

2022 Best Paper Presented at APSA (in 2021)

Roya Talibova, PhD student at the University of Michigan and incoming Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt, for her paper “Repression, Military Service, and Insurrection.”

Prize committee citation: Talibova tackles an important and novel question about why veterans might join an insurgency and fight the state they had previously defended. The creative breadth of the empirics, particularly the collection and preparation of the data alone, could be worthy of an award, as she has geo-coded the birth location of 350,000 Russian soldiers and estimates their ethnicity based on multiple machine learning techniques. With her fine-grained data, she estimates the causal effects of ethnicity and veteran status on insurgency participation, including the moderating effects of military roles. Her paper seems sure to be of interest to scholars across subfields, including IR and American.

Honorable Mention goes to Daniel Mattingly (Yale) for his paper “How the Party Commands the Gun.”

Prize committee citation: The fine-grained detail of **his** officer-level dataset of an authoritarian military, the People’s Liberation Army in China, was quite impressive. The paper was incredibly well-written and provided a convincing narrative about when and why authoritarian leaders will value loyal officers over competent ones.

Prize committee: Erin Lin (chair, Ohio State), Nikhar Gaikwad (Columbia) and Noah Zucker (Princeton)