

**Contact:**

Vera Wilde  
[vera@verawil.de](mailto:vera@verawil.de)

**Education**

2010-2014, Ph.D. in Politics, (Jan. defense, formal degree May), University of Virginia  
2008-2010, M.A. in Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia  
2001-2005, B.A. with High Distinction, Political Theory, Distinguished Majors Thesis,  
University of Virginia

**Select Publications**

iBorderCtrl? No! A website on what iBorderCtrl is (an EU-funded automated border security system currently being tested that includes lie detection), why it's a bad idea (just look at the history of lie detection), and what you can do about it (fight).

*Vagabonding*, Oct. 2018. Original poetry book: [hard copy](#) and free [e-book](#).

Polygraph research. A new web home for my interviews, FOIA and other document releases, dissertation and postdoctoral research.

Art reviews (various), *Delicious Line*, April 2017-May 2018.

“A Brief Guide to Combatting Mass Surveillance,” *The Science Creatively Quarterly*, Dec. 2016.

“Wilde Truth: The Polygraph Files,” *The Memory Hole 2*, Dec. 2016. This is a curated re-release of documents I had previously made public as part of a McClatchy national investigative series (mostly thanks to the Freedom of Information Act) and that were subsequently made significantly less visible.

“Refugee Screening: A Brief Introduction and A Request for Equipment,” *The Science Creatively Quarterly*, Nov. 2016. Extends my Ph.D. research on polygraph programs to the broader contexts of mass surveillance and refugee screening.

*Push Coasts*, 2015. Original poetry book available in [hard copy](#), [e-book](#), and [illustrated form](#).

Wilde, V.K., Martin, K.D., & Goff, P.A. Dehumanization as a Distinct Form of Prejudice. *Testing, Psychometrics, Methodology in Applied Psychology*, Vol. 21, No. 3, September 2014: 1-7.

Jackson, M.C., Wilde, V.K., & Goff, P.A. Seeing Colorblindness: Colorblind Racial Ideology Research Methods in Social Psychology. In *What Does it Mean to be Color-Blind?: Manifestation, Dynamics, and Impact*, eds. Neville, H.A., Gallardo, M., & Sue, Derald Wing.

Ph.D Dissertation. “Neutral Competence? Polygraphy and Technology-Mediated Administrative Decisions.” Defended Jan. 2014. My multi-method, National Science Foundation-supported experimental, quasi-experimental, and qualitative research on technology and interpretation, featured in The Pacific Standard, prefigures and informs my postdoctoral work combining information science, tech policy, and art.

Other publications include essay series on [surveillance](#) and [gratitude](#) for *Rebel News*, *Guardian* essays on [violence against women](#) (eponymously under my former legal name as well as pseudonymously), comedy writing, songs, and [poetry](#).

## Select Working Papers

Lie Detectors On Trial? Science, Security, and Accountability in the Era of the Hague Invasion Act. Presented at the American Studies Symposium at Osaka University (Japan), 19 Mar., 2016.

Overriding Race and Class Bias: Equity in Technology-Mediated Diagnosis.

Crypto Reloaded: Rebranding the Dark Web. Lightning talk given at the Chaos Communication Camp 2015.

## Research Interests

(Anti-)authoritarianism, corruption and collective action problems, agenda-setting, income inequality, climate change / resilience, political engagement, nutrition / lifestyle and well-being, psychedelic science, arms trade / gun violence, public health and network phenomena / (mis)trust spirals, bias in tech and forensics, police / intel accountability, surveillance / infosec, lie detection, interrogation, torture, violence and prejudice, sexual violence, justice theories, evidence-based forensics, public policy, positive psychology, art, joy, ADHD.

## Dissertation

“Automating Administration? Neutrality and Its Limits in Technology-Mediated Decisions.” This dissertation asks how technology makes the state and the state makes technology. Expanding bureaucracy characterizes 20th century politics. Administrative decision-making technologies seem to constrain bureaucratic discretion. But existing evidence does not establish the neutrality of those technologies. Lie detection (or “polygraphy”) in law enforcement and national security contexts, medical diagnosis tools in healthcare, and welfare benefits administration tools in social work are examples of such technologies. How do we know if these technologies really are neutral given the insufficiency of existing evidence?

I examine an array of original survey, survey experimental, and psychophysiology study evidence, in combination with large-scale survey data and previously unreleased government documents. This evidence indicates that technology-mediated decisions are more neutral than leading social science theories and most published evidence on racial and intersectional bias suggests. At the same time, systematic biases still influence some such decisions – with significant consequences for political institutions and society.

## Selected Grants and Fellowships

- 2016 Emerging Scholar Fellowship, Osaka University, Japan
- 2015-present Artist and Scientist in Residence, Hack42, Arnhem, Netherlands
- 2014-15 Fellow, Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
- 2014-15 National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Researcher, the Justice Database
- 2014-15 Fellow, Center for Policing Equity
- 2014-15 Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2013-14 Politics Junior Fellow, University of Virginia Society of Fellows
- 2013-14 William McMeekin Humane Studies Fellowship, The Institute for Humane Studies
- 2012-13 Politics Junior Fellow, University of Virginia Society of Fellows

- 2012-13 Michael & Andrea Leven Humane Studies Fellowship, The Institute for Humane Studies
- 2012 Raven Society Fellowship, The Raven Society
- 2012 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Society of Fellows Travel Fellowship, University of Virginia
- 2012 Louise and Alfred Fernbach Award for Research in International Relations, University of Virginia
- 2011-12 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant
- 2011-12 Bernard Marcus Humane Studies Fellowship, The Institute for Humane Studies
- 2011-12 Albert Gallatin Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Virginia
- 2009 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Summer Foreign Language Fellowship, University of Virginia
- 2008-12 President's Fellowship, University of Virginia

### **Teaching and Other Past Work Experience**

- 2012 Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, University of Virginia (Prof. David O'Brien)
- 2011 Public Opinion & Political Behavior, University of Virginia (Prof. Nicholas Winter)
- 2009-11 Modern Political Theory, University of Virginia (Prof. Stephen White)
- 2010 Introduction to Political Theory, University of Virginia (Prof. Colin Bird)
- 2005-10 Children's piano, reading, math, and Spanish tutoring
- 2003-08 Children's ballet, story-telling through dance, art, and drama, City of Charlottesville

### **Methods Training**

- 2012 Cluster computing. The University of Virginia Alliance for Computational Science and Engineering High Performance Computing Bootcamp
- 2011 Field experiments. ICPSR Developing, Conducting, and Analyzing Field Experiments workshop
- 2011 Survey methods. Interdisciplinary survey research methods graduate training in Public Health and Sociology
- 2009-11 Statistics. Completed the highest level of coursework offered by my department

**Software:** R and Stata, FeatureFinder in MATLAB for psychophysiology data analysis, Google Fusion Tables, ArcGIS (basic).

**Languages:** German - learning through living, completed B1-level course, French - proficient reading, competent speaking, Italian - competent reading and speaking, Spanish - intermediate reading, basic speaking, Arabic - basic reading and speaking, Russian - basic reading and speaking; completed 2009 U.Va. Summer Language Institute.

**Dreams:** Start a climate café/coop housing artist-activists and events, write the book linking the triangle of radical lifestyle science (e.g., psychedelics and diet) with well-being on one hand and political engagement on the other, counsel people, enjoy making more beautiful art and friends.