

# Karen Nershi

IE University, Castellana 259, 28046 Madrid, Spain  
karen.nershi@ie.edu • [www.karennershi.com](http://www.karennershi.com) • +1 (985) 510-9079

---

## Academic Appointments

**IE University** (beginning fall 2023)

Assistant Professor, School of Politics, Economics, and Global Affairs

**Stanford University** (2021-2023)

Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford Internet Observatory

---

## Education

**University of Pennsylvania** (2021)

Ph.D. in Political Science

Fields: International Relations & Comparative Politics

Dissertation: Studies in the International Political Economy of Anti-Money Laundering Regulation

Committee: Beth A. Simmons (chair), Edward D. Mansfield, Julia Gray

- **Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Methods**. ETH Zürich (2019)
- **Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models**. Turin, Italy (2018)

M.A. in Political Science (2018)

**University of Alabama** (2013)

B.A. in International Studies

*Summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

---

## Working Papers

- [1] How Strong Are International Standards in Practice? Evidence from Cryptocurrency Transactions. [\[SSRN\]](#)
  - [2] Assessing the Political Motivations Behind Ransomware Attacks (w/ Shelby Grossman). [\[SSRN\]](#)
    - **Media coverage:** [WIRED](#); [The Washington Post](#); [SC Media](#).
  - [3] Measuring Reputational Harm in Money Laundering Cases. [\[SSRN\]](#)
  - [4] Quantifying International Pressure: Synthetic Estimates of the Economic Impact of Blacklisting. [\[PDF\]](#)
  - [5] Does Rank Choice Voting Increase Electoral Chances for Female and Minority Candidates? Evidence from California Local Elections (with Selina Hofstetter).
- 

## Selected Works in Progress

- [6] Measuring the Effect of Chinese State Media on Attitudes Among Nigerians (with Jennifer Pan, Shelby Grossman, and Rosemary Ajayi). [\[OSF Preregistration\]](#)
- [7] Ties that Bind? Chinese Foreign Direct Investment & Political Influence in Africa.
- [8] Cyber Insurance and the Rise of Ransomware Attacks
- 

## White Papers

Grossman, S., DiResta, R., Ramali, K., Sharma, R., Bradshaw, S., and **Nershi, K.** (2021). “In Bed with Embeds: How a Network Tied to IRA Operations Created Fake ‘Man on the Street’ Content Embedded in News Articles.” Stanford Digital Repository. [DOI](#).

---

## Policy Analysis

**Nershi, K.** (2023). “The Slow and Steady Regulation of Cryptocurrency.” *Inkstick Media*. [DOI](#).

---

## Teaching

### Teaching Assistant

#### **University of Pennsylvania**

1. Introduction to International Relations with Prof. Edward Mansfield (2016 and 2020)
2. International Relations and Ethics with Prof. Mark Pollack (2018)
3. Introduction to International Relations with Prof. Alex Weisiger (2017)
4. International Political Economy with Prof. Mark Pollack (2017)

### Guest Lectures

#### “Cybersecurity and International Relations”

- Prof. Christopher Chiego, California State University Maritime Academy (2023)
  - Prof. Samantha Bradshaw, American University (2023)
- 

## Selected Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

### **Stanford University:**

Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) Fellow (2021–2023)  
Cyber Policy Center Research Grant (2022)

### **University of Pennsylvania:**

Perry World House Graduate Associate (2020–2021)  
GAPSA-Provost Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Innovation (2020)  
Browne Center for International Politics Research Grant (2018, 2019, 2020)  
E. W. Mumford Graduate Fellow (2018)  
Mellon Ethnopol Graduate Fellow (2017)  
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship (2015–2020)

**External:**

Prestage-Cook Travel Award, *Southern Political Science Association* (2020)  
 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, *ETH Zürich* (2019)  
 Young Investigator Scholarship, *Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Studies* (2018)  
 Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship (Arabic), *U.S. Department of State* (2016)  
 Critical Language Scholarship (Arabic), *U.S. Department of State* (2013)

---

**Invited Seminars**

- 2023:** U.S. Internal Revenue Service, RAAS Innovation Lab 3.0 - Digital Assets. *Virtual*.  
 U.S. Department of Treasury, Data & Analytics Community of Practice. *Virtual*.  
 Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Public Policy. *Atlanta, GA*.  
 Georgia Institute of Technology, School of International Affairs. *Atlanta, GA*.
- 2022:** Bocconi University, School of Social and Political Sciences. *Milan, Italy*.  
 IE University, School of Global and Public Affairs. *Madrid, Spain*.  
 Cyber Policy Center seminar series (Stanford University). *Stanford, CA*.  
 The Munich Cyber Crime Conference M3C (Maltego). *Munich, Germany*.  
 Oak Ridge National Laboratory “Geek Brief.” *Virtual*.  
 The Stanford Blockchain Seminar (Center for Blockchain Research and the Future of Digital Currency Initiative). *Stanford, CA*.
- 

**Conference Presentations**

- 2023:** War and Peace: Conflict, Behaviour and Diplomacy in Cyberspace (The Hague Program on Cybersecurity). *The Hague, Netherlands*.  
 American Political Science Association annual conference. *Los Angeles, CA*.  
 Public Choice Society annual conference. *Seattle, WA*.  
 Fourth International Empirical Research Conference on Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime (Central Bank of the Bahamas). *Nassau, Bahamas*.  
 Cyber Escalation in Conflict: Bridging Policy, Data, and Theory (UC San Diego). *San Diego, CA*.
- 2022:** CYBERWARCON. *Arlington, VA*.  
 Trust and Safety Research Conference (Stanford University). *Stanford, CA*.  
 Politics of Emerging Technologies Mini-Conference. *Virtual*.  
 American Political Science Association annual conference. *Montreal, Canada*.  
 Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth) annual conference. *St. Louis, Missouri*.  
 American Causal Inference Conference. *Berkeley, CA*.  
 Symposium on Cryptocurrency and Societal Harm (Stanford University). *Stanford, CA*.  
 Technologies of Deception (Yale Law School). *Virtual*.  
 International Studies Association annual conference. *Nashville, TN*.  
 Third International Empirical Research Conference on Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime (Central Bank of the Bahamas). *Nassau, Bahamas*.

- 2021:** American Political Science Association annual conference. *Seattle, WA.*  
 International Studies Association annual conference. *Virtual.*  
 Second International Empirical Research Conference on Anti-Money Laundering and  
 Financial Crime (Central Bank of the Bahamas). *Virtual.*  
 Southern Political Science Association annual conference. *Virtual.*
- 2020:** Visions in Methodology (VIM) Job Talk Series. *Virtual.*  
 Graduate Student International Political Economy (GSIPE) Workshop: The Inter-  
 national Political Economy of Aid and Development. *Virtual.*  
 Polmeth Europe. *(cancelled due to Covid-19)*  
 Southern Political Science Association annual conference. *San Juan, PR.*

## Academic and University Service

**Reviewer**, *Financial Innovation*

**Mentor**, CISAC Increasing Diversity in International Security Mentoring Program (2023)

**Organizer**, Symposium on Cryptocurrency and Societal Harm, Stanford University (2022)

[Website](#); [Program](#)

**Graduate Associate**, Gregory College House, University of Pennsylvania (2016–2021)

Mentored undergraduate students in a residential setting

## Skills

**Technology** R, Python, Qualtrics, LaTeX

**Languages** Arabic (intermediate), German (intermediate), French (beginner)

## References

**Beth A. Simmons**

Professor of Political Science

University of Pennsylvania

simmons3@law.upenn.edu

**Shelby Grossman**

Research Scholar

Stanford Internet Observatory

shelbygrossman@stanford.edu

**Julia C. Gray**

Associate Professor of Political Science

University of Pennsylvania

jcgray@sas.upenn.edu

**Daniel Nielson**

Professor of Government

University of Texas at Austin

dan.nielson@utexas.edu