

Ani Sarkissian

Department of Political Science
Michigan State University
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Academic Appointments

Associate Professor of Political Science, Michigan State University, 2015-present
Assistant Professor of Political Science, Michigan State University, 2007-2014

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles, 2006
M.A. Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles, 2001
B.A. Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 1995

Research and Teaching Fields

Politics and Religion, Democratization, Authoritarian Politics, Political Culture, Political Behavior, Civil Society, Post-Communist Politics, Politics of Muslim Societies

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

- Project Launch Grant for “Explaining Religious Demobilization: The Role of Religious Ministries in Arab Monarchies,” Global Religion Research Initiative, University of Notre Dame (with Ann Marie Wainscott), 2020.
- *Politics and Religion* Distinguished Reviewer Award, 2017, APSA Religion and Politics Section
- Early Stage Grant, Conflict, Terrorism, and Development Collaboratory, MSU (with Bobby Brathwaite), 2017
- Religious Freedom Project Scholar, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, 2014-2016
- Team Grant, Pentecostal and Charismatic Research Initiative, University of Southern California. “The Roman Catholic Charismatic Movement in Sub-Saharan Africa: Its Causes and Consequences” (with Robert Dowd & Paul Kollman, \$100,000), 2010-2012
- Faculty Research Grant, Muslim Studies Program, Michigan State University, 2009-2010
- Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, 2005-2006
- Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Grant, IREX, 2005-2006
- Department of Political Science Fellowship, UCLA, 2005-2006
- Kasper and Siroon Hovannisian Fellowship, UCLA, 2004-2005, 2001-2002, 1999-2000
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Center for European and Eurasian Studies, UCLA, 2004 (Georgian), 2001-2002 (Armenian), 2000-2001 (Russian)
- Mangasar M. Mangasarian Fellowship, UCLA, 2002-2004
- Karekin Der Avedisian Memorial Fellowship, UCLA, 2000-2001
- NIS Regional Language Program in Armenia, ACTR/ACCELS (declined), 2001

Publications

Books

- Ani Sarkissian. 2015. *The Varieties of Religious Repression: Why Governments Restrict Religion*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Refereed Journal Articles

- Robert Dowd and Ani Sarkissian. 2017. "The Roman Catholic Charismatic Movement and Civic Engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 56(3): 536-557.
- Ani Sarkissian and Ş. İlgü Özler. 2013. "The Politicization of Religious Civil Society in Turkey." *Democratization* 20(6): 1014-1035.
- Ani Sarkissian. 2012. "Religion and Civic Engagement in Muslim Countries." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 51(4): 607-622.
- Ani Sarkissian. 2012. "Religious Regulation and the Muslim Democracy Gap." *Politics and Religion* 5(3): 501-527.
- Ş. İlgü Özler and Ani Sarkissian. 2011. "Stalemate and Stagnation in Turkish Democratization: The Role of Civil Society and Political Parties." *Journal of Civil Society* 7(4): 363-384.
- Ani Sarkissian, Jonathan Fox, and Yasemin Akbaba. 2011. "Culture vs. Rational Choice: Assessing the Causes of Religious Discrimination in Muslim States." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 17(4): 423-446.
- Ani Sarkissian. 2009. "Religious Reestablishment in Post-Communist Polities." *Journal of Church and State* 51(3): 472-501.
- Ani Sarkissian. 2008. "Religion in Post-Soviet Armenia: Pluralism and Identity Formation in Transition." *Religion, State & Society* 36(2): 163-180.

Book Reviews

- Ani Sarkissian. 2012. *Islamist Terrorism and Democracy in the Middle East*, by Katarina Dalacoura. *Perspectives on Politics* 10(1): 156-157.
- Ani Sarkissian. 2011. *The Price of Freedom Denied: Religious Persecution and Conflict in the Twenty-First Century*, by Brian Grim and Roger Finke. *The Journal for The Scientific Study of Religion* 50(4): 841-842.
- Ani Sarkissian. 2010. *Religion, Morality, and Community in Post-Soviet Societies*, by Mark D. Steinberg and Catherine Wanner, eds. *The Russian Review* 69(2): 357-358.
- Ani Sarkissian. 2009. *Beyond Sacred and Secular: Politics of Religion in Israel and Turkey*, by Sultan Tepe. *Insight Turkey* 11(3): 194-95.

Conference Presentations

- "State Support for Religion and Women's Rights in Muslim Majority Countries." Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC (August 2019).
- "Legitimizing Religion: State Bureaus of Religion and Regime Stability." Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA (September 2017).
- "Defining 'Normal' Religion: How State Bureaus of Religion Help Governments Manage Opposition and Retain Political Power." Conference of the Comparative Politics Section of the German Political Science Association, Tübingen, Germany (March 2017).
- "Religion and the Authoritarian Toolkit" (with Karrie Koesel). Conference of the Comparative Politics Section of the German Political Science Association, Tübingen, Germany (March 2017).
- "Religious Freedoms Between Democracy and Dictatorship" (with Karrie Koesel). Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA (September 2015).

- “Sacred or Strategic? State Regulation of Religion Across Religious and Secular Regimes.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA (September 2015).
- “State Restrictions on Proselytization: Comparing Motivations and Implications.” Association for the Study of Religion, Economics and Culture, Boston, MA (March 2015).
- “The Freedom to Proselytize and the Quality of Democracy.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C. (August 2014).
- “The Roman Catholic Charismatic Movement and Civic Engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Robert Dowd). Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C. (August 2014).
- “Religious Repression in Authoritarian Regimes: Why Does it Vary?” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, MA (November 2013).
- “Government Regulation of Religion and Authoritarian Durability in Post-Communist Eurasia.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (August 2013).
- “Government Regulation of Religion and Authoritarian Durability in Post-Communist Eurasia.” International Symposium, “Post-Atheism: Religion and Society in Postcommunist Eastern Europe and Eurasia,” sponsored by the Melikian Center: Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (February 2013).
- “The Roman Catholic Charismatic Movement and Building Social Capital in Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Robert Dowd). Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA (September 2012—Meeting Cancelled).
- “Government Regulation of Religion and the Legitimation of Authoritarian Rule.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (April 2012).
- “Religion, Political Participation, and Civic Engagement in Muslim Countries.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association, Milwaukee, WI (October 2011).
- “The Determinants of Tolerance in Arab Societies.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA (September 2011).
- “The Sources of Minority Intolerance in Muslim-Majority Countries.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association, Baltimore, MD (October 2010).
- “Limiting Islam: Restrictions on Muslim Minorities in the Muslim World.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C. (September 2010).
- “Religious Regulation and the Muslim Democracy Gap.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA (April 2010).
- “Negotiating Islam, Civil Society, and Secularism: The Justice and Development Party in Turkey” (with Ş. İlgü Özler). Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Toronto, ON (September 2009).
- “Stalemate and Stagnation in Turkish Democratization: Civil Society and Political Parties in the Post-EU Harmonization Period” (with Ş. İlgü Özler). Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, B.C. (March 2009).
- “Tolerance and Prospects for Democracy in the Muslim World.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA (September 2008).
- “Religion, Participation, and Democratic Support in a Cross-National Sample.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (April 2008).

- “Religion in Post-Soviet Armenia: Pluralism and Identity Formation in Transition.” Annual Meeting of the Central Eurasian Studies Society, Seattle, WA (October 2007).
- “Evangelical Protestantism and Democratic Development in Post-Soviet Eurasia: Testing the Religious Economy Argument.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (September 2007).
- “Religious Competition in Armenia and Georgia: Shifting Power and Tradition in the Orthodox Christian World.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, (September 2006).
- “Governance and Faith in Post-Communist Eurasia: State, Law and Religious Competition in Transition.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C. (September 2005).
- “Debunking the Doctrine Myth: Religious Values and Support for Democracy.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (April 2005).
- “Democratization in the Post-Communist World: Initial Conditions and Policy Choices.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA (August 2002).

Invited Presentations

- “Ask and You Shall Receive: The Causes and Consequences of State Support for Religion,” University of Alabama Research Colloquium (September 2018)
- Panel Participant, “And Justice for All? The Promise of Religious Liberty in a Pluralistic World,” The Fordham Center on Religion and Culture (May 2017)
- Panel Participant, “Religious Freedom and the Common Good: A Symposium of the Religious Freedom Project,” Religious Freedom Project, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University (November 2016)
- “Religion and the Authoritarian Toolkit: A Theoretical Framework.” Workshop on “Disentangling the State-Regime Nexus,” University of Tübingen, (June 2016)
- Panel Participant, “Sharing the Message? Proselytism and Development in Pluralistic Societies: A Public Dialogue,” Religious Freedom Project, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University (March 2015)
- “Religious Civil Society and Politics in Turkey.” Interview for the Research on Religion Podcast (July 2014)
- Panel Participant, “What is the Evidence that Religious Freedom is Necessary for the Political Success of Free Societies?” Freedom to Flourish: Is Religious Freedom Necessary for Peace, Prosperity, and Democracy? Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University (October 2013)
- “The Varieties of Religious Repression.” Comparative Politics Workshop, McGill University Department of Political Science (April 2013)
- “Religious Liberty in the Post-Soviet World.” Interview for the Research on Religion Podcast (March 2013)
- “Religion, Political Participation, and Civic Engagement in Muslim Countries.” CASID/GenCen Friday Forum presentation, Michigan State University (March 2012)
- Webinar, “By the Numbers: Quantitative Data Sources in Eurasian Studies.” Social Science Research Council Eurasia Program (February 2012)
- Faculty Panel, “Upheaval in the Middle East and North Africa: Context, Consequences and Implications.” Sharper Focus/Wider Lens Series (sponsored by MSU Honors College, James Madison College, Muslim Studies, and Political Science), (March 2011)

- “The Causes and Consequences of Religious Minority Repression in Muslim Majority Countries,” Henry Institute, Calvin College, MI (October 2010)
- “Religious Tolerance in Muslim Countries,” Comparative Politics Workshop, Yale University (November 2010)
- Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Dissertation Development Workshop, “Governance in Eurasia.” University of Texas at Austin (March 2004)

University and Professional Service

Department

- Director of PhD Program, 2017-2019
- Comparative Minority Politics hiring committee, Chair, Fall 2018
- Political Psychology hiring committee, Fall 2018
- Comparative Politics Workshop, 2018-present
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2014-2016
- Ad Hoc Committee on Climate and Governance, 2014-2015
- Political Theory hiring committee, 2015-2016
- Graduate Admissions committee, 2013-2014, 2015-2016
- Comparative Politics field committee, 2007-2008, 2009-2012, 2014-2015, 2019-2020
- Graduate Studies and Academic Standards committee, 2010-2011, 2015-2016
- Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Graduate Recruitment (Co-Chair), 2011-2012
- Undergraduate Studies committee, 2007-2009, 2011-2012, 2013-2016
- Comparative Politics hiring committees, 2008-2009, 2014, 2017, 2018
- Department Advisory committee, 2008-2009, 2019-2020
- Honors Advisor, Department of Political Science, 2007-2009, 2015-2016
- Faculty Advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha, Omicron Chapter, 2008-2009
- Faculty Advisor, Epsilon Alpha Sigma, 2015-2018
- Panel Chair, LeFrak Forum Conference, 2009

University

- Core Faculty Member and Advisory Committee, Muslim Studies Program, 2007-present
- Core Faculty Member, Center for European and Russian/Eurasian Studies, 2007-present
- College of Social Science Corey/Thompson Award Committee, 2019
- College Graduate Programs Directors Committee 2017-2019
- Bylaws Committee, Muslim Studies Program, 2014-2015
- Curriculum Committee, Muslim Studies Program, 2015-2016
- Center for Integrative Studies Faculty Advisory Committee, 2014-2016
- Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Program, College of Social Science, Evaluation Committee, 2014
- Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Program Presenter, Honors College, 2014
- Research Mentor, Summer Research Opportunities Program, Graduate School, 2014
- Ernest Green Scholarship Committee, College of Social Science, 2014
- Carnegie Foundation Nominee Selection Committee, Honors College, 2007, 2013, 2015
- College of Social Science Undergraduate Colloquium, 2013
- Migrations of Islam Project Coordinating Committee, 2011-2012
- Moderator, Muslim Studies Program 7th Annual Conference, March 2014
- Discussant, Muslim Studies Program 5th Annual Conference, April 2011

Professional

- Editorial Board, *Politics and Religion*, 2017-present
- Faculty Mentor, APSA Religion and Politics Section, 2017-present
- Shand Research Grant Award Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2019-2020
- Hubert Morken Book Award Committee, APSA Religion and Politics Section, 2017-18
- Tenure File Reviewer, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Reviewer, APSA Small Research Grants, 2016
- Program Committee Chair, Politics of Former Soviet Countries Section, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2015
- Reviewer, US-Israel Binational Science Foundation, 2015
- Panel Chair, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2014
- Panel Chair and Discussant, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2013
- Panel Chair, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2012
- Wildavsky Dissertation Award Committee, APSA, 2010
- Panel Discussant, Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2010
- Reviewer, European Science Foundation Exploratory Workshop, 2010
- Participant, "Expert Survey of Armenia," West Virginia University Researchers, 2007
- Manuscript Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Political Behavior*; *World Politics*; *Democratization*; *Politics and Religion*; *Journal of Politics*; *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*; *Journal of Peace Research*; *Human Rights Review*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; *Religion, State, and Society*; *Journal of Civil Society*; *Journal of Church and State*; *Sociological Forum*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *Cambridge University Press*; *Oxford University Press*; *Rowman and Littlefield Press*

Courses Taught

- Writing Seminar on Religion and Politics (Undergraduate)
- Writing Seminar on Comparative Politics of Identity (Undergraduate)
- Honors Seminar in Research Design (Undergraduate)
- Middle East Politics (Undergraduate)
- Religion and World Politics (Undergraduate)
- Government and Politics of the World (Undergraduate)
- The Individual and Society (Undergraduate)
- Proseminar in Comparative Politics (Graduate)
- Political Culture (Graduate)
- Identity and Politics (Graduate)

Undergraduate Advising

- Political Science Scholars Mentor, 2019-20 (1 student), 2018-19 (1 student), 2017-18 (1 student), 2015-2016 (4 students), 2014-2015 (2 students), 2013-2014 (1 student)
- Honors Thesis Advisor, 2013-2014 (1 student), 2011-2012 (2 students), 2008-2009 (1 student), 2007-2008 (1 student)
- Honors Thesis Committee Member, 2014-2015 (4 students), 2011-2012 (2 students), 2009-2010 (3 students), 2008-2009 (3 students)

- Professorial Assistant Advisor, Honors College, 2010-2011 (2 students), 2008-2010 (1 student)
- Advisor, Independent Study, 2012 (1 student), 2008 (2 students)

Graduate Advising

- Dissertation Committee Chair: Ebru Eren-Webb
- Dissertation Committee Member: Dominique Lewis; Helen Lee, Shih-hao Huang, Niccole Pamphilis, Petra Hendrickson, Masaaki Higashijima, Tsehsin Chen, Kristian Dunn, Christina Scheller, Mircea Lazar
- MPP Committee Member: Alanna Maguire (2010-2011)
- Faculty Advisor for Graduate Teaching: Niccole Pamphilis (2010-2011)
- Guidance Committee Chair: Marcella Babcock, Matthijs Kronemeijer, Hyerin Seo
- Guidance Committee Member: Jack Byham, Laurel Burchfield, Jamil Scott, Tolgahan Dilgin, Brian Crothers, Hsin-Hsin Pan, Ella Fratantuono (History), Corah Walker, Chrissy Scheller, Caleb Lucas, Max Welch, Shayla Olson, Ke Xia
- Advisor, Independent Study. 2013 (1 student), 2009 (1 student)

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture

Specialized Training, Fieldwork, and Visiting Appointments

- Visiting Professor of Political Science, McGill University, 2012-2013
- Fieldwork in Istanbul & Ankara, Turkey, 2008-2009
- Visiting Scholar, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, Tbilisi, 2005
- Visiting Research Scholar, Turpanjian Center for Policy Analysis, American University of Armenia, Yerevan, 2005
- Indiana University Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European, and Central Asian Languages, Intensive Georgian Language Course, 2004

Foreign Languages

Armenian (reading, writing, and speaking), French (reading, writing, and speaking), Russian (reading), Georgian (elementary reading)