

Sergiu Lipcean

RESEARCH FELLOW

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Professional Experience

- 12/2022–present: **Research Fellow**, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen — ERC project ‘ConsultationEffects’: Effects of Stakeholder Consultations on Inputs, Processes and Outcomes of Executive Policymaking, Bergen, Norway.
- 11/2020–10/2022: **Marie Curie Research Fellow**, School of Law and Government, Dublin City University — Horizon 2020 project ‘PFCORR’: Does Public Funding Matter?, Dublin, Ireland.
- 09/2019–08/2020: **Politics Lecturer**, State University ‘Dimitrie Cantemir’ — Subjects taught: Research Methods, Comparative Politics, Chisinau, Moldova.
- 01/2009–02/2020: **Associated Political Expert**, Institute for Development and Social Initiatives ‘Viitorul’ — Areas of expertise: party and campaign financing, education policies, parliamentary monitoring, Chisinau, Moldova.
- 09/2007–07/2011: **Politics Lecturer**, University of Political and Economic European Studies — Subjects taught: Introduction to Public Policy, Contemporary Political Ideas, Comparative Politics, Chisinau, Moldova.
- 09/2006–06/2008: **Politics Lecturer**, State Institute of International Relations — Subjects taught: Introduction to Public Policy, Contemporary Political Ideas, Chisinau, Moldova.
- 09/2001–06/2007: **Politics Lecturer**, Institute of Political Studies and International Relations — Subjects taught: Introduction to Public Policy, Contemporary Political Ideas, Comparative Politics, Chisinau, Moldova.

Education

- 09/2014–04/2019: **PhD in Political and Social Sciences**, European University Institute, Florence, Italy — Dissertation: *Similar Challenges, Different Outcomes? The Development of Political Financing Regimes in Post-Communist Space*.
- 09/2013–08/2014: **MRes in Political and Social Sciences**, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.
- 09/2011–09/2013: **MA in East European and Eurasian Studies**, University of Bologna (Forlì Campus), Italy.
- 09/1999–06/2001: **Postgraduate Studies in Political Sciences**, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, Romania.
- 09/1998–06/1999: **MA in History**, Moldova State University, Chisinau, Moldova.
- 09/1993–06/1998: **BA in History**, Moldova State University, Chisinau, Moldova.

Research Grants, Fellowships & Projects

- 09/2023–08/2027: **Principal Investigator**, Pathway Programme Research Fellowship — Irish Research Council & Science Foundation Ireland, Dublin City University, Ireland (€436,035).¹
- 11/2020–10/2022: **Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow**, Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions Individual Fellowship — Horizon 2020, Dublin City University, Ireland (PFCorr, Grant agreement ID: 895004 - €184,590).

¹I have declined the awarded research grant for family reasons.

- 09/2016–08/2017: **PhD Fellowship**, European University Institute — Internal funding (€15,360), Florence, Italy.
- 09/2013–08/2016: **PhD Fellowship**, European University Institute — Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs grant (€41,400), Florence, Italy.
- 12/2017–04/2018: **Researcher**, Political Finance Database project, International IDEA, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 02/2017–04/2017: **Research Assistant**, ERC Project *POLCON*, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.
- 05/2015–12/2015: **Research Assistant**, ERC Project *POLCON*, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.
- 11/2013–05/2014: **Research Assistant**, Project *EUandI* – Voting Advice Application for the 2014 EP elections, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

Selected Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Bunea, A. & Lipcean, S. (2026). Does public participation in supranational policymaking enhance the European Commission's legislative agenda-setting success? *Journal of European Public Policy*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2026.2623923>
- Casal Bértoa F., Horncastle W. & Lipcean S. (2025) Blessing or Curse? A Critical Review of the Paradoxical Consequences of Direct Public Funding for Political Parties. *European Political Science Review* 1–21. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755773925100258>
- Lipcean, S. & Casal Bértoa, F. (2024) Do political finance reforms really reduce corruption? A replication study. *Research & Politics* 11(4): 1-9. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/20531680241310002>
- Lipcean, S. & McMenamin, I. (2024). Rethinking public funding of parties and corruption: Confronting theoretical complexity and challenging measurement. *Governance* 37(2): 537–559. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12782>
- Bunea, A., Wüest, R. & Lipcean, S. (2024). Mapping the policy space of public stakeholder consultations: Evidence from the European Union. *Journal of European Public Policy*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2024.2320836>
- Bunea, A. & Lipcean, S. (2023). Understanding patterns of stakeholder participation in public commenting on bureaucratic policymaking: Evidence from the European Union. *Regulation & Governance*. DOI: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/regg.12551>
- Lipcean, S. (2022). Direct public funding of political parties: Between proxy measures and hard data. *Party Politics* 28(6): 1041–1057. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13540688211037302>

Datasets

- Lipcean, S. (2021). Dataset on direct public funding of political parties across post-communist regimes 1990–2020. Harvard Dataverse. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/TNHZML>

Book Chapters

- Lipcean, S. & Casal Bértoa, F. (2024). Political Financing and Political Corruption. In L. de Sousa & S. Corrado (eds.), *Elgar Encyclopedia of Corruption and Society*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781803925806.ch59>

- Lipcean, S. & Prohntichi, E. (2024). Against The Mainstream? The Impact of Party Regulation in Political Competition in Moldova. In F. Casal Bértoa & L. Tsutskiridze (eds.), *Money Rules: Parties, Oligarchs and Funding Regulation in Post-Soviet Countries*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003272236-2>

Policy Briefs & Reports

- Lipcean, S., Casal Bértoa, F. & Goguadze, N. (2022). Post-legislative scrutiny of election campaign finance legislation. London: Westminster Foundation for Democracy. URL: <https://www.wfd.org/what-we-do/resources/post-legislative-scrutiny-election-campaign-finance-legislation>
- Berbeca, V. & Lipcean, S. (2020). National Army: Between Group Interests and Strategic Development. Institute of Public Policies (ro). URL: <https://ipp.md/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Armata-Nationala-intre-interese-de-grup-si-dezvoltare-strategica1.pdf>
- Lipcean, S. & Turcan, R. (2020). Higher Education in Moldova at Crossroads or Throwing Good Money After Bad? Chisinau: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. URL: https://moldova.fes.de/fileadmin/user_upload/2020/Publications/Studiu_invatamant_Superior_final_1_EN.pdf
- Lipcean, S. (2018). Drawing Electoral Districts Boundaries: Between Neutrality and Political Partisanship. Chisinau: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, IDIS ‘Viitorul’. URL: https://moldova.fes.de/fileadmin/user_upload/2018/publications/Policy_brief-Gerrymandering-eng.pdf
- Lipcean, S. (2017). Problems and Challenges in the Financing of Parliamentary Elections in the Context of Changing the Electoral System. Chisinau: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, IDIS ‘Viitorul’. URL: https://moldova.fes.de/fileadmin/user_upload/2017/publications/Policy_brief-finantare_campanii-ENG.pdf
- Lipcean, S. & Ștefan, L. (2014). Implementing Right to Information: A Case Study of Moldova. In S. E. Trapnell (ed.), *Right to Information: Case Studies on Implementation*. Washington, DC: World Bank. URL: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/22527>
- Ciurea, C., Gurin, M., Lipcean, S. & Berbeca V. (2012) Higher Education System of Moldova in the Context of the Bologna Process: 2005 – 2011. Soros Foundation Moldova & Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS “Viitorul”) (ro). URL: <https://soros.md/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Studiu-Procesul-Bologna-2005-2011.pdf>
- Lipcean, S. (2012) Structural Reform of Education: Between Commitments, Opportunities and Constraints II. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung & Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS “Viitorul”) (ro).
- Lipcean, S. (2011) Free and Fair Elections. In *The Audit of the Democratic System of Republic of Moldova: Anthology of Analysis on Governance*. Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS “Viitorul”), pp. 80-113. URL: http://www.viitorul.org/files/Audit_EN%20%281%29.pdf
- Lipcean, S. (2011) The Democratic Role of Political Parties. In *The Audit of the Democratic System of Republic of Moldova: Anthology of Analysis on Governance*. Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS “Viitorul”), pp. 114-142.
- Lipcean, S. (2011) Government Effectiveness and Accountability. In *The Audit of the Democratic System of Republic of Moldova: Anthology of Analysis on Governance*. Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS “Viitorul”), pp. 143-164.
- Lipcean, S. (2011) Structural Reform of Education: Between Commitments, Opportunities and Constraints. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung & Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS “Viitorul”) (ro).
- Lipcean, S. (2011) Vocational Education at Crossroads: A Policy Decision Analysis of the Post-Secondary Vocational Education System of Moldova. Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS “Viitorul”) (ro). http://www.viitorul.org/files/10_3.pdf
- Lipcean, S., Berbeca, V. & Tabirta I. (2011) Monitoring Report on Parliamentary Activity: Session February–July 2011. Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS “Viitorul”) (ro).
- Ciurea, C. & Lipcean, S. (2011). Financing of Political Parties in the 2011 Local Elections: a Sample of Medieval

- Relations (No. 6). Chişinău: IDIS ‘Viitorul’ (ro). URL: http://www.viitorul.org/files/library/POLITICI_PUBLICE_6%20Finantare%20partide.pdf
- Lipcean, S., Ciurea, C., Litra, L. & Cozonac, C. (2010). Financing Political Parties: Between Transparency and Obscurity (No. 8). Chişinău: IDIS ‘Viitorul’. URL: http://www.viitorul.org/files/POLITICI_PUBLICE_8_finantare%20partide%20eng.pdf
 - Lipcean, S. (2009). Assessing the Financing of Political Parties and Election Campaigns in the Republic of Moldova (No. 5). Chişinău: IDIS ‘Viitorul’ (ro). URL: <http://www.viitorul.org/files/25.pdf>

Method training

- 02/2022: **ECPR Winter School (Virtual)** — Courses: *Machine Learning with Big Data (R)*, *Social Network Analysis (R)*.
- 08/2021: **ECPR Summer School (Virtual)** — Courses: *Structural Equation Modelling (R)*, *Quantitative Text Analysis (R)*, *Statistics of Causal Inference (R)*.
- 03/2021: **ECPR Winter School (Virtual)** — Courses: *Panel Data Analysis (R)*, *Multilevel Modelling (R)*.
- 05/2017: **Workshop**, European University Institute — *A Primer to Web Scraping with R*.
- 05/2017: **Workshop**, European University Institute — *Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) with R*.
- 05/2016: **Workshop**, European University Institute — *QCA and Fuzzy Sets*.
- 03/2016: **Workshop**, European University Institute — *Introduction to Data Analysis with R*.
- 05/2015: **Workshop**, European University Institute — *Introduction to Panel Data Analysis*.
- 02/2015: **Workshops**, European University Institute — *Causal Inference: Design-Based Identification Strategies; Social-Scientific Network Analysis; Categorical Dependent Variables*.

Selected Conference Presentations

- 08/2024: **IPSA-RC20 – Political Finance and Political Corruption Biennial Meeting**, Oxford University, UK — *Presentation: Party funding control and corruption: Evidence from the European Union*.
- 07/2024: **Money in Politics in the Era of Globalization and Digitalization**, Chisinau, Moldova — *Presentation: The Challenges of Party Funding Control*.
- 06/2024: **8th Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Forum**, Lisbon, Portugal — *Presentation: Hide-and-Seek: Untangling Judicial Corruption Through the Scrutiny of Income and Asset Declarations*.
- 11/2023: **CERIS Workshop on Anti-Corruption**, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium — *Presentation: The Impact of Public Funding of Political Parties on Political Corruption*.
- 09/2023: **ECPR General Conference**, Prague, Czechia — *Presentation: Does public funding of political parties affect party systems and electoral competition? Evidence from the post-communist space*.
- 07/2023: **ECPR Biennial Conference of the Standing Group on Regulatory Governance**, Antwerp, Belgium — *Presentation: Understanding patterns of public commenting on bureaucratic policymaking: Evidence from the European Union*.
- 09/2022: **APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition**, Montreal, Canada — *Presentation: Does Public Funding of Parties Reduce Corruption? Evidence from Firm-Level Data*.
- 07/2022: **IPSA-RC20 – Political Finance and Political Corruption Biennial Meeting**, Prague, Czechia — *Presentation: Does public funding of parties reduce corruption? Evidence from firm-level data*.

- 06/2022: **EPSA Annual Conference**, Prague, Czechia — *Presentation*: Does state funding of political parties reduce political corruption? Evidence from the post-communist space.
- 04/2022: **ECPR Joint Sessions**, Virtual — *Workshop Co-Chair & Presentation*: Does Public Funding of Parties Reduce Corruption? Evidence from Firm-Level Data.
- 04/2022: **MPSA Annual Conference**, Virtual — *Presentation*: Does State Funding of Political Parties Reduce Political Corruption? Evidence from the Post-Communist Space.
- 09/2021: **ECPR General Conference**, Virtual — *Presentation*: Does state funding of political parties deter political corruption? New insights from hard data.
- 07/2017: **IPSA-RC20 – Political Finance and Political Corruption Biennial Meeting**, Valencia, Spain — *Presentation*: Assessing the Restrictiveness of Party Funding Regimes: Towards an Analytical Framework.
- 09/2016: **ECPR General Conference**, Prague, Czechia — *Presentation*: Similar Challenges – Different Outcomes: Addressing the Supply and Demand Sides of Party Funding Regulations in Post-Communist Space.

Academic community service

- 04/2022: **Co-Chair**, ECPR Joint Sessions Workshop: *Measuring Corruption: State of the Art, Challenges, and Advancements*, University of Edinburgh.
- 05/2022: **Co-organiser & Instructor**, Workshop: *Introduction to Data Management with R*, School of Law and Government & Anti-Corruption Research Centre, Dublin City University.
- 05/2022: **Co-organiser & Instructor**, Workshop: *Introduction to Data Visualisation with R*, School of Law and Government & Anti-Corruption Research Centre, Dublin City University.
- 2020–2025: **Reviewer**, Journals: *Party Politics*, *Representation*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Journal of Public Affairs*, *Journal of European Integration*, *Governance*, *Government & Opposition*.

Skills

- **Research software**: R/RStudio — proficient in data collection (including web scraping), management, analysis, and visualisation.
- **Microsoft Office**: Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word — proficient.
- **Languages**: Romanian — mother tongue; Russian — native-level proficiency; English — fluent; Italian — advanced.