

RACHEL SIGMAN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS

Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, Colorado

- Associate Professor of Democratic Governance, 2024-present
- Assistant Professor of Democratic Governance, 2022-2024

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

- Assistant Professor, Department of National Security Affairs, 2015-2022

V-Dem Institute, Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

- Project Manager for State Capacity and Exclusion, 2018-present
- Steering Committee Member, 2021-2023
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2016-2017

University of Ghana, Legon

- Visiting Researcher, Department of Public Administration, 2013-2014

EDUCATION

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York

- PhD Political Science, 2015
- MA Political Science, 2010

Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut

- BA Social Studies with High Honors, 2001

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Book

Parties, Political Finance, and Governance in Africa: Extracting Money and Shaping States in Benin and Ghana. 2023. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Journal Articles

Adam Harris, Jan Meyer Sahling, Kim Sass Mikkelsen, Christian Schuster, Brigitte Seim, and Rachel Sigman. 2022. "Varieties of Connections, Varieties of Corruption: Experimental Evidence from Bureaucrats in Five Countries." *Governance*, [Early View](#).

Rachel Sigman. 2022. "Which Jobs for Which Boys? Party Finance and the Politics of State Job Distribution in Africa." *Comparative Political Studies*, [55\(3\): 351-385](#).

Rachel Sigman, Adam Harris, Jan Meyer-Sahling, Kim Sass Mikkelsen and Christian Schuster. 2022. "Do Bureaucrats Contribute to the Resource Curse? Evidence from a Survey Experiment in New Oil States." *Journal of Development Studies*, [58\(4\): 639-655](#).

Jonathan Hanson and Rachel Sigman. 2022. “Leviathan’s Latent Dimensions: Measuring State Capacity for Comparative Political Research.” *Journal of Politics*, [83\(4\): 1495-1510](#).

Emily Meierding and Rachel Sigman. 2021. “Understanding the Mechanisms of International Influence in an Era of Great Power Competition.” *Journal of Global Security Studies*, [6\(4\): ogab011](#).

Adam Harris, Rachel Sigman, Jan Meyer-Sahling, Kim Sass Mikkelsen, and Christian Schuster. 2020. “Oiling the Bureaucracy? Political Spending, Bureaucrats, and the Resource Curse.” *World Development*, [127: 1-27](#).

Adam Harris, Brigitte Seim, and Rachel Sigman. 2020. “Information, Accountability and Perceptions of Public Sector Programme Success: A Conjoint Experiment Among Bureaucrats in Africa.” *Development Policy Review*, [38\(5\): 594-612](#).

Rachel Sigman and Staffan I. Lindberg. 2019. “Democracy for All: Conceptualizing and Measuring Egalitarian Democracy.” *Political Science Research and Methods*, [7\(3\): 1-18](#).

Anna Lührmann et al. 2018. “State of the World 2017: Autocratization and Exclusion?” *Democratization*, [25\(8\): 1321-1340](#).

Chapters in Edited Volumes

Rachel Sigman. 2021. “Election Security and Democratic Civil-Military Relations in Ghana.” *Handbook of Civil Military Relations*, edited by Thomas Bruneau, Carolyn Halladay and Cris Matei. [Routledge Press](#).

Rachel Sigman and Staffan I. Lindberg. 2019. “Neopatrimonialism and Democracy” Chapter 1 in *Handbook of Democratization in Africa*, edited by Gabrielle Lynch and Peter VonDoepp. [Routledge Press](#).

Working/In Progress

“Political Finance in Africa: What We Know and What We Don’t”

“The Organizational Determinants of Honesty in the Public Service” (with Jan Meyer Sahling Kim Sass Mikkelsen, Christian Schuster and Brigitte Seim)

“U.S. Security Sector Assistance, Coup-Proofing, and Military Coups: Evidence from Africa” (with Sebastian Elischer)

“State Capacity and World Bank Project Success” (with Jonathan Hanson)

“Continuity and Change in Ghana’s Public Service” (with Daniel Appiah and Emmanuel Kojo Sakyi)

Datasets

State Capacity [Dataset](#) v1 (with Jonathan Hanson)

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) [Dataset](#) and [Codebook](#) v6, v7, v8, v9, v10, v11, v12, v13 (with Michael Coppedge et al.)

- Lead developer and program manager of V-Dem Exclusion survey (25 indicators & 5 indices)
- Lead developer and manager of V-Dem Egalitarian Democracy indices (5 indices)
- Lead developer and manager of neopatrimonialism indices (4 indices)

Civil Service Management in Developing Countries: Survey Results from 12 Countries (with Jan Meyer Sahling, Kim Sass Mikkelsen, Christian Schuster, Adam Harris and Brigitte Seim), Ghana Country Lead

Book Reviews and Other Academic Publications

Book Review: *States in the Developing World*, edited by Miguel Centeno, Atul Kohli, Deborah Yashar with Dinsha Mistree. 2018. *Perspectives on Politics* [16\(3\)](#).

“New Perspectives on States and Regimes.” Newsletter of the APSA-Democracy and Autocracy Section, [Winter 2017](#).

“Rethinking Brokers in Distributive Politics,” Newsletter of the African Politics Conference Group, [February 2015](#) (with Abdul-Gafaru Abdulai).

Policy Reports and Analysis

“How Ghana’s Economic Crisis is Reshaping its Democracy,” [The Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog](#), December 1, 2022 (with George Bob-Milliar)

“How Party Finance Shapes the Politicised Distribution of Government Jobs,” Africa at London School of Economics Blog Series, [June 2022](#).

“The Impacts of U.S. Military Activity on CVEO Operations in the Sahel,” Report prepared for U.S. Africa Command, April 2022 (with Sebastian Elischer, David Butler, Nathan Jolls).

“The West Africa Autocratization Tracker,” Open Society Initiative for West Africa, [November 2021](#).

“China’s BRI Port Activities in Africa’s Indian Ocean Region” in “Mitigating the Impact of China’s BRI on U.S. Interests and Access in the Indo-Pacific,” Naval Research Program Report, edited by Michael Malley, December 2020.

“Understanding U.S. Influence in African Countries,” Report Prepared for U.S. Africa Command, November 2019 (with Emily Meierding et. al).

“The Relevance of Social Policies for Democracy: Preventing Autocratisation Through Synergies Between SDG 10 and SDG 16,” German Development Institute Discussion Paper, [No. 7/2019](#) (with Julia Leininger and Anna Lührmann).

“Will ‘Ghana First’ Protests Threaten a U.S. Military Agreement?” Monkey Cage Blog, [The Washington Post](#), April 3, 2018.

“Civil service management in Ghana,” Report prepared for the Ghana Public Services Commission, [January 2018](#) (with Valeriya Mechkova, Christian Schuster, Jan Meyer Sahling and Kim Sass Mikkelsen).

“Democracy for All?” V-Dem Institute Annual Report, [Spring 2018](#) (with Anna Lührmann et al).

RESEARCH GRANTS & FUNDING

2023 University of Denver PROF grant, “Deep State Democracy: Bureaucratic Resistance in an Age of Autocratization,” \$26,448 (PI)

- 2021 U.S. Africa Command, “The Impacts of U.S. Military Activity on Counter-VEO Operations in the Sahel (with Sebastian Elischer) \$200,000 (PI)
- 2021 NPS Foundation Seedling Program, “The Influence Tracker” \$50,000 (PI)
- 2019 U.S. Africa Command, “United States Influence in AFRICOM Partner Countries” \$95,000 (PI)
- 2018 Riksbanken Jubileumsfond, Research Initiation/Workshop Grant, “State Capacity: Methodological and Research Frontiers” 250,000 SEK (Co-Organizer)
- 2016 University of Nottingham, British Academy/DFID Anti-Corruption Evidence (ACE) Program for research on Civil Service Management £25,000 (Ghana Country Lead)
- 2013 Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics and Statecraft Dissertation Fellowship \$7,500
- 2012 Moynihan Institute International Summer Research Grants \$3,000

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 [Richard W. Hamming Award](#) for Achievement in Teaching, Naval Postgraduate School
- 2020 Finalist (Top 5%), Schieffelin Award for Teaching Excellence, Naval Postgraduate School
- 2019 Finalist (Top 5%), Schieffelin Award for Teaching Excellence, Naval Postgraduate School
- 2019 LCDR David L. Williams Outstanding Professor Award, Naval Postgraduate School
- 2015 Honorable Mention, Best Graduate Student Paper, African Politics Conference Group
- 2015 University Dissertation Prize for Best Dissertation in Political Science, Syracuse University
- 2015 Best Paper in Comparative Politics, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University
- 2014 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Syracuse University Department of Political Science
- 2013 Ketcham Award for Democracy Research, Syracuse University, Department of Political Science
- 2013 Syracuse University Department of Political Science Cohn Award for Dissertation Research
- 2009 Syracuse University Graduate Fellowship
- 2004 Fulbright U.S. Student Program, Madagascar, Department of State/Institute for Intl Education

INVITED TALKS, LECTURES, WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- 2024 “Inequality and Autocratization,” Carnegie Workshop on the Destabilizing Effects of Economic Inequality,” Korbel School, University of Denver, September 20.
- 2024 “The Informational Foundations of Bureaucratic Resistance to Democratic Backsliding,” Quality of Government Institute and ETHNICGOODS Workshop, University of Gothenburg, June 14
- 2024 “U.S. Security Sector Assistance, Coup-Proofing, and Military Coups: Evidence from Africa,” University of Amsterdam, June 11 and V-Dem Conference, June 13.
- 2024 Conference on World Affairs, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, Colorado, April 10-12
- 2024 “Meanings of Democracy,” Colorado State University Democracy Summit, Fort Collins, April 8
- 2024 “Is Democracy Really in Decline?: Insights from the V-Dem Project,” University of Colorado, Denver Democracy Summit, Denver, Colorado February 22
- 2023 Book Talk: Parties Political Finance, and Governance in Africa, University of Ghana Business School, Legon, Ghana, June 20
- 2023 Book Talk: Parties Political Finance, and Governance in Africa, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, June 15
- 2023 “Democracy, Governance, and Climate Change,” GIZ Africa Sector Governance Network Conference, Accra, Ghana, June 13
- 2023 “Perspectives on the Measurement State Capture,” International Anti-Corruption Academy, virtual presentation to audience in Vienna, Austria, May 3
- 2023 “U.S. Security Sector Assistance, Coup-Proofing, and Military Coups: Evidence from Africa,” University of Florida Department of Political Science Research Seminar in Politics, March 3

- 2023 Book Launch: Parties, Political Finance and Governance in Africa, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, March 1
- 2023 “Democracy in Decline?” Josef Korbel School of International Studies Faculty Friday Series, University of Denver, January 27
- 2022 “U.S. Security Sector Assistance, Coup-Proofing, and Military Coups: Evidence from Africa,” Korbel Research Seminar, University of Denver, October 13
- 2022 Advancing Governance Indicator Systems, Luskin School of Public Policy and Berggruen Institute, UCLA, October 10-11
- 2022 “Political Finance in Africa,” Political Parties in Africa Virtual Conference, University of Capetown, March 11
- 2021 “The West Africa Autocratization Tracker,” Presentation to the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Dakar, Senegal, October 13
- 2021 “State Capacity and World Bank Project Success” State Building and Global Order workshop, Lund University, Sweden, September 2-3
- 2021 “The Exclusion Dataset: What We’ve Learned,” World Bank Governance Forum, March 16.
- 2020 “Extracting Money, Shaping States” SAIS Johns Hopkins African Studies Program Speaker Series, Washington, DC, April (postponed)
- 2019 “Extracting Money, Shaping States” University of Florida Department of Political Science and Center for African Studies Research Seminar in Comparative Institutions, October 1
- 2019 State Capacity: Methodological and Conceptual Frontiers Workshop (co-organizer), University of Gothenburg, Sweden June 10-11
- 2019 Workshop on Measuring Governance as Exclusion, University of Gothenburg Policy Dialogue Day, Gothenburg, Sweden May 2019
- 2018 “Democracy and its Discontents in Africa” Roundtable, APSA Annual Meeting, Boston, Sept 2
- 2018 “Neopatrimonialism and Democracy” University of Gothenburg Policy Dialogue Day, Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2018
- 2018 “Bureaucrats and the Resource Curse in Africa” Western Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), UCLA, May 2018
- 2018 World Bank Workshop on Measuring Exclusion (co-leader), April 2018
- 2018 “Neopatrimonialism and Democracy” World Bank BBL, Washington, DC April 2018
- 2017 “Measuring the Quality of Public Administration” Guest Lecture at the University of Ghana Executive MPA program, Legon, Ghana, February 2017
- 2017 “Continuity and Change in Ghana’s Public Service” Quality of Government Institute Winter Internal Workshop, Budapest, Hungary, January 2017
- 2016 “Beyond Sequencing: State Capacity Types and Regime Outcomes” Workshop on Disentangling the State-Regime Nexus, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany, November 2016.
- 2016 “Expert Surveys in Comparative Politics: The V-Dem Project” ECPR Research Sessions, Radboud University Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, July 2016
- 2016 “Measuring Governance with Expert Surveys” Institute for Security Studies Workshop on Political Settlements in Fragile States, Korbel School, University of Denver, June 2016
- 2016 “Political Finance and Patronage in Africa” Quality of Government/V-Dem Institute Lunch Seminar Series, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2016
- 2014 APSA Africa Workshop on Distributive Politics, Centre for Research on Governance and Development, Higher Institute of Public Administration, Maputo, Mozambique, July 2014
- 2013 Measuring State Capacity, World Bank Political Economy Brown Bag, March 2013

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Paper Presentations:

African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting: 2024, 2023, 2020, 2017, 2016, 2015
American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting: 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2011
International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting: 2020 (cancelled), 2010
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting: 2021, 2019, 2016
Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Meeting: 2014
V-Dem Institute Annual Conference: 2024, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015

Panel Chair/Discussant: APSA (2024, 2023, 2022, 2018, 2017), ASA (2023, 2017), CaliWEPS (2019), MPSA (2021, 2019), Political Parties in Africa Virtual Conference (2022), V-Dem (2019, 2017, 2016), West African Research Association West Coast Conference (2021).

TEACHING

Graduate – Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

Great Issues in International Affairs (INTS 4091, team taught): Fall 2024 (lead instructor), Fall 2023, Fall 2022
Debates on Democracy (INTS 4711): Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023
Independent Study (various topics): Spring 2023, Fall 2023

Graduate – Naval Postgraduate School

Politics and Government of Sub-Saharan Africa (NS3311): 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Comparative Political Economy (NS3041): 2015(x2), 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021(x2)
Political Economy of Development (NS4053): 2015, 2020, 2022
Political Economy of Africa (NS4301): 2017, 2018, 2019
Directed Studies (NS4079)

- The Politics of Counter-VEO Response in the Sahel: 2021 (2 students)
- U.S. Influence & Domestic Political Power in Africa: 2019 (8 students)
- Applied Field Research Methods: 2017 (1 student)

Undergraduate – Korbel School of International Studies, University

Debates on Democracy (INTS 2701): Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Professional Education and Short Courses

Defense Security Cooperation University AFRICOM Regional Orientation: 2020-2024
Navy/Joint Foreign Area Officer (FAO) II AFRICOM: 2018, 2019

ADVISING

Korbel School of International Studies and Naval Postgraduate School PhD Committee Member (3)
Korbel School of International Studies Significant Research Paper (2)
Naval Postgraduate School MA Thesis Main Advisor/Co-Advisor (30)
Naval Postgraduate School MA Thesis Second Reader (25)

SERVICE

Academic/Disciplinary

Reviewer: *Africa Spectrum*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, Columbia University Press, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Conflict Management and Peace Sciences*, *Democratization*, *Futures*, *Governance*, *Government and Opposition*, *Journal of African*

Elections, Journal of Global Security Studies, Journal of Contemporary African Studies, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, National Science Foundation, Ohio University Press, Perspectives on Politics, Political Science Research and Methods, Palgrave Macmillan, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Review of International Organizations, World Development

- 2023- Secretary, African Politics Conference Group
- 2022 African Politics Conference Group: Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
- 2020 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: Bureaucratic Politics Section Chair
- 2020 African Politics Conference Group: Co-Chair, Lynne Reinner Best Dissertation Committee
- 2020 African Politics Conference Group: Discussant, Online Colloquium
- 2016-7 APSA Democracy and Autocracy Section: Co-editor of section newsletter

University/Department

- Korbel School Research Committee (2024-)
- Korbel School Curriculum and Program Committee (2024-)
- Korbel Research Seminar Discussant (2023 and 2024)
- Denver Democracy Summit, Panel Moderator and Co-Organizer (2023)
- Ideas to Impact Democracy Initiative, University of Denver (2022-2023)
- Faculty Council Representative, NPS Department of National Security Affairs (2020-2022)
 - Committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion (2020)
- Research Workshop Organizer, NPS Department of National Security Affairs (2018-2022)
- Latin America Search Committee, NPS Department of National Security Affairs (2017)
- Visiting Scholars Program Coordinator, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg (2016-2017)
- Graduate Student Representative to the Promotion and Tenure Committee, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University (2010-2011)
- Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University (2009-2011)

Community

- U.S. Commission on Civil Rights California State Advisory Committee Member (2014-present)
- Volunteer Adaptive Sports Instructor, Achieve Tahoe/Disabled Sports USA, various locations (2003-present)

CONSULTING

- IMF, Ghana Governance Diagnostic Mission (2023)
- World Bank, “Governance and Growth in the ECA Region” (2023)
- Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), “The West Africa Autocratization Tracker” (2021)
- World Bank and V-Dem Institute, Worldwide Exclusion Indicators Public Outreach (2021)
- German Development Institute and V-Dem Institute, “Inequality and Autocratization” (2018-2019)
- World Bank and V-Dem Institute, “Measuring Governance as Exclusion” (2017-2018)
- California Green Technology Leadership Group, Various Projects (2012-2014).

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- State Field Director/Regional Field Director, Obama for America, NV, WV, MS, TX, NM (2007-2008)
- Project Director, Department of Tribal Planning, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (2005-2006)
- Deputy Executive Director/Special Programs Director, Tahoe-Baikal Institute, California (2002-2006)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Certificate in University Teaching, Syracuse Future Professoriate Program, 2014
- Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University, June 2013
- ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan, June-July 2011
- Links Workshop on Social Network Analysis, University of Kentucky, June 2009

LANGUAGES

- French (advanced speaking, reading, and writing)
- Malagasy (intermediate speaking)

REFERENCES

Available upon request