

Justin Daniels

DPhil Candidate in International Relations, University of Oxford
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Education

University of Oxford, Oxford, UK *since Oct. 2025*

Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations.

- Dissertation: “Elite Democratic Commitment: Politicians’ Views of Democracy and Democratic Survival”
Examines if politicians’ views of democracy shape their adherence to democratic norms – and implications for democratic resilience and decline – with surveys, computational text analysis, and interviews.
- Courses: Experimental Methods; Machine Learning; Intermediate Statistics.

University of Oxford, Oxford, UK *Oct. 2023–June 2025*

Master of Philosophy in Politics: Comparative Government

- Courses: Authoritarian Politics; Comparative Government; Protest, Social Movements, and Revolutions.
- Methods: Causal Inference; Case Study Methods; Statistics for Social Scientists.
- Thesis: “Controlling the Threat from Below: Indoctrination as a Response to Mass Mobilization in Autocracies, 1945–2021”
Develops and tests a theory of how different authoritarian regime types use indoctrination in response to protest with large-N datasets and case studies.

Stanford University, Stanford, CA *Sept. 2016–June 2020*

Bachelor of Arts in French. Minors in Political Science, History (Africa), Italian

- Honors in Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law.
- Thesis: “Defining ‘Disinterest’: U.S. Influence and Impact on the Creation and Reform of the Congo, 1876–1913”
Examines how the United States shaped European colonization in Central Africa through its support of, and later opposition to, King Leopold II of Belgium’s Congo Free State.

Teaching

Tutor, Undergraduate American Politics *May–June 2026*

Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford

- Held tutorials and provided in-depth written feedback on eight topics in U.S. politics: Exceptionalism, Federalism, Voting, Ethnicity, Mass Media, Parties, Courts, and the Executive.

UG Collections Scheme Administrator and Marker *since Sept. 2025*

Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), University of Oxford

- Mark collections for comparative government course.
- Coordinate the distribution of participating tutors’ DPIR collections to markers.

Tutor, Floreat Access Programme *Aug. 2025*

Balliol College, University of Oxford

- Taught Oxford-style politics tutorials for Year 12 students.
- Delivered lecture, “Democratic Breakdown: From the Roman Republic to Russia and (maybe) the United States.”
- Supported students in interpreting academic readings, developing arguments, and contributing to discussion.

Tutor, PPE UNIQ Summer School *Aug. 2025, Aug. 2026*

Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford

- Taught politics tutorials for prospective PPE applicants, introducing students to core debates in comparative politics and international political development.

Selected Publications

Wolf, Anne and **Justin Daniels**. 2025. “Democratization and Taxation in the Global South.” *Perspectives on Politics* 23, special issue no. 3: 1128–1129.

Daniels, Justin. 2023. “Putin Is Assembling an Axis of Autocrats Against Ukraine.” *Foreign Policy*, March 3.

Gottlieb, Ariane, and **Justin Daniels**. 2023. “The Risks of Engagement with China’s Sister Cities.” Power 3.0 blog, National Endowment for Democracy, June 6.

Daniels, Justin. 2022. “Lessons from Sri Lanka’s Constitutional Reform.” *Democracy & Society* 19: 16–18.

Working Papers

“The Beliefs of Politicians, Revisited: Measuring Elite Conceptions of Democracy in Britain and Italy.” Data collection in progress.

“Authoritarian Consolidation in Democracies: Democratic Backsliding and Indoctrination.”

“Controlling the Threat from Below: Indoctrination and Mass Mobilization in Autocracies.”

Presentations

“**Authoritarian Consolidation in Democracies: Democratic Backsliding and Indoctrination**”

– American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA, Sept. 2026.

“**Controlling the Threat from Below: Indoctrination and Mass Mobilization in Autocracies**”

– European Political Science Association Conference, Belfast, UK, June 2026.

– Authoritarian Political Systems Group Conference, London, UK, June 2026.

– Political Studies Association Conference, Oxford, UK, Mar. 2026.

“**Indoctrination and Mass Mobilization in Autocracies, 1945–2021**”

– Electoral Authoritarianism, Everyday Extremism, and Opposition Workshop, Glasgow, UK, Feb. 2026.

Scholarships and Awards

Spring School Studentship

Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford

– Full tuition for the DPIR Spring School, approximately £2,000.

2026

Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership Studentship

Economic and Social Research Council

– Funds 3.5-year DPhil in International Relations at the University of Oxford.

2025

Luce Scholarship (declined)

Henry Luce Foundation

– Funding for a year to live and work in Asia, approximately \$40,000.

2025

Students in Government Internship Grant

Stanford University

– Received a roughly \$5,000 grant to fund U.S. Embassy Rome internship.

2019

Freeman Spogli Institute Internship Grant

Stanford University

– Received roughly \$5,000 in funding for Center for American Studies internship.

2018

Folds of Honor Scholarship

– Received three undergraduate scholarships of \$5,000 each, totaling \$15,000.

2016, 2017, 2019

Research and Editorial Experience

Doctoral Research Assistant to Prof. Katerina Tertychnaya

University of Oxford

– Conduct interviews for a new project on how international NGOs respond to repression in autocracies.

since Oct. 2025

Research Assistant to Dr Anne Wolf

University of Oxford

since May 2025

- Draft literature reviews on how autocrats employ democratic institutions to legitimize themselves and on first ladies in authoritarian regimes.

Editor-in-Chief

Oct. 2025–July 2026

Oxford Political Review

- Led a team of 30 to edit and publish three print issues annually and regularly publish online essays.
- Organized launch-event panels for each issue.

Editorial Assistant, St Antony’s Series at Palgrave Macmillan

since July 2024

St Antony’s College, University of Oxford

- Work with series co-editors to solicit and prepare book proposals on politics, history, and area studies.

Editorial Assistant, Book Reviews

Jan. 2025–June 2026

Perspectives on Politics, American Political Science Association

Assistant Editor

July 2020–Sept. 2023

Journal of Democracy, National Endowment for Democracy

- Worked with authors through the publication process, providing substantive and style edits for essays (roughly 6,500 words each), book reviews, and web pieces on issues facing democracy globally
 - Topics included digital propaganda, covid-19 in China, the Russia–Ukraine War, and more.
- Selected primary sources for inclusion in each issue’s “Documents on Democracy.”
- Proofread quarterly issues of approximately 170 pages each.

Research Assistant to Dr Larry Diamond

Jan.–June 2020

Stanford University

- Drafted briefs on politics in Malawi and Nigeria using secondary sources.
- Wrote a report on covid-19 responses and public trust in government in West European countries.

Research Assistant to Prof. JP Daughton

Nov. 2016–May 2017

Stanford University

- Conducted archival research for *In the Forest of No Joy: The Congo-Ocean Railway and the Tragedy of French Colonialism* (2021).

Professional and Policy Experience

Political Intern

June–Aug. 2019

U.S. Embassy Rome, Rome, Italy

- Drafted briefing memos, meeting summaries, and talking points for senior diplomatic staff on Italian politics and U.S.–Italy relations.
- Wrote political reporting on Italian defense spending and researched religious-liberty issues for the annual Religious Freedom Report.

Partnerships and Fundraising Intern

Oct.–Nov. 2018

The House of Journalists, Paris, France

- Wrote a grant proposal in French to fund an expansion of press-freedom advocacy and programming in Francophone Africa.

Communications Intern

June–Aug. 2018

Center for American Studies, Rome, Italy

- Co-authored a report on the U.S.–Italy security relationship under Prime Minister Conte and President Trump.

Service and Outreach

Flags for Formals Fundraiser Organizer

St Antony's College, University of Oxford

– Raised over £160 for subsidized formal dinner tickets.

Nov. 2024–Mar. 2025

Secretary

St Antony's Graduate Common Room, University of Oxford

Feb.–Oct. 2024

Candidate for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner

District 3C06, Washington, D.C.

July–Nov. 2022

Commencement Speaker

Harford Day School, Bel Air, MD

June 2021

Training and Skills

Tutor and Teaching Training: DPIR Undergraduate Tutorial Training; An Introduction to Tutorial Teaching at Oxford; Flexible and Inclusive Teaching.

Languages: French (advanced), Italian (advanced), German (basic).

Technical: R, \LaTeX , WordPress, HTML.