

RACHEL SIGMAN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

- Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of National Security Affairs (2015-Present)

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

- Research Associate & Project Manager for State Capacity and Exclusion (2018-present)
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow (2016-2017)

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 & TEACHING INTERESTS

Political economy of development, African politics & security, comparative institutions, bureaucracy/public administration, democratization & autocratization, distributive politics & policy, state building & state capacity, mixed methods research, measurement

RESEARCH

Book Manuscript

Extracting Money, Shaping States: Party Institutions, Political Financing and Governance in Africa

Refereed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

“Oiling the Bureaucracy? Political Spending, Bureaucrats, and the Resource Curse” (with Adam Harris, Jan Meyer-Sahling, Kim Sass Mikkelsen and Christian Schuster). Forthcoming, *World Development*

“Information, Accountability and Perceptions of Public Sector Programme Success: A Conjoint Experiment Among Bureaucrats in Africa” (with Adam Harris and Brigitte Seim). Early online, *Development Policy Review*

“Election Security and Democratic Civil-Military Relations in Ghana.” Forthcoming in *Routledge Handbook of Civil Military Relations*, Edited by Thomas Bruneau, Carolyn Halladay and Cris Matei.

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

“Neopatrimonialism and Democracy” (with Staffan I. Lindberg). 2019. Chapter 1 in *Routledge Handbook of Democratization in Africa*, Edited by Gabrielle Lynch and Peter Von Deopp.

"State of the World 2017: Autocratization and Exclusion?" (with Anna Lührmann et. al). 2018. *Democratization*, 25(8): 1321-1340

Revise & Resubmit

“Which Jobs for Which Boys? Patronage and Political Finance”

- Honorable Mention for Best Graduate Student Paper by the African Politics Conference Group section of the American Political Science Association
- Koff Award for Best Paper in Comparative Politics, Syracuse University

“Leviathan’s Latent Dimensions: Measuring State Capacity for Comparative Political Research” (with Jonathan Hanson)

Working/In Progress

“Defensive Technocracy: Minister Appointments and Government Performance in Africa
Last presented: APSA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC August 2019

“State Capacity and World Bank Project Success” (with Jonathan Hanson)
Last presented: APSA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC August 2019

“Distributive Inequality and Autocratization” (with Julia Leininger and Anna Lührmann)
Last Presented: APSA Annual Meeting, Washington DC, August 2019

“Beyond Sequencing: State Capacity Types and Regime Outcomes” (with Steven Lloyd Wilson)
Last presented: V-Dem Institute Conference, Gothenburg, May 2017

“Continuity and Change in Ghana’s Public Service” (with Daniel Appiah and Emmanuel Kojo Sakyi)
Last presented: Quality of Government Institute Internal Conference, Gothenburg, January 2017

Datasets

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Dataset & Codebook v6, v7, v8, v9 (with Michael Coppedge et. al)

State Capacity Dataset v0.9 (with Jonathan Hanson)

Book Reviews and Other Academic Publications

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

“New Perspectives on States and Regimes,” Newsletter of the APSA-Comparative Democratization 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

Understanding U.S. Influence & Levers of Power in AFRICOM Partner Countries. Report prepared for U.S. Africa Command, September 2019 (with Emily Meierding et. al)

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

“Civil service management practices for a more motivated, committed and ethical public service in Ghana” Report prepared for the Ghana Public Services Commission, January 2018 (with Valeriya Mechkova, Christian Schuster, Jan Meyer Sahling and Kim Sass Mikkelsen)

RESEARCH GRANTS & FUNDING

- U.S. Africa Command, “United States Power and Influence in African Countries” \$95,000 (PI, 2019)
- Riksbanken Jubileumsfond, Research Initiation/Workshop Grant (with Marcia Grimes and Marina Nistotskaya), “State Capacity: Methodological and Research Frontiers” 250,000 SEK (Co-Organizer, 2018-2019)
- NPS Foundation SEED Grant for “U.S. Economic Strategies in Africa” \$10,000 (PI, 2019)
- University of Nottingham, British Academy/DFID Anti-Corruption Evidence (ACE) Program for research on Civil Service Management, £25,000 (Ghana Country Lead, 2016-2017)
- Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship for dissertation research on state capacity in Benin and Ghana, \$7,500 (2013-2014)
- Moynihan Institute International Summer Research Grants, \$3,000 (2012 and 2014)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- LCDR David L. Williams Outstanding Professor Award: presented to the faculty member of the School of International Graduate Studies who has demonstrated the greatest dedication to the learning and intellectual growth of students (2019)
- Finalist (Top 5%), Scheffelin Award for Teaching Excellence (2019)
- Dissertation Prize for Best Dissertation in Political Science, Syracuse University (2015)
- Dissertation Fellowship, Syracuse University Department of Political Science (2014-2015)
- Visiting Fellow, Department of Public Administration, University of Ghana (2013-2014)
- Ketcham Award for Democracy Research, Syracuse University, Department of Political Science (2013)
- Syracuse University Department of Political Science Cohn Award for Dissertation Research (2013-2014)
- Syracuse University Graduate Fellowship (2009-2010 and 2011-2012)
- Fulbright Fellow, U.S. Student Program Madagascar, Department of State/Institute for International Education (2004-2005).

INVITED TALKS, LECTURES & WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- Democracy in Africa Roundtable
 - African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2019
 - APSA Annual Meeting, September 2018
- “Extracting Money, Shaping States” University of Florida Department of Political Science and Center for African Studies Research Seminar in Politics, October 11, 2019
- “Thinking About Great Power Competition in Africa”

- Naval Postgraduate School Great Power Competition Lecture Series, Monterey, California, August 26 2019
- U.S. Africa Command Foreign Area Officer II Course, Stuttgart, Germany, May 30, 2019
- Defense Language Institute Foreign Area Officer Lecture Series, Monterey, California, March 2019
- State Capacity: Methodological and Conceptual Frontiers Workshop (co-organizer), University of Gothenburg, Sweden June 10-11, 2019.
- “Measuring Governance as Exclusion”
 - University of Gothenburg Policy Dialogue Day, Gothenburg, Sweden May 2019
 - World Bank Workshop on Exclusion, April 2018
- “Neopatrimonialism and Democracy”
 - University of Gothenburg Policy Dialogue Day, Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2018
 - World Bank Brown Bag Lunch Series, Washington, DC April 2018
- “Bureaucrats and the Resource Curse in Africa” Western Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), UCLA, May 2018
- “Measuring the Quality of Public Administration” Guest Lecture at the University of Ghana Executive MPA program, Legon, Ghana, February 2017.
- “Continuity and Change in Ghana’s Public Service” Quality of Government Institute Winter Internal Workshop, Budapest, Hungary, January 2017.
- “Beyond Sequencing: State Capacity Types and Regime Outcomes” Workshop on Disentangling the State-Regime Nexus, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany, November 2016.
- “Expert Surveys in Comparative Politics: The V-Dem Project” ECPR Research Sessions, Radboud University Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, July 2016.
- “Measuring Governance with Expert Surveys” Institute for Security Studies Workshop on Political Settlements in Fragile States, Korbel School, University of Denver, June 2016.
- “Political Finance and Patronage in Africa” Quality of Government/V-Dem Institute Lunch Seminar Series, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2016.
- “Patronage and Productivity: The Politics of State Capacity in African Democracies” Talk delivered to the Maxwell African Scholars Union, Syracuse University, November 2014.
- APSA Africa Workshop on Distributive Politics, Centre for Research on Governance and Development, Higher Institute of Public Administration, Maputo, Mozambique, July 2014.
- Measuring State Capacity, World Bank Political Economy BBL, March 2013 (with Jonathan Hanson)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

African Studies Association: 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2012

American Political Science Association: 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2011

International Studies Association: 2019, 2011

Midwest Political Science Association: 2019, 2015

Southern Political Science Association: 2014

V-Dem Institute Annual Conference: 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015

TEACHING

Graduate

- Comparative Political Economy (NS3041), Naval Postgraduate School
- Politics and Government of Sub-Saharan Africa (NS3311), Naval Postgraduate School

- Political Economy of Development (NS4053), Naval Postgraduate School
- Political Economy of Africa (NS4301), Naval Postgraduate School

Undergraduate

- Political Economy of Development, Syracuse University, Summer 2013

ADVISING

Naval Postgraduate School PhD Dissertation Committee Member

- Andrea Stanley “Humanitarian Assistance and Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Relief”

Naval Postgraduate School Masters Thesis Primary/Co-Advisor

- Andrew Tibwa (in progress)
- Moises Diaz (in progress)
- Cheyenne Harinandan (in progress)
- John Fabros “Land Reform in Mexico’s Ejidos: Unsung Hero or Development Dead End?” (2019)
- Yahaya Camara “The Political Foundations of the Tuareg Insurgency in Mali” (2019)
- Kristie Krebs “Female Genital Mutilation: A Different Kind of Terrorism” (2019)
- Ben Collier “Explaining the Increase in Child Soldier Usage in Africa Post-Independence” (2018)
- Timothy Petrov “The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: Interstate Conflict on the Nile?” (2018)*
- Kopano Baruti “Poaching as a Security Threat for Botswana and the Region” (2018)
- Jjemba Ssejjemba “Explaining Refugee Policies in Kenya and Uganda” (2018)
- Lauren Guibert “Logistics Effectiveness and Ineffectiveness in Niger’s Military” (2017)*
- Brent Oglesby “Extended Stay: Success or Failure in Mandate Extension in Africa” (2017)*
- Lester Yong “The Evolution of Singapore’s Military Strategy since Independence” (2017)
- Stephanie Lastinger “Post-Conflict Development in Rwanda and Burundi” (2017)
- Jeff Drewiske “The Muted Voice of the Catholic Church in Angola” (2016)*

Naval Postgraduate School Masters Thesis Second Reader

- Jason Tabanan (in progress)
- Kevin Touw (in progress)
- Brian Dunn “U.S. Power and Influence in Ethiopia” (2019)
- Zachary Anderson, “Water Scarcity and Violent Conflict in Nigeria” (2019)
- Gregory Seitz “The Political Economy of Rural Electrification in India” (2018)
- Djibril Hassane Guindo “The Role of ECOWAS in the Malian Crisis” (2018)
- Gumersindo Santiago Rodriguez, “The Ideological Roots of Regime Stability” (2018)
- Soonwoo Choi “Opaque Nuclear Strategies: Israel and South Africa in Comparative Perspective” (2017)
- Evan Wiczorek “Ethnic and Religious Identity in the Central African Republic” (2017)
- Jacob Aldean “Participatory and Deliberative Processes in Rwanda” (2017)
- Amy Roznowski “Energy Security Strategies: An Analysis of Tanzania and Mozambique” (2016)*
- Ellen Canup “Entrepreneurs and Informal Finance in Kenya” (2016)*
- Mark Jackson “Rising Sun Over Africa: Japan’s New Frontier for Military Normalization (2016)*

* Recognized as an award winning thesis (top 10% in department)

SERVICE

Professional

- Journal Referee: *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Democratization*, *Governance*, *Government and Opposition*, *Journal of African Elections*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Science Research and Methods*
- Co-Editor, APSA Comparative Democratization Section Newsletter (2016-2017)
- Panel Chair/Discussant: APSA (2018, 2017), ASA (2017), MPSA (2019), V-Dem (2019, 2017, 2016)

University/Department

- Research Workshop Organizer, NPS Department of National Security Affairs (2018-2019)
- 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, Disabled Sports USA, various locations (2003-present)

CONSULTING

- German Development Institute/V-Dem Institute, “Inequality and Autocratization” (2018-2019)
- World Bank/V-Dem Institute, “Measuring Governance as Exclusion” (2017-2018)
- U.K. Department for International Development (DFID)/University of Nottingham, “Civil Service Management and Performance in Ghana” (2017)

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Field Director/Regional Field Director, Obama for America: NV, WV, MS, TX, NM (2007-2008)
- Project Director, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Gardnerville, Nevada (2006)
- Deputy Executive Director/Special Programs Director, Tahoe-Baikal Institute, Lake Tahoe, California (2004-2005, 2002-2003)
- Social Studies Teacher, Mount Snow Academy, West Dover, Vermont (2001-2002)

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)