

Newsletter  
of the  
**African  
Politics  
Conference  
Group**

**Contact**

africanpoliticsgroup@  
gmail.com

**Chair**

Mamoudou Gazibo  
Universite de Montreal  
mamoudou.gazibo@  
umontreal.ca

**Vice Chair**

Laura Seay  
Colby College  
leseay@colby.edu

**Secretary**

Cara E. Jones  
Independent Scholar  
cara.jones@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Adrienne LeBas  
American University  
adrienne.lebas@gmail.  
com

**Newsletter Editor**

Keith Weghorst  
Vanderbilt University  
keith.r.weghorst@  
vanderbilt.edu



# APCG

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## Chair's Report

Dear colleagues and friends,

Nearly two years ago, I was honored and humbled to be elected as chair of the African Politics Conference Group. This is the last time I will address you as such through our Newsletter, as I will step down at the ASA annual meeting in November. Allow me to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve an organization I strongly believe in.

In my candidacy statement, I highlighted the reasons why I believe the African Politics Conference Group to be a formidable collective endeavor, in particular the networking opportunities it creates, the platform it offers for the promotion of scholarly news and events, and the unique chance it gives to young as well as senior colleagues to participate in panels, to receive recognition for their publications, and to be provided with information about research on African issues.

I have also promised to deepen the institutionalization of our presence at the main ASA, APSA, ISA conferences, to continue to expand our organization to include more colleagues and to propose some new ideas. At ASA's meeting this year, the steering committee (including our Treasurer Adrienne, who will also step down in November) will

**Symposium: Data Accessibility and Research Transparency: The Impact of DA-RT on the Study of African Politics**

**Featuring contributions from: Fodei Batty, Rachel Ellet & Mark F. Masoud, Adrienne Lebas, Lauren Maclean & Fatai Aremu, and Aili Mari Tripp.**

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# Features



## Symposium: Challenges to Studying African Politics in the era of DA-RT

*In 2014, the editors of dozens of political science journals issued “The Journal Editors’ Transparency Statement” (JETS), promising greater data accesses in research transparency in order to “make as accessible as possible the empirical foundation and logic of inquiry of evidence-based research.” Building on years of discussion within APSA, the signatories committed to implementing new procedures prior to January 15, 2016 requiring authors to make available analyses used to draw empirical conclusions from a manuscript at the time of publication (or submission) and to provide access to data and “relevant analytic materials” utilized in a manuscript. Data Access and Research Transparency, or DA-RT, is the resulting policy and has since been adopted broadly adopted by political science journals and as a core tenant of APSA’s ethics guidelines.*

*The comparative politics community has spoken vocally about DA-RT. Most acknowledge that the debate surrounding is beneficial for the field and many support its principles. However, there remain serious concerns regarding DA-RT procedures and/or the manner in which they were adopted. What follows is the first of a two-part symposium on DA-RT’s impact on the study of African politics. Authors focus on the challenges presented by DA-RT that are particularly acute for the study of African politics. The five pieces in this symposium offer their own take on how DA-RT impacts the study of African politics and three common themes emerge across this pieces.*

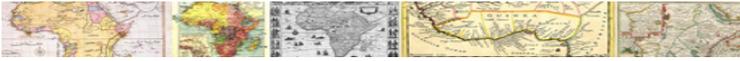
*First, much of the dialogue surrounding DA-RT has focused on its benefits in improving the quality and legitimacy of political science research. Considerably less attention has been dedicated to potential costs of the policies and who will bear those costs and the authors in the symposium shed light on that. While some have argued DA-RT is not a one-size-fits-all approach towards research transparency, pieces in the symposium highlight how the costs of meeting DA-RT requirements are heterogeneous.*

*They argue the effort required to adhere to DA-RT policies is disproportionately greater for scholars engaged in qualitative research and erects barriers that will make publishing research on African politics more difficult, especially for junior scholars in the US. It also may seriously raise barriers for scholars outside of the United States to publish, especially those based in sub-Saharan Africa. Contributors applaud the significant strides APSA has made in building relationships with faculty in African universities through initiatives like the APSA Africa Workshops. By contrast, the conference at which editors and publishers drafted the JETS statement—perhaps unsurprisingly—reflected the level of diversity of region of focus and epistemological approaches found in the pillars of power in our field and the demographic diversity of those who occupy them.*

*Second, the authors raise concerns about ethical obligations to respondents to protect their safety and confidentiality and ways in which Institutional Board Review procedures may conflict with research transparency requirements under DA-RT. Though some describe this concern as a “myth” about DA-RT (Golder and Golder, 2016), scholars in this symposium challenge that view. The submissions highlight two related concerns: (1) when IRB obligations conflict with DA-RT and (2) when relying on an IRB-based exemption adhering to DA-RT, that editors could—even unknowingly—bias rejections against certain kinds of research kinds of research common to African politics.*

*DA-RT professes to allow authors to request IRB-based exemption from making data public, the way in which that would be exercised is unclear. While IRB protocols hold researchers responsible for protecting respondents based on their local knowledge of risks to study participants, DA-RT places the decision over whether such an exemption is “legitimate” in the hands of an editor who may have never even stepped foot on the African continent. Further, the risks of IRB violations related to DA-RT are far greater than its supporters acknowledge. If, for example, in lieu of full replication data protected by IRB, an editor’s request of a list of interviewees delinked from interview data or interview notes with seemingly innocuous details like the location of an interview, dates of birth, region of origin, or the political party an interviewee are all potential IRB violations. The symposium highlight how this puts the researcher between obligations to IRB protocols and perverse professional incentives to buck them.*





## Symposium: Challenges to Studying African Politics in the era of DA-RT

*The symposium also raises the concern regarding journal editors will view submissions that provide replication data and those requesting exemption DA-RT are viewed the same, given those very individuals adopted the DA-RT to address perceived deficiencies in previous data accessibility standards. Without commensurate transparency from editorial boards—making publicly accessible and transparent the relevant analytic materials used to decide to reject submissions over research ethics/IRB-driven requests for DA-RT exemptions—the policy endangers the credibility of the peer- and editorial review process upon which our profession relies. As the symposium relates, many proponents and critics of DA-RT are also split along lines of methodology and this risks reifying the “qualitative/quantitative” divide which has fed animosity in our field over the last several decades.*

*Lastly, symposium reflects on whether data accessibility and research transparency as a way to build replicable, scientific progress is the correct goal at all. How can authors adequately meet DA-RT submission guidelines for qualitative interviews when interview notes cannot capture the role that context, tone, conversational pauses, facial expressions, and code-switching that adds significant meaning to such interviews? Given the significant upfront costs of working in many African countries, what research guidelines must one provide such that someone can actually replicate his/her work—language acquisition, years of in-depth field exposure and research network building, etc.? Do we want to collect the kind of data we could obtain from informants who know their interviews will not be anonymous? How does one create a replicable database of legal decisions when informal norms pervade? The pieces of the symposium support the principles of DA-RT but also are skeptical towards whether DA-RT is a solution looking for the wrong problem for research in Africa.*

*We hope the symposium will stimulate discussion and debate at the meetings of APSA and ASA this fall. We encourage you to engage in these discussions and push this dialogue forward towards Spring 2017, in which we will discuss solutions for studying African politics in the era of DA-RT.*

*--Keith Weghorst, Newsletter Editor*



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## The Challenges of Collaboration among Africanist Scholars Conducting Field Research: Unintended Consequences of the DA-RT Initiative for the Study of African Politics

Fatai Aremu  
University of Illorin

Lauren M. MacLean  
Indiana University

Several scholars have already highlighted how the Data Access and Research Transparency (DA-RT) initiative might pose significant barriers in particular for researchers who are more junior, working in conflict zones or on politically sensitive topics in less democratic contexts, or conducting qualitative and/or interpretive fieldwork.<sup>1</sup> Most of the debate thus far has focused on how these new disciplinary standards advanced through the US-based American Political Science Association (APSA) and enforced by leading American journals would affect researchers based in the US. We would like to advance the dialogue here by considering how these changes might shape scholars outside of the U.S., specifically collaborations between Africanists based in African institutions and Africanists in the US (and Europe). Since 2008, APSA, with the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, has promoted the development of new networks of training and research collaboration through a series of eight of APSA Africa Workshops on a variety of substantive themes in every region of the continent.<sup>2</sup> These workshops have stimulated the production of numerous coauthored articles, special journal issues, edited book volumes, grant proposals, blog posts,

newsletters, and workshops, not to mention, enduring friendships.<sup>3</sup>

And, yet, the trans-regional collaboration between these scholars, which has been so strongly supported by APSA, may be threatened unintentionally by the DA-RT initiative coming from another corner of the APSA organization. While the overarching principle of data access could provide a valuable reminder to scholars that genuine collaboration is not a neocolonial partnership for data extraction and knowledge production, the proposed implementation may pose several problems. We argue that Africa-based scholars may be exposed to greater political risks and meanwhile receive fewer benefits than their US collaborators from new journal requirements for transparency that may be inappropriate for their particular African context. Furthermore, the autonomy and equality of the Africa-based scholars within the partnership may be diminished by the implementation of a standard set of practices emerging from dominant epistemological assumptions held by many American political scientists.

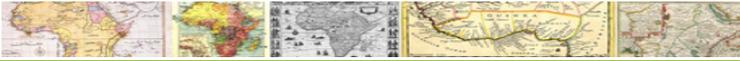
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1 See Tripp and LeBas in this symposium. See also Kramer (2015); Parkinson and Wood (2015); Shih (2015) and Isaac (2015).

2 For more detail on the locations, themes, and participants of the APSA Africa Workshops, see <http://www.apsanet.org/africaworkshops>.

3 See the APSA Africa Workshop newsletters for updates: <http://community.apsanet.org/africa/projectnews1/new-item>.





## Challenges of Collaboration, continued from page 4

While we begin with a concern about the burgeoning US-African collaborations, these three consequences might also be experienced disproportionately by African scholars who are not engaged in such partnerships but wish to publish in US-based journals, increasingly an expectation required for achieving tenure and promotion at higher education institutions in Africa in an era of state retrenchment.

The first potential problem is that African scholars may incur a heavier and more direct share of the risk involved in adhering to the demands for increased transparency. Where American researchers can go “home” and may worry about the prospect of not being granted a visa to return sometime in the future, African scholars often live in closer proximity to the fieldsite and have fewer opportunities for exit. The community of scholars may be relatively small, and their identities be known by the ruling political regime with the possibility of more immediate and possibly grave consequences. Likewise, it may be nearly impossible to deidentify completely survey or qualitative interview transcripts, and the African scholar may be pressured to confirm the identities by political opponents or held accountable more directly by anxious or angry study participants. Many of the potential risks to human subjects may only appear in the medium- to long-term, and again, the African scholars are more likely to be in country if and when the risk becomes real, than the US scholar who has returned or even moved onto a different project or even field site. In addition to potentially facing greater risks, Africa-based scholars may be less able to access the benefits of data access since many of the template data management plans are predicated on the “First world” assumption of reliable electricity and high-speed internet to retrieve cloud-based storage of data.

The second potential problem is that the proposal to have journal editors serve as gatekeepers in the precise implementation of these new norms essentially reduces the autonomy of the Africa-based scholars even more than their US counterparts. The decisions about how to best protect the interests of human participants in the study is delegated to editors who often have very limited knowledge about African politics. Africa-based scholars will be required to follow policies and practices but will have had fewer opportunities to participate in deliberating or implementing them. African scholars often face multiple

barriers to becoming a member of APSA; are less likely to be chosen to serve on these editorial boards; and, their professional networks likely will not link them to these editors personally.

The third potential problem is that the loss of autonomy may lead to a subsequent loss of equality in the collaboration. Already, US and Africa-based scholars struggle to navigate a fair partnership where scholars from each region contribute to the shared theoretical and intellectual project. When US-based professional associations and journals trump the norms and institutions of Africa-based scholars’ associations, journals, and educational institutions, this equality is threatened.

In sum, we argue that the proposed standards for journals adhering to the DA-RT initiative may unintentionally weaken collaborations between US and Africa-based scholars, and thus hinder future research in the field on African politics. While the general principles of data access and research transparency seem to be broadly accepted and supported by many in the APCG, the specific mechanisms of implementation may inadvertently inhibit the quality of data collection and analysis in the field and weaken the quality of US-African working relationships. We contend that the specific mechanisms of implementation by journal editors are not necessary. Instead of advocating specific guidelines to be enforced through journals, we should agree on abstract principles and allow the diversity of scholarly communities and collaborations, with their heterogeneous epistemologies, methodological practices, and in-depth knowledge of field site contexts, to guide a more nuanced and customized adaptation of appropriate research practices.

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Fatai Aremu is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Ilorin in Nigeria. Lauren M. MacLean is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University in the U.S. Fatai and Lauren met at the 2012 APSA Africa Workshop in Botswana and have since collaborated on several projects, including a special journal issue of *Africa Today* (2015)

**Editor’s Note: References appear on page 16.**



## Darting around DA-RT: [STILL AWAITING REVISIONS]

### Why Debates about Research Transparency will ultimately help the study of Africa

Fodei Batty  
Quinnipiac University

I was ambivalent towards Data Access and Research Transparency ([DA-RT](#)) upon first reading about proposals to implement the measures in Political Science a few years ago. Like [other people](#), I was curious about whether, and how, emphasizing DA-RT could improve upon existing procedures and expectations for research within the discipline. Even if they would be useful in some way, I still had doubts about whether, and how, the measures would be implemented thoughtfully with regard and sensitivity towards diverse research traditions. I was also skeptical about the feasibility of some of the specific proposals laid out under [JETS](#) and unaware of the discipline-wide extent to which similar measures were already being implemented in some fashion by journal editors and gatekeepers in Political Science, until I read [Ellen Key's study](#) published in PS.

Today, I am not any more convinced than before about some of the practical aspects of implementing DA-RT. However, as I argue below, I have realized that the debates and evolving discourse over “research transparency” will impact how scholars think about studying “Africa” and, going forward, it will also help advance understandings of African politics as evident in recent discussions across several forums.

Perhaps, no other continent or geographic entity in the world has been subjected to more generalizations and stereotypes than Africa. In numerous analyses, concepts developed from studies conducted in one African country or one area of the continent are frequently stretched beyond their explanatory limitations and the findings from such studies are often extrapolated to other contexts and areas of the continent without much qualification.

Take, for example, the case of “ethnic entrepreneurs,” a concept widely deployed in analyses of identity politics in Africa as societies negotiate processes of public goods provision and distribution. Ethnic entrepreneurs are supposed intermediaries who play some role in negotiating the space between their ethnic communities and the political center. Many local communities across Africa, including the ones from which I hail, will give you some variation about the roles and expectations of their elites as they advocate their

share of public goods. Yet, influential works on African politics have typecast ethnic entrepreneurs as if they maintain the same roles and perform the same functions under varying conditions.

Although many scholars are quick to concede that Africa is a diverse, varied, and complex continent, there is still a persistent tendency to accept the findings of research conducted in some distinctive location in “Africa” as typical without precautionary statements about external validity or expectations to substantiate the mechanisms for replication so that subsequent studies could reach similar conclusions, as proposed under DA-RT.

I will submit that this generalization of societies, individuals, experiences, and outcomes on the vast African continent has been, and still remains, one of the major drawbacks in the study of African politics. Consequently, to paraphrase [Achille Mbembe](#), “...while we now feel we know nearly everything that African states, societies, economies, are not, we still know absolutely nothing about what they actually are...”

Traditionally, the study of Africa has suffered from a dearth of adequate, replicable and quantifiable data. Debates about DA-RT helps draw attention to this problem. To wit, there is no exhaustive database of public opinion surveys of ALL ethnic groups within each specific country in Africa, for example. Even the sample size of the [Afrobarometer surveys](#), perhaps the most comprehensive surveys on the continent at the moment, falls short in this regard with n-sizes ranging from 1,200 to 2,400. While sufficient to capture national opinions on some issues, the well-publicized diversity of African societies necessitates sample sizes of 800+1 drawn from each and every ethnic group within a country in order to generate truly representative samples. Such undertaking, however, is cost-prohibitive and logistically challenging for even well-funded organizations, not to mention individual researchers. Yet, under the laws of social science, this is data that we do not have but is required to reflect replicable findings about representative opinions across diverse ethnic communities.

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## Darting Around DA-RT, continued from page 6

In preparation for this contribution, I took a cursory look at articles published in three top journals in African studies (the *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *African Affairs*, and *African Studies Review*) over the past three years and found that a majority of the articles were qualitative in research design with no available replication data.

There are additional questions that need to be addressed: are cost concerns or the complexity of Africa to be blamed for insufficient or deficient data? Why do scholars continue to assume generalizations about African politics at the same time that they concede the diversity of African societies? When it comes to political outcomes that interest political scientists, is there any right way or wrong way to study Africa in order to produce replicable data and findings as expected under DA-RT protocols? Will concerns about research transparency and data access help improve upon the processes through which scholars generate information about Africa?



I have often wondered about all of the questions above and debated colleagues about some of them in various forums. I can attest that I do already see a change in the tenor of debates about research transparency. At the 2015 African Studies Association meeting in San Diego, for example, a passionate discussion about data ensued following one presentation last November.

Although I am still ambivalent toward DA-RT, I appreciate the fact that it has already engendered the kind of debates about research transparency that should ultimately move discussions about the study of Africa and African politics forward in the years to come.

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Fodei Batty is an assistant professor of Political Science at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT.



## Not All Law is Public: Reflections on Data Transparency for Law and Courts Research in Africa

Rachel Ellett  
Beloit College

Mark Fathi Massoud  
University of California, Santa Cruz

This essay<sup>1</sup> uncovers some of the latent challenges of data access and research transparency (DA-RT) guidelines in political science as they relate specifically to the growing study of law and courts in Africa. Although law is typically studied as publicly promulgated rules and judicial decisions, hidden and informal forms of politics and justice systems exist in many African contexts alongside or in place of formal institutions. That is, the release of even redacted notes or transcripts may jeopardize the safety of law and courts researchers and their subjects in Africa; may make interviewees reluctant to speak with researchers; and may hamper human subjects approvals, particularly in the context of informal institutions and transitional, authoritarian, or conflict-affected states in Africa (Massoud 2016; see also Blatmann 2015, Isaac 2015).

In this essay we describe the methods being adopted to study law and courts in Africa and we evaluate the challenges that DA-RT-related policies hold. In so doing, we reveal what is distinctive to the study of law and courts and what is broad enough to be helpful to social scientists who study other forms of political and social life across Africa. We also provide some possible ways forward for scholars to balance commitments to data gathering and research transparency.

### The State of the Study of Law and Courts in Africa

The past decade has seen a resurgence of scholarly interest in African law and courts and, as with the broader field of African politics, this research has overwhelmingly turned to theory-building qualitative methods, including 1 Parts of this essay appear in or build on material found in Mark Fathi Massoud, “Field Research on Law in Conflict Zones and Authoritarian States,” *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, Vol. 12 (2016, forthcoming). This essay would not be possible without the kindness of respondents and interlocutors where the authors have conducted fieldwork, including Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia/Somaliland, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Botswana, Zambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Uganda, and Tanzania.

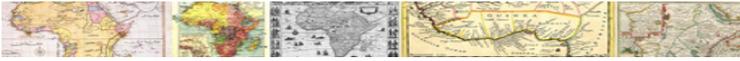
archival research, in-person interviews, and ethnographic observations (see, e.g., Bauer and Dawuni 2016, Ellett 2013, Englund 2006, Massoud 2013, Moustafa 2007, Oloka-Onyango 2015, VonDoepp 2009). Taken together, these diverse studies reveal how judicial power emerges in challenging political contexts, how colonial politics impact contemporary legal institutions, how lawyers and judges build up or destroy liberal democracy, how legal concepts travel, and how meanings and boundaries are created or reinscribed through lawmaking or judicial decision-making.

Law-and-courts researchers’ use of qualitative, interpretive, or historical evidence is precisely what allows them to add value across multiple disciplines using previously untested cases (Moustafa 2014). But while these methods have generated new theory on the politics of law in Africa, they also paradoxically may be marginalizing law and courts research in political science – particularly given the increasing prominence of large-N datasets, survey research, and experimental methods.

DA-RT policies impose new requirements related to data gathering and dissemination. But in collapsing different forms of qualitative evidence – documentary and interview-based – into a single discourse, the debate confounds challenges with opportunities, generating new barriers to fieldwork and publication for law and courts research.

### Challenges of Gathering and Disseminating Public Documents

DA-RT policies, as currently conceived, may not help resolve the pluralistic transparency problem facing scholars of African law and courts: how to produce and make documentary resources available to all, particularly within Africa, by creating a sustainable solution for ongoing public access to laws, cases, and government activities across Africa. That is, archives, documents, and other written materials on law and courts are not often made public or easily accessible. Like others who study states and political institutions in Africa, we have struggled to obtain government records, court decisions, and even newspaper articles



## No Law is Public, continued from page 8

– sometimes involving weeks or months of requests (see Massoud 2013:231-237). Many courts, if they do publish written decisions, do so in foreign languages, which may require a researcher to translate and transcribe them into English before posting to a private data repository. These issues are even more acute in fragile states, where documents may have been lost, destroyed, or taken and not returned by visiting researchers (Massoud 2016).

Activating citations and linking them to unpublished documents retrieved by an author would certainly enhance transparency and serve as a resource for future researchers. But because the process is time- and labor-intensive, it may have a disproportionate impact on pre-tenure scholars and

Activating citations and linking them to unpublished documents retrieved by an author would certainly enhance transparency and serve as a resource for future researchers. But because the process is time- and labor-intensive, it may have a disproportionate impact on pre-tenure scholars and scholars in Africa who also may feel compelled to make this evidence readily available in a format – e.g., in clear English, on a protected web database – that other scholars can easily access (for an example of activated citations, see Ellett 2015). Already our disciplines are witnessing a drop in the acceptance rate for papers written by African scholars, just as research by women is less likely to be cited than men (Briggs and Weathers 2016).

### Challenges of Confidentiality and the Dissemination of Interview Data

Evaluating interview data occurs on three levels – sampling, validity and reliability (Bleich and Pekkanen 2013). While validity is established through evidence triangulation, the reliability of an interviewee may be difficult to ascertain without compromising anonymity. With regard to sampling, there is scope for increasing transparency without compromising confidentiality, including in the creation of an interview appendix (Id.). But even the most faithful transcriptions cannot capture the depth of silences, confusion, laughter, or hostility during an interview. Here, carefully prepared and redacted field notes placed in a methodological appendix may capture the ways that context matters. (Due to length constraints, such appendices would differ for article- and book-length projects.) That is, as with other areas of African politics, collecting interview metadata to produce a study of African law and courts may prove equally as important as collecting interviewees' reflections.

In addition, the obvious challenge of confidentiality operates acutely in societies with a small professional class, concentrated over one or two metropolitan areas. In these settings, even choosing not to remain anonymous reduces the pool of people to which anonymous individuals belong. A researcher's commitment to confidentiality, even when a respondent prefers to speak publicly, enables scholars to protect those who want – or need – to remain anonymous.

In our research, we have met lawyers, judges, and activists who later were jailed or forced into exile. Even settings with relative political stability may later collapse into political disorder and conflict, and those in power may suddenly find themselves outside the state's protection. Though generating accurate transcriptions is costly and time-consuming, they offer an additional layer of protection to recordings.

### Looking Forward: Balancing Data Gathering with Research Transparency

Given the potential burdens to researchers and the potential risks to research participants, it is important to balance the needs of data gathering with the purposes of research transparency. That is, if DA-RT policies are to increase the seriousness with which qualitative research is received within political science and strengthen the discipline's public reputation, at what cost would this occur, particularly for those who work in Africa?

We respond to this question by highlighting three ways to balance the commitments involved in studying law and courts in Africa –

1. *For document-based research, consider the wide-ranging concerns about public access to legal and political information in Africa.* Pivoting the debate away from individual scholars generating mini-private data libraries toward more pluralistic concerns about publicly available documents may aid in the expansion of African scholarship by Africans. Multiple audiences – academic and non-academic, African and non-African – require access to information about law and courts. Where possible, engaging with local universities, local bar associations, and AfricaLii may facilitate more reliable public access to government documents (AfricaLii 2016). Doing so serves two goals: enabling critical evaluation of theoretical and empirical claims and, perhaps more importantly, aiding in the dissemination of legal materials for all.

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## No Law is Public, continued from page 9

2. For interview-based research, clarify ethical concerns around interviewee anonymity, particularly in fragile political settings. The assumption that interview data needs to be shared may not be viable in volatile settings with small professional classes, particularly where seemingly innocuous data may become political weapons down the road (Lynch 2016). Furthermore, good data transparency does not necessarily produce good data analysis, which involves the careful documentation of interview context – metadata – and the construction of interview appendices. In short, thinking creatively about how to conduct and disseminate interview-based research is critical to strengthening the inferential value of qualitative data.

3. Continue to address inequities in scholarship by providing increased opportunities for scholars from the global South to contribute to global learning on African law and courts, and on qualitative methods. Holding conferences and events in the global South, and earmarking additional funding for scholars from Africa, would allow researchers from these regions to interact with, learn from, and teach scholars from North America and Europe. Further collaborations may provide greater opportunity for scholars in Africa to shape not only the substantive questions but also the methodological debates in political science and African studies.

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[Rachel Ellett](#) is Associate Professor of Political Science at Beloit College. She is the author of *Pathways to Judicial Power in Transitional States: Perspectives from African Courts* (Routledge).

[Mark Fathi Massoud](#) is Associate Professor of Politics and Legal Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He is the author of *Law’s Fragile State: Colonial, Authoritarian, and Humanitarian Legacies in Sudan* (Cambridge University Press).



## “Research transparency, DA-RT, and the Challenges of Fieldwork in Africa

Adrienne LeBas  
American University

The new data transparency guidelines adopted by several journal editors – now known as DA-RT – have been exhaustively debated within political science, but what do these standards mean for Africanist political scientists? All of us support rigorous and transparent research. For some kinds of work, a full release of data and procedures to allow for replication should be seen as the gold standard. For other kinds of research, requiring full data transparency presents special challenges that were not adequately considered by DA-RT proponents and by the editors of the 27 political science journals that have signed on to [DA-RT standards](#).

Critiques of the adoption of DA-RT standards by these journals have already emerged, notably in an [open letter](#) signed by 20 past presidents of the American Political Science Association and in an [open petition requesting delay](#), which was signed by over 1,100 political scientists. These criticisms will likely inform continuing conversations about DA-RT, including those at several APSA panels devoted to the topic as well as the upcoming APSA Council meeting in Philadelphia. In this short note, I lay out three issues that I feel merit further discussion and are, I believe, of special interest to the community of scholars associated with APCG.

*Practical challenges.* First, the DA-RT standards likely impose a differential labor burden on comparativists who work in the developing world, especially those who conduct focus groups, semi- or unstructured interviews, participant-observation, and ethnographic research. DA-RT requires scholars to make cited data available through an online digital repository. It remains unclear what this would mean for qualitative scholars, especially those who conduct long-form interviews and ethnographic research. Much of the discussion about the need for DA-RT has focused on concerns about scholars “cherry-picking” data or selectively reporting evidence that confirms their own arguments. Some view full transcriptions of interviews and field notes to be the only means of guarding against this cherry-picking, and they would expect qualitative researchers to produce and deposit full transcriptions of interviews, field notes, archival evidence, and other materials.

If full transcription is required, could qualitative scholars afford to comply? Transcription of audio recordings is incredibly costly and time-consuming. Africanists may

face additional burdens in this arena: some of us work in languages that are spoken by few outside our field sites, and our informants often have distinct accents even when speaking English, French, or Portuguese, making transcription more time-consuming and costly. For those of us who work in authoritarian or otherwise insecure field sites, the need to protect our subjects renders transcription of any recorded materials in-country impossible. Similar labor burden concerns apply to African archival materials. Some political scientists working in archives in the United States and Western Europe have expressed enthusiasm for “active citation,” which involves active links to primary documents within journal articles. This practice has influenced the discussion of DART and qualitative methods, but it does not take into account different archival practices and accessibility in the developing world. In many national and private archives in Africa, researchers cannot use digital cameras, and photocopying is limited; in some, computers are not allowed, and researchers must instead take notes by hand. Journal requirements for active citation or deposit of primary documents would impose significant costs on researchers who work in archives with access restrictions and limited or non-existent digitization of holdings.

*Ethics and effects on the discipline.* There are also several ethical concerns related to data transparency, only some of which would be immediately apparent to quantitative or non-fieldwork-based researchers. The most significant ethical concern would be the interface between DA-RT requirements and Institutional Review Board (IRB) provisions for the protection of human subjects, minimization of harm, and privacy of informants. The editors signing onto the DA-RT standards have made assurances that researchers can apply for exemptions if the public release of data would endanger informants or violate confidentiality agreements. The implication is that editors would review exemption requests and determine whether exemption was merited. Will DA-RT exemptions only be granted where there is risk of harm to the informant, or does the informant have the right to restrict the use of data she provides to an individual researcher? Who determines whether an interview can or cannot be safely anonymized?



## Research Transparency, DA-RT, continued from page 11

This ambiguity about DA-RT exemption standards will make it difficult for researchers to develop appropriate IRB protocols and consent scripts. Even if the exemption standards and guidelines for informant protection are improved, we have not yet begun to think through the effect of DA-RT-compliant consent protocols on the quality of the data being collected. Much of my early work was conducted in a setting where my informants faced significant risks of state-sponsored repression, risks that were heightened by talking to me. I cannot imagine even asking my informants for consent to full data transparency and public sharing. Instead, I allowed my informants to specify embargo periods, how they would be identified, who would have access to data (typically, only me and my family members), etc. This is what allowed me to develop the trust that yielded good interview data and the relationships that made subsequent connections and research possible. I worry that young scholars – anxious to comply with DA-RT – would not feel that they had the freedom to give informants control over how data would be used and stored in future.

Beyond issues of data quality, we should likely think through potential downstream effects on the character and scope of Africanist political science. As currently drafted, the DA-RT standards likely increase incentives for less-than-strict observation of IRB rules and the constraints often placed by informants on use of interview and focus group materials (e.g., individualized access, anonymization, use only for scholarly purposes). Secondly, as currently written, the DA-RT standards likely further disincentive the extended and partly unstructured fieldwork that many of us see as essential to the training of area specialists. Junior scholars face a highly competitive job market. In order to maximize the chances of placing their research in the discipline's top journals, they may be drawn to questions and research methods that are more amenable to full data transparency and public release. Any further narrowing of methodological diversity or research scope would be bad for the discipline. Experimental and quantitative research is enriched by in-depth fieldwork; furthermore, qualitative methods may be the best means of examining many of the thorniest questions facing us as political scientists, such as those concerning the organization of violence or the internal functioning of authoritarian regimes.

*"Poisoning the well."* Many APCG members are qualitative researchers who publish in African Studies journals and in other journals that have not signed onto the DA-RT standards. For these researchers, why does the debate over DA-RT matter? I would suggest that the DA-RT standards as currently written run a small but

non-negligible "poisoning the well" risk. If adopted widely and without significant provisions made for protection of informant confidentiality and anonymity, it is possible that DA-RT could have downstream effects on qualitative scholars who explicitly "opt out" of the standards. We could, for instance, imagine scenarios in which the public release of interview and other field data results in harm to informants or other negative repercussions. Episodes of this kind could conceivably limit other researchers' access to informants or even their ability to conduct research in some field sites. During a different era, this fear of "poisoning the well" led the African Studies Association and most of the Title IV African Studies Centers to adopt a blanket ban on the receipt of military and intelligence funds for African studies research, a policy that endured until the attacks of 9/11. Are these downstream effects as likely as the disciplinary ones I signal above? No, but they are not impossible. And this risk should provide a compelling reason for all APCG members to be engaged in drafting data access and transparency guidelines that take into account the challenges discussed here and in the other contributions to this newsletter.

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Adrienne LeBas (Ph.D., Columbia University) is Associate Professor of Government at American University and is completing a term as a residential fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She is the author of the award-winning *From Protest to Parties: Party-Building and Democratization in Africa* (Oxford University Press, 2011), as well as several articles on party organization, violence, and the rule of law. Her current book project examines the causes of persistent electoral violence in some African countries. She works mainly - but not exclusively - in Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Nigeria.



## DA-RT and Publishing Research from Authoritarian and Conflict Settings

Aili Tripp

University of Wisconsin, Madison

The adoption of the DA-RT guidelines just made research even harder for political scientists working in non-democratic and war-torn settings as well as similar settings elsewhere in the world. As it is, there are many countries in Africa where few foreign scholars conduct extensive field research, in part, because of the authoritarian nature of the regime (e.g., Angola, Chad, Eritrea, Sudan) or because of ongoing conflict (e.g., Somalia, parts of northern Nigeria). For local researchers, the challenges may be even greater for political reasons.

Scholars at US institutions are already saddled with onerous human subjects requirements. We have to learn numerous languages; obtain research funding and then seek writeup funding; get research clearance and dozens of other complicated permissions (*carte de séjour*, etc.), establish contacts; line up research assistants; and navigate the logistics of leaving one's own institution, home, and country as well as the logistics of moving to a new country and institutional setting. And as if this were not enough, we must now deal with new challenges of getting our work published, especially in leading journals.

The DA-RT guidelines create new disincentives for qualitative comparative work, especially in non-democratic contexts and will scare junior scholars from embarking on precisely the type of research that is needed most to understand the countries we know the least about. And while it is important to do quantitative research, it is insufficient for understanding complex processes and dynamics on the ground.

I do not disagree with the overall aims of the DA-RT guidelines. It is important to show how one's conclusions are backed up by strong evidence. I think that is the essence of doing rigorous research, along with being able to demonstrate the importance of the subject, how it advances knowledge, and its theoretical significance. But I am concerned with how the DA-RT guidelines will be implemented in practice.

I recently conducted research in Morocco and Western Sahara (known to Moroccans as "the southern provinces"). During the time I was in Western Sahara, eight foreign

journalists were expelled from the area. I was acutely aware of the political sensitivities of carrying out research in this region even though I was not studying the conflict itself. But it was also one of the most fascinating places where I have done interviews in my three decades of conducting field research throughout Africa, in part, because women hold an unusually high social status in this matrilineal society. I was only able to gain access because of a serendipitous encounter with a Moroccan who had worked in these provinces for six years with UNHCR and who had exceptional access and excellent contacts. The notion that my exact project could be replicated in the same way a quantitative project could be verified is absurd. There are only a handful of political scientists who have worked on Western Sahara and most have looked at the issues from a more macro-perspective or with access primarily to the Algerian camps where the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Río de Oro, better known as the POLISARIO, is based, but not in the Western Sahara itself. However, looking at the DA-RT guidelines, one wonders how a qualitative study of the kind I conducted could be published. Moreover, the kinds of questions I am asking cannot be addressed through a quantitative study and the secondary literature is almost non-existent.

There seem to be protections for people who work in authoritarian contexts in the guidelines, but when editors actually see the kinds of restrictions the Human Subjects committees place on us, I wonder how much flexibility there will be in practice. I worry about how aware those implementing the guidelines will be of the ethical considerations and challenges of doing research in non-democratic and conflicted contexts.

Even interviews that are not particularly sensitive can be barred from being revealed publicly and must be destroyed after a certain amount of time to meet IRB requirements, especially if one is working in a non-democratic context. The people who serve on the IRB committees also don't always fully understand the research context and place restrictions based on their own limited knowledge of a country. The DA-RT guidelines refer to such situations as being an exception, but as IRB restrictions



## DA-RT and Publishing Research, continued from page 13

But even if there are no onerous IRB restrictions, do people who are interviewed really want their interviews made public? Will they have a say in any of this? If they know the interviews are going to be made public, how will this affect interviewees' willingness to be fully open and honest even if the interviews aren't associated with a name or affiliation? Often the content of the interview will reveal who the person is to those who know the context, especially for those of us who do elite interviews. Won't that erode trust and confidentiality in the interviewer? I study women and politics and women's movements in Africa and I can't imagine people would want some of the things they say publicly attributed to them or their organization or even to the women's movement and its opponents. They don't want their strategies, jealousies, frustrations or weaknesses revealed to their competitors, opponents, or people they are lobbying. The same is true for those who oppose the women's organizations. If you have ever been interviewed by someone else you will know exactly what I mean, even if you have nothing in particular to hide.

I have interviewed people in contexts of war, where people do nasty things to each other. In the course of interviewing, people have confided in me about other politicians who tried to kill them or succeeded in killing their loved ones, admissions of stealing, of being raped, of having affairs with key leaders, of sabotaging industrial production to increase prices, and so on. Most of these specific comments should never be made public in any form, in part, because they are potentially libelous. But one might want to write generally about a certain related phenomenon based on such comments. How would one provide evidence without providing actual texts of interviews that people who made the statements never dreamed would be made public?

I am concerned that the benefits of these new requirements do not outweigh the transaction costs of meeting them, especially in authoritarian and conflicted environments and for comparativists. They run the risk of creating serious ethical dilemmas and force researchers to violate IRB requirements if they comply. APSA and the journals need to give more consideration to how the DA-RT initiative will affect the whole field and find other ways to ensure greater rigor without making publication impossible for those of us working in challenging environments.

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Aili Tripp is Department of Political Science and

Gender & Women's Studies and Evjue Bascom Professor in Gender and Women's Studies. She has conducted research in Tanzania, Uganda, Angola, Liberia, Kenya and Morocco.





## Dataset Review: Social Conflict in Analysis Data

Christopher Linebarger  
University of Texas, El Paso

Armed conflict and war in post-Cold War Africa have resulted in the deaths of millions of people, displaced millions more, and interrupted economic and political progress. Yet, for all that scholars have discovered about the causal factors associated with armed conflict in Africa, relatively little is known about conflicts at a lower order of magnitude. Indeed, the commonly employed datasets in this area typically define armed conflict as an interaction between organized actors, such as states and rebel movements, resulting in an annual battle-death count above a particular threshold. However, armed conflicts like insurgencies and civil wars require that rebels invest significant time and resources, while a large variety of conflict types occur outside the bounds of traditional definitions and require fewer “start up” costs. Notable examples include coups, riots, labor strikes, communal violence, state repression, and protests. Moreover, conflict and violence should not be seen as interchangeable concepts: many episodes of civil unrest and non-violent protests have had as great an impact on African politics as their more deadly counterparts.

Among the most significant efforts to resolve these lacunae is the Social Conflict Analysis Data (SCAD), an events dataset that collects information on these kinds of conflicts for the period 1990—present (Salehyan, et al 2012). Originally designed to collect evidence on conflict in Africa, it has since expanded its spatial domain to include Central America, the Caribbean states, and Mexico. Prominent examples of deadly conflicts recorded by SCAD are the 2007 electoral violence in Kenya, the 1994 Fowl War in Ghana, recent pastoral conflicts in East Africa, and ethnic and religious rioting in Nigeria. Each of these cases claimed thousands of lives, but none are included in the traditional conflict data and each produced more fatalities than many civil wars. SCAD also captures episodes of dissent, such as the 2011 Arab Spring protests in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, and the early 1990s democratization movements in Zambia, South Africa, and many others. It should be noted, however, that SCAD explicitly contains no threshold on the size of its observed events, nor does it include a death threshold. Thus, less prominent incidents with only a handful of participants are found in the data. Although SCAD excludes civil wars and the battles fought within

them, it is designed to be combined with the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Data (Pettersson and Wallensteen 2015). Analysts can therefore study social conflict and war together.

SCAD is hand-coded by a team of researchers based upon keyword searches of Associated Press (AP) and Agence France Presse (AFP) newswire archives, as contained in the Lexis-Nexis database. The researchers then separate relevant articles from the irrelevant “misses.” Each relevant event is then entered into SCAD and classified according to a number of variables, including its degree of organization, and whether the event is repressed by state authorities. The identity of actor(s) and target(s), number of participants, number of deaths, and location of event are also coded. Each event is also classed with respect to the issue under contention, and each includes a short description to facilitate narrative research. Finally, each event is geo-coded for spatial analysis.

SCAD has several advantageous features in comparison to others of a similar type. In the last decade, a significant scholarly movement has called for the disaggregated study of civil wars and armed conflicts, and as such a variety of datasets have emerged that collect information on the types and locations of individual battles and incidents of political violence. Most of these collection efforts have occurred within the African context. But, as systematic and useful as those data are, many are limited to incidents occurring within armed conflicts of the traditional definition. By contrast, SCAD collects information on all social conflict, with criminal activity being the notable exclusion. Furthermore, disaggregated datasets sometimes contain an inflated number of records because events that occur in multiple locations and over multiple days are separated into multiple events. Nation-wide protests, such as those that occurred during the Arab Spring in Egypt, would therefore be represented by many hundreds of records --- one for each locality and day containing a protest. SCAD, by contrast, considers occurrences such as these to represent a single event, so long as the actors and contentious issues are the same.



## Dataset Review, continued from page 15

Although it is possible to build a database of social conflict based upon local news reporting, AP and AFP are used because they offer online archiving over a long period of time and are consistent in their reporting standards throughout the period. Local news sources do not offer the same level of consistency, especially over time. Thus, while SCAD has advantages and disadvantages like any dataset, it remains one of the only efforts to collect a comprehensive dataset on civil unrest across the entire African continent, and to do so in a way that affords its users flexibility.

SCAD has recently enabled scholars to explore a whole host of phenomena related to African social conflict that were previously difficult to research. The data have been widely employed, and exhaustive coverage is beyond the scope of this review. A few notable examples include recently published work on electoral violence (Daxecker 2014; Salehyan and Linebarger 2015), the nexus of climate change and conflict (Hendrix and Salehyan 2012), collective action (Pierskalla and Hollenbach 2013), targets of dissident action (Salehyan and Stewart 2016), media reporting bias (Hendrix and Salehyan 2015), and repression (Hendrix and Salehyan 2016; Ritter and Conrad 2016). Future applications of the data are also extremely numerous, with some possibilities including the effect of foreign aid and structural adjustment on social conflict, the relationship between patronage politics and the geographic patterns of ethnic conflict, and the spread of terrorism and low-level insurgency.

SCAD was initially funded as a Department of Defense Minerva Grant in a collaboration between the University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Texas. The bulk of the coding took place at UNT. SCAD is available both as an interactive online database and as a downloadable CSV file at: <https://www.strausscenter.org/scad.html>

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Christopher Linebarger is Visiting Assistant Professor at the National Security Studies Institute at the University of Texas at El Paso.

## References from Aremu & MacLean,

### Works Cited

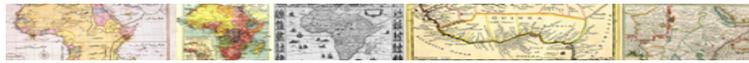
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- Kramer, Katherine. 2015. "Transparent Explanations, Yes. Public Transcripts and Fieldnotes, No. Ethnographic Research on Public Opinion." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Newsletter* 13 (1): 17-20.
- Parkinson, Sarah Elizabeth and Elisabeth Wood. 2015. "Transparency in Intensive Research on Violence: Ethical Dilemmas and Unforeseen Consequences." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Newsletter* 13 (1): 22-26.
- Shih, Victor. "Research in Authoritarian Regimes: Transparency Tradeoffs and Solutions." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Newsletter* 13 (1): 20-22.



Join the APCG Discussion Forum!

<http://groups.google.com/group/discussionAPCG>

A public/open forum for APCG members. APCG members who sign up can communicate with each other in an open format. Want to discuss this issue's symposium, advertise a new book, talk about an Africa-related issue, find a conference roommate, or get info on a research location? You can do that here!



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### Chair's Report... (continued from page 1)

provide a detailed assessment of what we have done these past two years. But let me assure you that the APCG is in good shape:

- We have organised panels in all our major conferences (ASA, APSA, ISA)
- We currently have 261 APSA members (I remind you that APSA requires that we maintain 250 members in order to be an affiliated section)
- Our committees (Awards, Conference, Nominations) have been set up and the APSA committee is already preparing the APSA 2017 conference, including a call for proposals in this issue
- Finally, our Nominations committee has identified the candidates for chair (Leo Arriola and Aili Tripp) and for Treasurer (Claire Adida and Steve Burgess). Their bios and statements are included in this issue and our secretary, Cara Jones, is working on the electoral process. I thank the four candidates on behalf of the APCG and urge all of you to vote.

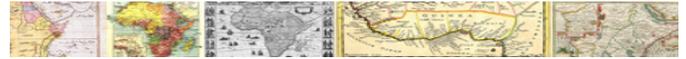
However, we still need to be concerned about our APSA status and ensure we meet APSA's membership threshold of 250 members each year. In addition to the regular membership process, we need to devise other strategies. One is through a sponsorship program. Andrew Stinson and I have talked about an APSA initiative regarding this, but I think in parallel, we can do our part individually for example by

encouraging our PhD students and foreign colleagues and friends to join APCG and APSA. I hope we will have enough time to discuss this idea or other ones at APSA. Our business meeting will take place on Thursday September 1, 6:30 pm, Loews Hotel, Commonwealth A1.

Let me finally remind you to apply for the APSA 2017 conference and to attend our individual members' presentations at the 2016 meeting.

I look forward to seeing you soon at APSA!

All the best,  
Mamoudou Gazibo



### African Data Sources Sought

We are in the process of compiling a list of data sources for our group.

**For the current list, go to:**

<http://africanpoliticsgroup.org/index.php/scholars/africa-data-sources/>

**To contribute a data source, send an email to Keith Weghorst, [keith.r.weghorst@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:keith.r.weghorst@vanderbilt.edu)**

## From the Editor

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to serve as the newest editor of the APCG newsletter and am grateful for the opportunity to do so. Many thanks to outgoing editors Cara Jones and Steve Marr for their efforts over the last couple of years as well as their assistance in getting this newsletter out, making for a fairly painless transition. This will be the last newsletter released under the current leadership regime of APCG and I would like to congratulate them on their success in further institutionalizing our relationship with APSA as an official section.

In my first issue of the newsletter, you will see that I have largely kept the newsletter “as is” with regards to content, with minor adjustments around the edges. As in the past, it includes member announcements, a data set review, publications, a letter from our chair, as well as information regarding the business meeting that will take place at APSA. I wish to draw attention to two facets of the newsletter.

First, the newsletter symposium departs a bit from past newsletters, which commonly featured a self-contained set of essays speaking to an important substantive topic in political science which is studied in sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks to a suggestion from Aili Tripp, the symposium features five entries from APCG members on the topic of Data Access and Research Transparency (DA-RT) and challenges in

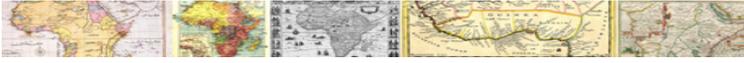
presents for the study of African politics. This is the first of a two-part symposium, where the Spring newsletter will present perspectives of overcoming challenges presented by DA-RT. I hope that this symposium will stimulate discussion about DA-RT for the Fall meetings of APSA and ASA and those discussions will be continued by our Spring issue.

Second, I have slightly expanded the breadth of the review for publications in African politics. This includes emergent journals in political science—such as the *Journal of Experimental Political Science*—as well as journals which focus on the relationship between gender and politics, notably *Politics & Gender*. Please advise me if there are any such resources you would like to be included in future reviews. I also have included \*all\* Africa related entries on the *Monkey Cage*, reflective of its increasing importance as a public forum to share our research expertise.

Lastly, as we prepare for elections for the new APSA leadership council, please review the candidate information that appears in this newsletter.

I look forward to your thoughts and feedback and wish you all a delightful Fall semester.

Keith Weghorst, Vanderbilt University



## Now Hiring

### University of North Carolina, Charlotte

#### Department of Political Science and Public Administration

#### Political Theory

#### Assistant Professor

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte Department of Political Science and Public Administration invites applications for a tenure track Assistant Professor position in Political Theory. Required qualifications include: Ph.D. in Political Science or a related field, with a primary focus on questions of race or gender; demonstrated excellence or strong potential in research; and a commitment to teaching in a diverse environment. Candidates with the ability to empirically evaluate political theory regarding race or gender will also be considered. The nine-month tenure track position begins Fall 2017.

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration offers an M.P.A., B.A., and a minor. It has 24 full-time faculty members. Many participate in one or more interdisciplinary programs, including the Public Policy Ph.D. program, Latin American Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and Africana Studies.

Review of applications will begin September 22, 2016 and will continue until the position is filled. Applications must be submitted electronically to <https://jobs.uncc.edu>. Please attach the following documents with your electronic application: (1) letter of application outlining your scholarly interests and agenda, including teaching experience, related to the qualifications outlined above; (2) curriculum vitae; (3) a copy of graduate transcript; (4) one sample of professional writing; and (5) evidence of teach-

ing effectiveness. In addition, three letters of recommendation should be sent either electronically in PDF format or by regular mail. All letters must be addressed to John Szmer, Political Theory Search Committee Chair, UNC Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd, Fretwell 435F, Charlotte, NC 28223 or [jjszmer@uncc.edu](mailto:jjszmer@uncc.edu). Any questions should be directed to Dr. Szmer.

Finalists will be asked during their screening interview to discuss how the topics of diversity and inclusion are incorporated into their teaching and research.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte is a doctoral, research-intensive university located in one of the country's fastest growing metropolitan areas on an expanding, modern campus. One of sixteen campuses in one of the oldest public university systems in the United States, UNC Charlotte offers over 28,000 culturally diverse students a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences houses twenty departments in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, physical sciences, and military sciences, as well as eight research centers and institutes and thirteen interdisciplinary programs.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte is an AA/EOE and an ADVANCE Institution that strives to create an academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. It values diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. Applicants will be subject to a criminal background check.

## Submit Online!

**Submissions to the newsletter can be made via our website:**

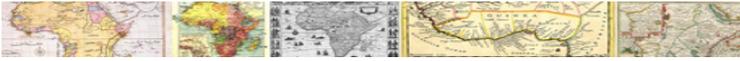
<http://africanpoliticsgroup.org/index.php/submit-news/>



# General Announcements

## Afrobarometer Funding in Peril

Insert text here 



## Member News

**Aili Tripp** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) is coordinating a research project on Women and Peacebuilding in Africa, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Foreign Ministry of Norway (\$961,600), involving research in northern Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Algeria, and Somalia. The researchers are from Nigeria, Uganda, Sudan, Algeria, Norway and the United States. She was recently awarded the Evjue Bascom Professorship in Gender and Women's Studies. She will be on leave in the Fall of 2016 with a Feminist Scholars Award from the Center for Research on Gender and Women at UW-Madison and will be on leave in the Spring of 2017 with a residential fellowship from the American Academy in Berlin. Her research involves a comparative study of women and legal reform in North Africa and will be in Algeria for the fall semester conducting research.



# Publications



\*denotes items submitted directly by members. All other references were discovered by the editors. We only include items that have already been published.

## Books

- \*Brass, Jennifer. 2016. *Allies or Adversaries: NGOs and the State in Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ellis, Stephen. 2016. *This Present Darkness: A History of Nigerian Organised Crime*. London: Hurst.
- Herbst, Jeery and Greg Mills. 2016. *How South Africa Works: And Must Do Better*. London: Hurst.
- \*Kendehammer, Brandon. 2016. *Muslims Talking Politics: Framing Islam, Democracy, and Law in Northern Nigeria*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Kennes, Erik and Miles Larmer. 2016. *The Katangese Gendarmes and War in Central Africa: Fighting Their Way Home*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.
- Kimonyo, Jean-Paul. 2016. *Rwanda's Popular Genocide: A Perfect Storm*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Laurie, Charles. 2016. *The Land Reform Deception: Political Opportunism in Zimbabwe's Land Seizure Era*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Leonard, Lori. 2016. *Life in the time of Oil: A Pipeline and Poverty in Chad*. Indiana University Press.
- LeVan, A. Carl. 2016. *Dictators and Democracy in African Development:*

*The Political Economy of Good Governance in Nigeria*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## Edited Books

- Fombad, Charles M. 2016. *Separation of powers in african constitutionalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lewis, Peter M. and John W. Harbison. 2016. *Coping with Crisis in Africa States*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Martinez, Luis and Rasmus Alenius Boserup. 2016. *Algeria Modern: From Opacity to Complexity*. Oxford University Press.

## Journals

- African Review*
- Basiru, Adeniyi S. 2016. "Extra-African powers and the crisis of regionalism in Africa: background to and reflections on France's engagement with Africa." *Africa Review* 8(2):96-107.
- de Jager, Nicola and Catherine Musuva. 2016. "The influx of Zimbabweans into South Africa: a crisis of governance that spills over." *Africa Review* 8(1):15-30.
- Fagbayibo, Babatunde. 2016. "Flexibility arrangements in the African Union: a way out of the integration conundrum?" *Africa Review* 8(2):156-170.
- Guma, Prince Karakire. 2016. "The governance and politics of urban space in the postcolonial city: Kampala, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam." *Africa Review* 8(1):31-43.

- Mwangi, Oscar Gakuo. 2016. "Jubaland: Somalia's new security dilemma and state-building efforts." *Africa Review* 8(2):120-132.
- Okolo, Abutu Lawrence and Joseph O. Akwu. 2016. "China's foreign direct investment in Africa's land: hallmarks of neo-colonialism or South-South cooperation?" *Africa Review* 8(1):44-59.
- Prinsloo, Barend Louwrens. 2016. "The security dilemma evident in South Africa's foreign policy towards Africa." *Africa Review* 8(2):81-95.
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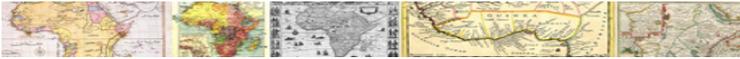
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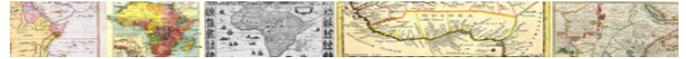
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# APCG News



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## Chair's Report... *(continued from page 1)*

provide a detailed assessment of what we have done these past two years. But let me assure you that the APCG is in good shape:

- We have organised panels in all our major conferences (ASA, APSA, ISA)
- We currently have 261 APSA members (I remind you that APSA requires that we maintain 250 members in order to be an affiliated section)
- Our committees (Awards, Conference, Nominations) have been set up and the APSA committee is already preparing the APSA 2017 conference, including a call for proposals in this issue
- Finally, our Nominations committee has identified the candidates for chair (Leo Arriola and Aili Tripp) and for Treasurer (Claire Adida and Steve Burgess). Their bios and statements are included in this issue and our secretary, Cara Jones, is working on the electoral process. I thank the four candidates on behalf of the APCG and urge all of you to vote.

However, we still need to be concerned about our APSA status and ensure we meet APSA's membership threshold of 250 members each year. In addition to the regular membership process, we need to devise other strategies. One is through a sponsorship program. Andrew Stinson and I have talked about an APSA initiative regarding this, but I think in parallel, we can do our part individually for example by encouraging our PhD students and foreign colleagues

and friends to join APCG and APSA. I hope we will have enough time to discuss this idea or other ones at APSA. Our business meeting will take place on Thursday September 1, 6:30 pm, Loews Hotel, Commonwealth A1.

Let me finally remind you to apply for the APSA 2017 conference and to attend our individual members' presentations at the 2016 meeting.

I look forward to seeing you soon at APSA!

All the best,

Mamoudou Gazibo



## Award Winners, 2013-2014

### *APCG-African Affairs Award for Best Graduate Student Paper in 2013*

Milli Lake, Ph.D. (2014), University of Washington

“Organized Hypocrisy: External Actors and Building the Rule of Law in Fragile States.” Presented at 2013 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association

#### *Committee:*

Susanna Wing, Haverford College (Chair)

Fodei Batty, Quinnipiac University

James Hentz, Virginia Military Institute

The committee agreed unanimously on Lake’s paper as the most deserving of this award. She grapples with the conundrum that while the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) is often described as an archetypal collapsed state, in recent years some of the world’s most progressive judicial decisions against perpetrators of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) have been passed in the DRC. How is it that even in a state characterized by extreme fragility certain public goods prevail? Through analysis of military and civilian judicial cases, interviews with stakeholders and victims of SGBV, she argues that the very instability of local governance structures in DRC has opened the doors for domestic and transnational actors to exert direct influence on the judicial decisions. Her work is innovative, relies on extensive fieldwork under difficult conditions and has important policy implications for an understudied topic.

### *APCG-Lynne Rienner Award for Best Dissertation in 2013*

Matthew I. Mitchell, Queen’s University, Ph.D. Dissertation 2013

“Rethinking the Migration-Conflict Nexus: Insights from the Cocoa Regions in Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana”

#### *Committee:*

Lahra Smith, Georgetown University (chair)

Kristie Inman, National Intelligence University

Alice Kang, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Matthew Mitchell’s dissertation, Rethinking the Migration-

Conflict Nexus: Insights from the Cocoa Regions in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, examines under what conditions voluntary migration can and does cause violent conflict. Multiple causal mechanisms are explored, including state-society relations, land tenure regimes, variations in state capacity and exogenous shocks and varied autochthony discourses in particular contexts. Mitchell argues that whether voluntary migration spurs conflict depends on the local political economy. More precisely, he contends that closed and controlled land tenure regimes mitigate the use of divisive autochthony discourse, whereas open and laissez-faire land tenure regimes encourage the use of divisive autochthony discourse. In Ghana, integration of migrants, clear and somewhat rigid land tenure systems favoring indigenous individuals, a perception of the benefits of migrant labor economically and the relative authority of chiefs have worked to reduce the likelihood of conflict over land or belonging. In Côte d’Ivoire the reverse conditions created the context for the civil war and episodic conflict. Mitchell goes beyond this national-level analysis and also analyzes these variables in Ghana, focusing on the Ashanti and Western regions. He finds that there too the local control over land resources and the power of the chiefs in Ashanti has resulted in markedly less conflict over land and identity than in Western region. The dissertation is based on four months of fieldwork in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana involving a total of 171 interviews.

Mitchell’s dissertation makes a novel contribution to the fast-growing scholarship on conflict in Africa by focusing on how the interplay of migration and land tenure regimes influence conflict onset. International relations in particular has been too focused on ‘security’ understood in narrow geopolitical terms and on the role of natural resources (oil, gold, diamonds), and therefore unable to account for variations in local-level conflict. He also focuses on the element of voluntary migration, a type of migration often overlooked in the standard IR and comparative literature on Africa.

Not only does Mitchell’s dissertation make a novel contribution to the study of conflict, he executes an ambitious research agenda. The committee commends him for conducting a case study comparison, not only two countries but also focusing on intra-country variation. His demonstrated mastery over the technical aspects of the comparative case study method was noted by the committee to be exemplary.



## Recent and Continuing Committee Members and Chairs

### Best Book in 2014 Award

\* Laura Seay  
Colby College

Amy Poteete  
Concordia University

Kris Inman  
National Intelligence University

### Best Article in 2014 Award

\* Zachariah Mampilly  
Vassar College

Warigia Bownman  
University of Arkansas

Fodei Batty  
Quinnipac University

### APCG-Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation in 2014 Award

\* Elisabeth King  
New York University

Elliott Green  
London School of Economics

Dominika Koter  
Colgate University

### APCG-African Affairs Best Graduate Student Paper 2014/2015 Award

\*Megan Hershey  
Whitworth University

Matthew Mitchell  
St. Paul University

George Bob-Milliar  
Kwame Nkrumah University of  
Science and Technology

### APSA 2016 Committee

\* Melinda Adams  
James Madison University

\*Bruce Magnusson  
Whitman College

### ASA 2015 Committee

\* John Heilbrunn  
Colorado School of Mines

Martha Johnson  
Mills College

Lindsay Whitfield  
Roskilde University

### ISA 2015 Committee

\* Kevin S. Fridy  
University of Tampa

Milly Lake  
Arizona State University

Joseph Yinka Fashagba Landmark  
University

### Nominations Committee

\*Gretchen Bauer  
University of Delaware

Nicholas Cheeseman  
Oxford University

Peter Von Doepp  
University of Vermont

**\*committee chair**



## Member News, cont.

conditions facing hundreds of thousands of impoverished whites in Africa and offered policy recommendations that endorsed civilized labor, slum clearance, and committing the white urban poor to forced labor colonies—while anticipating the harsh antiblack segregationism introduced in 1948. Trafficking in the controversial literature of eugenics Carnegie research team members evinced a promiscuous belief that white racial degeneration was as much to blame for white poverty as the more accepted answers finance capital, late development, and “cheap” African labor.

Explaining race and class and the divergent origins of working class consciousness in Africa have been a distinctive pre-occupation for scholars who study racial capitalism. In this study, however, readers are compelled to think in a completely new way about the origins of white poverty and whose interests have been served by its existence. Poor whites have been and remain a defining force (and political entrepreneurs’ wet dream) in white minority-rule government; dragged out as a justification for segregation and then made to stand alone as the sole handmaidens of anti-black violence. Using black feminist analyses racial capitalism and knowledge production Willoughby-Herard convincingly reveals that some of apartheid’s staunchest allies were liberal foundations concerned with defending their

side of the global color line.

As an African American scholar, Willoughby-Herard confronted the long legacy of black Americans being banned, publicly disparaged, and outlawed when studying racial oppression in South Africa. She also had to confront the legacies of laws and practices in South Africa and the United States that literally prohibited black writers from photographing, publishing, or depicting white people and white life. De jure and de facto, material history and libidinal crisis mingle freely in this important new book in African American and African Studies.

**Andrew Novak**, an adjunct professor of international and comparative criminal justice at George Mason University, recently published two books. The first, *The Death Penalty in Africa: Foundations and Future Prospects* (Palgrave 2014) traces the history and practice of capital punishment in Africa from precolonial times to the present. The second, *The International Criminal Court: An Introduction* (Springer 2015) is a brief introductory text, primarily for non-lawyers, on the Court’s operations, including its tumultuous relations with the African continent.

Our resident Monkey Cage blog contributors, **Laura Seay** and **Kim Yi Dionne** lead the Monkey Cage in 2014’s most popular posts <[\[www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/12/31/the-most-popular-monkey-cage-posts-in-2014/\]\(http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/12/31/the-most-popular-monkey-cage-posts-in-2014/\)>, writing the 3rd, 4th, and 6th most popular blog posts. In addition, many APCG members have contributed posts to the blog since its inception.](http://</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)