

KIMBERLY TOWER

PhD Candidate, American University School of International Service

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political symbols, trust, gaslighting, national identity, political behavior, far-right politics, comparative politics, mixed methods analysis, regional specializations in France and the United States

EDUCATION

American University School of International Service
Washington, DC | August 2017 - present
PhD in International Relations.
Concentration in Comparative Politics with Distinction.
Dissertation committee: Rachel Robinson (Chair, SIS), Miles Kahler (SIS), Joseph K. Young (SIS/SPA)

Villanova University
Villanova, Pennsylvania | August 2011 - May 2016
MA in Political Science. Five-year BA/MA. Magna cum laude.
BA in Political Science, French & Francophone Studies, minor in History. Summa cum laude.

Université de Paris III: Sorbonne Nouvelle
Paris, France | January - May 2013
Semester abroad as part of BA.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Arthur King Peters Travel Award, 2022
Grant extension by the French-American Fulbright Commission to fund additional dissertation fieldwork in France and related travel expenses.

French-American Fulbright Commission Research Grant,
2020-2021
Dissertation fieldwork grant in affiliation with Sciences Po Paris (CEVIPOF) and Sciences Po Toulouse. Postponed to 2021-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research Grant, 2021
Internal grant at American University SIS to take classes at the University of Michigan ICPSR Summer Program in Data Science and Text Analysis, Intro to R, and Intro to Python.

SIS Summer Research Award, 2019, 2020, 2021
Summer research funding competition at the American University School of International Service (varying amounts).

Samuel L. Sharp Memorial Prize for creative work in international relations at the graduate level, 2018
Internal award at American University SIS in recognition of working paper "Campaigning for Kebabs: Voter Behavior and the Politics of Ethnic Restaurants in France" (renamed since award).

SIS Doctoral Assistantship Award, 2017-2022
Funded doctoral stipend at the American University School of International Service for eight semesters of research and teaching assistantships.

Tournées Film Festival, 2015-2016
Grant from the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States to support the first French-speaking film festival at Villanova University.

**PUBLICATIONS
& WORKING
PAPERS**

Tower, Kimberly and Camille Gélis. 2022. "Fin du droit à l'avortement aux États-Unis : moins de démocratie, plus de religion." *The Conversation (France)*.
<https://theconversation.com/fin-du-droit-a-lavortement-aux-etats-unis-moins-de-democratie-plus-de-religion-184914>

Tower, Kimberly and Camille Gélis. 2022. "How Marine Le Pen managed to gain ground with youth voters – and why her success isn't being replicated by the US right." *The Conversation*.
<https://theconversation.com/how-marine-le-pen-managed-to-gain>

[-ground-with-youth-voters-and-why-her-success-isnt-being-repliated-by-the-us-right-181937](#)

Tower, Kimberly and Lucas Dolan. 2022. "Election Conspiracy Theories Grow After Macron Victory." *Foreign Policy*.
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/04/28/election-conspiracy-theories-macron-victory-le-pen/>

Dolan, Lucas, and Kimberly Tower. 2022. "French Politicians Are Obsessed With Wokisme: America's culture war is playing a major role in the elections." *Foreign Policy*.
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/04/14/the-french-right-is-obsessed-with-fighting-wokeness/>

"Campaigning for Kebabs: Voter Behavior and the Politics of Ethnic Restaurants in France."
Dissertation chapters underway, quantitative chapters currently being prepared for journal submission.

"Trust and Truth during America's Age of Anxiety."
Co-authored article with Carl Levan (SIS), Assen Assenov (SIS/NIH), and Nicolette Carnahan (SIS). Currently under review at the British Journal of Political Science.

"A Normal Tourist Visit": Political Gaslighting as Emotional Manipulation."
Co-authored working paper with Philippe Beauregard (University of Montreal), presented at APSA 2022, currently finalizing for journal submission.

"Eroding the Partisan Partition? A cross-national examination of pandemic mistrust." *Co-authored article with Carl Levan (SIS), James Bryan (SIS), and Assen Assenov (SIS). Presented at the Jean-Monnet Network Post-Truth Conference 2022, finalizing for journal submission.*

CRS Madagascar - Villanova College of Engineering Sustainable WASH Research Initiative Fundraising Booklet. (Spring 2015)

French-to-English translation as part of service-learning internship.

*“Community Reconciliation and Healing Project.” (Fall 2014)
Freelance French-to-English translation of CRS Rwanda Justice & Peace Commission Report*

**RESEARCH &
PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

American University
Research Assistant

January 2021 - present | Washington, DC

- Assistant to Dr. Carl LeVan, SIS
- Created literature reviews and annotated bibliographies on proxy measures for vertical trust
- Collected county-level data of political behavior, demographic information, and vertical trust in the United States

Research Assistant

August 2020 - February 2021 | Washington, DC

- Assistant to Dr. Rachel Robinson, SIS
- Interview coding and analysis in NVIVO of research on HIV and financial security outcomes for MSM in Nigeria

Research Assistant

January - May 2020 | Washington, DC

- Assistant to Dr. Elizabeth Thompson and Dr. Marcelo Bohrt, SIS
- Gathered data, translated documents from French to English, and compiled archival sources as assigned

Research Assistant

August 2018 – May 2019 | Washington, DC

- Assistant to Dr. Jordanna Matlon, SIS
- Edited book chapters on gender and racial capitalism in colonial and postcolonial French West Africa
- Compiled and analyzed primary source documents, including translation of French sources

Research Assistant

June 2018 | Washington, DC

- Assistant to Dr. Susanna Campbell, SIS, and Dr. Michael G. Findley, University of Texas – Austin, for their book *Aiding Peace: Donor Behavior During War-To-Peace Transitions*
- Compiled a timeline of cooperation and conflict events in Sudan between 1990-2018
- Created an annotated bibliography and trend summary of international aid and intervention in Sudan

Research Assistant

August 2017 – May 2018 | Washington, DC

- Assistant to Dr. Michelle Egan, SIS
- Gathered data for book proposals and research grants on domestic trade barriers in the United States, Canada, and Australia
- Edited textbook chapters on Brexit and the EU

Atout France (Agence de développement touristique de la France)

Community Manager & Web Content Coordinator

September 2016 - June 2017 | New York, New York

- Curated and created content promoting France on the US market, including on the us.france.fr site, social media pages, digital campaigns, and newsletters
- Translated, reviewed, and edited content for various print and web publications (French-to-English and English-to-French)
- Management of blogger and influencer marketing, including event planning and administration

CRS Madagascar-Villanova University Sustainable Water Partnership

Translation Intern

Spring 2015 | Villanova, Pennsylvania

- Facilitated communication between American and Malagasy engineers for the implementation of sustainable potable water systems in rural areas throughout Madagascar

- Translation of both English-to-French and French-to-English documents, including research proposals, presentations, and fundraising booklets

Think Tanks & Civil Societies Program

Research Intern

May - July 2013 | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- Updated comprehensive databases on think tanks in Sweden, France, the UK and Ireland under the supervision of Dr. James McGann
- Compiled a literature review on the current status and influence of think tanks in the US

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lycée Professionnel Arthur Rimbaud

English-language teaching assistant

January - May 2021 | La Courneuve, France

- Led English-language classes with rotating sections of 10-20 high school students for 12 hours per week
- Worked with senior students in preparation of the oral presentation and written portions of the *baccalauréat* exam
- Facilitated weekly English-language conversation groups

American University School of International Service

Teaching Assistant

August - December 2019 | Washington, DC

- Led and facilitated a World Politics Discussion Section, a required SIS undergraduate course, to accompany a weekly faculty-led lecture
- Assigned to two sections of approximately twenty-five students each for 75 minutes per week
- Created a syllabus tailored to the needs and interests of each Discussion Section, including assignments, activities, presentations, and additional readings

CONFERENCE Jean-Monnet Network (JMN)
 PRESENTATIONS *Post-Truth Conference, September 2022*

 American Political Science Association (APSA)
 Annual Meeting and Exhibition, August 2019
 Annual Meeting and Exhibition, September 2021
 Annual Meeting and Exhibition, September 2022

 European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR)
 Joint Sessions of Workshops, May 2021
 Joint Sessions of Workshops, April 2020
 General Conference, August 2020
 General Conference, August 2021
 General Conference, August 2022

 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)
 76th Annual Conference, April 2019
 78th Annual Conference, April 2021
 79th Annual Conference, April 2022

 Political Science Association (PSA)
 Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties (EPOP) Annual Conference,
 September 2019

LANGUAGES American English - Native
 French - Fluent (DALF C2, June 2018)
 Arabic, Modern Standard - Intermediate
 Polish - Beginner

PEER REVIEW & American University SIS PhD Selection Committee, 2022
 ACADEMIC *Three-round selection of applicants for admission to the AU SIS*
 ENGAGEMENT *PhD program's Fall 2022 cohort*

 French-American Fulbright Commission Selection Committee,
 2021
 First-round selection of candidates for the French Language
 Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program to teach French in universities
 across the United States during the 2022-2023 academic year.

Parenthèse Île-de-France, 2021-2022
Organization of writing groups and academic support for graduate students across the greater Paris region.

Villanova University CONCEPT Journal of Graduate Studies
Provided peer review for the 2015-2016 Villanova University graduate journal for various student-produced social science articles.

COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

Capital Area Immigrants Rights (CAIR) Coalition
Translation volunteer

June 2019 - present | Washington, DC

- French-to-English translation of legal documents and news articles to assist in the legal counsel of detained immigrant men, women, and children
- Live French-English interpretations as needed to facilitate communication between detained immigrants or their families and CAIR legal assistants and attorneys