

Eleonora Minaeva

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Subnational Politics and Decentralization; Electoral Institutions and Accountability; Political Economy of Governance; Contentious Politics; Post-Soviet and Eurasian Politics.

EDUCATION

European University Institute, Florence, Italy

Ph.D. in Political Science 2022–present

Department of Political and Social Sciences

- Thesis: *Political (De)Centralization Under Authoritarianism*

European University at St.Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Russia

Master of Political Science, Department of Political Science 2018–2020

- Thesis: *Factors of Electoral Mobilization at the Local Level in Russia: 2016–2018*
- GPA: 3.95

Perm State University, Perm, Russia

Master of International Relationships, Department of Political Science 2017–2019

- Thesis: *The Influence of European Urban Practices on Coalition Interactions in the Largest Russian Cities*
- GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Political Science, Department of Political Science 2013–2017

- Thesis: *Ethnic Territorial Autonomies: The Problem of Political Space Segmentation*
- GPA: 3.96

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

European University Institute, Florence, Italy

PhD Researcher, Department of Political and Social Sciences 2022–present

Center for Comparative History and Political Studies, Russia

Research Fellow September 2020–June 2022

VISITING POSITIONS

Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (IERES), George Washington University, Washington DC, USA

Visiting Scholar January 2025–May 2025

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Serebrennikov D., Minaeva E., Ross S. (2026) Surveillance as Governance: Policing Effectiveness and Political Control in the Moscow AI Experiment. *Forthcoming in Russian Politics*.
- [2] Kostelka F., Alberdi M., Bradley M., Fiselier T., Jabbour A., Mansour N., Minaeva E., Porciuleanu S., Rafailova D. (2026) Mass Attitudes towards Russia's Aggression against Ukraine: Tentative Support for Top-Down Opinion Formation. *Forthcoming in European Journal of Political Research*.

- [3] Bederson V., Minaeva E. (2024) "We'll Find a Way to Settle This Among Ourselves": Conditions for the Centralization of Municipal Powers in Urban Development. *Russian Sociological Review*, Vol. 23, Issue 2: 67–89. DOI: 10.17323/1728-192x-2024-2-67-89. (in Russian)
- [4] Semenov A., Minaeva E. (2024) Mobilizational Momentum and Electoral Results of "Party in Power". *Politeia*, Vol. 1 (112), 77-97. DOI: 10.30570/2078-5089-2024-112-1-77-97. (in Russian)
- [5] Minaeva E., Rumiantseva A., Zavadskaya M. (2023) From local elections to appointments: How has municipal reform changed vote delivery in Russian municipalities? *Electoral Studies*, Vol. 85, DOI:10.1016/j.electstud.2023.102657.
- [6] Minaeva E. (2023) Policy Activism in Urban Governance: The Case of Master Plan Development in Perm. in Jeremy Morris, Andrei Semenov and Regina Smyth (Ed.) *Varieties of Russian Activism: State-Society Contestation in Everyday Life*. **Bloomington: Indiana University Press**.
- [7] Minaeva E. (2022) Strategies for the Preservation and Cancellation of the Direct Election of Municipal Heads in Russia. *Universe of Russia. Sociology. Ethnology*, Vol. 31, Issue 2: 97-117. (in Russian)
- [8] Minaeva E., Panov P. (2021) Dense Networks, Ethnic Minorities, and Electoral Mobilization in Contemporary Russia. *Problems of Post-Communism*, DOI:10.1080/10758216.2021.1974885.
- [9] Bederson V, Zhelnina A, Zaporozhets O, Minaeva E, Semenov A, Tykanova E, Khokhlova A, Chernysheva A, Shevtsova I. (2021). *Cities of Diverging Streets: Trajectories of Urban Conflicts in Russia*. Monograph. Moscow; Saint Petersburg: Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
- [10] Minaeva E., Panov P. (2020) Localization of Ethnic Groups in the Regions as a Factor of Cross-Regional Variations in Voting for United Russia. *Russian Politics*: 131-153.
- [11] Minaeva E., Semenov A. (2020) The Cities of Forking Streets: Trajectories of Urban Conflicts in Russia. *The Journal of Social Policy Studies*, Vol. 19, Issue 2: 189-204. (in Russian)
- [12] Minaeva E., Semenov A. (2020) Policy Transfer in Urban Governance: The Case of Strategic Urban Planning in Russia. *Ars Administrandi*, Vol. 1: 120-136. (in Russian)
- [13] Minaeva E., Panov P. (2017) Ethnic Regional Autonomies: Variation of the Correlation Between Sub-State Boundaries and Ethnic Groups' Settlements. *Political Science*, Vol. 4: 178-205. (in Russian)
- [14] Minaeva E. (2016) Urban Settlement Versus Municipal District» in the Context of Vertical Power Structure: Polycentricity in Local Polity. *Bulletin of Perm University. Political Science*, Vol. 1: 83-96. (in Russian)

WORKING PAPERS *Solo-authored*

- [1] Minaeva E. Citizens' Perceptions of Local Government under Centralized Rule: A Survey Experiment in Russia.
- [2] Minaeva E. Why Autocrats (De)centralize Electoral Authority: Explaining the Introduction and Cancellation of Subnational Elections.

Co-authored

- [3] Minaeva E., Melnikov K., Hazell T. Local Elections and Elite Management in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from Kazakhstan.
- [4] Minaeva E., Melnikov K., Hazell T. The Governance Effects of Local Elections in Autocracies: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Kazakhstan.

ONLINE
PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Rogov K., & Minaeva E. (2022) The Journey from 1945 to 1941 [\[Link\]](#)
[2] Minaeva E. (2018) GIS Technologies in Ethno-Political Studies: Spatial Localization of Ethnic Groups [\[Link\]](#)

RESEARCH
PROJECTS AND
COLLABORATIONS

Maidan Revolutions, the War in Ukraine, and Civil Society Responses [\[Project link\]](#)

- Design and implementation of cross-national survey research in **Armenia, Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine**, including questionnaire development, coordination with survey firms, and data analysis.

GLOBAL — European Governance and Politics Programme (ERC Advanced Grant) [\[Project link\]](#)

- Data collection and validation on transnational party networks; development of datasets for evaluating large language models (LLMs).

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

Instructor, TU Darmstadt, Darmstadt, Germany Fall 2024; Fall 2025

- Political Paths of Post-Soviet Countries (MA level, block seminar)

Instructor, European University Institute, Florence, Italy 2023

- Introduction to R (PhD level)

Teaching Assistant, Perm State University, Perm, Russia 2020–2022

- Comparative Politics
- Methodology of Political Science
- R Programming
- Regional Studies

SKILLS AND
LANGUAGES

Methods:

- Causal inference with observational data (panel and cross-sectional)
- Quasi-experimental designs (including difference-in-differences)
- Survey and vignette experiments; questionnaire design
- Multilevel and regression analysis

Programming and Tools:

- R&R Studio (Advanced), STATA (Intermediate), Python (Beginner)
- \LaTeX (Advanced), ArcGIS/ArcMap (Intermediate)
- Large language models (LLMs) for data collection and validation (Intermediate)

Languages:

- Russian: native
- English: advanced
- Italian: conversational (A2-B1)

ACADEMIC
LEADERSHIP AND
SERVICE

Researchers' Representative 2024–2025
Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute

GRANTS

- European University Institute — Early Stage Researchers Grant 2024–2025
Local Elections and Elite Management in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from Kazakhstan
- Russian Science Foundation 2018–2023
 Collective Grant
Mechanisms of Interests Coordination in the Urban Development Processes
- Oxford Russia Fellowship 2020–2021
 Individual Grant
Political Consequences of the Implementation of Municipal Heads' Appointments in Russia
- Russian Foundation for Basic Research 2019–2021
 Collective Grant
Spatial Localization of Ethnic Minorities within the Framework of Political-Administrative Boundaries as a Factor of Politicization of Ethnicity on Sub-National Level: Russian Practices in the Context of World Experience
- Volkswagen Foundation 2019–2021
 Collective Grant for Interdisciplinary and International Research
Shifting Paradigms: Towards Participatory and Effective Urban Planning in Germany, Russia and Ukraine
- Russian Science Foundation 2015–2017
 Collective Grant for Russian Scholars
Securing a Balance in Interethnic Relations: Regional autonomies, the State Integrity and the Rights of Ethnic Minorities

LATEST
 CONFERENCES AND
 WORKSHOP TALKS

- Political Behaviour Colloquium, March 10, 2026
 Paper: *Citizens' Perceptions of Local Government under Centralized Rule: A Survey Experiment in Russia*
- MPSA, Politics and Political Economy of Eurasia Workshop, April 23-26, 2025, Chicago
 Paper: *Local Elections and Elite Management: Evidence from Kazakhstan, co-authored with Kirill Melnikov and Thomas Hazell*
- The Russia Program Annual Conference, April 18, 2025, Washington DC
 Paper: *Russian Centralization in the Global Authoritarian Context*
- Pre-EPISA Conference on Authoritarian Politics, July 3, 2024, Cologne
 Paper: *Legitimacy Erosion and State Capacity: Explaining Political (De)Centralization in Dictatorships*
- Building Closed Autocracies: the Cases of Russia and Belarus, October 6-7, 2022, Berlin
 Paper: *Non-Programmatic Electoral Mobilization of Ethnic Minorities: Evidence from Russia*
- 5th Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, June 6-8, 2021
 Paper: *From Elections to Appointments: Does Centralization Strengthen Political Support? Evidence from the Russian Municipalities*
- ASN Annual World Convention, May 6-8, 2021
 Paper: *Political Consequences of the Implementation of Municipal Heads' Appointments in Russia*
- St. Petersburg Conference on Inequality and Diversity, October 21-22, 2019
 Paper: *Machine Politics at the Local Level in Russia at the Present Stage*
- RC21 Delhi conference "In and Beyond the City: Emerging Ontologies, Persistent Challenges and Hopeful Futures", September 18-21, 2019
 Paper: *Citizen-State Interactions in Urban Planning in Russian Cities*