

MELINDA KOVÁCS, Ph.D.
CURRICULUM VITAE

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EMPLOYMENT

Missouri Western State University St. Joseph, MO Associate Professor of Political Science	2018 to the present
Missouri Western State University St. Joseph, MO Assistant Professor of Political Science	2012 to 2018
Sam Houston State University Huntsville, TX Assistant Professor of Political Science	2006 – 2012
Concordia College Moorhead, MN Assistant Professor of Political Science	2003 – 2006

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science , Rutgers University Dissertation: The Continuum of Politics: Theory, Discourse, Analysis Advisor: Carey McWilliams	2003
M.A., Political Science , Rutgers University	1999
M.A., Political Science , Central European University, Hungary Thesis: Paperweight – Press Discourses in Hungary and the US	1997
M.A., American Studies , ELTE, Budapest, Hungary Thesis: The Notion of Power in Tocqueville's <i>Democracy in America</i>	1994
M.A., French Language and Literature , ELTE, Budapest, Hungary	1994

Thesis: Montfaucon de Villars, un libertin du XVIIIe siècle sur Pascal

DISTINCTIONS AND GRANTS

PORTAL Grant , MWSU	Summer 2015
PORTAL Grant , MWSU	Summer 2014
Excellence in Teaching Award Nomination , SHSU	Spring 2012
Travel Grant , Professional and Academic Center for Excellence, SHSU	Spring 2010
Open Society Institute Doctoral Fellowship	1997-2001
Travel Grant , Political Science Department and the Graduate School of Rutgers University	Spring 2000
Soros Foundation Award , Central European University	1996-97
Fulbright Fellowship , Political Science Department at Rutgers University	1995-96

TEACHING COMPETENCIES

- Introduction to Government
- Introduction to Political Science
- American National Government – Online
- State and Local Government
- Public Policy
- Global Studies
- American Political Thought
- Canonical Political Theory
- Feminist Re-readings of Political Theory
- Introduction to Women’s Studies
- Comparative Politics
- Eastern Europe
- The European Union
- Politics, Literature and the Arts

WORK IN PROGRESS

“What’s Power Got to Do with It? Conceptual Affinities between Leisure and Politics as Fields of Power” with Linda Oakleaf. We are in the process of deciding placement for publication of this project, following its presentation at the 2018 Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Foreign Policy Discourses of the Obama Years. 2017. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. ISBN: 978-1-4985-2080-5.

Magyars and political discourses in the new millennium: Changing meanings in Hungary at the start of the 21st century. 2015. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. ISBN: 978-0-7391-7946-8.

Böröcz, József, and Melinda Kovács, eds. Empire's New Clothes: Unveiling EU Enlargement. 2001. ISBN: 1-84287-009-2. E-book originally published at www.ce-review.org, and currently available at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~eu/Empire.pdf>

Böröcz, József, and Melinda Kovács, eds. EU-birodalom. Replika 45-46, November 2001.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters:

“Analyzing U.S. State Legislative Resolutions on Immigrants and Immigration: the Role of Immigration Federalism” (with Alexandra Filindra) International Migration Vol. 50. No. 4, 2012, pp. 33-50.

“We Lied by Day, We Lied by Night’ – The 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the Political Discourse of Lying” Politics in Central Europe – The Journal of the Central European Political Science Association Vol. 6. No. 2., December 2010, pp.24-39.

“Language and the Reality of Iraq” – with Mary Ann Davis, SHSU Sociology – Issues in Political Discourse Analysis Vol. 3. No. 1., 2010, pp. 95-112

“The Violence of Others: ‘Eastern’ and ‘Western’ Press Discourses” – Politics in Central Europe - The Journal of the Central European Political Science Association 5 (December 2009) 2: 95-110.

“The Borders of Orientalism: ‘Europeanization’ in Hungary and Ukraine” (with Olena Leipnik) Debate: Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe, vol. 16, no. 2. August 2008, pp. 151-169.

“The EU-cators: Discourses of Education and Ontologies of the EU in Hungarian Handbooks” – Debate: Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe, vol. 16, no. 1, April 2008, pp. 87-99.

“The Selfless Self: Constructions of the EU in its Yearly Reports, 1998-2002.” in The European's Burden: Global Imperialism in EU Expansion ed. Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro, Peter Lang Publishers, 2006, pp. 209-24.

“Gazing ‘There and Back Again’: Bilateral Relations as Constructions of Hungarian Identity in the Press”. *Dialectical Anthropology*, 27: 297-312, 2003.

“A rendkívüli megismerése: A politikus diszkurzív konstrukciója a magyar sajtóban”. (“How the Extraordinary Became Knowable: The Discursive Construction of the Politician in the Hungarian Press”). *Médiakutató*, Spring 2001, 30-42.

Invited Articles and Book Chapters:

Political Theory Track Summary, APSA Teaching and Learning Conference 2010 – with Rob Glover and Mike Rogers. *PS*, July 2010: 578-579.

“Shedding Light on the Quantitative Other – The EU’s Discourse in the Commission Opinions of 1997” with Peter Kabachnik in *Empire’s New Clothes: Unveiling EU Enlargement*.

“Putting Down and Putting Off: The EU’s Discursive Strategies in the 1998 and 1999 Follow-Up Reports” in *Empire’s New Clothes: Unveiling EU Enlargement*.

“A kvantitatív másság felfedezése – Az EU diskurzusa az 1997-es országvéleményekben” (Hungarian translation of “Shedding Light on the Quantitative Other”) *EU-birodalom*, 61-88.

“Elmarasztalni és elhalasztani: Az EU diszkurzív stratégiái az 1998-as és 1999-es országjelentésekben” (Hungarian translation of “Putting Down and Putting Off”). *EU-birodalom*, 89-110.

“Percepciók, fajok, valóságok: Benito Cereno tanulságai” (“Perceptions, Races, Realities: The Lessons of Benito Cereno”) in: Mónika Román, ed. *Publicationes Universitatis Miskolciensis. Sectio Philosophica. Tomus VII.-Fasciculus 1. Fasciculus specialis "Irodalom és politika"*. Miskolc: Typographia Universitatis, 2001, pp. 59-71.

“Roles, Changes, Genders – Women as an Analytical Category of Social Science in Hungary” – book review. *East Central Europe*, Vol. 28., part 2., pp.141-147.

“Ambiguities of Power: The Metaphorical System in Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*.” in: C.L.E.A.R. (*Cognitive Linguistics: Explorations, Applications, Research*), 1995:7.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“What’s Power Got to Do with It? Conceptual Affinities between Leisure and Politics as Fields of Power” with Linda Oakleaf. Paper to be presented at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 5-8, 2018.

“The relevance of the EU in populist times” Paper presented at the 75th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 6-9, 2017.

“Representations of Race in Local Media” with Maddie Culver, Cindy Malone and Brad Stanton. Paper presented at the 74th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 7-10, 2016.

“Small Town Gender” with Nicholas Brothers and Maddie Culver. Paper presented at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 16-19, 2015.

“What It Takes to Intervene: Recent Developments in US Foreign Policy Discourse” Paper presented at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 16-19, 2015.

“Speaking of Syria: Discourses of Intervention and Diplomacy” Paper presented at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2014.

“Have your discourse and eat it too: An ontological examination of politics as discursive” Paper presented at the 71st Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 11-14, 2013.

“Worth a Thousand Gendered Words: Introductory Political Science Texts’ Images of Gender” Paper presented at the 92nd Annual Conference of the Southwestern Social Science Association, San Diego, California, April 5-7, 2012.

“Homegrown Discourses: The Discourses of Hungarian Party Websites” Paper presented at the 91st Annual Conference of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 16-19, 2011.

“Researching Pedagogy”. Presentation at the McGraw-Hill American Government Symposium, Clearwater, FL, September 30. – October 3, 2010.

“Adaptive Diagnostics and Student Performance” – with Daniel Smith, John Clark and Kevin Davis. Presentation at the McGraw-Hill American Government Symposium, Clearwater, FL, September 30. – October 3, 2010.

“Plato and the Dove Commercial: Practical Applications of Political Philosophy and Feminism in the Classroom”. Paper presented at the Teaching and Learning Conference of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, February 5-7, 2010.

“We Lied by Day, We Lied by Night’ – The 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the Political Discourse of Lying”. Paper presented at the 20th Annual Conference of the Alliance of Universities for Democracy, Bursa, Turkey, November 7-11, 2009.

“Moving out of Silence: The transformation of Women’s Voices in the Movement Towards Democracy” – with Tamara Waggener. Paper presented at the 20th Annual Conference of the Alliance of Universities for Democracy, Bursa, Turkey, November 7-11, 2009.

“The Violence of Others: ‘Eastern’ and ‘Western’ Press Discourses”. Paper presented at the 19th Annual Conference of the Alliance of Universities for Democracy, Baku, Azerbaijan, November 9-12, 2008.

“All Politics is Local: State-level Differences in Legislative Immigration Discourses” – with Alexandra Filindra - Paper presented by A. Filindra at the Eighth Annual State Politics and Policy Conference, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, May 31 2008.

“Death Discourses: Language and the Reality of Iraq” – with Mary Ann Davis – Paper presented at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 12-15, 2008.

“The EU-cators: Discourses of Education and Ontologies of the EU in Hungarian Handbooks” Paper presented at the 17th Annual Conference of the Alliance Universities for Democracy, Katowice, Poland, November 5-8, 2006.

“Under Ground, Out of Control – East-West Cultural Exchange Through Film” Paper presented at the 17th Annual Conference of the Alliance Universities for Democracy, Katowice, Poland, November 5-8, 2006.

“So That Accession Will Be No Question: Ontologies In Promotional EU Accession Materials In Hungary” Paper presented at the Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 8, 2005.

“Femininity, Masculinity, And Maybe Post-Communism: Genders And Their Constructions In The Hungarian Press” presentation in the Concordia College Faculty Colloquium Series, September 14, 2004.

“Millennial Masculinity: Constructions In The Hungarian Press” paper presented at the Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 16, 2004.

“Exclusions, Evolutions, Emancipations: Changing Constructions Of Women In Hungarian Public Discourse” paper presented at the 13th Annual Women’s Studies Conference at Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, October 17, 2003.

“The Selfless Self: Constructions Of The EU In Its Yearly Reports, 1998-2002.” paper presented at the 8th World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, April 2003.

“The Bridge: Discursive Political Theory For Empirical Research” paper presented at the 56th Annual Conference of the New York State Political Science Association, April 2002.

“Play Nice: Towards A Wittgensteinian Politics” paper presented at the 33rd Annual Conference of the Northeastern Political Science Association, November 2001.

“Putting Down And Putting Off: The EU’s Discursive Strategies In The 1998 And 1999 Follow-Up Reports” Invited to present at ‘Challenges of the European Union’s Eastern

Enlargement’ – Conference organized by the Canadian Center for German and European Studies on September 14, 2001.

“The Evolution Of The Excluded Actor: The Discursive Construction Of Women In Post-Communist Hungary” paper presented at the 55th Annual Conference of the New York State Political Science Association, May 2001.

“Communicating Past Each Other? The EU And Hungary’s Discursive Construction Of One Another” paper presented at “Nation-Making, Past and Present: Community, Economy, Security” The Sixth Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, April 2001.

“Perceptions, Races, Realities: The Lessons Of Benito Cereno” paper presented at the Literature and Politics conference of the University of Miskolc, October 1999.

“Wicked Words: Discourses Of Corruption In The US And Hungary” paper presented at “The Way Ahead: Choices in Transformation” - CEP International Student Conference, Budapest, 1997.

“Somewhere On The Road From Darkness To Light: Tocqueville’s Notion Of History In Democracy In America”, paper presented at the American Studies Conference at ELTE, Budapest, 1992.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Senator, Missouri Western State University Faculty Senate, 2017-2019.

Mentor, Students of Color Initiative Mentoring Program, Missouri Western State University, 2017-2018.

Member, Missouri Western State University Honors Committee, 2016 to the present.

Co-chair, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, Missouri Western State University, 2016-2017.

Faculty advisor, Women of the Future, Missouri Western State University, 2015 to the present.

Member, Midwest Political Science Association.

Faculty Judge, Mid America Regional Science and Engineering Fair – Missouri Academy of Science Junior Division, Spring 2016.

Founder and Organizer, Women’s History Month, Missouri Western State University, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018.

Discussant, “Feminist Theory”, 73rd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 16-19, 2015.

Faculty Judge, Mid America Regional Science and Engineering Fair – Missouri Academy of Science Junior Division, Spring 2015.

Section Head, Midwest Political Science Association, Foundations of Political Theory: Ancient, 2014-2015.

Discussant, “Social Constructions of Identity and Power”, 72nd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2014.

Discussant, “The Canon and its Applications Posters”, 72nd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2014.

Faculty Judge, Mid America Regional Science and Engineering Fair – Missouri Academy of Science Junior Division, Spring 2014.

Section Head, Midwest Political Science Association, Political Theory Posters, 2013-2014.

Panel Chair and Discussant, “Insights from Traditions Outside the West”, 71st Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 11-14, 2013.

Faculty Judge, Mid America Regional Science and Engineering Fair – Missouri Academy of Science Junior Division, Spring 2013.

Panel participant and faculty questioner, Surrogate Presidential Debate, Missouri Western State University, October 2012.

Panel Chair, “Present at the Founding: A Discourse of Ethno-national Genesis”, 70th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 11-15, 2012.

Reviewer, Journal of Finnish Studies, Spring 2011.

Reviewer, European Sociological Review, 2011.

Workshop Leader, Diversity Leadership Conference, SHSU, February 2011. Presentation: Justice as an Antidote to Discrimination.

Participant, McGraw-Hill American Government Symposium, Fall 2010.

Faculty Advisor, Sam Socialists/ Sam Houston Democratic Socialists, 2009-2012.

Co-Chair, SHSU Bearkats Read to Succeed Sub-committee on Curriculum Infusion

Co-Founder, SHSU Women’s History Month Film Series

Member, SHSU CHSS Constitution Day Committee

Chair, SHSU CHSS Constitution Day Committee, 2009-2010, 2010-2011.

Member, SHSU CHSS Special TDC Scholarship Committee

Member, SHSU Political Science John W. Holcombe Memorial Committee

Member, SHSU Political Science Textbook Committee for POL 261

Member, SHSU Political Science Comprehensive Exam Committee on Theory and Methods

Panel Chair, “Civil Rights Stories from the Huntsville Latino Community”, Sam Houston Symposium, Huntsville, TX; Feb 28, 2009.

Haven Diversity Advocate, officially contracted and listed as an affirming, safe person / place for LGBTQ individuals on the SHSU campus

Participant, SHSU Writing in the Disciplines Workshop, Summer 2007.

Participant, SHSU Research Workshop, Fall 2006

Participant, SHSU Provost’s Breakfast Series for New Faculty, Fall 2006.

Panel Chair, “Social Developments in Post-Communist Space and the New EU Environment”, AUDEM, Katowice, Poland, November 5-8, 2006.

Organizer, Concordia College Faculty Colloquium Series, 2004-2005, 2005-2006.

Panelist, Concordia College International Student Organization Week, November 2005.

Faculty Lecturer, Concordia College Psychology Honors Project by Dane Furfaro on Attitudes Towards Sexual Orientation, November 2005.

Speaker, NEW Leadership Institute, MSUM, May 2005. Talk: “The USA Patriot Act: Law, Interpretations, Stories.”

Participant, Concordia College Women’s History Week Faculty Panel, March 2005.

Participant, Concordia College Faculty Panel on the Death Penalty, March 2004.

Speaker, Concordia Students for Social Justice meeting, Concordia College, February 2004. Talk: “Globality and Advocacy: Challenges for Activists”

Participant, Teaching Colloquium, Rutgers University, Fall 2002.

Panel organizer for “Nationhood and the European Union” at the Sixth Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, April 2001.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Organizer, Finals Week Stress Relief with Therapy Dogs, MWSU, Spring 2014 to the present.

Registered Pet Partners Volunteer team, no. 58442, 2006 to the present.

Licensed Evaluator, Pet Partners, license 58442-TE, 2009 to the present.

Member, Huntsville Pets Helping People, 2006-2012.

Registered Reading Education Assistance Dogs Team, no. 1243

Speaker, Walker County Lions Club, July 2010. Talk: “Community Service with Animals.”

Speaker, AAUW Huntsville Chapter, February 2008. Talk: “The Work of Therapy Animals”.

Speaker, Training of Docent Corps volunteers at the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, April 2003. Talk: “Art and Politics: Questions about a Relationship”

LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES

Hungarian: Native

English: Near-native

French: Fluent