

**Bio: Ryan Kennedy**

Ryan Kennedy is an assistant professor at the University of Houston, a research associate at the University of Houston Center for Public Policy, and a contributing analyst for Oxford Analytica. His research interests are in democratization, authoritarian and leadership stability, natural resource politics, political economy, and political violence. He is a former Fulbright research fellow in Moldova, and has done extensive field research in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union (including Russia, Kazakhstan, and Poland). His research has been published in *International Studies Quarterly*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, and *Problems in Post-Communism*. Ryan earned his PhD from The Ohio State University (2008) with a dissertation on the effects of oil development on authoritarian and democratic governance.