

Paola Solimena

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Appointments

- The Ohio State University** 2025–
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
- Columbia University** 2023–2025
Postdoctoral Research Scholar in National Security and Intelligence,
Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies

Education

- University of Oxford** May 2023
D.Phil in International Relations, University College
- Title: “Theories of Mind in International Relations: Why Individuals’ Inferences about States’ Motives Vary”
Joint Winner of the Dasturzada Dr Jal Pavry Memorial Prize from the University of Oxford
 - Supervisors: Dominic Johnson, Jonathan Leader Maynard
 - Examiners: Todd Hall, Joshua Kertzer
- University of Oxford** 2014–2016
M.Phil in International Relations, St Cross College
- Jacobs University Bremen** 2011–2014
B.A. International Politics & History

Working Papers

3. “Fuel to the Fire? Coercive Signaling, Attribution, and Spirals in International Relations,”
revise and resubmit
2. “Beyond the Enemy Image: How Decision-Makers Attribute State Behavior and the End of Detente”
1. “Of Two Minds? Rationalism and Psychology in International Relations”

Works in Progress

- Book project “Theories of Mind in International Relations: How Individuals Attribute State Behavior” (working title)
- Papers
2. “Seen One, Seen Them All? Group Perception and Reputation Formation in International Politics,” pre-registered on OSF
 1. “Rationality in Political Science,” with Jonathan Leader Maynard

Book Reviews

1. Solimena, Paola (forthcoming). H-Diplo Roundtable Review of Madison Schramm, *Why Democracies Fight Dictators* (Oxford University Press, 2025).

Awards and Academic Scholarships

Dasturzada Dr Jal Pavry Memorial Prize (joint winner)	2024
University of Oxford	
Oxford-Radcliffe Graduate Studentship (full funding)	2016–2019
University College, University of Oxford	
UK Economic and Social Research Council Doctoral Studentship	2016–2018
Fellow of the German National Academic Foundation	2015–2016
Scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service	2014–2016
President’s List	2012, 2013, 2014
Jacobs University Bremen	
Scholarship for Global Understanding	2011–2014
Jacobs University Bremen	

Grants

2022	DPIR-CESS Fund, University of Oxford	1000£
	YouGov UniOM Programme, University of Oxford	Omnibus survey data
	Cyril Foster Award, University of Oxford. Not used—pandemic.	600£
2021	Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society Travel Grant. Not used—pandemic.	450\$
	Cyril Foster Award, University of Oxford	1000£
	DPIR-CESS Fund, University of Oxford	973£
2020	Rothermere American Institute Research and Travel Awards. Not used—pandemic.	500£
	Cyril Foster Award, University of Oxford. Not used—pandemic.	1000£
2019	Writing-up Grant, University of Oxford	2000£
	Cyril Foster Award, University of Oxford	300£
2017	University College Research Training Fund	450£

Presentations

Annual Meetings

2025	ISA
2024	APSA, BISA
2023	ECPR
2022	Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society
2020	Interational Society of Political Psychology (ISPP; virtual)
2019	ISA

Invited Talks

2024 Rutgers University
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

Seminars

2024 Columbia University International Politics Seminar (CUIPS)
Columbia Experimental Laboratory for Social Sciences (CELSS) Seminar
2023 International Relations Theory Colloquium 2023-2024
2022 International Relations Colloquium, University of Oxford
Centre for Experimental Social Science (CESS) Seminar, University of Oxford
2020 International Relations Colloquium, University of Oxford
2019 Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS) Colloquium, University of Oxford
American Politics Graduate Seminar, Rothermere American Institute

Teaching

Instructor	International Signaling and Communication (G) Department of Political Science, Ohio State University	Spring 2026
	The Psychology of War and Peace Department of Political Science, Ohio State University	Fall 2025
	Deterrence and Bargaining (U) Political Science Department, Columbia University	Spring 2025
	International Signaling and Communication (G) Political Science Department, Columbia University	Spring 2024
Assistant	Inside the Situation Room (G, U) Discussion section leader for Keren Yarhi-Milo & Hillary Rodham Clinton School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University	Fall 2023, Fall 2024
College Tutor	International Security and Conflict (U) St Catherine's College, University of Oxford	Michaelmas 2018
	International Relations Core (U) Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford	Michaelmas 2017
Training	Essentials of Teaching Workshop Series Columbia University	Fall 2023

Additional Training and Knowledge Exchange

	International Relations Theory Colloquium, Monthly Meeting	2023–2024
	Clements Center Summer Seminar in History and Statecraft	July 2021
	“Political Psychology: Ideology and Partisanship” Summer School of the Central European University	June 2019
	Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) University of Oxford in collaboration with Princeton University	May 2019

Introduction to Experiments, Essex Summer School (56.5hrs)	2018
Introduction to Social Network Analysis, Essex Summer School (35hrs)	2017
Working Group “Precision, Error, Truth”	2016
Summer Academy of the German National Academic Foundation	

Service

Dept.	Undergraduate Studies Committee	2025-2026
	Awards Committee	2025-2026
Discussant	ISA	Mar 2025
	International Relations Theory Colloquium	Apr 2024
	Seminar, Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies	Dec 2023
	International Relations Colloquium, University of Oxford	2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022
Organizer	St Cross Talks on Social Ontology, University of Oxford, with Sam Bruce	2015–2016
Other	Student Representative, MPhil International Relations, University of Oxford	2015–2016

Skills

Statistics	R, STATA, SPSS
Office	L ^A T _E X, Mac and Microsoft Windows common applications (incl. Excel)
Other	Qualtrics, UCINET
Languages	English (native), German (native), Latin (Latinum), French (basic)

References

Dominic Johnson

Alastair Buchan Chair of International Relations
 Department of Politics and International Relations
 University of Oxford
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Todd Hall

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Jonathan Leader Maynard

Senior Lecturer in International Politics
 Department of Political Economy
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Jack Snyder

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 Relations
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 Columbia University
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