# Hanna Sistek

*January 23, 2026*

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## Academic Appointments

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|---|---|
| 2025-2026 | **Postdoctoral Fellow**<br>Center for American Political History, Media, and Technology (CAPT) &<br>Governance and Responsible AI Lab (GRAIL)<br>*Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN* |

## Education

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|---|---|
| 2025 | **Ph.D. Political Science**<br>*Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN*<br>*Major field: Comparative Politics*<br>*Minor fields: International Relations, Political Methodology*<br>*Dissertation: Structural Incentives for Politicians to Manipulate Domestic Opinion*<br>*Committee Members: Cherie D. Maestas (chair), Andy Baker, Mollie Cohen, Marcus Mann* |
| 2021 | **M.A. Political Science**<br>*Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN* |
| 2005 | **Journalism degree**<br>*Gothenburg University, Sweden* |
| 2003 | **B.S. Physical Therapy**<br>*Lund University, Sweden* |

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

*\* indicates a graduate student co-author*

1. Hannah, Matthew, Jennifer Hoewe, **Hanna Sistek**, Taeik Kim\*, and Dan Goldwasser. 2024. **"A mindfulness-based information literacy framework for the current information environment."** *Journal of Information Literacy, 18*(2).
[Named a Top 20 Article of 2024 by the Library Instruction Round Table of the American Library Association]

## Working Papers

1. "Escalating Political Use of Disinformation: A New Reputational Theory Explaining Communication Changes in Democracies" *Under Review*.

2. "Asymmetric Behavioral Shifts in Political Use of Disinformation: Case Study Interview Evidence From Europe"

3. "Asymmetric Accountability: Affective Polarization and Public Responses to Political Disinformation".

## Works in Progress

1. "Using Large Language Models to practice cross-partisan dialogue" with Nebras Alam, Netra Joshi, Sarrah Zojwalla and Vipula Shirse.

2. "Public Justifications of Political Disinformation in the United States: Comparing Topic Modeling, Manual Coding, and Generative AI Classification" with Normand Péladeau.

3. "AI as a Tool Against Partisan Disinformation"

4. "The Effect of Disinformation on Twittersphere Sentiment – Not Much When Debunked".

## Research Software & Digital Projects

1. *ConvoLab*: Human-AI interaction application designed to let users practice having difficult political conversations with people they disagree with, using two AI agents. Repository: https://github.com/GRAIL-center/ConvoLab

## Public Engagement

1. "CAPTivated," podcast for the Center for American Political History, Media, and Technology, Purdue University.
*Co-host and co-producer (release date January 29th, 2026).*

## Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

### External

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|---|---|
| 2024 | Rapoport Doctoral Dissertation Grant. *$15,000* |
| 2024 | SPARK Award. APSA Political Communication Section. *$750* |
| 2024 | Peter Mair Travel Award. APSA European Politics and Society Section. *$300* |
| 2024 | Prestage-Cook Award. Southern Political Science Association. *$300* |
| 2016 | Innovation in Development Reporting Grant, European Journalism Centre. Project: The Price of Basmati. *€18,510* |
| 2012 | Language Studies Grant (Arabic, in Cairo), Swedish Journalist Union. *$1,800* |
| 2008 | Innovation Journalism Fellow, H-STAR Institute, Stanford University (Vinnova) |

*Selected Internal*

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|---|---|
| 2025-2022 | Purdue University: Postdoctoral Supplemental Travel Award; Graduate Peer Reviewed Article Award; Graduate Grant Submission Award (multiple years); Promise Travel Grant; Institute for Information Literacy. *Total: $2,500* |
| 2024, 2020 | Summer Research Grants (Purdue Graduate School, Purdue Research Foundation) *Total: $10,400* |
| 2024 | Outstanding Teaching Assistant. Departmental award. |
| 2023 | Teaching Assistant of the Year. Award by Pi Sigma Alpha, Purdue University |

## Invited Talks

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| October 2025 | "Navigating Political Violence News in the Digital Age". Center for C-SPAN Scholarship & Engagement (CCSE), Purdue University |
| October 2025 | "Behind the Headlines". Joint seminar presentation with Sage Goodwin. Center for American Political History, Media, and Technology, Purdue University |

## Conference Presentations

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|---|---|
| PolComm | 2025 APSA Political Communication Preconference |
| RMCEPS | 2025(poster) Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science, New York University |
| ISA | 2025 |
| SPSA | 2025, 2026 |
| APSA | 2025, 2024, 2023 |
| MPSA | 2025,2024, 2023, 2022 |
| WPSA | 2023 |
| ICTS | 2023 International Conspiracy Theory Symposium, University of Miami |

## Teaching and Research Experience

*Instructor of Record*

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|---|---|
| Summer 22/23 | **POL 130 - Introduction to International Relations** |

*Research Assistant*

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| AY 2018/19 | **Editorial Assistant for *Politics, Groups, and Identities*.** |

*Teaching Assistant: Graduate level*

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| Fa 24/Sp. 25 | **SCLA 521 - Societal Impacts of AI** |
| Fa 24/Sp 25 | **SCLA 522 - Artificial Intelligence Policy, Governance, and Ethics** |

*Teaching Assistant: Undergraduate level*

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|---|---|
| Fa 23, Sp 24 | **POL 223 - Introduction to Environmental Policy and Politics** |
| Fa 22, Sp 22, Sp 23 | **POL 327 - Global Green Politics** |
| Fall 2022 | **POL 323 - Comparative Environmental Policy and Politics** |
| Fall 2021 | **POL 141 - Introduction to Comparative Politics** |
| Fall 2021 | **POL 323 - Renewable Energy Politics Around the World** |
| Spring 2021 | **SCLA 102 - Cornerstone class on Transformative texts, Critical Thinking & Oral Communication II: Modern World "Democracy, Citizenship and Civic Duty"** |
| Fall 2021 | **SCLA 102 - Cornerstone class on Transformative texts, Critical Thinking and Oral Communication II: "Technology, Great Power, and Its Responsibilities"** |
| Spring 2020 | **POL 237 - Introduction to U.S. Foreign Policy** |
| Fall 2019 | **POL 130 - Introduction to International Relations** |

## Selected Additional Training

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|---|---|
| January, 2026 | **AI-Assisted Qualitative Research** <br> *Trena Paulus/KiND Institute, New Orleans* |
| January, 2026 | **Experiments in the Social Sciences** <br> *Donald Green/KiND Institute, New Orleans* |
| September, 2025 | **Temporal ERGM for Network Panel Data** <br> *Scott Duxbury, UNC/The Methodology Center at Purdue* |
| April, 2025 | **Generative AI for Survey Research: Principles and Applications** <br> *The New York Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Webinar* |
| April, 2025 | **Writing Policy Briefs and Op-Eds Communicating Research with Policymakers and Community** <br> *International Studies Association Webinar* |
| April, 2025 | **Demystifying the Automated Analysis of Open-Ended Survey Responses** <br> *American Association for Public Opinion Research Webinar* |
| February, 2025 | **Supervision in Machine Learning** <br> *Workshop, Graduate Professional Development, Purdue University* |

| January, 2025 | **Foundations in Machine Learning** |
| | *KiND Institute/SPSA workshop, Puerto Rico* |
| January, 2025 | **Data Coding in Qualitative Research** |
| | *KiND Institute/SPSA workshop, Puerto Rico* |
| November, 2024 | **The AI Imperative: Purdue-Google AI Summit** |
| | *Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis* |
| Fall 2023 | **Qualitative In-depth Interview Method: A Quality Approach to Data Collection and Analysis Setup** |
| | *American Association for Public Opinion Research Short Course* |
| Fall 2023 | **Interpretive Process Tracing & Practice Tracing** |
| | *APSA Short Course* |

*Pedagogical Training*

| Summer 2022 | **Certificate in Foundations of College Teaching** |
| | *Foundations of College Teaching Purdue University* |

## Languages and Skills

*Languages*: Swedish and Czech (native); English (fluent); German (intermediate); French and Arabic (basic)

*Software*: R, Python, Git, LaTeX, Qualtrics, NVivo, Docker

*Learning Management Systems*: Blackboard, Brightspace

## Service

### Department

| AY 2023/24 | **Political Science Research Collaboratory** |
| Spring 2025 | *Mentored undergraduate research assistants on comparative research about media systems, academic writing and survey research. Purdue University* |

### Committees

| 2025-2026 | **Summit Co-Organizer "Staying Informed in the Age of AI and Algorithms"** |
| | *Public summit in Indianapolis organized by CAPT/GRAIL, bringing together thought leaders, educators, policymakers and scholars to discuss the impact of AI and algorithms on our media ecosystem. The event will pair educational workshops with community partners and feature moderated panels and public discussions.* |
| 2025-2026 | **Expert Participant, Information Intelligence Working Group** |
| | *Interdisciplinary development of an "information intelligence" program for youth and civic organizations.* |

## Discipline

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| 2025 | **Polarization Consortium Workshop** | |
| | *Discussant* | |
| 2025 | **APSA** | |
| | *Chair* | |
| 2025 | **SPSA** | |
| | *Discussant and Chair* | |
| 2024 | **National Institute of Standards and Technology AI Safety Institute Consortium** | |
| | *Member of Working Group on Synthetic Content* | |
| 2023 | **APSA, MPSA, WPSA** | |
| | *Discussant* | |

## Relevant Non-academic work experience

### Reporter & Staff Writer

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| 2004-2018 | **Freelance** | |
| | *Based in India, Egypt and Silicon Valley. Reporting from 19 countries for over 100 outlets.* | |
| Summer 2017 | **Etc Göteborg** | |
| | *Gothenburg, Sweden* | |
| Summer 2016 | **KIT** | |
| | *Stockholm, Sweden* | |
| Spring 2008 | **CNET News** | |
| | *San Francisco, U.S.* | |
| Summer 2007 | **Dagens Industri** | |
| | *Stockholm, Sweden* | |
| Summer 2006 | **Göteborgs-Posten** | |
| | *Gothenburg, Sweden* | |
| Spring 2006 | **Veckans Affärer** | |
| | *Stockholm, Sweden* | |

## Memberships

American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Southern Political Science Association, American Association for Public Opinion Research

## References

Cherie D. Maestas | Associate Dean of Research, Innovation, and Graduate Education, College of Liberal Arts, Professor of Political Science, Purdue University.
cmaestas@purdue.edu.
Dissertation Chair.

Kathryn Cramer Brownell | Professor in History, and Director of Center for American Political History, Media, and Technology, Purdue University.
brownell@purdue.edu.
Postdoctoral Supervisor.

Daniel Schiff | Assistant Professor in Political Science and Co-director of Governance and Responsible AI Lab, Purdue University.
dschiff@purdue.edu.
Postdoctoral Advisor.