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RAUSHAN ZHANDAYEVA
PhD Candidate

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SKILLS

Tools and Languages: R, Python, SQL, Qualtrics, Tableau, ArcGIS, LATEX, STATA

Research Methods: regression analysis, surveys design and analysis, A/B testing, natural language processing, machine learning, causal inference, data visualization, design thinking, interviews, focus groups

Natural Languages: English (fluent), Russian (fluent), Kazakh (fluent), Spanish (intermediate)

WORK EXPERIENCE

PhD Candidate | *George Washington University, Washington, D.C.*

Aug 2020 - Present

- Managed end-to-end computational social science research projects using **R** and **Python**; coordinated with cross-functional stakeholders to define research designs and oversee execution, resulting in publication of seven public scholarship articles and four peer-reviewed academic papers with 16 presentations
- [Webscraped](#) 120,000+ news articles in Russian using **Python** (Selenium and Beautiful Soup) to conduct **topic modeling** in **R** (LDA, STM, KeyATM, conText) and **sentiment analysis** with an aim to track narratives surrounding the Russia-Ukraine War over two years
- [Employed](#) unsupervised (principal component analysis) and supervised (logit, ridge, lasso, KNN, CART, bagging, RF, boosting, support vector machines) **machine learning techniques** on World Values Survey data (N ~ 1,800) to select predictors associated with anti-migrant sentiment in Russia
- Managed three multi-year research initiatives on misinformation and conflict narratives on the Russia-Ukraine war, conducting distinct **survey experiments** across six countries with a cumulative sample of N > 8,500; a set of [findings](#) in an academic journal
- Visualized, analyzed, and interpreted **survey data** from 3,000+ Central Asia Barometer respondents to identify public opinion determinants on Russia's invasion of Ukraine in two countries, resulting in a published policy [memo](#) and an academic [article](#)
- Co-designed and lead data analysis for a large-scale, two-wave **survey experiment** (N ~2500) investigating the impact of social media algorithms on public opinion in the United States
- Designed and instructed a semester-long course (Politics of Information) translating complex academic concepts for undergraduate audiences; mentored 350+ undergraduate students across seven political science courses, reflected in an average of 4.7 out of 5.0 on student evaluations

Program Development Intern | *Search for Common Ground, Washington, D.C.*

Jun 2021 - Oct 2021

- Led internal **user research** and change management for the rollout of a project management platform across 24 regional teams; identified user friction points to streamline oversight and increase adoption
- Researched, analyzed, and synthesized data on geopolitical risks in Central and South Asia, translating findings into 11 strategic executive briefings to guide program decision-making
- Developed an interactive website project tracker and updated three project websites, improving information architecture and data visualization for external stakeholders

External Consultant | *Habitat for Humanity International, Various Locations*

Jan 2019 - Dec 2019

- Collaborated with a cross-functional international team on a year-long consultant project at the Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter
- Led data-driven **consumer research**, conducting 50+ interviews and focus groups to analyze market trends in housing among low-income households in Mexico City, Mexico (June 2019) and Chennai, India (July 2019)
- Co-produced a new methodology integrating behavior change theories with **design thinking** for the construction and housing sector, resulting in an instructional video now used for design thinking training across Habitat partner offices

EDUCATION

PhD, Political Science, Comparative Politics and Research Methods | George Washington University

exp. Mar 2026

MA, Political Science | George Washington University

May 2023

MA, Global Affairs | University of Notre Dame

Jun 2020

BA, Political Science and International Relations | Nazarbayev University | Astana, Kazakhstan

Jun 2018

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Deep Learning | Data Matters, UNC – Chapel Hill

Aug 2024

Data Science Professional Certificate | IBM

Jun 2024

Summer School in International Survey Methods | Vanderbilt University

Jun 2024

Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research | University of Michigan

Aug 2023