

CURRICULUM VITAE OF
ROBERT EDWARD STERKEN JR.

July 25

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Education

- Ph.D. Texas Tech University, Political Science.
- M.A. Stephen F. Austin State University, Political Science.
- B.A. Stephen F. Austin State University, Political Science.

Selected Accomplishments

- 2025-2026: UT Tyler **Ethics Teaching Award**.
- 2025: Mentored **Student Research** Presentations POLS Annual Meeting and HNRS Lyceum
- 2019-Present: Honored to be teaching in the UT Tyler Honors College.
- 2022-25: **Invited Lectures** for the Ivanov School of Leadership in Ohrid, Macedonia.
- 2021-25: Research and writing for a forthcoming book titled ***Vertigo: The Murder of Lt. Brown.***
- In 2023-25, led **travel study courses** to England, Germany, France, and Italy for a total of 44 UT Tyler students.
- 2024-25 Redesigned the UT Tyler **Asian Studies minor**.
- 2024-25: Led the POLS department's creation the **Philosophy, Politics, and Law (PPL)** track.
- 2024-25: Designed **two certificates**: Cultural Competence and for the new PPL.
- 2016-2025: Serve as a **Peer Reviewer** for J. William Fulbright Scholars Grants.
- 2021-2025: **Appeared on television** in multiple countries (including Germany, Macedonia, and in the United States) multiple times to discuss politics and history.
- 2023: Published **book: The Kings of Buddhism**. Rowman & Littlefield.
- 2020: Consulted Tyler Junior College leadership on **SACS and QEP**.
- 2019 and 2025: Authored chapters in **Open Access textbook** Uncovering Texas Politics.
- 2018: **Fulbright Specialist to Jilin University** in China by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Lecture and research on *Religion and the State* at the School of Public and International Affairs, Jilin University as well at United States Embassies in Beijing and Shenyang.
- Jilin University awarded me the honorary title of ***Distinguished Professor in the School of International and Public Affairs.***
- 2016: J. William **Fulbright Senior Scholar**, Visiting Professor at Yangon University, Department of International Relations, Myanmar, The Yangon School of Political Science, and the Myanmar Institute of Theology, College of Liberal Arts, Yangon, Burma.
- 2016: Published **book: Bill Ratliff**: A profile of courage and leadership in American politics.

Brief Professional Background

- 2017 – present: Professor of Political Science, The University of Texas at Tyler.
- Fall 2005 - 2017: Associate Professor of Political Science, The University of Texas at Tyler.
- Fall 2007 - 2012: Assistant Provost for International Affairs (Ut Tyler)
- Fall 2007 - 2012: Assistant to the President for Government Affairs (Ut Tyler).

Books

- [*The Kings of Buddhism: Power, Religion, and Fury in Myanmar.*](#) 2023. Rowman & Littlefield Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-1-5381-7793-8
- [*Uncovering Texas Politics in the 21st Century.*](#) With Eric Lopez and Marcus Stadelmann. ISBN-13: 978-1-7333299-2-7

- ***Chinese Version of Alliance with Russia Comes of Age*. 2018.** With Li Wang, ISBN-13: 978-6139883509.
- ***Bill Ratliff: A Profile in Courage and Leadership in American Politics***. 2016. Lexington Press ISBN-13: 978-1-4985-4693-5.
- ***Teaching Barefoot in Burma: Stories and Insights from a Fulbright Year in Myanmar***. 2016. YSPS Press. ISBN-13: 978-0692777848.

Selected Articles and Chapters

- Sterken, R. E. (2024). Tragic Nation Burma: Why and How Democracy Failed, written by Amitav Acharya. The Journal of American-East Asian Relations, 31(4), 406–408. <https://doi.org/10.1163/18765610-31040006>
- Sterken, Robert E. Jr. (2022). *The Silence of a Pope*. Fulbright Chronicles, Volume 1, Number 3 (2022).
- Sterken, Robert E. Jr. (2022). ***Revolt and Repression: Social Movement and the Struggle for Democracy***, in Asaadi, Robert. Politics of Dissent and State Response: Sociopolitical Change in Comparative Contexts. London: Routledge Publishing.
- Sterken, Robert. (2020). ***Populism in Southeast Asia***, written by Paul D. Kenny, *Populism*, 3(1), 141-143. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/25888072-BJA10002>.
- Sterken, Robert E. Jr., Sarah Sass, and Amentahru Wahlrab. (2019). The Need to Disrupt Social Control in Political Authority, Social Control and Public Policy edited by Cara Rabe-Hemp and Nancy Lind, Emerald Publishing.
- Sterken, Robert E. Jr. (2019). Religion and the State: The Politics of Social Control in Myanmar and the United States, in Political Authority, Social Control and Public Policy edited by Cara Rabe-Hemp and Nancy Lind, Emerald Publishing.
- Robert Edward Sterken and Lamia Zia. Journal of Political Studies, Vol. 22, Issue - 2, 2015, 545:557, "Does a link exist between increasing Women's Participation in Parliament and the Introduction and Passage of Laws to Protect Women in Pakistan?"

Selected Recent Conference Presentations

- Sterken Jr., R. E. (2024, October). An Instrument of Peace: A Micro Look at Leadership for Peace and Justice. 15th School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov. Ohrid, Macedonia: School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov. Sterken Jr., R. E. (2024, October).
- The Flame of Hope: A Macro Look at Leadership for Peace and Justice. 15th School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov. Ohrid, Macedonia: School for Young Leaders of President Ivanov.
- *The Kings of Buddhism*. Presented at the International Burma Studies Conference at the University of Zurich, June 2023.
- *Consequences of Regulation of Religion in Myanmar*. Paper presented at the Northern Illinois University Burma Studies Conference September 2021.
- *Regulating Religion in Myanmar*. Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Annual Meeting April 2021.
- *Peace and Conflict in Myanmar: An Examination of the Institutions and the Resilience of the Myanmar People Since the 1988 Uprising*. Paper presented at the Varieties of Peace Asia Conference 2019 Jakarta, October 2019.
- *China and its Southeast Asian Neighbors: A Closer Look at Challenges and Opportunities in Myanmar and Southeast Asia*. Invited lecture at the United States Consulate in Shenyang, China, June 17, 2018.

Selected Professional Activities

- Directed Andrea Valdez's research and facilitated the presentation of her research at the Midwest Annual Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois in April 2025.
- Politics, Education, and a Fully Realized Life: Presentation at the 14th School for Young Leaders of President Ivan Ivanov. Ohrid, Macedonia, October 14, 2023.
- Politics and Purpose: Moral Leadership in a Changing World. Presentation at the 13th School for Young Leaders of President Ivan Ivanov. Ohrid, Macedonia, September 2022.
- Public lecture and workshop on the ***Rule of Law*** with US State Department Legal Team at the US Embassy Thomas Jefferson Center, Yangon, Myanmar, September 5, 2016.
- Public Lecture and Workshop on the United States ***Democracy and Institutional Powers*** with US State Department Yangon, Burma Embassy, Deputy Chief of Mission Kristen Bauer at the US Embassy Thomas Jefferson Center, August 19, 2016, and the Yangon Regional Parliament September 5, 2016.

- Public lecture on the United States ***Democracy, Ideology, and Elections*** with the United States Ambassador to Thailand Glyn T. Davies, to Thai TV and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and the Royal Thai Army Cadets on July 26, 2016.
- Series 5 Public Lectures in Northern Thailand: “**Politics and the Open Society.**” The United States Embassy in Bangkok.
- Public Lecture: "Reflections on the U.S. Electoral System: ***7 Lessons from the US on Democracy,***" a presentation with United States Ambassador Glyn T. Davies and Dr. Robert E. Sterken, Jr. at the United States Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, on Wednesday, December 9, 2015.
- Keynote speaker: "***Democracy and Good Governance*** in Myanmar: Democracy is Messy," presented at the American Center US Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar on the historic Myanmar Election Day, November 8, 2015.

Recent Grants

- 2024-2025: J. William Fulbright Scholar Award Germany (award letter received, passed peer review, and selected by United States Embassy in Berlin, but then denied by Department of State officials).
- 2020: The University of Texas at Tyler Faculty Development Leave Grant.
- 2019-2020: The University of Texas at Tyler Bridge Grant for Research and Writing.
- 2019: The Varieties of Peace Grant October 2019. Invited to present in Jakarta on Myanmar.
- 2017-2020: J. William Fulbright Specialist Roster, April 2017 to April 2020.
- 2016: J. William Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to conduct research and to teach in Burma/Myanmar.