.io/en/who-is-dying-for-the-russian-world/. [3]

"Putin Has Off-Ramps: Let's Not Block Them," with Henry Hale, *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo*, https://www.ponarseurasia.org/putin-has-off-ramps-lets-not-block-them/ . [2]

2021 "Last Man Standing: What the Latest Dispute over Tatarstan's Presidency Tells Us about the Enduring Ethnic Factor in Russian Politics." *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo*, https://www.ponarseurasia.org/last-man-standing-what-the-latest-dispute-over-tatarstans-presidency-tells-us-about-the-enduring-ethnic-factor-in-russian-politics/. [1]

Teaching

At Wake Forest University:

Comparative Government and Politics (Fall 2023 (x2), Fall 2024, Spring 2025)

Politics in Russia and Eastern Europe (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)

The Russia-Ukraine War (Spring 2024, Fall 2024)

At George Washington University:

Russian Politics (Spring 2022, as part of the Dean's Graduate Instructorship award).

Introduction to International Politics (Summer 2021)

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Politics and Values Program (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)

International Affairs Cornerstone (MA level) (Fall 2018)

At Sciences Po Pre-College Summer School (Paris & Reims)

(Re)thinking Social Identities: Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Politics (Summer 2021)

Introduction to the Social Sciences (Summer 2019, 2020, 2021)

Workshops and events:

2025 Teacher-Scholar Forum, *Center for the Advancement of Teaching,* Wake Forest University

2023-2024 Permanent New Faculty Learning Community, *Center for the Advancement of Teaching,* Wake Forest University

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

2025	Faculty Development Grant, Office of the Dean of Wake Forest College.	($1850)	[24]
	Faculty-Student Engagement Fund, Office of the Dean of Wake Forest College	($125)	[23]
	Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Center (URECA) for summer research collaboration with an undergraduate student	($4000)	[22]
	Pilot Research Grant, Wake Forest University	($20000)	[21]
	Faculty-Student Engagement Fund, Office of the Dean of Wake Forest College	($112)	[20]
2024	Grant for fieldwork in Tbilisi, Georgia, Archie Fund for the Arts and Humanities, Wake Forest University	($5,700)	[19]
	Grant to attend "Unlocking Russia: the Russia Program Digital Training Week," French Institute of Geopolitics, Paris		[18]
2023	Fellow (2023), Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia (MSSR), Middlebury Institute of International Studies		[17]
	Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, The George Washington University	($13750)	[16]
	Graduate Research Cooperation Project, The George Washington University Russia Program		[15]
2022	Loeb Institute and Endowment Award, Department of Political Science, The George Washington University	($14000)	[14]
	Sar and Britta Levitan Endowment Tuition Fellowship, The George Washington University	($1825)	[13]
	Fellow (2022), Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia (MSSR), Middlebury Institute of International Studies		[12]
	Dean's Graduate Instructorship, The George Washington University	($14605)	[11]
2021	Loeb Institute and Endowment Award, Department of Political Science, The George Washington University	($14000)	[10]
	Sar and Britta Levitan Endowment Tuition Fellowship, The George Washington University	($1825)	[9]
	Carnegie/Harriman Institute Research Grant for Ph.D. Students in the Social Sciences	($12000)	[8]
	Departmental grant to attend Institute for Qualitative and Multimethod Research, The George Washington University	($2500)	[7]
2020	Department Award for Best Teaching Assistant – Intro Classes, Department of Political Science, The George Washington University		[6]
	Summer Fellowship Recipient, The George Washington University	($2500)	[5]
2019	Summer Fellowship Recipient, The George Washington University	($2500)	[4]
2016	Scholarship Recipient, *Border Studies Summer School,* Hokkaido University, Japan		[3]
2012	Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Scholarship (£2000), University of Exeter, UK	(£2000)	[2]
	Roger Cockrell Award for Academic Excellence in Russian, University of Exeter, UK		[1]

Conference & Workshop Presentations

2025 "Historical legacies of conflict on ethno-nationalist mobilization: evidence from the Russian Empire," *Junior Historical Political Economy Workshop*, University Carlos III, Madrid, Spain. [21]

	"A Book Discussion on Adam Lenton et al, Decolonizing Russia? Disentangling Debates", *An Exploration of Russia's Anticolonial Stance, Intellectual Genealogies, Institutional Production, and Foreign Policy,* Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany.	[20]
	"Strategic Narratives and Public Opinion on the Russia-Ukraine War: Evidence from India" (with Raushan Zhandayeva), *An Exploration of Russia's Anticolonial Stance, Intellectual Genealogies, Institutional Production, and Foreign Policy,* Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany.	[19]
	"Historical legacies of conflict on ethno-nationalist mobilization: evidence from the Russian Empire," *New Advances in the Political Economy of Development in Eurasia,* Almaty Management University, Almaty, Kazakhstan	[18]
	"Soft Power in Hard Times: Strategic Narratives and Public Opinion on the Russia-Ukraine War in India" (with Raushan Zhandayeva), *The Russia Program Annual Conference,* The George Washington University.	[17]
2024	"Colonial Origins of Post-Soviet Ethnic Mobilization in Russia." *Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention*, Boston.	[16]
	"Dear Compatriots: New Year Speeches as Sites for Post-Soviet Identity Construction" (with Akbota Karibayeva), *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia.	[15]
	"Who Counts as "Rossiyane"? Explaining Russian Citizens' Enduring Preference for a Multinational State" *Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Convention*, New York.	[14]
2023	"Dear Compatriots: New Year Speeches as Sites for Post-Soviet Identity Construction" (with Akbota Karibayeva), *Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Convention*, New York.	[13]
	"Dear Compatriots: New Year Speeches as Sites for Post-Soviet Identity Construction" (with Akbota Karibayeva), *Graduate Student Conference on Central Asia,* Harvard University.	[12]
	""Who Counts as 'Rossiyane'? Explaining Russian Citizens' Puzzlingly Enduring Preference for a Multinational State", *DC Area Post-Communist Politics Social Science Workshop*, The George Washington University.	[11]
2022	"Imperial Expansion and Contemporary Ethnic Nationalism in the Russian Federation" *Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention,* Chicago	[10]
	"Nation-Building in Multinational Unions: Ethnic identities in Russia," *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Montréal, Canada.	[9]
	"Echoes of Empire: State Formation and Nation-Building in Contemporary Russia," *Wisconsin Russia Project 2022,* University of Wisconsin.	[8]
2021	"Tatar Studies in Political Science Research: Trends and Challenges" [in Russian], *Tatar Studies in Paradigms' Change: Theory, Methodology, Practice,* Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan, Kazan, Russia.	[7]
	"The Symbolic Politics of Nationalism: Creating and Contesting Identities in Russia and Its Regions," *Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention*, New Orleans.	[6]
	"Nation-building in multinational states: towards a comparative analysis of Russian regions" [in Russian], *St. Petersburg International Conference on Inequality and Diversity*, Higher School of Economics, Russia.	[5]
	"The Symbolic Politics of Nationalism: Identity Creation and Contestation in Multinational Unions," *8th Annual Graduate Workshop on Comparative Historical Research on Europe, Council for European Studies*.	[4]
	"Do Authoritarians Need a Foreign Enemy? Evidence from Fortress Russia," (with Henry Hale), *DC Area Post-Communist Politics Social Science Workshop*, The George Washington University	[3]
2019	"Why didn't Ukraine Fight for Crimea? Civil-military Relations and Institutional Restraints in Russia and Ukraine," *Association of European Studies for the Caucasus Annual Conference (AESC)*, Odesa, Ukraine.	[2]
2018	"The Lure of Alania: Why Ossetian Identity Matters in the Georgia-Ossetia Conflict." Paper presentation, *Third Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies*, Tartu, Estonia.	[1]

Invited Talks

2025 "Memory and Empire: How Imperial Legacies Shape Ethnic Mobilization, Past and Present," *Wingate University*, April 7. [4]

"Imperial Origins of Ethnic Mobilization in Russia," *PONARS New Voices on Eurasia,* George Washington University, January 21. [3]

2023 "Interests and identities in the Russia-Ukraine War: the future of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine," *Coastal Carolina University*, November 14. [2]

"Russia's War on Ukraine," *Wake Forest University* (Panel discussion), February 22. [1]

Media Appearances

2025 "Lenton: Tramp i Putin zainteresovany obsudit' voprosy dvustoronnikh otnosheniy," *TASS* (Quoted), March 19. Link. [7]

2024 "The US-Russia prisoner swap that freed Evan Gershkovich, explained," *Vox* (Quoted), August 1. Link. [6]

CBC News Canada on the Russian presidential election (live news interview), March 17. Link. [5]

BBC News, interviewed on the Russian presidential election (live TV interview), March 15. [4]

"Evitar a guerra, focar na "família" e lidar com um candidato-surpresa. As eleições que o Kremlin quer reduzir a um "procedimento técnico,"" *Observador* (Quoted), January 28, 2024. Link. [3]

2023 "Eksperty rasskazali o vazhnosti proyektov tataro-bashkirskoy sluzhby Radio Svoboda dlya svoyey auditorii," *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Tatar-Bashkir Service "Idel Realii"* (Quoted), December 7. Link. [2]

"Naiznanku," *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Tatar-Bashkir Service "Idel Realii"* (Video interview in Russian), October 10. Link. [1]

Service

To the university:

2024-2025 Lecture on "The Future of NATO and US Security," *Great Decisions Series,* April 3. [17]

Panelist, "The Trump Presidency: The First 60 Days," sponsored by *Pi Sigma Alpha,* March 19. [16]

Presentation to admitted students about Politics and International Affairs major, Wake Forest University Campus Days, April 4, 11. [15]

Academic letter writer for Truman Scholarship finalist [14]

Co-organizer and moderator for "The U.S. Role in the World: Foreign Policy Challenges Facing the Next President," part of Wake Forest University series *Perspectives on the 2024 Election*, October 22. [13]

Secretary for Department of Politics and International Affairs meetings [12]

Major advising (25) [11]

Recommendation letters written: 13 [10]

2023-2024 Lecture on "NATO's Future," *Great Decisions Series,* April 18. [9]

Led discussion of *Maidan*, dir. Sergei Loznitsa (2014), "Ukrainian Documentary Film Series," organized by the Department of German and Russian, April 4. [8]

Organized "Conversational Dinner on the Russia-Ukraine War," sponsored by *Pi Sigma Alpha,* February 27. [7]

Moderated "Ending the War in Ukraine," *Alexander Hamilton Society*, November 10. [6]

Consulted WFU Debate Team on Russian nuclear doctrine, June. [5]

Successfully applied for course (POL 232) to meet WFU's 21st-Century Stewardship Requirement [4]

Member of Department of Politics and International Affairs Curriculum Committee [3]

Major advising (25) [2]

Recommendation letters written: 8 [1]

To the profession:

Discussant:

2024 "Subnational Politics and Identity in the Post-Soviet States." Panel discussant, *Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Convention,* Boston. [7]

"Broadcasting the Nation: Everyday Nationalism in the Media, Old and New." Panel discussant, *Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Convention*, New York. [6]

"The Medieval Peace Dividend: Anglo-Saxon State Formation, Political Networks and Peace," by Eric Grynaviski, Jittip Mongkolnchaiarunya, and Sverrir Steinsson, *George Washington University Comparative Politics Workshop,* Washington, D.C. [5]

2022 "Does Mass Protest Make Electoral Autocracies More Belligerent?" by Aleksandar Matovski (Naval Postgraduate School), *DC Area Post-Communist Politics Social Science Workshop*, Washington, D.C. [4]

2021 "Education and Social Mobility." Panel discussant, *Fifth Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies*, Tartu, Estonia. [3]

2019 "Soviet Nationality Policy and its Legacy." Panel discussant, *Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Convention*, New York. [2]

2018 "Re-branding 'Tatar Islam' through Community Service Work: The Case of Yardam Mosque in Kazan, Tatarstan," by Liliya Karimova, *DC Area Post-Communist Politics Social Science Workshop*, Washington, D.C. [1]

Co-Organizer:

2024 "Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia 2024," *Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey* [2]

2023 "What Is Christian Nationalism?" *Columbian College of Arts & Sciences' Engaged Liberal Arts Speaker Series & John L. Loeb, Jr. Institute for Religious Freedom,* George Washington University [1]

Invited consultancies/expert surveys:

2024-2025 "Territorial Autonomy and Subnational Democracy," *European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)* (Republic of Tatarstan) [1]

Manuscript reviewer:

2025: 2 (*International Security, Post-Soviet Affairs*)

2024: 5 (*Post-Soviet Affairs, Nationalities Papers, The Russian Review*)

2023: 1 (*Nationalities Papers*)

2022: 4 (*Nationalities Papers, Journal of Illiberalism Studies, Russian Politics, Post-Soviet Affairs*)

2021: 1 (*Nationalities Papers*)

Editorial board member: *Historical Ethnology (Kazan, Tatarstan)*

Member: *Program on New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia (PONARS Eurasia) (2024-), American Political Science Association, Association for the Study of Nationalities, Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies*

Additional Skills

Working languages:

English	*Native speaker*
Russian	*Fluent*
French	*Fluent*
Spanish	*Reading proficiency*
Polish	*Intermediate*
Tatar	*Conversational*
Ukrainian	*Conversational*

Data analysis:

Stata, Excel

References

Henry Hale
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