

SVANHILDUR THORVALDSDOTTIR

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RESEARCH INTERESTS	International institutions, United Nations, bureaucratic politics, political methodology, global environmental politics, development financing	
EDUCATION	University of Rochester , Rochester, NY PhD, Political Science, 2017 (expected) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fields: International Relations (passed with distinction), American Politics, Political Methodology MA, Political Science, October 2013 Columbia University , New York, NY Master of International Affairs (MIA), May 2007 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concentration: International Security Policy BA (<i>cum laude</i>), Political Science, May 2006	
DISSERTATION	Not With a Bang, But a Whisper: How States Influence the United Nations' Bureaucracy <i>Dissertation Committee: Randall Stone (chair), James Johnson, Stuart Jordan</i> My dissertation focuses on influence building and decision making within the United Nations (UN) and argues that existing theories of international organizations often ignore the significant influence states have at the bureaucratic level. Using newly coded data, I explore several ways in which bureaucratic-level influence operates within the UN development agencies. I show that major-donor nationals are disproportionately represented within the agencies' staffs and that this shifts agency policies to better reflect bilateral aid preferences of donors. In addition, I examine the relative concentration or dispersion of donations from member states to UN agencies in order to explore which states place greater emphasis on building a strong presence within a single agency and which want to be seen as broadly involved in the operations of the UN.	
WORKING PAPERS AND CONFERENCE ACTIVITY	"How to Win Friends and Influence the UN: Donor Influence on the United Nations Bureaucracy" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presented at the Annual Conference on The Political Economy of International Organizations, 2016• Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2016, 2015, 2014• Presented at the 5th Annual General Conference of the European Political Science Association, 2015 "Behave or Else? Aid and Voting on the UN Security Council" <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2015	

- Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2013

“Driving Pollution: Specifying and Estimating the Environmental Kuznets Curve” (with Lawrence Rothenberg)

- Presented (by Lawrence Rothenberg) at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2014

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Leifur Eiriksson Foundation Scholarship, 2015-2016
- University Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2010-2015
- Program in Empirical Policy Research (PEPR) Grant, W. Allen Wallis Institute of Political Economy, University of Rochester, 2013
- Dept. of Political Science Prize for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, University of Rochester, 2012-2013
- Dept. of Political Science Second-Year Paper Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2012
- Charles E. Lanni Summer Research Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2011-2012

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Instructor

PSC 161: Introduction to International Relations (Summer semester 2015)

Teaching Assistant

- PSC 268: International Organization (undergraduate), Professor Randall Stone (Fall semester 2016)
- PSC 243: Environmental Politics (undergraduate), Professor Lawrence Rothenberg (Spring semester 2016)
- PSC 480: Scope of Political Science (graduate), Professor James Johnson (Spring semester 2014, Spring semester 2013)
- PSC 105: Introduction to American Politics (undergraduate), Professor Gerald Gamm (Fall semester 2013)
- PSC 104: Introduction to Political Philosophy (undergraduate), Professor James Johnson (Fall semester 2012)

Research Assistant

Research Assistant to Lawrence Rothenberg, 2011-2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Policy Analyst, International Peace Institute, New York, 2007-2010

Research on United Nations policy development on, and responses to, current and emerging transnational threats and challenges. Research and policy formulation on United Nations responses to global climate change, in collaboration with both UN officials and state representatives.

SERVICE

Reviewer

Review of International Organization

Departmental Service

Founder and Coordinator, Women in Political Science Graduate Student Working Group, 2012-present

Coordinator, Watson Center Seminar Series on International Politics, Fall 2013

Coordinator, American Politics Working Group, Spring 2013

TECHNICAL
SKILLS

R, Stata, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Icelandic (native), Danish (intermediate), German (intermediate), French (intermediate), Arabic (elementary)

REFERENCES

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