

SVANHILDUR THORVALDSOTTIR

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

LMU Mentoring Program Research Grant, 2018, 2019
Skalny Center Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2017-2018
PumpPrimer II Grant for *In the Field* website project (with Gretchen Helmke, Yeonkyung Jeong, and Rabia Malik), University of Rochester, 2016-2017
Leifur Eiriksson Foundation Fellowship, 2015-2016
Dept. of Political Science Prize for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, UofR, 2012-2013
Program in Empirical Policy Research (PEPR) Grant, Wallis Institute of Political Economy, University of Rochester, 2013
URDPS Second-Year Paper Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2012
Charles E. Lanni Summer Research Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2011-2012
University Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2010-2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

REFEREE:
American Political Science Review, International Studies Quarterly, Review of International Organization, Journal of European Public Policy, International Review of Administrative Sciences

DEPARTMENT SERVICE:
Technical University of Munich:
MA Admissions Interview Committee, 2021

LMU Munich
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

University of Rochester:
Founder and Coordinator, Women in Political Science Working Group, 2012-2017
Coordinator, Watson Center Seminar Series on International Politics, Fall 2013
Coordinator, American Politics Working Group, Spring 2013

OTHER SERVICE:
Hackathon Mentor, Paris Peace Forum, 2018
WXXI Connections: Radio discussion on impact of Trump administration on the UN, 2020

OTHER POSITIONS

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

- Researcher on flagship *Coping with Crisis* project on United Nations policy development on, and responses to, current and emerging transnational threats and challenges.
- 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.

Embassy of Iceland to the United States, Washington, D.C.
Ambassador's Assistant, 1999-2002

- Coordinated intra-embassy communication, managed ambassador's external appearances, and liaised with US government on coordination of high-level visits.
- Supported Icelandic citizens and U.S. government officials on consular issues.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Advanced R (including RMarkdown, tidyverse, ggplot2, rvest), Stata, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics, basic SQL, basic Python, Microsoft Office

LANGUAGES

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