

# SVANHILDUR THORVALDSOTTIR

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Iceland  
Faculty of Political Science  
102 Reykjavik, Iceland

Tölvupóstur: [sthorvalds@hi.is](mailto:sthorvalds@hi.is)  
Sími: +354 525-4561  
Website: [www.svanhildur.com](http://www.svanhildur.com)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**University of Iceland**, Reykjavik, Iceland, 2022–present  
Assistant Professor

**Hertie School**, Berlin, Germany, 2021–2022  
Senior Lecturer in Statistics

**Technical University of Munich**, Munich, Germany, 2021  
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow & Computational Social Scientist

**LMU Munich**, Geschwister-Scholl Institute for Political Science, Munich, Germany, 2017–2021  
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

## EDUCATION

**University of Rochester**, Rochester, NY  
PhD, Political Science, 2017; MA, Political Science, 2013  
Focus Fields: International Relations, American Politics, Political Methodology

**Columbia University**, New York, NY  
Master of International Affairs (MIA), International Security Policy, 2007  
BA (*cum laude*), Political Science, 2006

## PUBLICATIONS

Patz, Ronny, **Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir**, and Klaus H. Goetz. 2022. “Why Do International Bureaucrats Increase Affective Language Use? A Dictionary-Based Analysis of Sentiment in UN-RWA Annual Reports.” *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*.

**Thorvaldsdottir, Svanhildur**, Ronny Patz and Klaus H. Goetz. 2021. “Mandate or Donors? Explaining UNHCR’s country-level expenditures from 1967-2016” *Political Studies*

**Thorvaldsdottir, Svanhildur**, Ronny Patz and Steffen Eckhard, editors. “International Bureaucracy and the United Nations System”. 2021. Special Edition of *International Review of Administrative Sciences*.

Patz, Ronny and **Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir**. 2021 “Explaining Sentiment Shifts in UN System Annual Reporting: A Longitudinal Comparison of UNHCR, UNRWA and IOM.” *International Review of Administrative Sciences*

**Thorvaldsdottir, Svanhildur** and Ronny Patz. 2021. “Budget Analysis [in International Organization Research]”, in Badache, Fanny, Emilie Dairon, Leah R. Kimber, and Lucile Maertens (eds.). Introduction to International Organization Research Methods, Univ of Michigan Press.

Patz, Ronny and **Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir**. 2020. “Drivers of Expenditure Allocation in IOM: Refugees, Donors, and International Bureaucracy”, in Martin Geiger and Antoine Pécoud (Eds), *The International Organization for Migration*, Palgrave.

## WORKING PAPERS

**Thorvaldsdottir, Svanhildur**. “State Influence on UN Multilateral Aid through Bureaucratic Ties”. Malik, Rabia and **Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir**. “Are Goodwill Ambassadors Good for Business? Impact of Celebrities on IO fundraising.”

**Thorvaldsdottir, Svanhildur**. “Ideology and Donations to the UN System.”

**Thorvaldsdottir, Svanhildur**. “Behave or Else? Aid and Voting on the UN Security Council.”

Rothenberg, Lawrence and **Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir**. “Driving Pollution: Specifying and Estimating the Environmental Kuznets Curve.”

POLICY RESEARCH

Faisal, Farah and **Svanhildur Thorvaldsdottir**. 2010. "Special Drawing Rights for Climate Change Financing: Examining the Governance Challenge." International Peace Institute.

**Thorvaldsdottir, Svanhildur** and Pim Valdre (rapporteurs). 2009. "Negotiating Climate Change: From Bali to Copenhagen." International Peace Institute.

**TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**

UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

MA Thesis: Research design and plans (MA)  
Institutional Behavior

HERTIE SCHOOL

Statistics I: Statistics, Inference, and Regression (MA)  
Statistics II: Causal Inference (MA)  
Making Sense of Messy Data: Analyzing Government Responses to Covid-19 (MA)

LMU MUNICH

The United Nations System: Politics and Process (BA)  
Quantitative Approaches to International Politics (MA)  
Researching IOs: An Introduction to Datasets and Quantitative Research in IR (BA)  
Research Design in International Relations (BA)  
Theories of Bureaucratic Politics: An International Perspective (MA)

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

*Instructor:*

United States in the Middle East (BA)  
Introduction to International Relations (BA)

*Teaching Assistant:*

International Organization (BA)  
Environmental Politics (BA)  
Scope of Political Science (PhD)  
Introduction to American Politics (BA)  
Introduction to Political Philosophy (BA)

**CONFERENCE  
ACTIVITY**

APSA Annual Conference: 2014–2019, 2022  
EPSA Annual Conference: 2015, 2019, 2022  
PEIO Annual Conference: 2016, 2019  
ECPR General Conference: 2018, 2019, 2020  
ECPR Joint Sessions: 2023  
DVPW General Congress: 2018  
SPSA Annual Conference: 2013

SERVICE:

Section Organizer: ECPR (8 panels), 2019; ECPR Joint Sessions, 2023  
Panel Organizer: ECPR 2019, 2020; APSA 2015, 2016, 2018  
Panel Chair: ECPR 2019, 2020; APSA 2017  
Panel Discussant: ECPR 2018, 2019; APSA 2017  
Award Committee: APSA 2020 (Best Article, International Collaboration Section)

<b>GRANTS AND AWARDS</b>	<p>LMU Mentoring Program Research Grant, 2018, 2019</p> <p>Skalny Center Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2017-2018</p> <p>PumpPrimer II Grant for <i>In the Field</i> website project (with Gretchen Helmke, Yeonkyung Jeong, and Rabia Malik), University of Rochester, 2016-2017</p> <p>Leifur Eiriksson Foundation Fellowship, 2015-2016</p> <p>Dept. of Political Science Prize for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, UofR, 2012-2013</p> <p>Program in Empirical Policy Research (PEPR) Grant, Wallis Institute of Political Economy, University of Rochester, 2013</p> <p>URDPS Second-Year Paper Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2012</p> <p>Charles E. Lanni Summer Research Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2011-2012</p> <p>University Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2010-2015</p>
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICE</b>	<p>REFeree:</p> <p><i>American Political Science Review, International Studies Quarterly, Review of International Organization, Journal of European Public Policy, International Review of Administrative Sciences</i></p> <p>DEPARTMENT SERVICE:</p> <p>Technical University of Munich:</p> <p>MA Admissions Interview Committee, 2021</p> <p>LMU Munich</p> <p>Moderator, “Diplomacy in High-Risk Regions,” with Athar Sultan-Khan, Special Advisor to the High Commissioner for Refugees, convened by Academic Association for Security Studies (BSH) of Munich, 2019</p> <p>University of Rochester:</p> <p>Founder and Coordinator, Women in Political Science Working Group, 2012-2017</p> <p>Coordinator, Watson Center Seminar Series on International Politics, Fall 2013</p> <p>Coordinator, American Politics Working Group, Spring 2013</p> <p>OTHER SERVICE:</p> <p>Hackathon Mentor, Paris Peace Forum, 2018</p> <p>WXXI Connections: Radio discussion on impact of Trump administration on the UN, 2020</p>
<b>OTHER POSITIONS</b>	<p><b>International Peace Institute</b>, New York</p> <p>Senior Policy Analyst, 2007-2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researcher on flagship <i>Coping with Crisis</i> project on United Nations policy development on, and responses to, current and emerging transnational threats and challenges.</li> <li>• Spearheaded IPI’s early work on the security implications of climate change. Collaborated with diplomats and senior UN staffers to develop research agenda and promote its activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Embassy of Iceland to the United States</b>, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Ambassador’s Assistant, 1999-2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated intra-embassy communication, managed ambassador’s external appearances, and liaised with US government on coordination of high-level visits.</li> <li>• Supported Icelandic citizens and U.S. government officials on consular issues.</li> </ul>
<b>TECHNICAL SKILLS</b>	<p>Advanced R (including RMarkdown, tidyverse, ggplot2, rvest), Stata, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Qualtrics, basic SQL, basic Python, Microsoft Office</p>
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	<p>English (fluent), Icelandic (native), German (high intermediate), Danish (intermediate), French (elementary), Arabic (elementary)</p>