Paulina Lenik

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Research Interests

Political economy, Central and Eastern Europe, democratic governance, populism, quantitative research methods, democratisation, post-communist market economies, survey research.

Professional Experience

09/2024–present	**Assistant Professor in Political Economy, Jagiellonian University, Kraków**
09/2023–08/2024	**Assistant Professor in Economics, Kozminski University, Warsaw** Didactic-research full-time position, Division of Empirical Economic Analysis
08/2022–08/2023	**Junior Professional in Delegation, EU Delegation to Uzbekistan, Tashkent** Attaché in the Economic Department
08/2018–08/2022	**Early-Stage Researcher, UCL SSEES** Economic work package, FATIGUE (EU Horizon 2020)
10/2020–03/2021	**Trainee, Transparency International, Budapest** Data analysis and reporting: macro-data on corruption, policy performance and procurement in CEE
2015–2018	**Earlier roles** Financial Analyst, French Markets, Shell BPO, Kraków (2017–2018); Intern-Advisor, Polish Mission to the UN, New York (2016); Schuman Scholarship Trainee, DG INTE, European Parliament, Brussels (2015–2016)

Education

08/2018–06/2023	**PhD in Economics, UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies** Determinants of Economic Populism (FATIGUE research project)
2018	**Master of Studies, Diplomatic Studies, Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford** International trade and finance, international public law, diplomatic practice
2014	**MA in European Studies, Jagiellonian University, Kraków** Graduated with honours; thesis: *Establishing a Competitive EU Electricity Market: Polish Unbundling Scenarios*
2012	**BA in International Economic Relations, Cracow University of Economics**

Publications

2026	**From protest to piety: the cultural consolidation of PiS voters in Poland** *East European Politics*. doi:10.1080/21599165.2026.2686990
2025	**The Gender Gap in the Populist Vote: The Bulgarian and Hungarian Cases** *East European Politics and Societies*. doi:10.1177/08883254251335941
2025	**Trapped in the feudal past? Examining the difference in welfare preferences between the CEE and the West** Book chapter in *The Anatomy of Right-Wing Populism: Dealing with Transformational Fatigue in Central and Eastern Europe*, UCL Press. doi:10.14324/111.9781800086777
2024	**Defining and researching populist parties in Central and Eastern Europe (with N. Styczyńska)** *Teoria Polityki*, 10 (special issue), pp. 151–163. doi:10.4467/25440845TP.24.008.20600
2024	**Cut from the same cloth? Identifying a difference between populist parties in CEE and Western Europe** *East European Politics*. doi:10.1080/21599165.2024.2410005
2024	**A thickened demand for populism: comparison of voters' attitudes in CEE and Western Europe** *Post-Communist Economies*, 36(3). doi:10.1080/14631377.2023.2287767

2023 **The Two Dissimilar Cases of a Rise in Populism: Case Studies of Poland and Czechia**
Book chapter in *Faces of Populism*, p. 79, Jagiellonian University Press

2023 **Trusting the untrustworthy: an exploration of attitudes towards the populist government in Poland using survey data**
Europe-Asia Studies. doi:10.1080/09668136.2023.2192897

2020 **The "good change": Polish populist presidential campaign 2015 and now (with C. Heilig)**
SSEES Research Blog

Teaching

Current **Introduction to Economics (BAES-IE-3), Jagiellonian University**
Lecture course

09/2023 **Introduction to Econometrics, Kozminski University**
Post-graduate course in econometric analysis using GRETL

2020–2021 **Postgraduate teaching assistant, UCL SSEES**
Contemporary Issues in International Business; Understanding and Analysing Data (Quantitative Methods); Applied Game Theory in Economics and Business; cover lectures for Emerging Market Economies: Economics of Transition

Research Projects

07/2018–06/2022 **FATIGUE – EU Horizon 2020 research project**
Early-Stage Researcher: economic determinants of populism in CEE

Awards and Qualifications

2022 **UCL SSEES Excellence Prize**
For overall scientific achievements on the doctoral programme

2021 **Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (UK)**

2017 **R.G. Feltham Prize, Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford**
Thesis: *Energy Politics in the Eastern Mediterranean: Case Studies*

Conferences and Workshops

07/2026 **EPSA Annual Conference, Prague**
Presenter: EU rural development funding and institutional trust in Poland

07/2026 **IWPP5, Workshop T04W03 "The Democratic Embeddedness of Independent Agencies", Carleton University, Ottawa**
Presenter: Populist pressures and central bank independence: Evidence from Poland; first discussant

06/2026 **4th Taube Centre Annual Conference "Democracy and Trust in Times of Changing World Order", Jagiellonian University, Kraków**
Presenter: The Cultural Consolidation of PiS Voters: Understanding the Electoral Base of Populism in Poland

06/2026 **Urban Elites, Rural Margins? (PIMs), UCL SSEES, London**
Presenter: EU rural development funding and institutional trust in Poland

05/2026 **PROSPER Jean Monnet Network Steering Committee Meeting, Université libre de Bruxelles**
Participant

05/2026 **Sixth Helsinki Conference on Emotions, Populism and Polarisation (HEPP6), University of Helsinki**
Presenter: From Protest to Piety: Cultural consolidation of PiS voters in Poland, 2012–2023

06/2025 **ECPR Standing Group on Extremism and Democracy Conference, Queen Mary University of London**
Presenter: The nature of populism in Poland: examination of electoral attitudes to PiS 2012–2024

04/2025 **Taube Centre Annual Conference "Governance and Society in the Age of Populism", Jagiellonian University, Kraków**
Presenter: The nature of populism in Poland: an examination of electoral attitudes to PiS 2012–2024

03/2025 **Taube Centre Fellows' Seminar, Jagiellonian University, Kraków**
Presenter: Don't saw-off the branch: Cohesion funds and institutional trust in Poland, 2014–2020

01/2025 **PROSPER Jean Monnet Network Kick-Off Conference, Dublin City University**
Presenter, PhD panel

11/2024 **SSEES Alumni Event, University College London**
Invited speaker

06/2022 **Radicalisation, Emotions and Populism, University of Helsinki**
Presenter: comparative analysis of neo-feudal and communist legacies in CEE

09/2021 **BASEES Polish Studies Conference, University of Cambridge**
Presenter: Trusting the untrustworthy

08/2021 **ECPR General Conference**
Presenter: Is CEE a creature of its own? Ladies at the ballot

05/2021 **Radicalisation, Emotions and Populism, University of Helsinki**
Presenter: Case of success? Attitudes to the Polish government

12/2019 **Populist Rebellion, University of Belgrade**
Presenter: Orbanomics: economic policy of Fidesz since 2010

12/2019 **Populist Rebellion Workshop, Corvinus University of Budapest**
Presenter: Demand side of populism: does trade union membership matter?

04/2019 **BASEES Annual Conference, University of Cambridge**
Presenter: A pendulum swung back: populist fever in CEE

Conference and Workshop Organisation

06/2026 **Panel II, "Populism, Institutional Transformation, and Democratic Resilience in Central and Eastern Europe", 4th Taube Centre Annual Conference, Jagiellonian University**
Organiser

04/2025 **Panel I, "Causes and Consequences of Political Discontent", Taube Centre Annual Conference, Jagiellonian University**
Organiser

Training

2020 **Discourse Analysis, online workshop with Prof. Ruth Wodak**

2020 **Methods for Multilevel Data, UCL**
Training in multilevel data analysis with Dr Ewan Carr

2020 **ECPR Bamberg Winter School in Research Methods**
Synthetic control, structural modelling, multilevel regression, quantitative text analysis

2019 **NVIDIA Deep Learning Institute, Budapest**
Machine learning with Python

2019 **University of Essex Summer School in Quantitative Methods**
Advanced data analysis, introduction to R, maximum likelihood estimation

2019 **Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice (CeMMAP), London**
Longitudinal survey data and imputation techniques (J. Wooldridge)

2018 **Advanced Quantitative Methods, UCL SSEES**

Skills and Languages

Software: Stata, R, LaTeX, Excel, SAP, basic Python. **Languages:** Polish (native), English (fluent), French (TCF C1, 2014).