

MELANIE H. RAM

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EDUCATION

The George Washington University, Washington, DC

Ph.D., Political Science, 1999

- Specialization: International Relations, Comparative Politics, Central and Eastern Europe
- Dissertation: *Transformation through European Integration: A Comparative Study of the Czech Republic and Romania*

M.A., International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs, 1992

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

B.A., International Relations, 1990. Russian Area Studies Minor.

Thematic Option Honors Program and scholarship. Graduated in 3 years.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

California State University, Fresno, Fresno, CA

- Professor of Political Science, 2017 - present
- Chair, Department of Political Science, Jan. 2018 – Jan. 2022
- Director, College of Social Sciences Honors Program, 2016 - 2018
- Associate Professor of Political Science, 2012 - 2017
- Director, Master of Arts in International Relations Program, 2009 – 2013
- Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2006 – 2012

University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana

- Visiting Professor, University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), summer 2013

Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid, Spain

- Visiting Professor, University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), fall 2008

The George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs, Washington, DC

- Research Associate, Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, 2001 - 2008

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Washington, DC

USA coordination office of Japanese government agency for Official Development Assistance

- Senior Program Officer & Advisor on US Affairs, 2000 – 2006

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Bridging Europe's Divides through Regional Organizations: The Balkans, Brussels, and Beyond.*
London: Routledge, forthcoming 2026.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- “Bridging European Divides: Southeast European Cooperation and European Integration” in *The Benelux, Regional Groupings and the Dynamics of European Integration: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives*, eds. Robert Harmsen, Anna-Lena Högenauer, and Spero Simeon Z. Paravantes. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, forthcoming 2026.
- “European Union Roma Policy: Under Construction.” In *Research Handbook on Minority Politics in the European Union*, eds. Tove H. Malloy and Balázs Vizi, 250-270. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.
- “Regime Complexity and a Galvanizing Idea: Development Goals and Intergovernmental Organization Coordination.” *Journal of International Organizations Studies* 10, no. 2 (2019): 33-53.
- “International Organization Autonomy and Issue Emergence: The World Bank’s Roma Inclusion Agenda.” *Global Governance* 23, no. 4 (Oct-Dec. 2017): 565-582.
- “International Policy and Roma Education in Europe: Essential Inputs or Centralized Distractions?” *Alberta Journal of Educational Research* [special issue on “Inclusion and Education Rights of Roma Children”] 61, no. 4 (Winter 2015): 465-483.
- “Europeanized Hypocrisy: Roma Inclusion and Exclusion in Central and Eastern Europe.” *Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe* 13, no. 3 (2014): 15-44.
- “European Integration, Migration, and Representation: The Case of Roma in France.” *Ethnopolitics* 13, no. 3 (May 2014): 203-224.
- “Legacies of EU Conditionality: Explaining Post-Accession Adherence to Pre-Accession Rules on Roma.” *Europe – Asia Studies* 64, no. 7 (Sept. 2012): 1191-1218.
- “Lost in Transition? Europeanization and the Roma.” *L’Europe en Formation* 364 (summer 2012): 417-434.
- “Roma Advocacy and EU Conditionality: Not One without the Other?” *Comparative European Politics* 9, no. 2 (March 2011): 217-241.
- “Interests, Norms, and Advocacy: Explaining the Emergence of the Roma onto the EU’s Agenda.” *Ethnopolitics* 9, no. 2 (June 2010): 197-217.
- “Romania: From Laggard to Leader?” In *Minority Rights in Central and Eastern Europe*, ed. Bernd Rechel, 180-194. N.Y.: Routledge, 2009.
- “The Roma” (with Peter Vermeersch). In *Minority Rights in Central and Eastern Europe*, ed. Bernd Rechel, 61-73. N.Y.: Routledge, 2009.
- “Anti-Discrimination Policy and the Roma: Assessing the Impact of EU Enlargement.” *Croatian Yearbook of European Law and Policy* 3 (Nov. 2007): 491-514.
- “On Setting and Reaching Development Goals: The MDGs, Policy Coherence, and Partnership” (with Takao Toda). *Journal of International Development Studies* 14, no. 2 (Nov. 2005).
- “Democratization through European Integration: The Case of Minority Rights in the Czech Republic and Romania.” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 38, no. 2 (summer 2003): 28-56.
- “Built by Association: Legislating for the West in EU Candidate States.” In *South-Eastern Europe, the Stability Pact and EU Enlargement*, eds. David Phinnemore and Peter Siani-Davies, 130-155. Cluj, Romania: European Studies Foundation Publishing House, 2002.
- “Harmonizing Laws with the European Union: The Case of Intellectual Property Rights in the Czech Republic.” In *Norms and Nannies: The Impact of European Organizations on Central and East European States*, ed. Ronald H. Linden, 259-286. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2002.

- “Minority Relations in Multiethnic Societies: Assessing the European Union Factor in Romania.” *Romanian Journal of Society and Politics* [special issue on “Romania and the European Union”] 1, no. 2 (Nov. 2001): 63-90.
- “Transformation through European Integration: The Domestic Effects of European Union Law in Romania.” In *The Transformations of 1989-1999: Triumph or Tragedy?* ed. John S. Micgiel. New York: East Central European Center, Columbia University, 2000.

Other Publications

- “The Language of Communication and Cooperation.” Fulbright Schuman Program, Americans in the EU, 12 Jan. 2023, available at <https://www.fulbrightschuman.eu/the-language-of-communication-and-cooperation/>
- Book review of Jennifer L. Schulze, *Strategic Frames: Europe, Russia, and Minority Inclusion in Estonia and Latvia* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018) in *Political Science Quarterly* 134, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 170-172.
- Book review of Aidan McGarry, *Who Speaks for Roma? Political Representation of a Transnational Minority Community* (N.Y.: Continuum, 2010) in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies (JEMS)* 39, no. 1 (2013): 180-181.
- “The Trafficking of Women in the NIS and CEE.” Policy Paper, International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), Sept. 2000.
- “The Roma in Central and Eastern Europe.” Policy Paper, IREX, March 2000.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Speaker/Guest Lecture

- RACVIAC Center for Security Cooperation: “Post-Cold War Regional International Organizations and European Integration.” Presented at Conference on Security Challenges for Europe, 3-4 December 2024, Zagreb, Croatia.
- University of Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science: “Persistence and Proliferation of Regional Cooperation Organizations: Connecting Central and Southeastern Europe” presented at Advanced Research Seminar, 16 December 2022, Zagreb, Croatia.
- Queen’s University Belfast. Keynote speech/paper: “Europeanized Hypocrisy: Roma Inclusion and Exclusion in Central and Eastern Europe.” Conference on “New Perspectives in European Studies: Europeanisation in the EU and the Neighbourhood.” March 2015, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- The World Bank. Presentation to staff on ‘Finding a Path to Social and Economic Inclusion of Europe’s Roma Population,’ April 2013, Washington, DC.
- University of Texas at Austin. Paper presentation: “Roma Rights and the Failure of Identity Politics” at conference on “Identity Politics: The New World versus New (and Old) Europe,” March 2013, Austin, TX.
- York University European Union Centre of Excellence. Paper presentation: “The EU and the Roma: A Path to Social and Economic Inclusion?” at conference on “The Maturing of the Multicultural Experiment: European Challenges Coming to Canada?” March 2011, Toronto, Canada.

Academic Association Conference Papers & Presentations

- International Studies Association: 2023, 2020, 2010, 2001
- American Political Science Association: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2021, 2019, 2015, 2003, 2002, 2001
- Association for the Study of Nationalities: 2014, 2013, 2011, 2009
- Western Political Science Association: 2008
- Southern Political Science Association: 2025, 2016
- European Community Studies Association: 2014, 2001

Selected Academic Conference Papers & Presentations (all sole authored)

- “IO Adaptation for Persistence: Explaining Institutional Change,” American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting, September 2025, Vancouver, Canada.
- “International Organization Adaptation and Persistence: Post-Cold War Subregional IOs in Europe.” Southern Political Science Association (SPSA), January 2025, Puerto Rico.
- “The Subregional Organization Response to Russian Aggression,” American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, September 2024, Philadelphia, PA.
- “Persistence and Proliferation of Regional Organizations: Bridging European Divides.” American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, September 2023, Los Angeles, CA.
- “Russian Aggression and Regional Cooperation Organizations: Evaluating Responses to a Crisis.” Prepared for presentation at International Studies Association Annual Convention, 15-18 March 2023, Montréal, Québec, Canada.
- “Regime Complexity and a Galvanizing Idea: Development Goals and Intergovernmental Organization Coordination.” American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, September 2021, Seattle, Washington.
- “Intergovernmental Organization Coordination, Aid Fragmentation, and Development Goals.” Central and East European Studies Association - International Studies Association (CEEISA-ISA) joint conference, June 2019, Belgrade, Serbia and APSA Annual Meeting, August 2019, Washington, DC.
- “Bridging European Divides: Southeast European Cooperation and European Integration.” BENELUX, Regional Groupings and the Dynamics of European Integration: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives, April 2019, University of Luxembourg.
- “IO Autonomy and Issue Emergence: The World Bank's Roma Inclusion Agenda.” Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Jan. 2016, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- “International Policy and Roma Education in Europe: Essential Inputs or Centralized Distractions?” Conference on “Policy, Inclusion and Education Rights of Roma Children: Challenges and Successes in the EU and North America,” University of Alberta, March 2015, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- “Lost in Transition? Europeanisation and the Roma in Romania and Bulgaria.” Conference on “Europeanisation after EU accession: Transformation, reform and compliance in recent EU member states,” organized by *L'Europe en Formation: Journal of Studies on European Integration and Federalism*, March 2012, Nice, France.
- “The NGO Role in the Diffusion of EU Ideas and Policies.” Kolleg-Forschergruppe (KFG) conference on “The Transformative Power of Europe,” Free University Berlin, Dec. 2009, Berlin, Germany.
- “Anti-Discrimination Policy and the Roma: Assessing the Impact of EU Enlargement.” Jean Monnet Seminar on Advanced Issues of European Law, “European Law After the Big Bang Enlargement: Assessment and Perspectives,” 5th session, April/May 2007, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

- “Transnational Networks for Minority Rights in Europe: The Case of the Roma.” IREX/Woodrow Wilson Center Regional Policy Symposium on “EU and NATO Member States and their Eastern Borderlands,” March/April 2006, Chesapeake Beach, MD.
- “Lobbying the European Union from Afar: NGO Advocacy on Minority Rights in Candidate States.” Conference on “Organized Civil Society and European Governance: Training, Recruitment and Practices of Interest Group Representatives in the European Union,” Institut d’Etudes Politiques, June 2004, Strasbourg, France.
- “Bridging the EU Divide: From Subregional Cooperation to European Integration.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Aug./Sept. 2002, Boston, MA.
- “Built by Association: Transplanting Democracy through European Integration.” Conference on “The European Union’s Eastern Enlargement: Surveying the Social and Economic Divides,” University of Toronto, Feb. 2002, Toronto, Canada.
- “Built by Association: Legislating for the West in EU Candidate States.” Conference on “South-Eastern Europe and EU Enlargement,” Babes-Bolyai University, Sept. 2001, Cluj, Romania.
- “European Union Aspirations and Obligations: The EU Influence on Minority Rights in Candidate States.” Conference on “Voice or Exit: Comparative Perspectives on Ethnic Minorities in Twentieth Century Europe,” Humboldt University, June 2001, Berlin, Germany.
- “Black Sea Cooperation towards European Integration.” IREX and Woodrow Wilson Center Black Sea Regional Policy Symposium, April 2001, Leesburg, VA.
- “Sub-regional Cooperation and European Integration: Romania’s Delicate Balance.” International Studies Association Annual Convention, Feb. 2001, Chicago, IL.
- Woodrow Wilson Center Junior Scholars’ Training Seminar, presentation and discussion of doctoral dissertation research, Aug. 2000, Wye River, MD.
- Columbia University, paper presentation at 1999 Harriman Institute/East Central European Center conference on “1989 - 1999 Transformations: Triumph or Tragedy?”
- Harvard University, paper presentation at 1999 Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies conference on “New Approaches to Southeast Europe.”

HONORS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

- Fulbright Schuman European Union Affairs U.S. Scholar Research Award, 2022-23 (for research in Italy, Croatia, and Romania)

University Awards & Grants

- Exceptional Service Award (2024-2025), California State University, Fresno (CSUF)
- Division of Research and Graduate Studies mini-grant award (for summer 2024 research trip), CSUF
- CSU Chancellor’s Office Graduation Initiative 2025 award for culturally competent professional development activities to pilot a student peer writing tutor program in Political Science, 2022
- Faculty Service Award, College of Social Sciences, CSUF, 2020
- Provost’s Faculty Scholarship Support Award, CSUF, 2023, 2022, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2010
- Research and Creative Activity Award, College of Social Sciences, CSUF, 2021, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2007

- Division of Graduate Studies Recruitment Mini-Grant, CSUF, 2012, 2011
- Digital Campus eScholars Program Award, CSUF, 2008
- University Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award, CSUF, 2011, 2007
- Provost's Promising New Faculty Award, CSUF, 2011
- Graduate Faculty Enhancement Award, CSUF, 2009, 2008, 2007

Earlier Awards & Grants

- University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) Faculty International Development Award for language study in Lüneburg, Germany, 2007
- International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)/Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Regional Policy Symposium Grant, 2006
- International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) Short-Term Travel Grant to Romania, 2004
- Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, George Washington University, research travel grant to Czech Republic, 2002
- Black Sea Regional Policy Symposium Grant, Woodrow Wilson Center and IREX, 2001
- Junior Scholars' Training Seminar Scholarship, Woodrow Wilson Center (East European Studies) and American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), 2000
- Hoffman Dissertation Prize, George Washington University, 1999
- IREX Southeastern Europe Area Development Studies grant for research & language study in Romania, 1999
- Cosmos Club Foundation Junior Scholar's Award for research in Czech Republic, 1999
- Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique (SPFFA) scholarship for summer study at Université Laval, Québec, 1999 (declined)
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars fellow, short-term grant, East European Studies, 1998
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for intensive Czech language study, Czech Republic, 1997
- Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, study fellowship, 1996
- FLAS Fellowship for intensive Czech language study, U.S., 1996
- Hoffman Dissertation Award, George Washington University, 1996
- University Fellow, George Washington University, 1993 – 1994
- FLAS Fellowship for intensive Russian language study, Russia, 1993
- Dean's Scholarship, University of Southern California, 1987
- Honors Program (Thematic Option) admission, University of Southern California, 1987
- American Association of University Women Scholarship, 1987

COURSES TAUGHT

- Global Social Issues: Exploring Challenges & Solutions (University Honors)
- International Law and Organization
- Politics of Foreign Aid
- International Politics
- International Human Rights
- Model United Nations
- Social Science Honors
- Senior Research Capstone
- Writing about Politics: Local, National, & Global Issues
- Internship in Political Science
- Graduate seminars:
 - Advanced Research & Writing in International Relations
 - Democracy and Human Rights
- Experience Global Governance (NY, Brussels, The Hague study abroad)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Online and hybrid inclusive teaching training programs, California State University, Fresno

- Virtual Summer Institute, 3-week advanced training for online teaching, July 2020
- eScholars Program, semester-long training to develop fully online course, spring 2014
- eScholars Institute on “Designing a Hybrid Course,” July 2008
 - Course design presented at Regional Conference on Excellence in Teaching & Learning, Teaching for Engaged Learning, March 2009, California State University, Fresno.

HERS Leadership Institute, Bryn Mawr University, July 2017

- Nominated for participation by University Provost and College of Social Sciences Dean
- Trained in academic leadership, diversity, and inclusive excellence

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Academic Senate Vice Chair, 5/2025-5/2027
- Academic Senate Senator
 - Senator representing the Department of Political Science and subsequently all university faculty as university-wide senator, 2010-2013, 2014 - 2021, 2023 - present (13 years)
 - Executive Committee (one of 7 elected to represent university faculty in the review and revision of university policies), 2012-2013, 2014-2017, 2017-2020, 2020-2021, 2025- present (9 years)
- Academic Policy & Planning Committee, College of Social Sciences representative, 5/2024 - 3/2025
- President’s Fresno State 2023-2029 Strategic Plan Goal Sub-Committee, spring 2023
- Provost’s Task Force on High Impact Educational Practices, spring 2016 - spring 2019
- President’s Task Force on Testing Services, one of 3 faculty members appointed by President, 2016
- President’s Level A Budget Allocation Review Committee, one of 4 faculty members appointed by President, 2015 – 2016
- Provost’s Awards Committee, 2015
- WASC Accreditation Committee, Provost appointee, fall 2012 – spring 2015

- WASC Core Competency Subcommittee, spring 2013 – spring 2015
- Distinguished International Student Nominations reader, 2013
- CSU-International Programs Selection Committee, 2013
- Honorary Doctorate Nomination Committee, 2012, 2019
- World Cultures and Globalization cohort, 2011-
- Study Abroad Scholarship Review Committee, 2010 - 2014
- Center for Creativity and the Arts Committee, 2010 - 2013, 2016
- International careers panel organizer & moderator, International Education Week, 2010 – 2012
- Chair, Professional Activities, Untenured Faculty Organization, 2011 – 2012
- Co-Chair, Red Balloon Project Faculty Workload Task Force, 2011 – 2012
- Red Balloon Project Steering Committee, Provost appointee, 2011 – 2012
- Chair, Research Support, Untenured Faculty Organization, 2009 - 2011
- Lowell Neighborhood Project, College of Social Sciences representative, 2009 – 2010
- International Scholarship Committee, 2008

College of Social Sciences

- Emerging Scholars Program Mentor, 2025-2026
- Executive Committee, 2015 – 2018
- Co-Chair, International Education Committee, 2015-2017, member 2010-2018
- Honors College Ad Hoc Committee, 2017 – 2018
- Research Committee, 2012 – 2015
- Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor, 2014-15, 2015-16 (2 students), 2016-17, 2020-21

Department of Political Science

- Personnel Committee, 2018 - 2021, 2023 - present
- Managed Political Science B.A. Program Review, 2021 - 2022
- RTP Review Committee, 2018 – 2021
- Curriculum Committee, 2016 - present
- Professional Leave Committee, 2018 - 2019
- Student Scholarships Review Committee, 2017 - 2019
- Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Comparative Politics/International Relations, 2017
- Director, Graduate Program in International Relations, 2009 – 2013
- Program Coordinator, Seven Year Review and Student Outcome Assessment Program for the Graduate Program in International Relations, 2009 – 2013
- Faculty Search Committee, Latin American Politics/International Relations, Departments of Political Science and Chicano and Latin American Studies, 2010 – 2011

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer reviewer of national grant proposals

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
- Swiss National Science Foundation
- Czech Science Foundation
- Autonomous Province of Bolzano in Northern Italy
- Fulbright Egyptian Student Program, International Relations

Peer reviewer of journal manuscripts

- Global Governance
- Journal of Politics
- East European Politics
- Problems of Post-Communism
- Europe-Asia Studies
- Ethnic and Racial Studies
- Ethnopolitics
- Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism
- Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
- Journal of Common Market Studies
- Journal of European Integration
- Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies
- Intersections: East European Journal of Society and Politics
- Journal of Contemporary European Research
- Alberta Journal of Educational Research
- European Education

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Political Science Association
- International Studies Association
- Academic Council on the United Nations System
- Phi Beta Delta International Education Honor Society
- European Academic Network on Romani Studies (academic project of the EU and Council of Europe)

STUDY ABROAD

- Germany: University of Lüneburg, summer 2007 (USAC Faculty Award for language study)
- Romania: Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași
 - Romanian language, summer 1999
- Czech Republic: Charles University
 - Czech language & politics, summer & fall 1996, summer 1997
- Russia: Moscow Institute for Social and Political Studies
 - Russian language & politics, summer 1993
- UK, France, & Switzerland: USC International Communication Studies Graduate Program, summer 1990