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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Maryland, College Park

Professor of Government and Politics, 2024 –
Director, International Development & Conflict Management Program, 2022 –
Director, Trust2Peace Conflict Mitigation & Prevention Program, 2022 –
Associate Professor of Government & Politics, 2017 – 2024
Assistant Professor of Government & Politics, 2011 – 2017
Research Associate, Center for International Development & Conflict Management
Research Affiliate, Consortium for the Study of Terrorism & Responses to Terrorism

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

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

Ph.D., Political Science

Yale University

M.A., International Relations

College of William & Mary

B.A., *cum laude*, Economics

BOOKS, PAPERS, & PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

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

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

2023. "Flood Risk and Household Losses: Empirical Findings from a Rural Community in Pakistan." *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* DOI: 10.1016/j.ijdr.2023.103930. With Muhammed Yaseen, Shahab E. Saqib, Supawan Visetnoi, and Jamshid Iqba.

2023. "Salary Negotiations and the Gender Pay Gap: Evidence from a University Setting." *Journal of the Professoriate*. With Sarah J. Kilmer and Cameron Busacca.

2022. "FDI, Unmet Expectations, and the Prospects of Political Leaders: Evidence from Chinese Investment in Africa." *Journal of Politics*. DOI: 10.1086/717849. With Xiaonan Wang and Margaret M. Pearson.

2022. "Does Chinese FDI in Africa Inspire Support for a China Model of Development?" *World Development*. DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105738. With Margaret Pearson and Xiaonan Wang.
2021. "Where Terror Lies: Misrepresentation of Extremist Attitudes and Terrorist Attacks in the Sahel." *Terrorism and Political Violence*. DOI: 10.1080/09546553.2021.1987893. With Steven E. Finkel, Michael Neureiter, and Christopher Belasco.
2021. "Clientelism and Community Support in Times of Crisis: Evidence Following Floods in Ghana." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 10.1007/s12116-021-09329-6.
2021. "Community Violence and Support for Violent Extremism: Evidence from the Sahel." *Political Psychology* 42(1): 143-161. With Steven E. Finkel, Michael Neureiter, and Christopher Belasco.
2020. "The Grapevine Effect in Sensitive Data Collection: Examining Response Patterns in Support for Violent Extremism." *Political Science Research and Methods* DOI:10.1017/psrm.2020.34. 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): 267-289.
2013. "Economic Development Strategies and Conflict in Africa: The Cases of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana." *Comparative Political Studies* 46(2): 182-211. 2013. "Africa's New Big Man Rule? Pentecostalism and Patronage in Ghana." *African Affairs* 112(446): 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

2020. "The Intoxication of Fieldwork: Obtaining Authorizations in Burkina Faso." In Peter Krause and Ora Szekely, 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: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: 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. Review of *Religion, Violence, and Local Power-Sharing in Nigeria* by Laura Thaut Vinson. Cambridge University Press, 2017. *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 57(2): 347-348.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript: *The Consequences of Terrorism in Africa*. Publication Anticipated in 2025.

“Do Terrorist Attacks Alter the Religiosity of Survivors? Evidence from Africa.” With Trey Billing. *Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Peace Research*.

“Important but Unwanted: Chinese and US Investment in Africa.” With Margaret M. Pearson and Xiaonan Wang. Under review.

“Is Bigger Always Better? How Project Features Shape Preferences over Foreign Economic Engagement in Africa.” With Xiuling Zhang. Under review.

“Turmoil and Trust: How the Sources of Violence Shape Social Cohesion in Northern Ghana.” With William Favell and Jacob Lewis. In development.

“The Democratic Costs of Terrorism in Africa.” With Trey Billing. In development.

GRANTS & COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

- USAID Conflict Mitigation and Prevention Grant (PI), \$4,200,000, 2022–2027
- US Dept of Labor Child Labor and Trafficking Agreement (PI), \$4,500,000, 2023–2028
- US Department of State INL Research Grant (PI), \$2,800,000, 2018–2023
- Dean’s Research Initiative Level 1 Seed Grant, University of Maryland, 2014
- Templeton Foundation Pentecostal & Charismatic Research Initiative Grant, 2010–2012
- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2009

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Excellence in Teaching Award, UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, 2023
- Provost’s Innovation in Teaching Award, 2020
- Research and Scholarship Award (RSA), University of Maryland, 2018
- Global Religion Research Initiative Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2018
- Excellence in Teaching Award, UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, 2013
- Research and Scholarship Award (RSA), University of Maryland, 2013
- The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Research Fellowship, 2007–2008, 2009–2010
- Distinguished Teaching Award & Fellowship, UCLA, 2009

RESEARCH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political economy of development; conflict & terrorism; informal institutions; foreign aid & investment; religious & ethnic identities; borders & 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, U.S. Immigration Court (2011, 2016, 2018, 2023)
- Election Observer, Ghana Presidential Election (2008)

- Visiting Researcher, Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra (2008–2009)

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

TEACHING

COURSES

- Political Economy of Development (GVPT 888, grad)
- 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)
- International Development & Conflict Management (GVPT354, undergrad)
- African Politics (GVPT 484, undergrad)
- I-Series: Religions, Beliefs, and World Affairs (GVPT 210, undergrad)

PROFESSIONAL TALKS & INVITED PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- "Project Features and Support for Foreign Economic Engagement in Africa." SPSA, 2025.
- "Violence Typologies and Intergroup Trust." APSA, 2024.
- "Inflated Expectations of FDI in Africa." APSA, 2023.
- "FDI and Chinese Influence in Africa." APSA, 2022.
- "Terrorist Attacks and the Religiosity of Survivors." APSA, 2021.
- "Terrorism and Democratic Preferences in Africa." APSA, 2020.
- "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: Evidence 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 Africa?” Yale CPW, 2004.
- “U.S. Foreign Policy and the Threat of Terrorism.” State Capitol, 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

EDITORIAL BOARD: *Political Behavior*

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, Political Behavior, Social Science Research, Democratization, African Affairs, Journal of Modern African Studies, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Studies in Comparative International Development*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Dean’s Committee, Excellence in Teaching, 2025
- Faculty Advisor, Oxfam – UMD, 2022–present
- Faculty Advisor, BridgeUMD, 2023–present
- College Programs, Curricula, and Courses (PCC) Committee, 2019–present
- I-Series Faculty Board Committee, 2017–present
- Banneker/Key Scholarship Selection Committee, 2018
- Dean’s Committee, Excellence in Teaching, 2014

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- Director, GVPT Honors Program, 2018–2022
- Director, GVPT Undergraduate TA Program, 2020–2022
- 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

- Xiuling Zhang, GVPT, TBD
- Elizabeth Irlbacher, GVPT, TBD
- John Derks, GVPT, 2024 (Applied Research Lab for Intelligence & Security)
- Trey Billing, GVPT, 2020 (Ohio State University postdoc; ACLED)
- Jacob Lewis, GVPT, 2019 (Washington State University, TT)

MEMBER

- Hansol Kwak, GVPT, TBD
- Mingyang Su, GVPT, TBD
- Youngjoon Lee, GVPT, 2024 (University of South Florida, TT)
- Xiaonan Wang, GVPT 2022 (Columbia postdoc; CUNY-Baruch, TT)
- Allison Patch, GVPT, 2019 (University of Maryland Global Campus)
- Stephen Arves, GVPT, 2018
- James Gachau, Public Policy, 2018
- Chris Meserole, GVPT, 2017 (Brookings Institution)
- Borjan Zic, GVPT, 2017 (Manhattan Strategy Group)
- Anne Frugé, GVPT, 2017 (PRR, Inc.)
- Juan Pablo Gusman Martinez, Public Policy, 2017 (UMD, College Park)
- Daniel Owens, GVPT, 2017
- Brandon Behlendorf, START/Criminology, 2016 (SUNY-Albany, TT)
- Daniel Creed, GVPT, 2016
- Jacqueline Ignatov, GVPT, 2015 (Appalachian State, TT)
- Darragh McNally, GVPT, 2014 (University of Maryland Global Campus)
- Roudabeh Kishi, GVPT, 2014 (ACLED)
- Allison Berland-Kaul, GVPT, 2013 (UMD, College Park)
- David Garcia, GVPT, 2013

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

GVPT HONORS THESES – CHAIR

- Jessica Johnson (2024)
- Devorah Sklute (2023)
- Maryam Chaudhry, Bilal Elmasry, Ashley Wells (2022)
- Ryan Harrison, Shawn Nijjar, Imani Nokuri (2021)
- Betzalel Newman, Jessica Coghlan (2020)
- Luisa Beltran Ray (2019)
- Aayushi Shah, Daniela Nagar, Adler Pruitt, Melin Sotiriou (2018)
- Thomas Matthews, Nolan Quinn, Christopher Walkup (2017)
- Jacob Magid (2016)
- Yael Nagar (2015)
- Josef Danczuk, Rebecca Kim (2014)
- 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)

Last updated: 3 February 2025