

Kristin Vekasi Assistant Professor, University of Maine

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Political Science and the School of Policy and International Affairs, University of Maine, 2014-

Adjunct Professor of Political Science, New College of Florida, 2012-2013

Visiting Research Fellow, University of Tokyo Institute of Social Science, 2010-2011

Fulbright Fellow, 2003-2004, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison, May 2014

Dissertation: *China's Political Rise and Japan's Economic Risk: Multinational Corporations and Political Uncertainty*

Committee: Aseema Sinha (chair), Melanie Manion, Edward Friedman, Mark Copelovitch, Gregory Noble, Jon Pevehouse

Masters, Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison, May 2008

B.A. Political Science, New College of Florida, 2003

Thesis: *Japanese State and Labor in an Era of Neoliberal Reform: The Privatization of the Japanese National Railways*

CONFERENCE AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS

"Firms in the Shadow of Political Uncertainty: Evidence from China and Japan", American Political Science Association, August 28-September 1, 2014

"Transforming Risk: Social Strategies of Firms under Political Conflict Risk", Midwest Political Science Association, April 4-7, 2014

"The Transformational Role of International Political Risk Management Strategies", International Political Economy Society, October 25-26, 2013

"Political Risk Management and FDI: Evidence from Japanese Investment in Mainland China", Midwest Political Science Association, April 13, 2012

"Resource Dependence as a Non-Traditional Security Threat: Japan's Rare Earth Risk Management Strategies", Association of Asian Studies, March 15, 2012

"The Political Economy of Rare Earth Metals", Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of Wisconsin, Madison, December 7, 2011

“Nationalist Tensions and Economic Exchange: Evidence from China”, Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of Wisconsin, Madison, February 24, 2010

“Red Tape, Green Money: Political Conflict and Economic Logic in Sino-Japanese Relations”, International Relations Colloquium, University of Wisconsin, Madison, December 1, 2009

“Cold Politics, Hot Economics: Sino-Japanese Relations in an Era of Economic Globalization”, Chinese Politics Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 15, 2009

“Organizing for Legitimacy: the Japanese Labor Movement, Irregular Workers, and the Quest for Political Status,” Association of Asian Studies, Atlanta, GA April 2-6, 2008

“The Local Union Movement: Towards a New Social Contract?”, Tohoku University Labor Law Study Group, Sendai, Japan (in Japanese), July 2004

“Contemporary State and Labor Relations: Towards a New Social Contract?” National Trade Union Council, Miyagi Prefecture Branch, Sendai, Japan (in Japanese), July 2004

“Japanese State and Labor in an Era of Neoliberal Reform: The Privatization of the Japanese National Railways,” National Conference for Undergraduate Research, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 2003

HONORS AND AWARDS

Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, Tokyo, Japan, Fall 2010-Fall 2011

Teaching Award, University of Wisconsin, Madison Department of Political Science, for Political Choice and Strategy, Spring, 2010

International Field Research Award for pre-dissertation research in Tokyo, Japan, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Summer 2009

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Chinese Language, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2007-2008; 2008-2009

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Chinese Language, Harbin Institute of Technology, Summer 2009

Fulbright Fellow, Japan-United States Education Commission, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan, 2003-2004

Freeman Asia Award/IIE, Kanda University of International Studies, Chiba, Japan, 2001-2002

LANGUAGES AND FIELDWORK

Japanese (advanced), Mandarin Chinese (high intermediate)

Overseas Language Training

Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin, China, Summer 2009

Kanda University of International Studies, Makuhari, Japan, 2001-2002

Fieldwork

Japan (36 months total)

China (4 months total)

Taiwan and South Korea (1 month total)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Memberships: American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Association of Asian Studies

Graduate Program Committee graduate student representative, University of Wisconsin - Madison Department of Political Science, 2008-2009

Comparative Research Colloquium Coordinator, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 2007-2008

References available upon request