

# Michael Rossi

## Current Contact Information

Department of Political Science  
Rutgers University  
89 George Street  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/MichaelRossiPoliSci>

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## Education

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### Dissertation

“Resurrecting the Past: Democracy, National Identity, and Historical Memory in Modern Serbia.” 2009.  
Dissertation advisor: Eric M. Davis. Readers: Jan Kubik, Myron Aronoff (Rutgers University), Nicolai Petro (University of Rhode Island).

### Degrees

Ph.D., Rutgers University, Political Science, 2009.

*Major Field:* Comparative Politics. *Minor Fields:* International Relations, History.

B.A., The College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College), Political Science, 1999.

B.A., The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ, History, 1999

### Additional Study

Belgrade University, School of Philology, Center for the Study of Serbian as a Foreign Language,  
Belgrade, Serbia, 2008.

Aristotle University, Department of Philosophy, School of Modern Greek, Thessaloniki, Greece, 1998.

### Linguistic Abilities

Serbian (Serbo-Croatian)	Reading comprehension, writing (Cyrillic and Latin), speaking
German	Reading comprehension, writing, speaking
Modern Russian	Reading comprehension, speaking, writing

### Research Interests

My primary scholarly interest is in the Political Science subfields of Comparative Politics and International Relations. Within Comparative Politics, I study the transition from authoritarian rule towards democratic pluralism through cultural mechanisms of power and persuasion, collective narratives of national identity, and the role of civil society. Within International Relations, I examine the capabilities and foreign policies of smaller states vis-à-vis their strategic relationship to larger powers and international organizations. These studies have included conflict resolution and globalization. Geographically, my research concentrates on Europe, with a particular focus on East-Central Europe, and a specific study of the Balkan region. I also utilize areas of the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, and Africa in a comparative framework.

## Fields of Specialization

### Comparative Politics:

Theories of Democracy and Democratic Transition, Political Culture, State Theory, Historical Memory, Nationalism, Identity Politics, Globalization, Civil Society.

### International Relations:

IR Theory, Causes of War, Foreign Policy, Security Studies, Conflict Resolution, Globalization.

### History:

Modern European Studies (18<sup>th</sup> century to present), Communist and Post-Communist Political Systems, Middle Eastern Studies (20<sup>th</sup> century to present). Post-Colonial Studies in Africa.

### Qualitative Methods

Comparative Historical Analysis, Process-Tracing, Path-Dependency, Historiography, Ontology

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## Publications

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### Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

- 2021 “The Merits of Applied Learning”, *Integrative Learning and Civic Engagement*. National Collegiate Honors Council Monograph Series. Forthcoming.
- 2020 “Slovakia after Fico: Systemic Change or More of the Same?” *Czech Journal of Political Science*, vol. 27, no. 3 (2020), pp. 235 – 258
- “The Durability of Parastates: Declarative Statehood in the Absence of Constitutive Sovereignty”, *Nationalities Papers*, vol. 48 no. 1 (January 2020), pp. 24 – 41
- “Inconvenient Realities: The Emergence and Resilience of Parastates”, with Jaume Castan Pinos, *Nationalities Papers*, vol. 48 no. 1 (January 2020), pp. 12 – 23
- 2017 “The Trump Election and its Consequences for the Western Balkans”, *Contemporary Southeastern Europe* vol. 4 no. 1 (2017), pp. 87 – 92
- 2014 “Ending the Impasse in Kosovo: Partition, Decentralization, or Consociationalism?” *Nationalities Papers* vol. 42, no. 5 (September), pp. 867 – 889.
- 2012 “In Search of a Democratic Cultural ‘Alternative’: Serbia’s European Heritage from Dositej Obradović to OTPOR.” *Nationalities Papers* vol. 40, no. 6 (November), pp. 853 – 878.

### Editorials, Commentary, and other Non-Refereed Writings

- 2025 “How Kyrgyzstan is Leading Central Asian Tourism”, *The National Interest* (December 5), <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/silk-road-rivalries/how-kyrgyzstan-is-leading-central-asian-tourism>
- “Why the C5+1 Central Asia Summit Succeeded”, *The National Interest* (November 17), <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/why-the-c51-central-asia-summit-succeeded>

- “Water Scarcity Could Destabilize Central Asia”, *The National Interest*, (July 3), <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/silk-road-rivalries/water-scarcity-could-destabilize-central-asia>
- 2024 “Why Kazakhstan is Refraining from Joining BRICS”, *Geopolitical Monitor* (October 18), <https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/why-kazakhstan-is-refraining-from-joining-brics/>
- “Kazakhstan’s Transformation into an Entrepreneurial Hub”, *Modern Diplomacy* (October 3), <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/10/03/kazakhstans-transformation-into-an-entrepreneurial-hub/>
- “Kazakhstan’s Foreign Policy as a Model for Stability in an Unstable World”, *The Geopolitics* (September 20), <https://thegeopolitics.com/kazakhstans-foreign-policy-as-a-model-for-stability-in-an-unstable-world/>
- “U.S. Energy Diplomacy: Strategies for a Sustainable Future”, *Modern Diplomacy* (August 17), <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/08/17/u-s-energy-diplomacy-strategies-for-a-sustainable-future/>
- “Nation Branding in Kazakhstan and Central Asia: From Post-Soviet Periphery, to New Silk Road”, *The Astana Times* (July 8), <https://astanatimes.com/2024/07/nation-branding-in-kazakhstan-and-central-asia-from-post-soviet-periphery-to-new-silk-road/>
- “Can Kazakhstan Convince Great Powers to Pursue Dialogue?”, *Geopolitics* (July 1), [https://thegeopolitics.com/can-kazakhstan-convince-great-powers-to-pursue-dialogue/#google\\_vignette](https://thegeopolitics.com/can-kazakhstan-convince-great-powers-to-pursue-dialogue/#google_vignette)
- 2023 “Kazakhstan’s Multivector Foreign Policy: End of the Year Assessment”, *The Astana Times* (Dec 29), <https://astanatimes.com/2023/12/kazakhstans-multivector-foreign-policy-an-end-of-the-year-assessment/>
- “How Central Asia Became a Key Region for the West”, *The Interpreter* (December 18), <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/how-central-asia-became-key-region-west>
- “‘In the Name of Music’: Georgia’s Annual Celebration of Art, Wine, and Harmony in Tsinandali”, *EUReporter* (October 10), <https://www.eureporter.co/world/georgia/2023/10/10/in-the-name-of-music-georgias-annual-celebration-of-art-wine-and-harmony-in-tsinandali/>
- “C5+1: US’ Enhanced Engagement with Central Asia”, *The Astana Times* (October 5), <https://astanatimes.com/2023/10/c51-us-enhanced-engagement-with-central-asia/>
- “Incorporating Middle Powers Would Pave the Way for Progress”, *The Jerusalem Post* (September 28) <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-760727>
- “Will Robert Fico Return to Power in Slovakia?” London School of Economics – European Politics and Society (September 25) <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2023/09/25/will-robert-fico-return-to-power-in-slovakia/>
- “The United States Must Deepen Engagement with Central Asia”, *The National Interest* (September 19) <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/silk-road-rivalries/united-states-must-deepen-engagement-central-asia-206815>

- “Kazakhstan and Central Asia in a Multipolar World”, *The Astana Times* (August 10) <https://astanatimes.com/2023/08/kazakhstan-and-central-asia-in-multipolar-world/>
- “Can Central Asia Be the Link that Will Bring Together the East and West?” *Euronews* (June 7) <https://www.euronews.com/2023/06/07/can-central-asia-be-the-link-that-will-bring-together-the-east-and-the-west#vuukle-comments-2291384>
- 2019 Book review of Argyro Kartsonaki, *Breaking Away: Kosovo’s Unilateral Secession, Nationalities Papers*, vol. 47 no. 6 (November 2019), pp. 1136 – 1141.
- “Slovakia’s ‘Progressive Turn’ is a Rejection of Corruption – Not a Stand Against Populism”, *European Politics and Policy* (The London School of Economics and Political Science, June 14) <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2019/06/14/slovakias-progressive-turn-is-a-rejection-of-corruption-not-a-stand-against-populism/>
- 2018 “Partition in Kosovo will Lead to Disaster”, *Foreign Policy* (September 19) <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/09/19/partition-in-kosovo-will-lead-to-disaster-serbia-vucic-thaci-mitrovica-ibar/>
- “A Land Swap between Kosovo and Serbia would be Deeply Problematic – and Potentially Dangerous”, *European Politics and Policy* (The London School of Economics and Political Science, August 17) <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2018/08/17/a-land-swap-between-kosovo-and-serbia-would-be-deeply-problematic-and-potentially-dangerous/>
- “‘Parastate’ Kosovo Must Rethink its Options”, *BalkanInsight.com* (July 31) <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/parastate-kosovo-must-rethink-its-options-07-31-2018>
- Book review of Igor Štiks, *Nations and Citizenship in Yugoslavia and the Post-Yugoslav States: One Hundred Years of Citizenship. Nationalities Papers* vol. 46, no. 4 (July), pp. 737 – 741
- “Brussels Agreement Remains Kosovo’s and Serbia’s Best Hope”, *BalkanInsight.com* (April 19) <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/brussels-agreement-remains-kosovo-s-and-serbia-s-best-hope-04-16-2018>
- 2017 “Serbia’s Agenda with ‘Train to Nowhere’ Remains Mysterious”, *BalkanInsight* (January 17) <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/serbia-s-agenda-with-train-to-nowhere-remains-mysterious-01-18-2017>
- “Five More Inconvenient Truths about Kosovo”, *TransConflict* (October 30) <http://www.transconflict.com/2014/10/five-inconvenient-truths-kosovo-300/>
- “Autonomy and Power-Sharing in Kosovo”, *openDemocracy.net* (October 29) <https://opendemocracy.net/can-europe-make-it/michael-rossi/autonomy-powersharing-in-kosovo>
- 2013 “Five Inconvenient Truths about Kosovo”, *TransConflict* (July 17) <http://www.transconflict.com/2013/07/five-inconvenient-truths-about-kosovo-177/>
- 2009 “The Party’s Over: After the Initial Euphoria, Kosovo Faces an Uncertain Future”, *Prague Post* (February 26). <http://www.praguepost.com/opinion/661-the-partys-over.html>

## Reference Material

2008 “Czechoslovakia: Resistance to Soviet Political and Economic Rule.” In *The International Encyclopedia of World Protest and Revolution: 1500 to the Present*, Immanuel Ness, ed. (Blackwell Publishing, 2008), pp. 948 – 952.

“Tomas Masaryk (1850 – 1937).” In *The International Encyclopedia of World Protest and Revolution: 1500 to the Present*, Immanuel Ness, ed. (Blackwell Publishing, 2008), pp. 2251 – 2252.

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## Academic Positions and Teaching Experience

- 2023 – Lecturer – Master’s Program in United Nations and Global Studies, Department of Political Science, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2023 Visiting Instructor – Department of Political Science, Fordham University, NY
- 2023 – Lecturer – Program in Modern Greek Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2022 – Visiting Instructor – Department of History, Politics, International Relations, and Religion, Webster University Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 2021 Visiting Instructor – Department of Political Science, Fordham University Rose Hill
- 2015 – 2023 Instructor, Master’s Program in United Nations and Global Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2019 – 2021 Assistant Professor and Director International Relations BA Program, Long Island University Brooklyn
- 2018 Adjunct Instructor – Department of Political Science, Long Island University Brooklyn.
- 2015 – 2019 Non-Tenure Track Instructor – Department of Political Science, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2003 – 2015 Instructor – Department of Political Science, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2012 – 2015 Instructor – Graduate Program in Liberal Studies, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ; Fort Dix/McGuire Air Force Base.
- 2013 – 2014 Visiting Instructor – Department of Political Science, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ.
- 2010 – 2012 Visiting Assistant Professor – Department of Political Science, The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ.
- Spring 2010 Visiting Instructor – Department of Political Science, The College of New Jersey.
- 2005 – 2006 Teaching Assistant – Writing Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- Spring 2004 Preceptor – Department of Politics, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.
- 2001 – 2003 Teaching Assistant – Department of Political Science, Rutgers University.

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## Courses Taught and Designed

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### Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to Politics	European Politics
Introduction to International Relations	The European Union
Introduction to Comparative Politics	Conflict Resolution in World Politics
Politics and Culture	Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe
International Organization	Politics and Culture of Greece and the Balkans
Globalization and the Non-Western World	Theories of Democratic Transitions
American Foreign Policy	Russian Foreign Policy
African Urban Development	Ethnic Politics
Introduction to the United Nations	Capitalism, Nationalism, and Marxism
Methods of Political Inquiry	

### Graduate Courses

Russian Foreign Policy  
Post-Communist Transition in Eastern Europe and Central Asia  
International Relations  
Comparative Politics  
Politics, Culture and Societies

### Thesis Advising:

Co-reader for Senior Thesis “From Baku to Brussels: Pipeline Politics, Transit Countries, and Great Powers in Eurasia”, by Ioannis Lovoulos. Roger Daniel Kelemen advisor – Spring 2019

Co-reader for Senior Thesis “Modus Magna Cartas’: Reform, Left-Wing Politics, and Political Preference Formation in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ireland”, by Jacob Meeks. Stephen Bronner advisor – Spring 2017.

Co-reader for Senior Thesis “Thesis in Political Science:” by Meghan Margino. Dan Kelemen, advisor – Spring 2017.

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## Conference Presentations, Lectures, and Other Public Speaking Events

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### Presented Papers

- 2019 “Serbia (Re)Branded: Democracy in Image and Substance in the Post-Milošević Era.” 24<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, New York City, May 2 – 4, 2019
- 2018 “The Original Sin of the Parastate: Declarative Sovereignty and Frozen Conflicts.” 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Convention for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, New York City, May 3 – 5, 2018 (panel organizer)

- 2016 “Too Much History Per Square Mile”: Competing Narratives, Contested Memories, and Controversial Commemorations in Yugoslavia’s Successor States since 2000.” 21<sup>st</sup> Annual World Convention for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, New York City, April 14 – 16 2016 (panel organizer)
- 2015 “The Parastate and its Challenges to Modern Sovereignty” 20<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention of the Associations for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, New York City, April 23 – 25 2014. (panel organizer)
- 2014 “Between Dayton and Ohrid: Serbian-Albanian Dialogue and Conflict Resolution in Kosovo” 19<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention of the Associations for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, New York City, April 24 – 26 2014. (panel organizer)
- 2013 “What’s So ‘Balkan’ about Southeastern Europe?” 18<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention of the Associations for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, New York City, April 18 – 20 2013. (panel organizer)
- 2012 “Ending the Impasse in Kosovo: Partition, Decentralization, or ‘Daytonization’?” 17<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, New York City, April 19 – 21 2012. (panel organizer)
- 2011 “In Search of a Democratic Cultural ‘Alternative’: Serbia’s European Heritage from Dositej Obradović to OTPOR.” 16<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, New York City, April 14 – 16 2011.
- 2010 “The Persistence of Illiberal Collective Memory in Post-Milošević Serbia.” 15<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, New York City, April 15 – 17 2010.
- 2004 “Orthodoxy and Slavophilism as Alternative Political Culture in Soviet Society, 1959-91.” Conference for Talking and Doing Citizenship, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey April 2, 2004.
- 2002 “Modern Serbian Identity and the Battle of Kosovo, 1389 – 1999.” 7<sup>th</sup> Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Columbia University, New York City, April 11-13, 2002.
- 2001 “The Byzantine Element in Modern Greek Thought.” Conference for European Identity and Nationalism, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey May 11-13, 2001.

### **Invited Talks**

- 2023 “The Armed International Conflict in Ukraine: 1.5 Years Later”, Webinar hosted by the China Academy, August 23, 2023 – <https://youtu.be/pKsNcOJA8wE>
- 2022 “Editorials Embedded as News: What are the Really Trying to Tell You?” Media Literacy Workshop, Webster University Tashkent, March 4, 2022
- 2021 “The End of *Pax Americana*: The United States in a Multilateral and Multipolar World.” Scarlet Speakers from the Heart of New Brunswick, Rutgers University, September 23, 2021 - <https://youtu.be/LGP7zZP3-Rk>

- 2020 “Mutual Defense Agreements with Ukraine.” Guest speaker for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual National Honors Society Model United Nations Conference, Hilton Midtown New York, February 29 and March 5
- 2019 Guest Speaker for United Nations and Global Studies module at Long Island University Brooklyn Summer Honors Institute, July 15 – 19
- 2019 Guest Speaker at Noor Ul-Imam 5<sup>th</sup> Model United Nations Conference, Noor Ul-Imam School, Monmouth Jct., April 13
- 2019 Guest Speaker on Sociopolitical Development in Interwar Europe at Raritan Valley Regional High School, Red Bank, NJ, March 19 and 21
- 2019 “Euroskepticism in Europe”. Keynote speaker at Mock Council of Europe panel for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual National Honors Society Model United Nations Conference, Hilton Midtown New York, March 2
- 2018 “Illiberal Democracy and Populism”. Workshop speaker for Rutgers University Model United Nations, November 30
- 2017 “Democracy and Democratization”. Workshop speaker for Rutgers University Model United Nations, December 1
- 2017 Roundtable participant for “The Trump Election and its Consequences for the Western Balkans”, Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University, May 6
- 2011 “Is Arab Spring 2011 Like Eastern Europe 1989?” Panel discussant at “The Broken Silence: A Domino Revolution”, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ, March 10, 2011.

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### **Administrative Experience within Academic Disciplines**

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- 2020 – 2021 Co-Project Manager: “Words Matter: Building Innovative Professional Diplomacy through Diplomatic Language and Communication Skills”. A \$300,000 Federal Grant awarded to the LIU Brooklyn Department of Political Science and International Relations Program, under the direction of Dr. Dalia Fahmy, Project Manager. Grant provides funding for building courses in the newly-created International Relations Program that focus on the relationship between language, diplomacy, and global studies.
- 2019 – 2021 Program Director: Program in International Relations, Department of Political Science, Long Island University Brooklyn. Administrative Director of the newly created B.A. Program in International Relations and Diplomacy. Responsible for designing curriculum for academic and applied studies of International Relations, including links with the United Nations. Developed a Five Year Strategic Plan that focused on academic excellence, professional development, and image recognition for the University.
- 2019 Project Leader and Coordinator: Long Island University Brooklyn Summer Honors Institute. Lead contributor to The United Nations and Global Affairs module for more than thirty advanced level High School students from around the country from July 15 – 19, 2019. Responsible for designing and offering two-hour lecture and discussion

sections, supervising field trips to the United Nations and the Museum of Natural History, and serving as a primary point of contact for participating students.

- 2016 – 2019 Curriculum Development and Enrollment: Masters Program in United Nations and Global Studies, Rutgers University. Development of online Graduate level course “Post-Communist Transition in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”. Course includes a series of guest lectures and talks by various international scholars who participate in recorded Skype chats through Camtasia software for specific areas of study.
- 2012 – 2019 Online Course Designer: Rutgers University Office of Instructional and Research Technology. Proficient in designing hybrid and fully online courses for both undergraduate and graduate education. Proficient in Blackboard and Canvas LMS including digitized lectures, online grading and examinations, and multimedia learning. Proficient in Camtasia and Kaltura software utilization for video editing of lectures.
- 2004 – 2005 Manuscript Editor. *Memories of State: Politics, Historical Memory and Collective Identity in Modern Iraq*, by Eric Davis. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005. Editorial assistance in layout of text, endnotes, and bibliography. Assisted in photo selection. Author of index.
- 2003 – 2007 Curriculum Development and Grant Writing: The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), Rutgers University. Co-developer for CMES Certificate in Iranian Studies Program. Co-writer for Title VI Grant Proposal to U.S. Department of Education Center for International Education: Funding for Iranian Studies Program (May 2005)
- 2001 – 2003 Curriculum Development and Outreach. Global Citizenship 2000: Department of Political Science & Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Rutgers University. Development of High School and Middle School lesson plans focusing on culture, identity, and stereotypes. Speaker and contributor in GC 2000 Workshop Programs with NJ public school teachers. Brochure development and layout

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## Awards and Scholarships

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- 2016 Fundamentals of Designing and Teaching Online Courses, course offered through Rutgers Center for Online and Hybrid Learning and Instructional Technologies (COHLIT) on fundamentals of online teaching, online curriculum development, and website building
- 2014 Summer 2014 Hybrid Course Development Grant, funded by Rutgers University Division of Continuing Studies. New Brunswick, New Jersey: January – May 2014.
- 2008 Title VIII Fellowship in Advanced Language Training, funded by U.S. Department of State, Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union. Belgrade, Serbia: January – June 2008.
- 1998 National Collegiate Honors Council for Study Abroad in language training and research for Senior Honors Thesis. Thessaloniki, Greece: September – December 1998.
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## **Grant Writing**

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- 2020 “Words Matter: Building Innovative Professional Diplomacy through Diplomatic Language and Communication Skills”. A \$300,000 Federal Grant awarded to the LIU Brooklyn Department of Political Science and International Relations Program, under the direction of Dr. Dalia Fahmy, Project Manager. Grant provides funding for building courses in the newly-created International Relations Program that focus on the relationship between language, diplomacy, and global studies.
- 2016 Rutgers University Department of Political Science Masters Program in United Nations and Global Policy Studies Funding Request from Innovative Program Development Fund. Grant proposal for “Building International Education at Rutgers University” project through Rutgers University Summer Session office.

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## **Memberships and Affiliations**

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American Political Science Association  
Association for the Study of Nationalities  
Program in United Nations and Global Studies, Rutgers University  
Modern Greek Studies Program, Rutgers University  
Graduate Program in Liberal Studies, Rutgers University Camden

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## **Websites and Social Media**

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YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/MichaelRossiPoliSci>