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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Maryland, College Park

Associate Professor of Government & Politics, 2017 – present
Assistant Professor of Government & Politics, 2011 – 2017
Research Associate, Center for International Development & Conflict Management
Research Affiliate, START Center

École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris

Research Fellow, *Institut des Mondes Africains*, 2018

Harvard University

Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, 2010 - 2011
The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

Ph.D., Political Science, 2010
Dissertation: Religious and Ethnic Conflict in Africa (Daniel N. Posner, Chair)

Yale University

M.A., International Relations

College of William & Mary

B.A., *cum laude*, Economics

BOOKS, PAPERS, & PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

2017. *The Logic of Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Forthcoming. "The Grapevine Effect in Sensitive Data Collection: Examining Response Patterns in Support for Violent Extremism." *Political Science Research and Methods*. With Steven E. Finkel, Michael Neureiter, and Christopher Belasco.

Forthcoming. "'Community Violence and Support for Violent Extremism: Evidence from the Sahel.'" *Political Psychology*. With Steven E. Finkel, Michael Neureiter, and Christopher Belasco.

2019. "The Political Sources of Religious Identification: A Study on the Burkina Faso-Côte d'Ivoire Border." *British Journal of Political Science* 49, 2: 421-441. With Daniel N. Posner.

2017. "Disaggregating Identities to Study Ethnic Conflict." *Ethnopolitics* 16, 1: 12-20.

2015. "African Borders as Sources of Natural Experiments: Promise and Pitfalls." *Political Science Research and Methods* 3, 2: 409-418. With Daniel N. Posner.

2014. "The Political Mobilization of Ethnicity and Religion in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 108, 4: 801-816.

2014. "Pentecostalism as an Informal Political Institution: Experimental Evidence from Ghana." *Politics & Religion* 7, 4: 761-787.

2014. "Measuring and Reducing Religious Bias in Post-Conflict Zones: Evidence from Côte d'Ivoire." *Political Psychology* 35, 2 (April): 267-289.

2013. "Economic Development Strategies and Conflict in Africa: The Cases of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana." *Comparative Political Studies* 46, 2 (Feb): 182-211.

2013. "Africa's New Big Man Rule? Pentecostalism and Patronage in Ghana." *African Affairs* 112, 446 (Jan): 1-21.

2009. "Religious Faith and Democracy: Evidence from the Afrobarometer Surveys." Afrobarometer Working Paper No. 113. With E. Gyimah-Boadi.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

Forthcoming. "The Intoxication of Fieldwork: Obtaining Authorizations in Burkina Faso." In Peter Krause and Ora Szekeley, eds. *Stories from the Field: A Guide to Navigating Fieldwork in Political Science*. Columbia University Press.

2019. "Identity, Internal State Conflict, and Religion." In *Oxford Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion*. Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.843.

2019. "The Politics of Pentecostalism in Africa." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1379>.

2017. “Disaggregating Identities to Study Ethnic Conflict.” In Erika Forsberg, J.K. Birnir, and Christian Davenport, eds., *Ethnic Politics and Conflict/Violence*. New York: Routledge. Ch. 3.

2015. “Pentecostals and Politics: Redefining Big Man Rule in Africa.” In Martin Lindhardt, ed., *Pentecostalism in Africa: Presence and Impact of Pneumatic Christianity in Postcolonial Societies*. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Publishers. Ch 13: 322-344.

2013. “Economic Development and Conflict Outcomes: Fifty Years of Evidence from West Africa.” In William Ascher and Natalia Mirovitskaya, eds., *Economic Development Strategies and Inter-Group Violence*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. Ch. 6: 141-166.

REVIEWS

2019. *Religion, Violence, and Local Power-Sharing in Nigeria* by Laura Thaut Vinson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. Pp. 360. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 57(2), 347-348.

WORKING PAPERS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Ethnicity and Religion as Sources of Political Division in Africa.”

“Informal Institutions in Response to Crisis: Evidence from Ghana.”

“Social Desirability Bias and Support for Violent Extremism in Africa” (with S. Finkel).

“Chinese FDI and the Political Prospects of Leaders in Africa” (with M. Pearson and X. Wang).

“Chinese FDI and Perceptions of China in Africa” (with M. Pearson and X. Wang)

“Terrorist Attacks and Democracy in Africa” (with T. Billing).

“Contemporary Consequences of Colonially Partitioned Ethnic Groups” (with T. Billing).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

US Department of State INL Research Grant (PI), \$986,000, 2018

Global Religion Research Initiative Book Leave Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2018

Research and Scholarship Award (RASA), University of Maryland, 2018

Dean’s Research Initiative Level 1 Seed Grant, University of Maryland, 2014

Excellence in Teaching Award, UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, 2013

Research and Scholarship Award (RASA), University of Maryland, 2013

Templeton Foundation *Pentecostal & Charismatic Research Initiative* grant, 2010-2012

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2009

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Research Fellowship, 2007-2008, 2009-2010

Distinguished Teaching Award & Fellowship, UCLA, 2008-2009

RESEARCH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ethnic and religious politics; conflict; political economy of development; terrorism; sub-Saharan Africa; informal institutions; experiments in social science; borders and cultural boundaries

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Non-Resident Scholar, Middle East Institute (2020 – present)
Senior Evaluation Specialist, USAID Sahel Resilience Learning Initiative (2014-2019)
Senior Field Specialist, USAID Peace through Development II initiative (2013-2017)
Expert Witness, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Somalia; U.S. Immigration Court (2011, 2016, 2018)
Election Observer, Ghana Presidential Election (2008)
Visiting Researcher, Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra, Ghana (2008-2009)

FIELDWORK: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria

TEACHING

COURSES

Field Methods in Political Science: Experiments, Surveys, and Analysis (GVPT 884, grad)
Analysis of African Politics (GVPT 888, grad)
Seminar in Comparative Politics (GVPT 780, grad)
African Politics (GVPT 484, undergrad)
Honors Seminar in African Politics (GVPT 484H, undergrad)
Politics of the Developing World (GVPT 282, undergrad)
I-Series: Religions, Beliefs, and World Affairs (GVPT 289L, undergrad)

PROFESSIONAL TALKS & INVITED PAPER PRESENTATIONS

“The State of Terrorism in the Sahel.” International Republican Institute, 2019.
“The Grapevine Effect in Sensitive Data Collection.” APSA, 2018.
“Social Desirability Bias and Violent Extremism in the Sahel.” American University, 2017.
“Why Are Africa’s Conflicts Sometimes Ethnic and Sometimes Religious?” JHU SAIS, 2017.
“Disaggregating Identities to Study Ethnic Conflict.” Roundtable, ISA, 2017.
“Ethnicity and Religion as Sources of Division in Côte d’Ivoire.” U. of Alabama, 2017.
“Ethnic and Religious Violence in Africa.” U. of Florida, 2016.
“Contextual Factors and Support for Violent Extremism in the Sahel.” APSA, 2016.
“The Political Divisiveness of Ethnicity and Religion in Africa.” UC-Berkeley, 2016.
“The Politics of Changing Identities: Evidence from Burkina and Côte d’Ivoire.” ASA 2015.
“Political Conflict and the Salience of Religion in Côte d’Ivoire.” UMD, 2015.
“The Political Sources of Identity Salience: a Border Study.” APSA, 2014.
“Pentecostalism as an Informal Political Institution: Experiments from Ghana.” MPSA, 2014.
“Pentecostal Big Man Rule.” ASA, 2013.
“The Political Mobilization of Religion and Ethnicity.” ISA, 2013.
“Pentecostals, Patronage, and Informal Politics in Africa.” U. of Jos, Nigeria, 2012.
“Land and Religious Conflict: Evidence from Africa and the Middle East.” MPSA, 2012.
“Religious Violence along Civilizational Faultlines.” Kennedy School, Harvard, 2011.
“Côte d’Ivoire’s Violence, Ghana’s Peace.” University of Ghana, 2011.
“Distinguishing Religious and Ethnic Conflict in Côte d’Ivoire.” Harvard University, 2011.

“Religious Tension in Post-Conflict Zones: Experimental Evidence.” APSA, 2010.
“Religious and Ethnic Politics in Côte d’Ivoire.” U.S. Department of State, 2010.
“Political Preferences of ‘Extremist’ Group Members in Africa.” MPSA, 2010.
“Strategies to Reduce Inter-Religious Bias in Côte d’Ivoire.” SSSR, 2009.
“The Political Implications of Religion in Africa: a Field Experiment.” APSA, 2009.
“What’s Unique about Religious Identity in Ghanaian Politics?” CDD-Ghana, 2009.
“Social Insurance during Crises: Evidence from Ghana.” APSA, 2008.
“Clientelism in Times of Crisis: When Big Men Aren’t Big Enough.” MPSA, 2008.
“African Borders as Sources of Natural Experiments.” WGAPE, 2007.
“When Does Religion Become Politically Salient in Africa?” MPSA, 2007.
“Political Unrest and the Salience of Religion: Evidence from Côte d’Ivoire.” MPSA, 2006.
“The Political Determinants of Self-Identity in Africa.” African Studies Association, 2005.
“Culture and Corruption: Obstacles to Development in sub-Saharan Africa?” Yale CPW, 2004.
“U.S. Foreign Policy and the Threat of Terrorism.” State Capital, Hartford, CT, 2004.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association
International Studies Association
African Studies Association
Working Group on African Political Economy

UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

REVIEWER: *American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, International Security, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, World Politics, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, British Journal of Political Science, Political Science Research and Methods, Political Studies, Political Psychology, Political Research Quarterly, Democratization, African Affairs, Journal of Modern African Studies, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, African Journal of Political Science and International Relations.*

Chair and Discussant, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2013-2019.
Discussant, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2010, 2012, 2014
Discussant, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2010, 2019

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

College Programs, Curricula, and Courses (PCC) Committee, 2019
Banneker/Key Scholarship Selection Committee, 2018
I-Series Faculty Board Committee, 2017-present
Dean’s Committee, Excellence in Teaching, 2014

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Director of GVPT Honors Program, 2018-present
Comparative Politics Field Chair, 2016-2019
Department Executive Committee, 2014-2015, 2016-2018
Graduate Studies Committee, 2012-2013, 2016-2017, 2019-2020
Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2010-2011, 2011-2012

GRADUATE ADVISING

Chair – Trey Billing, GVPT, 2020 (Ohio State University, Post-doc)
Chair – Jacob Lewis, GVPT, 2019 (Washington State University, TT)

Member – Allison Patch, GVPT, 2019 (University of Maryland Global Campus)
Member – Stephen Arves, GVPT, 2018
Member – James Gachau, Public Policy, 2018
Member – Chris Meserole, GVPT, 2017 (Brookings Institution)
Member – Borjan Zic, GVPT, 2017
Member – Anne Frugé, GVPT, 2017
Member – Juan Pablo Gusman Martinez, Public Policy, 2017 (UMD, College Park)
Member – Daniel Owens, GVPT, 2017
Member – Brandon Behlendorf, START/Criminology, 2016 (SUNY-Albany, TT)
Member – Daniel Creed, GVPT, 2016
Member – Jacqueline Ignatov, GVPT, 2015 (Appalachian State, TT)
Member – Darragh McNally, GVPT, 2014 (University of Maryland Global Campus)
Member – Roudabeh Kishi, GVPT, 2014 (ACLED)
Member – Allison Berland-Kaul, GVPT, 2013
Member – David Garcia, GVPT, 2013

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

GVPT Honors Theses

Chair – Betzalel Newman, Jessica Coghlan	2020
Chair – Luisa Beltran Ray	2019
Chair – Aayushi Shah, Daniela Nagar, Adler Pruitt, Melin Sotiriou	2018
Chair – Thomas Matthews, Nolan Quinn, Christopher Walkup	2017
Chair – Jacob Magid	2016
Chair – Yael Nagar	2015
Chair – Josef Danczuk	2014
Chair – Molly Brune	2013

Other

Advisor – Zoe Meyers-Thomas, BSOS Student Research Initiative, 2018
Advisor – Brielle Morton, McNair Scholars Program, 2018
Advisor – Tatios Kebrab, McNair Scholars Program, 2014
Advisor – Fikir Abraha, McNair Scholars Program, 2013