

## Tom Hanna

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### Education

**University of Houston, Houston, Texas**  
**Ph.D.** Political Science (expected July 2026)  
Major field: International Relations, Minor field: Comparative Politics  
**Dissertation:** Authoritarian Leadership Politics and Autocracy Promotion  
Committee: Tyson Chatagnier (chair), Scott Basinger, Francisco Cantu (deceased),  
Michael J. Soules, Patrick Shea (outside reader)

**University of Houston, Houston, Texas** August 2022  
**Master of Arts** in Political Science

**University of Houston, Houston, Texas** May 2018  
**Bachelor of Science** in Political Science, Economics Minor, Summa Cum Laude

### Employment

**University of Houston, Houston, Texas**  
**Lecturer** May 2022 - present

**Houston City College, Houston, Texas**  
**Adjunct Professor of Government** May 2023 – present

**Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas**  
**Lecturer** Fall 2024

### Teaching Experience

#### Undergraduate Courses

**US and Texas Constitution and Politics**  
**US Government: Congress, President, and the Courts**  
**International Organizations**  
**Arguments, Data, and Politics**  
**Statistics for Political Scientists**  
**Introduction to Comparative Politics**

## **State Government (Comparative)**

### **Graduate Courses**

#### **Quantitative Methods I & II Lab Instructor**

### **Fellowships, Honors and Awards**

Adam Smith Fellowship in Political Economy (Mercatus Center, George Mason University) 2023-2024  
Oskar Morgenstern Fellowship in Quantitative Political Economy (Mercatus Center, George Mason University) 2022-2023  
Presidential Fellowship (University of Houston) 2018-2020  
Graduate Tuition Fellowship (University of Houston) 2018-2023  
Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society (University of Houston) 2018  
Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society (University of Houston) 2017

### **Service**

#### **University of Houston:**

##### **Graduate and Professional Studies Committee (Faculty Senate)**

Graduate Student Representative & Policy Subcommittee Member 2021-2023

##### **Graduate Student Employment Committee (Graduate School)**

Graduate Student Representative 2022-2023

##### **Graduate and Professional Student Association:**

President 2022-2023

Vice-President 2021-2022

##### **Political Science Graduate Student Association:**

President 2021-2022

Vice-President 2020-2021

### **Grant Support**

Travel Grant, American Institute for Economic Research, for Public Choice Conference, 2026.

Travel Grant, Authoritarian Institutions and State Dynamics Workshop, *Institute for Humane Studies*, 2026

Travel Grant, *American Political Science Association*, 2023

Research Expense Grant, *Institute for Humane Studies*, 2023

## Conference and Workshop Participation

**Harwood Graduate Colloquium on Public Choice**, American Institute for Economic Research. (Upcoming, March 2026)

**Public Choice Society 2026 (Upcoming)**

“Public Choice in Latin America: Coups, Rent-Seeking, and Political Instability”

**Authoritarian Institutions and State Dynamics Workshop**, Arizona State University, January 2026

**Academic Research Symposium on Political Moderation in Divided Times**

**Invited participant**, Institute for Humane Studies Pre-conference Symposium at APSA 2024

**American Political Science Association 2024**

“Measuring Leader Rhetoric and Threats to Democratic Governance using Semi-supervised Machine Learning”

**Midwest Political Science Association 2023**

“Autocracy Promotion: Trade, Finance and Cooperative Behavior Models.”

**Discussant**, *Undergraduate Poster Session: Human Security*

**Academic Research Symposium on Trust and Diversity 2023**

**Invited participant**, Institute for Humane Studies Pre-conference Symposium at MPSA 2023

**American Political Science Association 2023**

“Autocracy Promotion Through Trade and Financial Cooperation: The Case of ALBA”

**Panel Chair**, *The Evolving Nature of Armed Conflict*

**Southern Political Science Association 2023**

Panelist for Author Meets Critics: Michael Haas, *The Ten Pillars of American Democracy*

**The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society 2022**

**2022 Conference: Panel Moderator**, *Non-Western Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*

**Southern Political Science Association 2021**

“The Threat of Autocracy Promotion: International Attacks on Democracy as Domestic Signaling”

**Midwest Political Science Association 2021**

“Autocratic Leadership Ideology and the Risk of Interstate Conflict: Ideological

Supporters and Audience Costs”

**Western Political Science Association 2021**

**Midwestern Political Science Association 2022**

“Authoritarian Leadership Politics and Autocracy Promotion: Sponsorship of Insurgencies and Terrorism”

### **Selected Work in Progress**

“From Cooperation to Control: How ALBA Enables International Rent-Seeking.” Tests the relationship between autocratic economic integration, rent-seeking, and erosion of democratic governance using a novel quantitative methodology involving transformer-based machine learning and nonparametric bootstrapping to estimate the causal treatment effect of ALBA membership.

“Eroding liberal leverage: assessing the impact of ALBA membership on relations with democratic states.” Examines the effect of authoritarian pacts in reconfiguring bilateral influence using membership in the Bolivarian Alliance for the People’s of Our Americas (ALBA) and the Formal Bilateral Influence Capacity Index.

With Nathan Goodman and Pradyot Sharma, George Mason University. “Polycentric governance in a vulnerable world.” We examine the authoritarian political implications of the Fermi paradox and potential civilization ending events, modeling the outcomes of both monocentric and polycentric governance approaches.

### **Additional Training and Selected Courses**

*Teaching Everyone: Designing More Inclusive Courses.* Notre Dame Learning | Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence. October 2024 to March 2025

*Crafting Assessments that Matter in an AI World.* Eastern Kentucky University Center for Teaching and Learning. September 11, 2024.

*Inclusive Teaching and Pedagogy Virtual Community Workshop on Teaching Philosophies.* Western Political Science Association. Summer 2023.

*Mentored Teaching Practicum.* American Political Science Association, University of Houston, Rice University, and Houston Community College. Spring/Summer 2023.

*Turning Your Research into Teaching.* The Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning. Summer 2021.

*Teaching Philosophy Workshop.* Dr. Sarah Larsen, Dean of the Graduate School at University of Houston. October 2021.

*Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling.* Curran-Bauer Analytics. May 2022.

*Introduction to Machine Learning.* Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute - University of Houston. Spring 2023

*Scientific Programming with Python.* Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute - University of Houston. Summer 2022

*Introduction to Machine Learning.* Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute - University of Houston. Spring 2023

*Principles of Data Management.* Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute - University of Houston. Spring 2022

*Selected Topics in Methods: Machine Learning.* Dr. Ryan Kennedy, University of Houston, Department of Political Science. Fall 2020.

### **Invited Talks and Events**

**Global Affairs Academy, World Affairs Council of Greater Houston.** “The International Threats from Dictatorship.” July 20, 2022.

**Under the Scope Podcast,** Episode 22. December 3, 2022.

### **Software Skills**

Programming and statistics: R, Python, Stata, PHP, Qualtrix

Presentation and data visualization: Quarto, R Markdown, Tableau, ParaView, LaTeX, HTML/CSS

Learning Management Systems: Canvas, Blackboard Learn, Blackboard Ultra

### **Teaching Assistant Experience**

US Political Scandals – Spring 2023

US Government: Congress, President, and the Courts – Spring 2023, Fall 2019

Quantitative Methods I & II (Graduate) – Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2023

Statistics for Political Scientists – Spring 2021

Introduction to International Relations: Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020

Political Terrorism: Fall 2018, Fall 2019

### **Research Assistant Experience**

Summer 2021-Summer 2022: Global dataset on land transactions by national governments. I developed search routines for NexisUni (Lexis-Nexis) and a draft

codebook for the project.

Summer 2020: Compiled US international armed interventions in defense against property rights violations by foreign powers.

Spring 2020: Completed review of experiments in international relations.

Spring 2019: Compiled geoquery based dataset on civil conflict.