

DEKI PELDON

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Relations; Political Violence; Conflict Processes; Repression and Human Rights; Quantitative Methods.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student, University of South Carolina *2022 – Present*
Department of Political Science
Major Field: *International Relations*
Subfield: *Comparative Politics*

M.A., Wright State University *2016 – 2018*
International and Comparative Politics
Thesis: *Nationalism and Regional Relations in Democratic Transitions*

B.A., Asian University for Women *2008 – 2014*
Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
Thesis: *Insights and Lessons from the Arab Spring*

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Research Assistant to Dr. Jerry Silverman *Jan 2025 – Present*
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Carolina Core Rater *Jun 2025 – Sep 2025*
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Module Developer, M.A.I.S. Program (POLI 715: International Relations Theory)
May 2025 – Sep 2025
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Research Assistant to Dr. Chelsea Estancona *May 2024 – Sep 2024*
University of South Carolina

Module Developer, M.A.I.S. Program (POLI 715: International Relations Theory)
May 2024 – Sep 2024
University of South Carolina

Graduate Assistant *2022 – Present*
University of South Carolina

Associate Lecturer *2018 – 2022*
College of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan

Graduate Assistant Wright State University, Dayton, OH	2016 – 2018
Assistant Lecturer College of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan	2015 – 2018
Research Assistant Asian University for Women, Chittagong, Bangladesh	2012 – 2014

EDITED BOOK CHAPTERS

Liu, Howard and **Peldon, Deki**. “Surveillance Studies.” In *The Handbook of Political Control*, edited by Jennifer Earl and Jessica Braithwaite, pp. 91–108. De Gruyter, 2025. DOI: 10.1515/9783111298559-006. ISBN: 978-3-11-129850-4 / 978-3-11-129855-9 / 978-3-11-129947-1.

WORKING PAPERS

1. “Coercion Without Borders: Interstate Collaboration, Infiltration, and Strategic Repression of Dissent Abroad” (with Howard Liu)
2. “Signals of Strength: Do States Maintain Rivalries During Internal Instability?”
3. “A Volatile Electorate in a Small Democratizing State?” (with Nitasha Kaul)
4. “Strategic Democratization”

HONORS & AWARDS

Grants

1. Saperstein Symposium on the Science of Peace Fellowship. 2026
2. Faculty Research Fellowship. 2026
3. Political Networks Conference Fellowship. 2025.
4. Smith Richardson Fellowship. 2024–2025.
5. Li-Ching Graduate Fellowship. 2024.
6. Bhutan and Himalayan Research Grant. 2021–2022.
7. Annual University Research Grant. 2021.

Awards

1. Department Award for Best Graduate Student. 2024–2025.
2. Department Prize for Outstanding Performance, College of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan. 2018–2022.
3. Outstanding Delegation Award. Awarded by National Model United Nations, New York. 2017.
4. Outstanding Position Paper for Second General Assembly. Awarded by National Model United Nations, New York. 2017.
5. Outstanding Delegation for UNHCR. Awarded by Dayton Model United Nations, Ohio. 2017.

INVITED TALKS

2025. “Introduction to International Relations.” Guest lecture delivered for *POLI 105: Introduction to Politics*, University of South Carolina.

Conference Presentations

- 2026 — International Studies Association (ISA), Ohio (Presenter)
- 2025 — Political Networks and Computational Social Science Conference (PolNet–PaCSS), Boston (Presenter)
- 2025 — Carolina Conflict Consortium (CCC), Charleston (Attendance)
- 2023 — Carolina Conflict Consortium, Boone, NC (Presenter)

Teaching

University of South Carolina

POLI 101 Introduction to Global Politics — Undergrad. (F24, F23, S23)

College of Language and Culture Studies

- BTN 304 Bhutan and its International Relations* — Undergrad. (F21, F20)
- BTN 305 Introduction to Gross National Happiness* — Undergrad. (S22, S21, S20, S2019)
- BTN 407 Advanced Study of Gross National Happiness* — Undergrad. (S20)
- HST 101 Introduction to the Himalayas* — Undergrad. (F2018)
- HIM 101 Himalayan Studies I: History and Politics* — Undergrad. (F2018)

Advising

Rinchen Dorji — Master’s Thesis Chair and Supervisor, 2019–2020.

Professional Service

University

2024–Present — Organizer, International Relations and Comparative Politics (IRCP) Brown-bag. Biweekly meeting of IRCP graduate students to discuss and present research.

Skills

Languages: Dzongkha (native), Hindi, Nepali, Bengali.

Computing: R, SAS, LaTeX, Overleaf, Quarto, R Markdown, GitHub.

Statistical and Analytical Techniques: Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Factor Analysis, Cluster Analysis, Discriminant Analysis, Multivariate Regression, Random Forests, Support Vector Machines (SVM), Canonical Correlation, Multidimensional Scaling (MDS), Repeated Measures, Multiple Imputation.