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EDUCATION

The University of Maryland, College Park

Ph.D., Political Science, *Expected May 2016*

Dissertation: *Violence(s) of Belonging: Institutionalized exclusion and the variation in citizenship violence*

Committee: Johanna Birnir (Chair), John McCauley, Kathleen Cunningham, Ernesto Calvo

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science, December 2013

M.A., Political Science, January 2013

The University of Texas, Austin

B.A., Plan II Liberal Arts and French, May 2009

Cum Laude; Special Honors in Plan II; Phi Beta Kappa

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TEACHING

University of Maryland, College Park, Instructor, August 2015

- I will teach a course on the politics of the developing world for the second time. The course concerns the various challenges countries face when developing and explores possible solutions. It emphasizes measuring concepts and testing development theories from a social science perspective.
- My teaching style is to present material first in a lecture-style format, interspersed with relevant video clips. We then move to a seminar-style discussion of the material, with the objective of helping students apply concepts from lecture to new settings, current events, and future challenges.

University of Maryland, College Park, Instructor, July 2013—August 2013

- I designed and taught a course on the politics of the developing world. See details above.

University of Maryland, College Park Teaching Assistant, August 2010—May 2013

- As a TA, I led discussion sections each week, graded assignments, attended meetings, proctored exams, and held regular office hours to meet with students.
- I was granted a Distinguished Teaching Award in Spring 2013.
- The purpose of discussion sections is to help students better understand course material and apply it to new settings, current events, and future challenges. My sections are varied in format and I keep lectures to a minimum. More often I use structured debates, group activities, and Socratic-method discussions to engage students.
- Courses: Politics of the Developing World (Fall 2012, Spring 2013); Introduction to International Relations (Spring 2012); Failed State and Development Traps (Fall 2011); Introduction to Politics (Spring 2011); Introduction to American Government (Fall 2010).

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, Carlisle, PA, Teaching Assistant, Summer 2011

- I led evening discussion sessions, attended all meetings, and graded assignments.

RESEARCH

American Political Science Association Africa Workshop, Kenya, July 2015

- I am one of four U.S. graduate students selected to participate in a two-week workshop in Nairobi, Kenya to refine my paper “Exclusive Institutions and the Variation in Citizenship Violence in Africa.”

Fieldwork, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, November & December 2014

- I led 5-person teams from the Centre de Recherche et de Formation sur le Développement Intégré (CREFDI) and the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD) to conduct a survey experiment in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire and Accra, Ghana. I had 3 research assistants and 2 organizational liaisons in each country. I collected 844 surveys total, 403 in Abidjan and 441 in Accra. Respondents were a stratified random sample of the Abidjan and Accra populations. The population in Abidjan and Accra accounts for about 20% and 15% of each country’s total population, respectively.
- I conducted face-to-face interviews regarding past and present citizenship debates in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana with CREFDI, CDD, and the Centre de Recherche et d’Action pour la Paix (CERAP) research staff. Interviews with CREFDI and CERAP were conducted in French. I also conducted interviews with scholars at the University of Ghana-Legon (in-person), the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris (Skype), and the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (Skype).
- Time in the field has given me practice managing an international team, budgeting for a multinational study, and executing a complicated, long-term project on a tight budget. It also taught me how to identify capable local partners, incorporate their knowledge into my work, and build a professional network. Lastly, preparations for my 2014 fieldwork reinforced the importance of flexibility and contingency planning, as I had to adjust my fieldwork plans due to the Ebola outbreak.

Research Assistant, University of Maryland, December 2011—present

- I work with a research team led by Prof. Kathleen Cunningham investigating the political behavior of self-determination movements.
- Over the course of the project, my responsibilities have been data collection, data management, research methodology, and management of undergraduate research assistants.
- After I recognized that the project would benefit from data on relationships between self-determination organizations, my responsibilities shifted to designing and managing the new dataset on this topic. I also merged the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) with our existing dataset.
- I am a co-author on paper related to the study (in progress).

Fieldwork, Ghana, June 2013

- Working with four research assistants from the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD), a colleague and I collected 418 surveys in four different languages. Respondents were a stratified random sample of the Accra population, which makes up over 15% of Ghana’s total population.
- We also conducted interviews with professors at the University of Ghana, officials in the National Commission for Civic Education, and staff at the NGO WaterAid.

Fieldwork, Southwestern Louisiana, Summer 2008, Spring 2009

- I conducted 11 oral histories across three-generations of my Cajun family members about transformations and continuities in Cajun culture over time.
- Tangible products of this project include 60 recorded hours of interviews and a publication on a rare manuscript called the *Saint Suaire*. The *Saint Suaire* is a 16th century devotional that was suppressed by the Catholic Church but is still in use today among some Cajuns. To my knowledge, I am the first person to publish an article on the *Saint Suaire*.

PAPERS & PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

2009. "Discovering Le Saint Suaire." *Louisiana Folklore Miscellany*, Winter (19): 71-81.

2009. "Investigation of obstacles to accessing information regarding private medical insurance coverage and physician reimbursement for adolescent vaccination." *Journal of Adolescent Health*. March, 44(3): 298-301 (with Boom, J.A., Nelson, C.S., Middleman, A.B., & Kozinetz, C.A.).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Exclusive Institutions and the Variation in Citizenship Violence in Africa"

"Violence(s) of Belonging: A new approach to the study of citizenship violence"

"Strategies of Dissent" (with Kathleen Cunningham, Marianne Dahl, and Kenneth Matis)

"Public Health Crises and Conflict: The effect of disease on levels of ethnic conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa" (with Allison Patch)

"Access, Ethnicity, and Conflict: How non-ethnic threats can lead to ethnic social conflict" (with Allison Patch)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

American Political Science Association Africa Workshop participant, July 2015

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Honorable Mention, April 2014

Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, University of Maryland, April 2014

Goldhaber Award, University of Maryland, January 2014

Center for Teaching Excellence's Distinguished Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland, April 2013

Dean's Fellowship, University of Maryland, April 2013

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Grant, University of Maryland Department of Government & Politics, April 2012

Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research Grant, University of Maryland Department of Government & Politics, April 2012

Comparative Politics Sub-Field Summer Funds, University of Maryland Department of Government & Politics, April 2012

Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, April 2009

University Honors, University of Texas, May 2009

Special Honors for Senior Honors Thesis, University of Texas Plan II Liberal Arts Honors, May 2009

Fieldwork Research Grant, University of Texas Plan II Liberal Arts Honors, April 2009

Fieldwork Research Grant, University of Texas Plan II Liberal Arts Honors, April 2008