

Visions in Methodology (VIM)

Pre-Conference Workshop

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Kellogg Convention Center, Ballroom C

Agenda

8:00 am – 8:30 am	Arrival (No breakfast available)
8:30 am – 8:45 am	Welcome, introductions, agenda-setting Emily Hencken Ritter, VIM president
8:45 am – 9:20 am	Senior scholar research presentation: Anne Meng, University of Virginia
9:20 am – 9:30 am	Coffee break
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Research paper presentations – 15 minutes per paper, 15 minutes Q&A, no discussants Paper 1: Hyein Ko Paper 2: Arisa Sadeghpour
10:30 – 10:40 am	Coffee break
10:40 am – 12:10 pm	Research roundtables. 3 scholars share a 1-2 page report on their research, summarizing the question, the contribution, the argument, the research design, and the finding. All 6 table members read the 3 reports before the workshop. Each presenting scholar explains/pitches their project to the group in less than 5 minutes, and the group spends 20 minutes responding to the pitch and the report. The presenting scholar should listen as a “fly on the wall” during the discussion and may respond to group comments only in the last 5 minutes of their session.
12:10– 12:20	Break and reset for lunch
12:20 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch (provided!) Profession Ask-Me-Anything panel. Panelists: • Jane Sumner, University of South Carolina • Jenny Wolack, Michigan State University

	• Erin Hartman, University of California, Berkeley • Jule Krüger, Amnesty International • Cassy Dorff, Vanderbilt University To address as many questions as possible, please submit questions ahead of time using this document: AMA Questions This allows you to submit questions anonymously. There will also be an open Q&A in the later part of the session.
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Break and reset for presentations
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Research paper presentations – 15 minutes per paper, 15 minutes Q&A, no discussants Paper 1: Susan Smelcer Paper 2: Elena Sirotkina Paper 3: Lindsay Favero & Sophie Sunderland
3:15 pm – 3:50 pm	Senior scholar research presentation: Cassy Dorff, Vanderbilt University Presentation title: “Studying Politics in the Age of AI”
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Profession Panel on AI for Methodology and Gender Gaps Moderator: Adeline Lo, University of Wisconsin Panelists: • Sarah Dreier, University of New Mexico, co-PI on NSF Mid-Scale RI-2: Open Multimodal AI Infrastructure to Accelerate Science • Dan Hopkins, University of Pennsylvania, co-editor of <i>Political Analysis</i> • Molly Roberts, University of California, San Diego, VIM Board, Incoming President of PolMeth • Emily Gade, University of Oregon, Data Science Fellow
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Discussion: The Future of VIM Led by Emily Hencken Ritter, Shawna Metzger, & Molly Roberts
5:30	Adjourn

All VIM attendees are encouraged to attend the PolMeth Welcome Reception from 6 to 730pm in Big Ten A at the Kellogg Center. Appetizers and a drink ticket will be provided. This is a chance to network with and get to know political methodologists in the field more generally. Please bring cash for additional drinks if you so choose.