Oksana Cherezova

Oksana comes from Tashkent, Uzbekistan. She graduated magna cum laude from Middlebury College where she double-majored in Political Science and French Languages and Literature. Her senior honors thesis examined the links between Vladimir Putin’s treatment of Soviet history and political processes in Russia and its surrounding countries. She describes herself as a global nomad, having had the privilege of living in Pune (India), Paris (France), Middlebury (Vermont), Boston (Massachusetts), while also visiting many more wonderful places. Her research interests center on the relationship between identity and political processes in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.
Rashid Marcano-Rivera

Rashid holds a M.A. in Political Economy from New York University, and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras (UPR) campus. He also studied Applied Econometrics while at NYU, and Economics, French, and Music at UPR. During his years at UPR he also participated as one of the leaders of the Student Council and the Academic Senate and collaborated with the Foundation for Puerto Rico in its program on urbanism.

His research interests include income inequality, economic development, institutional reforms, the political economy of Latin America, colonialism and electoral behavior in Puerto Rico, varieties of capitalism, and public policy analysis.
Eric Schmidt

Eric Schmidt is thrilled to be an incoming doctoral student at IU. Born and raised in the suburbs of Milwaukee, he did his undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and then additional graduate work at Duke's Political Institutions and Public Choice (PIPC) program. Eric intends to concentrate on American politics and research methods, with crossover work in other subfields when opportunities arise. Currently, he is interested in questions of religion, public opinion and political behavior - especially the influence of different variations of evangelical thought. In his spare time, Eric enjoys watching movies, listening to classical music, and golfing.
Major Keith Wilson arrives at Indiana University as part of a prestigious Air Force sponsored PhD program. His most recent assignment was to Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama where he completed work at the Air Command and Staff College. Previously, he served as Director of Operations at the 566th Intelligence Squadron, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. Other assignments have included deployments to the Air Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, tours with the National Security Agency, and another with the 97th Intelligence Squadron, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. His military service began when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Michigan in 2001, where he received a BA in Political Science and History, before going on to earn the MA in International Relations from Creighton University in 2009. Keith intends to focus on IR and Comparative Politics; he has a special interest in the role of religion in the politics of the Islamic world. Following completion of his doctorate, he is likely to be leveraged by the Air Force in support of joint, coalition, and interagency analysis, planning, and policy efforts. Originally from Wyandotte, Michigan, he has been married over 12 years to Jennifer and has two daughters, Avery (10) and Mallory (8).
Elisabeth Winter

Elisabeth will be a visiting student in the Department for the fall term 2014 as part of an OVPIA-sponsored exchange program. She is a second year MA student in the field of North American Studies, majoring in Political Science and Economics at the Freie Universität (Berlin). Elisabeth graduated in 2012 with a degree in Socio-Economics, concentrating in International Studies, from the Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen/Nuremberg. During her studies, she worked at the Federal Research Institute of the Federal Employment Agency of Germany, at the German office of UNHCR, and at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. Her research interests include global economic governance, environmental governance, and transatlantic relations in political and economic terms. Specifically, her present research employs possible implications of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) for international market and power relations.