Letter from the New Chair

Dear APCG Colleagues,

As has been the custom since the founding of the African Politics Conference Group over a decade ago, dues paying members of the APCG participated in regularly scheduled elections last fall to select new officers for our group. I was elected to succeed Beth Whitaker (University of North Carolina at Charlotte) as Chair of the APCG and Gina Lambright became our new Treasurer, replacing Carl LeVan (American University). Beth and Carl have been very diligent and responsible officers of our organization over the past two years, and I want to express my gratitude to both of them for their dedication.

Gina and I will serve two-year terms. We would both like to thank our opponents in those races, Amy Poteete (Concordia University) and Ngoni Munemo (Williams College), for agreeing to stand as candidates. I would also like to thank members of the APCG for participating in the electoral process. “Turnout” was very high which attests to the commitment of our members.

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Over the last decade, Africanist political scientists have witnessed many changes within the discipline and in the practice of field research. To begin, new theory development focused on conflict, state formation, and democracy has stimulated new research agendas. To keep pace with the new empirical developments on the continent, researchers have employed methodological tools and approaches in new ways. The methodological changes supported by the institutionalization of Qualitative and Multi-Method Research within APSA has encouraged many scholars to combine large-n studies with carefully selected comparative case studies relying on fieldwork. Other researchers have highlighted the importance of interpretive approaches, in particular, calling attention to the value of ethnographic immersion in the field for understanding politics. Meanwhile, the more recent institutionalization within APSA and publications on experimental methods has encouraged a growing number of researchers to conduct field experiments in Africa. Yet, internal and external field research funding has become increasingly scarce. And, at the same time, a host of new information and communication technologies, from cell phones to web 2.0, have both increased the range of information available from home and transformed the way information may be collected in the field.

This APCG symposium aims to extend a dialogue on the challenges and opportunities of field research on African politics in the 21st century. We initiated this conversation among 25 Africa-based and 6 US-based scholars during the APSA Africa 2012 Workshop held on “Local Communities and the State” in Gaborone at the University of Botswana from July 15-27, 2012. Typically these debates on the value and methods of field research
Field Research in Africa... (MacLean, Mosime & Hoon), continued from page 2

take place primarily among US-based faculty and graduate students. The diversity of our membership and intimacy of the workshop format opened up many significant issues and questions. Some of the participants compared the contemporary reality of research capacity and the expectations of our respective academic institutions in the US and different parts of Africa. Some of the workshop participants took a critical perspective toward field research and problematized it as a practice done by Westerners in Africa. This raised other questions and subsequent passionate exchanges: What does field research mean to an African researcher? Is the vantage point for field research for African Africanists different than for US academics? Can field research be disentangled from a hegemonic “Western” practice to become a skill for conducting research on African politics? The symposium reflects on and develops the discussion that took place at the APSA Africa workshop.

The contributors to this symposium include a small number of both co-leaders and participants from the workshop. The authors are diverse in terms of their disciplinary backgrounds, academic rank, institutional affiliations, gender, nationality, research interests, and methodological approaches.

Several important themes emerged from our workshop discussions that are developed by the contributors in the essays below. First, these researchers raise provocative questions about the positionality of researchers and how our respective locations within different structures of power may shape our investigations of African politics in the field. Mosime challenges us to think about the possibility of indigenizing field research in Africa and asks pointed questions about the politics of who studies what questions in the field. Paller highlights how his systematic and regular presence in the slums of Accra helped him overcome some of the skepticism by residents about his position as a white Western outsider. The essay by Ejukonemu and Odame interrogates how gender shapes their ethnographic observation of African widows and women leaders. Meanwhile, both of the pieces by Olaniyan and Kayuni and Mohmed underscore the politics of one’s institutional affiliation as a political appointee conducting field research and/or using consultancy contracts for field research. Remarkably, every one of these contributions challenges and complicates simple notions of objectivity in the study of African politics based on their experiences in the field.

The second theme that resonates across all of these contributions is the fundamental premise that field research is crucial for understanding African politics. The essays reveal how their primary data collection yielded rich analytic insights into the dynamic interactions between local communities and African states. For example, Paller shows how his consistent approach to ethnography enabled him to uncover the informal networks and process of decision-making in several Ghanaian slums. Notably, the value of field research is not singularly touted by those practicing ethnography. Based on his “insider” perspective, Houessou concludes that the collection of original public opinion data by the Afrobarometer network allows African citizens to have a voice and facilitates improved policymaking for the future.

Finally, the symposium contributors demonstrate that there is no single model or template for conducting field research in Africa. These authors have employed a variety of research designs and data collection techniques in their field sites. The majority of scholars mention both challenges and opportunities of doing fieldwork. Clearly, researchers of African politics face many trade-offs in the field. Our hope is that these contributions can help future scholars to think reflectively and critically about how to navigate the inevitable ups and downs of field research in Africa in the 21st century.
Concerns about (mis)representations of Africa and the Africans have come from diverse voices including the academy, the arts, and in debates around the global political economy of media information. In Africa, the call for transformation of the social sciences and the humanities in the study of Africa has been made since the 1970s through voices including Bernard Magubane, Archie Mafeje, Ali Mazrui and, more recently, African feminists such as Ifi Amadiume. The call, seeking for subalterns to speak and be heard, has been made everywhere else in the Global South through works such as those of Edward Said, Gyatri Spivak, Chandra Mohanty and Homi Bhabha. The call has also been made by scholars from the North.

At the heart of proposals for alternatives lies a potentially divisive but crucial encounter between self and other, alterity and extroversion, particularism and universalism, Africans and Africanists. Responses are also varied, including former South African president Thabo Mbeki’s call for an African Renaissance,1 Africanity and endogeny (Mafeje, 2000) and the focus of this essay, Indigenization of both theory and research methods, specifically fieldwork.

Indigenizing Fieldwork is both a must and a problematic. In adopting the anthropological method of fieldwork for doing research in Africa, all social sciences, including political science, cannot escape the baggage of a colonial discourse it carries. If it is to reinvent itself, fieldwork needs to shed its baggage of a lens for othering, be it of the Orient or the African. This is true in Africa as in other postcolonial contexts such as British India.

The APSA Africa Workshop 2012 dedicated some time to a discussion among the participating social scientists working in Africa to deeply reflect on this ‘indigenization’ of fieldwork. Two types of questions emerged: who speaks or defines the indigenous, and what indigenization should mean.

The ‘who’ questions centered on issues of positionality of the African academic vis-à-vis the study of Africa. By 1991, anthropology and its attendant fieldwork was declared dead in postcolonial Africa by the late leading Social Scientist, Archie Mafeje, at an African congress in Dakar. Mafeje proposed revolutionary and particularistic approaches to the study of the African context.2 For him, anthropology, and therefore fieldwork, could only liberate itself by becoming endogenous, ‘rooted’ in the affirmation of African experiences and ontologies (Mafeje, 2000).3 Endogeny is more than indigenizing methods, in which presumably, with enough reflexivity, both insider and outsider can participate. Alterity, studying of Africa by the other, is for him the nemesis of endogeneity (Adesina, 2008).4

Does this then mean only African scholars can play a role in the indigenizing of fieldwork? It is difficult to make this point without appearing to be calling for the study of Africa to be exclusively for African scholars, and seeming to disregard very academically sound contributions coming from scholars from the West and elsewhere who have dedicated their professional careers to the study of Africa. Ali Mazrui problematizes rootedness, and rather sees Africanity as an idea rather than a point of origin (Mazrui, 2002).

Issues of positionality of the African academic vis-à-vis the study of Africa were dismissed at the turn of the 21st century by scholarly debates that sought to move ‘beyond identities’ and “steer Africanist scholarship away from a debilitating focus on identities” (Diagne, Amina Mama, Melber and Nyamnjoh, 2001). Diagne et al. instead call for “enhanced sensitivity to complex African life-worlds and to the ever-shifting disguises of power.” For me, it is neither desirable nor useful to close the discussion on identity and questions of positionality. Identity politics cannot be ignored. However, I add that the project of indigenizing research methods needs to move beyond who speaks, to pedagogical questions about its substance.

The ‘what’ questions, which are the focus of this essay, explore the demarcation between ‘indigenous’ and the ‘other’, when it comes to methodologies. Do we have to demarcate an indigenous African fieldwork? A view expressed at the APSA Africa Workshop 2012 was that it is a universal imperative, regardless to where one does fieldwork, to be culturally sensitive. It is one thing to point

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Indigenizing Fieldwork... (Mosime), continued from page 4

out that fieldwork must reflect indigenous concerns; is it a related but separate project to call for the production of a different type of fieldwork that is an indigenous African fieldwork? Indigenizing fieldwork is by definition more than cultural sensitivity. As such, indigenous fieldwork would not be a mere adaptation of any other fieldwork approaches from a different epistemological background.

Considering the diverse space that is Africa, the dilemma is whether this means discarding common standards or re-defining standards of what qualifies as an indigenous approach. Standardized approaches used in data-sets such as the Afrobarometer allow us to compare similar questions across contexts. However, if we should go for common standards of what indigenous methodologies are, we risk erecting a new parochial discourse called ‘indigenous fieldwork’, bringing with it new loci for power in research.

If indigenizing fieldwork is understood to mean designing as many types of ‘fieldworks’ as are field sites, besides the obvious resource implications, we also run the risk of finding ourselves unable to speak to one another as a research community. The very basis for the APSA Africa Workshops is to “enhance the capacities of political scientists and their resources in East and West Africa while also providing a forum for supporting their ongoing research.” There is an emerging body of literature on Indigenous Research Methodologies (Smith, 1999; Chilisa, 2012). This literature is only as good as the positive changes it produces for the peoples of Africa and the Global South. Already, “research” is probably one of the dirtiest words in the indigenous world’s vocabulary, according to Linda Tuhiwai Smith (1999:1).

Fieldwork in Africa is thus faced with no option but transformation. Only through a social science that is endogenously driven, using methods that are shaped by the diverse African contexts, can we indigenize fieldwork.

In my view, in would be a fieldwork that is not just participatory, but communicative, shaped by local communities, local scholarship and the broader research community. The final frontier for indigenization of fieldwork for me, a point made earlier by Smith (1999) will be when local communities, more than local scholars, switch from being “the researched” to being “the researchers”.

Uncovering Informal Networks and Spontaneous Decision-Making: Field Research in African Slums

Jeffrey W. Paller, Doctoral Candidate, University of Wisconsin-Madison

My goal in African slums was the same as sociologist William Whyte Foote’s goal in an Italian-American slum in 1943—“to discover who the ‘big shots’ are and see how they function.”’ I spent nearly every day between August 2012 and August 2013 in three Ghanaian slums trying to figure out who the “big shots” were and how they contribute to local politics. As I worked, I realized that the ethnography I did was not “haphazard” and unruly but rather was guided by a norm of consistency. Because my actions were predictable, systematic, and regular, I was able to uncover the informal networks that underlie formal political institutions, the process of politics, and the spontaneity in local-level decision-making.

I spent my first day in Old Fadama, Ghana’s largest illegal slum, with a community leader and self-declared human rights activist who owns a tailoring shop. In those first three hours, he introduced me to a range of important community members. The cast of characters included opinion leaders, area chiefs, political party activists and “foot soldiers,” police officers, the chief Imam, and a man called “I Don’t Care.” I was told: “You will need him for security. He can calm the boys down.” My ongoing challenge was to sort out how these figures mattered politically (if at all), whether their roles could be generalizable to other slum communities, and if they had any relationship to formal state institutions.

The single most important thing for eliciting trust and gaining entrée was that the people I was working with knew that I was committed and regularly present in their community for a full year. When they introduced me to people, they usually explained, “He is not like these other outsiders and white people; he will be in our community for one year.” My ongoing presence lowered expectations of immediate money or gifts and made it much easier for me to walk through the slum safely. By coming to the community on a regular and consistent basis, residents recognized me and were willing to assist me with my project. In addition to facilitating entrée and trust with my informants, this methodology provided a systematic and

5 About the APSA Africa Workshops, http://www.apsanet.org/~africaworkshops/content_58417.cfm?navID=716

* A special thanks to the Social Science Research Council for generously funding this research.


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observable account of daily political life. I documented these observations each night in a field journal that now serves as an original empirical data set.

Politics (and everything, really) takes time: Process

Understanding the internal political organization of slums took time, trust, and simply being there on a daily basis. It required sitting for numerous haircuts, eating lots of bowls of fufu and nkantekwan, and experiencing many awkward moments. I used political events and activities like rallies, political party meetings, and community gatherings to structure my days. For example, the electoral commission allocated forty days for the new biometric voter registration exercise. The exercise dominated the political discourse and dictated people’s daily energies for the entire period. During this time, I visited more than twenty polling stations in Ashaiman. I witnessed the challenges that a new democracy faces: long lines, faulty machinery, and misinformation. But I also learned that Ghanaians care deeply about the process and have bought into the system. They have an important incentive to register—they all need the voter ID card to vote in the December 2012 election, but also as a source of identification for access to other resources, like bank loans. While the slum known as Ashaiman had relatively few problems, the process of registration was much more volatile in Ga Mashie. As one person explained to me, “Who wins elections for years to come depends on this exercise.” Due to the highly competitive electoral environment, campaign strategists for the governing party targeted polling stations that were likely to be frequented by their opponents and tried to prevent them from registering. The forty days of registration were extremely intense and understood by residents and foot soldiers as an “us-versus-them” affair—party activists from the ruling party attempted to “keep them out” while they “held their own ground.” Politicians used militant language and raised the level of fear. While the elections took place on December 7, 2012, the democratic process was a much more protracted affair and was taking shape several months before.

Everybody knows everybody: Networks

My most effective strategy to uncover the informal networks that underlie formal politics in Ghanaian slums was to visit political party headquarters and politician’s private offices on a regular basis. Spending time in the office of an MP aspirant exposed interesting political alliances: residents came in for microfinance loans; pastors came in with envelopes of cash seeking assistance in land disputes; businessmen visited after work; and NGO representatives who claimed to be non-partisan showed up constantly. All of the area assemblymen, locally-elected representatives who are officially non-partisan, worked directly for the MP aspirant. They sat at the conference table and devised strategies for winning the election. Two years earlier, the MP aspirant invested heavily into the campaigns of these local assemblymen; he knew that they would be crucial to build grassroots support for his own political ambitions. Democracy and winning elections is a much longer process than the polling day. Building political support begins long before the election date and is very strategic; informal networks serve as the core of the campaigns.

Being there when disaster strikes: Spontaneity

By being present regularly and consistently in the slum communities, I was often there when disaster struck. Community leaders demolished hundreds of structures in Old Fadama. A drunk driver drove his truck into an electricity pole in Ashaiman. A fire destroyed hundreds of structures in Old Fadama. A group of half-naked women stormed into the house of an informant to pour libations to a fetish priest (while I interviewed him), offering their popular support to a chief embroiled in a bitter dispute in Ga Mashie. All of these spontaneous events exposed the way that community leaders and residents make decisions, either for the benefit of the community or not. They showed me, as a researcher, which communities had the collective capacity to get things done.

For example, when a drunk driver drove his truck into an electricity pole, affecting the electricity of the entire neighborhood, the assemblyman rushed to the scene, residents made phone calls to the electricity company, and elders joined the scene and donated money. The pole was fixed and the electricity was back on by the end of the day. Alternatively, when the Accra Metropolitan Assembly needed to dredge a nearby lagoon and demolish structures along the waterway, the assembly reached out to an NGO with a long history serving as a bargaining partner to the community. But the process was not transparent—community leaders jockeyed for the position of spokesperson and used the exercise to extort money from residents; the NGO did not follow human rights procedures for evictions leaving affected residents homeless with no relocation options; and political parties used their clientelist linkages to keep community members quiet.

Spontaneous events can shift the decision-making path, affecting the politics of the community from that period

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forward. In insecure contexts like urban slums, residents rely on their personal networks for daily safety and personal security; these networks include local strongmen like “I Don’t Care” but also Assemblymen and other politicians. Without formal institutions to protect their interests, residents rely on politicians for access to state resources and to protect the existence of their communities. But this also means that decisions are often made spontaneously, outside the public view and in the “hidden transcript.”

I sometimes joke with my RCT friends that I study NCR—“Nonrandom chaotic reality.” While what I study


An “Insider’s” Perspective:
The Production and Value of Afrobarometer Survey Data
Richard Houessou, Administrator of Research Department, Institute of Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE), Benin

Introduction

The Afrobarometer Project is the only multi-country African survey on public attitudes on democracy, markets, and civil society that is produced by and for Africans. Unlike standard economic and governance indicators that are based on expert assessments, Afrobarometer surveys give people in Africa a voice. The Afrobarometer Network also conducts workshops and other capacity building initiatives in order to develop skills among African researchers in statistical analysis and report writing. In this essay, I will provide an insider’s view of the Afrobarometer network and data project, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the data and its value for research on African politics.

The Afrobarometer Network and Partner Countries

The Afrobarometer Network has two categories of partners: Core Partners, which are organizations that oversee and supervise work in various regions, and National Partners, which are the research organizations that implement all survey-related activities at the national level. The Institute of Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE, www.ierep.org) serves in the role of Core Partner for Francophone countries and serves as the National Partner for Benin. As an employee of IERPE, I have worked with Afrobarometer and have served in the role of National Partner and Associate Project Manager for Francophone countries since 2012.

How are countries involved in the process?

Countries are added to the network after they are assessed and meet certain criteria. These assessments evaluate the countries’ political environments to see if their citizens of voting age would be able to respond freely and openly to Afrobarometer’s questions. The assessment looks at the availability of census information for drawing a nationally representative sample. The process also includes examination of the countries’ media outlets for disseminating results and explores the capacity of local research organizations that could serve as national partners.

To date, four rounds of Afrobarometer surveys have been completed, providing comparative analysis of key issues. The first round of surveys covered 12 countries and was conducted between 1999 and 2000. The network has expanded in each subsequent round with 16 countries included in Round 2 in 2002, 18 covered in Round 3 in 2005, 20 included in Round 4 in 2008/2009, and 35 countries are projected to complete Round 5, which started in 2011 with a target completion date of early 2013.
How African Researchers Produce the Afrobarometer Data and the Challenges Faced During Field Research

Afrobarometer questionnaires are customized by the national partner under supervision of the Core Partner and then translated into the relevant local languages. The questionnaire includes approximately 95 standard questions that are asked in each country. Space is allotted for up to five questions dealing with issues of importance for the respective country. The questionnaire is designed so that it can be completed in about 45 minutes.

The next step is to choose interviewers who are fluent in the relevant local languages to conduct the face-to-face interviews. The interviewers are paid for their work, have university degrees, and may take part in multiple rounds of surveys if they are available during data collection periods.

One of the biggest challenges we face in collecting data is handling politically sensitive questions. The survey asks people, for example, to share their views on the nature of democracy in their countries, the functioning of local and central government institutions, their perceptions of national identity, their views on security, and the role of the African Union. Some citizens refuse to answer questions on politically sensitive topics. Interviewers and field supervisors, however, are trained to handle such situations and follow procedures to choose another person in another household.\(^1\)

In other cases, local authorities try to stop data collection. For example, in 2011, a local leader decided to stop the team I was managing in Benin. He said that the prefect had to provide the team authorization first, which required me to have a very difficult discussion with the prefect in his office. The prefect had to be convinced that the survey was non-partisan, and he only allowed us to continue after senior management from IERPE intervened.

When I need assistance, I call on the senior staff. A challenge for me is managing the language barriers created when people do not speak both English and French. Resolving problems can be particularly challenging because the majority of senior leaders in the Afrobarometer network do not speak French. However, in most instances, we have been able to communicate. For example, in Mali, the network leaders helped resolve questions on survey procedures since surveys could not be undertaken in the northern part of the country. After consultation with senior staff, we decided to calculate a weighted sample to approximate a representative survey.

\(^1\) See [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

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**Figure 1: Comparing Ugandans’ and Expert Ratings over time**

*Source: Afrobarometer, Freedom House, and Worldwide Governance Indicators.*
"An Insider’s Perspective"... (Houessou), continued from page 8

What We Have Learned from the Afrobarometer

After each round, results are presented to policy-makers, civil society activists, academics, political leaders, the media, donors, investors, and the general public. There are three to four disseminations in each country. These disseminations can serve as sources for new research projects. After the first dissemination for Round 5, the Friedrich Ebert and Konrad Adenauer Foundations asked IERPE to conduct a survey in order to ascertain the perceptions of youth on citizenship and their interest in public affairs in Benin. In the third dissemination, audience members suggested that survey results on the availability and accessibility of public services should be presented to the National Assembly before they completed 2014’s national budget planning.

Finally, I would like to mention that there is a lack of data in African countries that capture indicators over time, in various domains such as democracy, voice and accountability, corruption, social capital, interpersonal confidence, identity, etc. Figure 1 compares results from the Afrobarometer data with other indicators such as from Freedom House (FH) and World Wide Indicators. Remarkably, all three data have almost the same scope or curve over time. This means that in the absence of other data sources, Afrobarometer data can be used to explain a variety of issues.

Overall, the Afrobarometer Network is giving African citizens a voice and offering a perspective often overlooked. Furthermore, through dissemination, the network provides results on various indicators that can be used in the absence of expert data.

African Women in the Field:
How Observation Yields More Data than Numbers or Words Alone

Joyce A. M. Ejukonemu, Lecturer, Federal College of Education, (Technical) Bichi, Kano, Nigeria
Felicia Odame, Lecturer, University for Development Studies, Ghana

We are African women conducting research on African women in the field. We have found that the use of ethnographic observation in our respective research on widows in Nigeria, and women leaders in Ghana, revealed hidden facts that numbers or words could not expose. For instance, in Nigeria, all of the women interviewed would have been categorized in a quantitative survey questionnaire as widows but yet they demonstrated different choices in their affect, emotions, emphasis, attitudes, and facial expressions. Similarly, in Ghana, most of the women find it difficult to express their negative feelings about men in words. Much more was learned by interacting with and observing the women where they lived and worked on an everyday basis. Research in Africa cannot be done as in the Western world because apart from the high rate of illiteracy, in African rural areas it is difficult to separate culture from religion, or politics from culture, making a more holistic and ethnographic approach tremendously valuable.

A significant number of African women cannot read or write. This certainly makes the use of certain types of questionnaires and interviews less useful and/or accurate.

Yet, the high rates of illiteracy among African women are not the only reason that observation in the field is crucial for the understanding of African politics. Certain information can only be experienced and absorbed through observation or interaction; it simply cannot be described in words. For instance, seeing a widow in such pains that she is short of words communicates the message more effectively than any words can do. In one unforgettable focus group in Kurudu village in Nigeria, we noticed one widow was particularly withdrawn and completely silent. After much persuasion, we realized that she had lost her husband only six months back. She was still in shock. It would not have being possible to capture such grief on paper. After several observations, we realized that those women that had been widowed for years found it easier to talk compared to those who had been widowed for only a few months or years, and who remained silent.

Our observations during the process of obtaining approval and gaining entree for our research projects also revealed important dimensions of politics in these contexts. For example, the patriarchal system meant that before we were able to see the widows in Nigeria, we informed and paid homage to the council of elders. The experience in Ghana

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was that the women leaders were able to form independent groups, but due to their lack of confidence, they appointed males as secretaries. When researching into these women’s achievements, the women frequently preferred that we talk to their male secretaries. It was only after much repeated effort that some of the women would begin to talk about themselves.

Ethnography actually views every happening as a potential moment to gather evidence as well as rethinking the projects premises (Wedeen 2010). An ethnographer in the field has to use all the senses at the same time: listening to their narratives; watching their faces and that of others around them to read their expressions; connecting to them emotionally and simultaneously putting your feelings in check. We were able to observe, note, and go along with the frequent changes in the atmosphere in the field (Jan Blommaert and Dong Jie 2010). We strongly believe that the data we collected in the field is our subjective representation of the events and facts we found.

Our field research was subjective and clearly shaped by our own positions as highly educated African women. We had to overcome many challenges. One main challenge was communication. Most of the women in the rural areas had no formal education and as such found it difficult to speak or write English. The few that attempted to speak in English often translated their first language literally and thereby misinterpreted what they meant to communicate. Their statements contained calques (or literal translations). We solicited the assistance of a male interpreter. We were insiders and outsiders at the same moment.

Their stories were told in parts: slow, long, circumspect utterances; fast, emotional or agitated speech; and, long spontaneous narrative elaborated with unsolicited information. The stories were rarely recounted enthusiastically or in great detail. The women’s mood would swing wildly and unexpectedly as well. One minute they were smiling; the next minute, they were rolling in tears.

During the course of our research, our own values changed after we arrived in the field. As women, our hearts went out to these widows, many of whom were poor, uneducated and lost. Suddenly we were not only interested in learning about these women as neutral, detached or objective observers, but also anxious to render some form of assistance to ease their pains. We gave out financial assistance. Our presence unquestionably influenced the widows in the sense that it rekindled some kind of hope in them. Similarly, the women leaders in Ghana said they were encouraged by our interest in their activities and roles. However, we were conscious to be concerned, and, yet, careful not to let our emotions take the best out of us, bearing in mind that human are not objects without any feelings.

The value of holistic observations should not be ignored in social science research and cannot be over emphasized. We saw how historically African women have suffered several forms of subordination. The women leaders and widows lack of economic empowerment further exposes them to oppression. Our experience shows that staying with other women for long periods of time made them gain confidence in us, enabling them to trust us with their secrets, or to seek our opinions on intimate matters without hesitation.

References:


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Wearing Two Hats: Conducting Field Research as a Government Official
Azeez O. Olaniyan, Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria, and currently a Postdoctoral Scholar, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

Introduction
As students of African politics, we live our lives learning about and doing field research as one of the fundamentals of our work. We tend to see the field as our source of information where we go as anonymous information gatherers. But if we find ourselves in a government position, our status will undergo a fundamental change, particularly in the eyes of the people we have been researching. This is particularly true in many contexts in Africa where government officials are regarded as ‘VIPs’. Thus, when an academic becomes a government employee, two options are available. The first is to forget about the academic calling and get immersed in the political work until it is completed. Here, you literally drop your ‘gown’ at the campus gate and put it on again only when (and if) you resume academic position (many may never come back).

The second choice is to wear two hats – to serve at once as an academic and a government official. Here, you must struggle to navigate and reconcile the tensions between the gown and town.

My experience in Nigeria is that most academics on government appointment opt for the first option and leave their academic positions behind. In my case however, I chose the second alternative and wore two hats at the same time. I saw my government appointment as an extension of my academic work and thus viewed my political constituency as afield to be researched. This choice brought many benefits but was also packed with numerous challenges. This essay briefly outlines some of the advantages and disadvantages of conducting research as a sitting government appointee, offering strategies for mitigating the problems associated with such research.

The Benefits of an Insider-Researcher
When you serve as a political office holder, you enjoy a number of benefits. First, you become an insider to the workings of the government. When you choose to wear the academic hat as well, you then become an insider-researcher where you have access to all kinds of information hitherto hidden from an outsider-researcher. In contrast, most other academics are far removed from the inner workings of government in Africa, especially so in settings where freedom of information is absent. Because most scholars (Africans and non-Africans alike) do not understand the cultural and environmental nuances involved in running a government in Africa, government officials distrust academics. The end result of the distrust is that our cumulative knowledge of how government operates in Africa is very low. Without a doubt, serving as a government appointee increases our understanding and hence expands the level of trust possible with other government officials. Our academic horizon is fundamentally enlarged.

In addition to becoming an insider to the government bureaucracy, you also become more knowledgeable about the politics on the ground in your local constituencies. Serving as a government official thus makes the field much more accessible for research. In my own case, serving as a local government administrator brings me closer to the people at the grassroots. Even before asking any questions, I know the problems and the politics going on at the local level. The people will pour out their problems to the administrator much more than they will to an ordinary academic questionnaire. This is because they believe the government administrator will more likely solve their problems when compared to the exclusively academic researcher.

In the end, I have access to much more primary data. The advantage of this is that my writing becomes more credible because I am able to combine this rich data with my direct work experience in government. What I have come to understand, however, is that the gulf between the theoretical ideal and the lived practical reality is quite wide.

The Challenges
While direct participant research as a government appointee has many benefits, there are also some fundamental challenges to be confronted. First is the risk that the status of the researcher will influence the outcome of the research. For example, if a respondent thinks that the information solicited will likely influence the chances of future material gain, he or she might embellish or outright falsify the information. In other words, a local constituent making a request to the local government administrator will probably paint a different picture than when respond-
Wearing Two Hats... (Olaniyan), continued from page 11

ing to a question by an academic researcher. The expected gains are different.

Secondly, the government official faces the difficult ethical question of using classified government documents for research because one has access to them by virtue of the opportunity provided by his or her appointment. In addition, there is the limitation to the extent one can make use of the data collected while serving because if the data portrays the government you serve in a bad light, you will be betraying the principles of your political appointment. You are expected to protect and project the positive image of the government you are serving. The person wearing two hats thus faces several serious practical and ethical problems.

Strategies for Mitigating the Problems Experienced when Wearing Two Hats

Fundamental as the above challenges are, they are not insurmountable. One way of overcoming these problems is the ability and readiness to constantly cross-check facts as presented. For example, an administrator can easily detect the lie in respondent falsifying information to get concessions from him by cross-checking facts before him. However, the most fundamental way to successfully wear two hats is to uphold the ethics of academic professionalism. This involves good observation, deep reflection, probing minds, reading between the lines, and objective analysis of issues.

In conclusion, one cannot fully grasp of the nature of African politics without knowing the inner workings of government. And, one cannot know the inner workings without serving there. While it is true that not all researchers will work within government, the few who have done so have the fundamental task of telling how things work. That is why it is important for those who have the opportunity to attempt to wear two hats and see the political work as an extension of our academic work.

Field Research for Hire: the Politics of Consultancies

Happy Kayuni, Doctoral Candidate, Political Studies Department, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
Adel Saleh Mohmed, Assistant Professor, Sohag University, Egypt

Introduction

The international economic downturn currently being experienced has affected many dimensions of social life, and academia has not been spared. Some critics have levelled a general complaint about the heavy business and market-oriented approaches that higher institutions of learning are pursuing in order to guarantee their survival. One specific area within academia that is also feeling the brunt of this economic down turn is post-graduate field research funding. While field research funds have dwindled and become more scarce, African and non-African postgraduate research students have discovered another option: the field research consultancy. A field research consultancy is a research project where the investigator(s) are hired through a contractual agreement by an organization outside of the university (i.e., a donor, corporation, government agency) to conduct a particular study during a specified time period. The politics of consultancies was discussed heatedly by participants at several points during the APSA Africa 2012 Workshop in Gaborone. This essay acknowledges some of the advantages of consultancies but then argues that researchers, particularly graduate students, must be cautious about the potential dangers.

Potential Opportunities of Field Research Consultancies

Field research consultancies offer several potential opportunities for scholars. To begin, this arrangement ensures that both parties accomplish their goals: academics are able to conduct their own research (whilst earning enough money to live and travel to the field), and the contracting organization gets the information that it needs. This kind of an agreement also ensures close collaboration between universities and private industry, which historically has not always been ideal. Consultancies facilitate the participation of experts in highly specialized areas that neither public nor private organizations are likely to be able to retain as full-time permanent staff.
Field Research for Hire... (Kayuni and Mohmed), continued from page 12

Often, engaging postgraduate students is also much cheaper than paying professional researchers ensconced at specialized research institutions. Consultancies can also lead to full-time, permanent employment in some cases. Postgraduate students often gain experience, develop personal contacts, and build trust during the consultancy period, and ultimately, may be hired later on by the contracting institution.

Challenges of Consultancies

While these opportunities seem quite good, several challenges need to be acknowledged. The problems begin with the actual process of hiring the research consultant. The contracting institution normally explains in great detail what research investigations are demanded as well as the required output. Researchers lack genuine autonomy, and ‘thinking outside the box’ is highly constrained by the consultancy process. Contracting organizations usually have strategic plans in which their public goals, mission, and values are clearly spelled out. Hiring a field research consultant is meant to reinforce their already stated agenda.

From the point of hire, and throughout the consultancy, the client-consultant relationship in a market-oriented framework is not ideal for theoretically-based knowledge generation. The problem is that as someone aiming to provide a critical perspective, it is easy to contradict the client organisation’s publicly stated position. Pure academic research provides room for critical thinking even if the findings challenge the conventional wisdom. This freedom may not be available, however, with established contracting institutions that are constrained to operate in a particular manner. Practitioners and policymakers are not always comfortable when academic researchers challenge the conventional practices.

When a challenging analysis could be put forward, it is clear that the power relations are skewed in favour of the contracting institution at the expense of the student. Some institutions even deliberately engage field researchers with the sole intent of legitimizing a particular approach or intervention they target. Consequently, when the findings seem to point elsewhere, they may put undue pressure on the researcher to revise the interpretation of some of their findings. This puts into question the independence of the researcher and hence the credibility of the field research.

Another problem worth noting is the tension between knowledge and profit generation. For academic research, the ultimate motive is knowledge generation but the consultancy arrangement brings in the monetary motive. This is difficult for relatively junior and often less experienced postgraduate students to effectively balance. Established professors or more senior, professional researchers face a different situation because, over the years, they have learned to balance these competing motivations. More importantly, for seasoned researchers, the power relations with the contracting client are more equally balanced, unlike the students who are likely to be more consistently disadvantaged.

Conclusion

Our conclusion is that field research consultancies have several advantages for academic faculty and graduate students, but they should be approached with extreme caution. We advise that before being engaged in such an arrangement, the aforementioned challenges should be well clarified, and both parties should be called upon to suggest how these potential challenges might be avoided or rectified. If this is not done, then we suggest that the faculty member or student should not be engaged at all in a field research consultancy. University education highly values critical thinking and independent research endeavors. The quality of our publications will define our identity and future opportunities for the long-term. Hence, we should not allow the short-term lure of publishing consultancy reports and monetary gains to distort our goals.
As scholars engaged in the research of one of the most politically volatile regions in the world, Africanists have benefited a great deal from conceptual and methodological innovations in the quantitative measurement of democracy that have occurred over the past few decades, and the vibrant academic discourse that has ensued.\(^1\) The proliferation of data sets that measure democracy, including widely-used ordinal scores such as Freedom House (Freedom House 2010) and Polity IV (Marshall and Jaggers 2011), and nominal indicators such as Przeworski et al. (2000) and Boix (2003), has enhanced the ability of researchers to select and utilize indices that more closely mirror their understanding and conceptualization of democracy.

Jay Ulfelder’s Democracy/Autocracy Data Set, first created in 2007, is a valuable addition to this important enterprise, which records the onset and end of episodes of democratic and authoritarian government in 160 countries between 1955 and 2010. Defining democracy as a form of government in which a free citizenry fairly chooses and routinely holds accountable its rulers, Ulfelder creates a dichotomous measure that captures whether a country has met the set of minimal requirements necessary to be classified as a democracy.\(^2\) The categorical nature of the index enables the researcher to focus more extensively on transformative events rather than incremental changes in the polity, and in so doing, employ statistical techniques such as event history models that are especially well-suited at examining regime transitions (Ulfelder and Lustik 2007). In addition, the data set includes variables such as consecutive years of democracy, total episodes of democratic transition, longest previous episode of democracy, and alternation in leadership, that can be of value for examining the historical legacy of democracy within a polity.

Despite these important contributions, this review presents two critiques of the data set that may be of concern. The first is related to the extent to which Ulfelder’s conceptual discussion of democracy is truly reflected in his data generation process. While Ulfelder presents a rather detailed discussion of the conditions he deems necessary to be classified a democracy in the data set codebook and some of his published articles (for example, Ulfelder 2007), he does not leverage them to independently assess whether a country is democratic or autocratic: rather, he predominantly relies upon two component variables within the Polity IV data set (EXREC – executive recruitment, and PARCOMP – competitiveness of political participation) when they are at best partially reflective of his own criteria. The fact that external sources of information were consulted only when there was a divergence between the new index and existing dichoto-

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\(^1\) For a schematic review and discussion of indices of democracy, see Munck and Verkuilen (2002) and Cheibub et al. (2010).

\(^2\) The conditions that Ulfelder consider are: 1) Are the officials who actually rule chosen through elections? 2) Are those elections competitive? 3) Is the political process broadly inclusive? A country is only categorized as a democracy when all three of these criteria are met in tandem with each other.
mous measures of democracy only serves to strengthen our doubts as to whether the data set is as conceptually innovative as was suggested.³

The second concern is related to coding rules and the reliability of the coding process. Ulfelder’s coding rules for the key variables are generally transparent and explicit. However, there are some observations which clearly violate the coding rules presented: for example, the rules specify that regimes are coded as democratic only when the EXREC variable is higher than “6”, and the PARCOMP variable exceeds a value of “3” or is in the undefined category of “0”. But Ulfelder’s index codes Tanzania under Mkapa and Kikwete as a democracy between 1995 and 2010, when the PARCOMP score for Tanzania was only “2” in the time period. Similarly, Kibaki’s Kenya is coded as an autocracy from 2008 to 2010, when both the EXREC variable and PARCOMP variable exceeded the required values. If the categorization of these countries were an unfortunate mistake, then the reliability of the coding process comes into question. If these were not a mistake but rather a result of an “alternate” and “under-specified” coding rule, then concerns can be raised as to the transparency of the coding scheme in general; what overrules the specified criteria, and how are final decisions rendered?

These critiques suggest a few ways in which Ulfelder’s data set could be revised and improved. First, it may be necessary to undertake a new round of independent review to ensure that country codings do closely mirror Ulfelder’s conceptualization of democracy. This would also help to minimize errors. Second, it may be necessary to more clearly elaborate upon alternate coding rules that may change the outcome of country codings, and specify why the results might change. These changes would boost confidence among users of the data set, which, as noted earlier, is a welcome contribution to the study of democratic/autocratic transitions.

References


³ Another cause for concern is the high correlation between Ulfelder’s index and other dichotomous indices of democracy. For example, the correlation between the index and Przeworski et al. (2000) is in excess of 91%. While some may take this high correlation as support for the validity of the index, it may conversely suggest that the concept measured by the new index is almost indistinguishable from existing measures.
On the steering committee, Gina and I join Leo Arriola (University of California-Berkeley), the Vice Chair and Danielle Resnick (UNU-WIDER), the Secretary, who each have a year remaining on their two-year terms. Additional appointed members of the steering committee include Michael Nelson (Wesleyan University), our newsletter editor, and Jeff Paller (University of Wisconsin-Madison) our website manager. As you may recall from the previous newsletter, Jeff announced his intention to step down as website manager so that he could concentrate more fully on his dissertation. I am happy to report that Zach Warner, a first year graduate student in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will be taking over for Jeff in April. Since they are both at the same university (which also hosts the website) that should make the transition process go very smoothly. I want to express my great appreciation to Jeff for all that he has done for APCG. The design and content of our website owe a great deal to his expertise.

Thanks to Beth’s great leadership and the work of those officers who preceded her, I have the privilege of chairing an organization that is in solid financial shape; is well represented at many major conferences including the APSA, the ASA, and the ISA; has a robust list of annual awards to recognize scholarly achievement; and continues to add members on a weekly basis. My goals for the next two years are to sustain that momentum, but also to encourage greater scholarly and professional collaboration among existing members. Many members are already involved in collaborative endeavors: they are building datasets, teaching courses together in Africa, or conducting experiments. As the technology to communicate with the African continent become faster and cheaper, the opportunities to form cross-national teams of researchers to engage in inter-disciplinary initiatives will only expand. Owing to the breadth of our expertise, our diverse skillsets, and our different backgrounds, we are well placed to participate in that process and to make lasting contributions to the study of politics in, and on, Africa.

Best,

Anne Pitcher
University of Michigan
From the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

I greatly appreciate all of the support we have received for the new directions we are taking this newsletter. As many of you already know, we agreed at our last meeting to changes in the distribution schedule for the newsletter. It will now come out twice per year, in February and September, roughly coordinated with the start of the academic terms for many of us.

This is the second issue to feature a symposium of articles. Our guest editor, Lauren M. MacLean (Indiana University), has done a fantastic job guiding the authors in providing us with a series of thoughtful essays on fieldwork. Danny Choi (UC Berkeley) has provided yet another great dataset review, under the editorial guidance of Leo Arriola (UC Berkeley). In the future we may add articles on teaching and other areas of interest to our members.

It is always thrilling to read the impressive list of publications and wide range of activities and accomplishments of our members. On these snowy New England days, it gives me just the motivation I need to put away the skis and finish the next chapter of my book.

Thanks for the inspiration!

Mike Nelson
Wesleyan University

Treasurer’s Report for December 2012 - February 8, 2013

APCG has $4,034.98 in its Citibank checking account, and $1590.95 in its PayPal account. These balances reflect APCG expenses in December including, $537.20 for the social event at the African Studies Association meeting in Philadelphia and $31.71 is bank and Paypal service fees. The balances also include deposits made in December and January in the amount of $710 for dues payment. Dues are $10 annually and may be paid through Paypal or by check. In Paypal, send your payment to apcgpayment@gmail.com. Please include your full name in the notes. If you prefer to pay by check, please make your check out to APCG and mail your payment to: APCG c/o Gina Lambright, PO Box 5805, Takoma Park, MD 20913-5805. I began my term as treasurer in December and appreciate the opportunity to serve the organization. If you have any questions about the status of your dues payment, please email me at gina.lambright@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Gina Lambright
George Washington University

Call for 2013 APSA Africa Workshop Fellows

APSA and the Institute for Governance and Development (IGD) in Burkina Faso are pleased to announce a Call for Applications from individuals who would like to participate in a workshop on “Religion and Politics in Comparative Perspective.” The two-week workshop will be held from July 1-12 at the IGD’s Center for Democratic Governance in Ouagadougou. The organizers, with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will cover all the costs of participation for up to 26 qualified applicants. Since this year’s workshop will be a dual-language program, both French-speaking and English-speaking scholars are welcome to apply.

The workshop will be led Dr. Einas Ahmed (Centre d’Études et Documentation Économiques, Juridiques et Sociales, Sudan), and Professors Augustin Loada (University of Ouagadougou and IGD, Burkina Faso), Mahaman Tidjani-Alou (University Abdou Moumouni, Niger), Leonardo Villalón (University of Florida, USA), and Kenneth Wald (University of Florida, USA).

The deadline for applications is March 15, 2013. Program information and application instructions can be found online at www.apsanet.org/africaworkshops.
APCG Best Article Award in African Politics
Comparative Political Studies, 44 (2011): 1370-1396.

Committee
John F. Clark, Florida International University
Jaimie Bleck, University of Notre Dame
Karen Ferree, University of California, San Diego

Adida’s article combines new ideas and theory with empirical sophistication. Her article asks an important and unexplored question about immigrant integration in Africa: “Why do some immigrant minorities in the developing world integrate into their host societies whereas others face exclusion and hostility?” Adida answers this question by hypothesizing that cultural proximity between the host and immigrant communities drives immigrant exclusion. She argues that cultural similarities can motivate community leaders to emphasize group boundaries in order to maintain their own financial and social benefits. However, when immigrants share few cultural traits with the host community, leaders face fewer incentives to emphasize group differences and host country members have fewer reasons to fear encroachment. To test this relationship, Adida studies Nigerian Hausa and Yoruba migration to three capital cities in West Africa: Niamey, Cotonou, and Accra. This research strategy allows her to conduct single-group cross-country and single-country cross-group comparisons. Through analysis of survey and interview data, Adida finds that immigrants are more attached to their “immigrant identity” when they are most culturally similar to the host. In areas of high-cultural overlap, interviews with community leaders reveal evidence of an institutional mechanism that incentivizes immigrant attachment and immigrant leaders’ punishment of defectors.

Honorable Mentions continued on page 20

APCG Best Book Award
Adrienne LeBas, From Protest to Parties. Party-Building and Democratization in Africa.
Oxford University Press, 2011.

Committee
Terrence Lyons, George Mason University
Lise Rakner, University of Bergen
Catherine Boone, University of Texas-Austin

From Protest to Parties explains in a lucid manner why strong opposition parties emerge in some “democratizing” or hybrid regimes, while other parties remain weak and fragmented. Drawing on social movement theory, LeBas argues against the well-established view that incumbent strength is the decisive variable for authoritarian persistence. Instead, she points to weakness of opposition mobilization, which in turn is dependent on choices made by the opposition and the historical resources it holds. This excellent book highlights why opposition mobilization does not happen at every – or even most – instances of a weak incumbent. LeBas reminds us that opposition parties can indeed be built through conflict and that democratization often happens through contention and mass mobilization, not by negotiation. Nevertheless, as LeBas shows, mobilization is a double-edged sword and this form of opposition mobilization may in fact also harm democratization efforts. Applying a historical path-dependency analysis of three cases, Zambia, Kenya, and Zimbabwe, LeBas convincingly demonstrates that conflict and polarization forge stronger parties, but also increase the likelihood of authoritarian retrenchment and violence. Her conclusions are bold, but it may be argued that recent political events in sub-Sahara Africa have proved LeBas correct. Referring to central issues in comparative democratization linked to regime legacy, path dependency, political mobilization, and the role of parties in democracy, LeBas book holds great value outside African politics as well.

APCG Best Book Honorable Mentions
Krijn Peters, War and the Crisis of Youth in Sierra Leone.

Peters seeks to explain how and why so many members of Sierra Leone’s young, rural underclass came to swell the
ranks of the rebel forces, the motives of the many young people who made up the guerrilla army’s rank and file, why the RUF was able to remain intact for over a decade, and patterns in the RUF mistreatment of civilians in the rural areas. Peters’ main source of new evidence is interviews with RUF cadres themselves. His interpretations lead him to a penetrating analysis of socio-economic conflicts and tensions in rural Sierra Leone. Land shortage, exploitative relations of production in agriculture, and the abuse of neocustomary authority by rural landholding elites at the village level severely penalized youth, most notably those not linked to well-established landholding families. Peters’ main argument is that the war must be understood in large part as a revolt of these young, marginalized, rural Sierra Leoneans. The ideologies, organizational practices, and activities of the RUF begin to make sense when understood as a challenge to the rural world of exploitative clientelism that existed beyond the guerrilla fighter’s bush camps. Peters’ arguments about the depth of the rural crisis rings true, and implications for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration are clearly presented. This is an engrossing read and a vital contribution to conflict studies and our understanding of African politics.


Based on extensive fieldwork and hundreds of interviews of residents and activists in the impoverished townships, Zuern draws a picture of the process and consequences of South Africa’s democratization. She argues that formal democracies have a wider range of tools than authoritarian regimes to “discipline dissent” by demobilizing and delegitimizing such movements. The story of the South African “miracle” and the difficult struggle for justice since the transition from apartheid makes this book essential to understanding one of Africa’s most powerful states. At the level of theory, this book raises profound questions about the need to incorporate socioeconomic rights and substantive democracy in any consideration of regime type and reminds us that contention and conflict are fundamental to democratic processes. Successful and sustainable democracy, Zuern argues, requires working toward greater socio-economic equality. The South African transition illustrates how narrow, impoverished definitions of democracy may generate new ways to be indifferent to the poor and sustain economic polarization rather than serve as a force for social justice. The Politics of Necessity illustrates how theoretically informed empirical research on Africa can engage in the major debates in comparative politics and social justice. This book is exemplary in how it both brings wider scholarly debates to help us understand African cases and how research on African political processes can contribute to theory development.

APCG Award Winners 2011 - 2012

**APCG-African Affairs Award for Best Graduate Student Paper**
Robin Harding, PhD Candidate, New York University, “One for the Road: Voting for Public Goods in Ghana”

**APCG-Lynne Rienner Award for Best Dissertation**

**APCG Best Article Award**

**APCG Best Article Honorable Mentions**


**APCG Best Book Award**

**APCG Best Book Honorable Mentions**

**APCG Best Article Honorable Mentions**


Roessler innovatively brings together two major literatures on African politics: civil wars and on coups d’état. He asks: “Why do rulers employ ethnic exclusion if it increases the risks of civil war?” In response, he shows that Africa’s personalist rulers understand perfectly well the need to patronize the leading representatives of ethno-regional constituencies other than their own. A cabal of ethno-regional barons is the logical way of producing stable rule African polities where ethnicity has become politicized. But the risk that personal rulers face is that of generating an “internal security dilemma that destroys trusts and makes eliminating one’s rival a virtual imperative.” This risk leads rulers to follow a strategy of excluding rivals—especially former co-conspirators from other ethnic groups—from the heights of power and from access to patronage. Thus, he finds “that in sub-Saharan Africa, ethnic exclusion substitutes civil war risk for coup risk.” He also provides an alternative explanation for why a disproportionate percentage of civil wars start on the rural periphery of African states—namely, they are launched by former regime loyalists who have been excluded.


The authors apply a powerful research design to new data collected in Uganda to estimate the impacts of war on both genders. Arguing that abduction into the Lord’s Resistance Army was near random and thus generated a natural experiment, the authors compare male and female abductees with non-abducted peers on a wide range of economic, social, and psychological outcomes. They show that abduction produces social and psychological problems, especially for females. Moreover, time away from civilian education and labor markets generates human capital deficits – especially for men, who typically have greater opportunities than women in these areas. However, the authors also find that post-conflict hostility is generally low. Returning participants largely seek to avoid conflict and to reintegrate peacefully into their communities. Most communities and families welcome back their lost children. They authors also document surprising resilience amongst abductees. Altogether, their results suggest that while the impacts of war on participants are real, ex-combatants are not “damaged pariahs who threaten social stability.”

**APCG Calls for Nominations**

The **APCG-Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation Award Committee** invites submissions for the best dissertation in African politics 2012. The award carries a prize and is intended to recognize outstanding scholarship in African politics. Only one dissertation may be nominated per department. Dissertations that were completed and accepted in the 2012 calendar year are eligible for this award. This year’s selection committee consists of Martha Johnson, Mills College; Amy Poteete, Concordia University (chair); and Laura Seay, Morehouse College. Departments are requested to submit a letter of nomination and an electronic copy of the dissertation to apcg.prize@gmail.com. The **deadline for nominations is March 1, 2013** (Friday).

The **APCG-African Affairs Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee** seeks nominations for the 2012/13 award. The award carries a cash prize and is intended to recognize outstanding scholarship in African politics. Eligible papers must be nominated by a member of the APCG (self nominations not allowed), written by a graduate student, and presented at the 2012 APSA, 2012 ASA, 2013 ISA, or 2013 MPSA annual meeting. The papers cannot have a co-author with a Ph.D. This year’s committee consists of Claire Adida, University of California, San Diego, Robin Turner, Butler University, and Daniel Young, Georgia State University. To nominate a paper, please send an email with the paper’s author, title, and the conference name to the committee chair, Claire Adida, at claire@adida.net. The **deadline for nominations is April 30, 2013.**
The APCG Best Article Committee seeks nominations for the 2012 award. All articles published in peer-reviewed journals in 2012 are eligible. This year’s committee includes John Heilbrunn, Colorado School of Mines, Alice Kang, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and Andrew Lawrence, University of Edinburg. Please send the full abstract and, if possible, a copy of the article itself to the committee chair, John Heilbrunn, at jheilbru@mines.edu. The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2013.

The APCG Best Book Award Committee invites nominations for the 2012 award. To be eligible, books must have been published in English in 2012. Books should analyze an issue related to political science or international relations with special reference to Africa. The book should employ methodological techniques regarded as appropriate by any subgroup of contemporary political scientists. Edited volumes are not eligible. Translations of books written in a foreign language qualify if the translation was published in 2012. This year’s committee consists of Michelle Kuenzi, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Rachel Riedl, Northwestern University, and Scott Straus, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Please send nominations to the committee chair, Scott Straus, at sstraus@wisc.edu.

Copies of nominated books must then be sent to each committee member at the addresses listed below no later than April 30, 2012.

Michelle Kuenzi
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy Bx 5029
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5029

Rachel Beatty Riedl
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
Northwestern University
208 Scott Hall, 601 University Place
Evanston, IL 60208

Scott Straus
Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Wisconsin, Madison
110 North Hall, 1050 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706

Conferences & Events

Conferences and Events are mentioned in the order in which they will take place. - Editor

The Politics of Institutional Reform in Sahelian Africa

Presented by
The Sahel Research Group at the Center for African Studies and the Department of Political Science, University of Florida

21 February 2013
Reitz Union meeting room 286

Participants:
Mahaman Tidjani-Alou, LASDEL and Université Abdou Moumouni, Niger; Augustin Loada, CGD and Université de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Ismaïla Madior Fall, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal; Zakaria ould Ahmed Salem, Université de Nouakchott, Mauritania; Lucien Toulou, EISA-Tchad; Moumouni Soumano, Université de Bamako, Mali; Leonardo A. Villalón, University of Florida.

Schedule:
8:30 Welcome and Introduction
8:45 – 10:00 Mauritania and Senegal
10:15 – 11:30 Burkina Faso and Niger
11:45 – 1:00 Chad and Mali
Lunch Break
2:30 – 4:00 Panel Discussion: The Resilience of Institutions in the Current Crisis

This conference will address the question of whether the politics of creating and reforming institutions, most often in the name of democracy, have weakened or strengthened states across the African Sahel. It is composed of six paper presentations and a concluding roundtable discussion by distinguished political scientists regarding their respective
Conferences & Events, continued from page 21

countries: Mauritania, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Mali. The presentations highlight the politics of institutional reform in each country, analyzing its effects on the coherence of the state in the era of democratization. The conference is free and open to the UF community and the broader public.

*Translation will be provided for presentations in French.


Sponsored by the Minerva Initiative grant to the University of Florida

APCG at the Western Political Science Association in Hollywood, March 28-30, 2013

We invite you to an APCG Social Event at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association (WPSA). On Thursday, March 28, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., join us for happy hour at Loteria Grill, 6627 Hollywood Blvd. (http://loteriagrill.com/locations/hollywood.html), not far from the conference hotel. APCG will provide plenty of appetizers; people can order drinks and additional food on their own budgets. Please RSVP to Kim Yi Dionne (kdionne@tamu.edu) by Monday, March 25, if you plan to attend.

On Thursday morning, we will have a roundtable discussing Leo Arriola’s new book, *Multiethnic Coalitions in Africa: Business Financing of Opposition Election Campaigns*. There is also an African Politics panel Thursday afternoon, and a few African Politics papers presented on various Comparative Politics panels. We hope to see you there!

International Studies Association, April 3-6, 2013

APCG-Sponsored Panels

   Chair: Carl Death (University of Aberystwyth)
   Discussant: Mvuselelo Ngcoya (University of KwaZulu-Natal)
   Thursday, April 4th, 8:15AM-10:00AM
   Room: Mission 3, Parc 55 San Francisco

2. Social actors in African politics: Unearthing Patterns of Political Engagement and Interaction with States
   Chair: Peter VonDoepp (University of Vermont)
   Discussant: Leonardo Arriola (University of California, Berkeley)
   Thursday, April 4th, 10:30AM -12:15PM
   Room: Mission 3, Parc 55 San Francisco

Midwestern Political Science Association, April 11-14, 2013

APCG Social Gathering at MPSA, Friday April 12 @ 7 pm
Co-sponsored with the Program of African Studies at Northwestern University

Tentative Location: The Grill Room Chop House & Wine Bar at 33 W. Monroe Street.
Hors d’oeuvres provided, cash bar.
Please contact Rachel Beatty Riedl at r-riedl@northwestern.edu to RSVP by March 15

There are a number of *Africa-themed panels at MPSA* this year, including:

1. Women in African Politics: Participation and Representation
2. Coups, Insurgency and Identity in Africa
3. Accountability and Elections in Africa
4. African Transformations in Representation through Revenue
5. New Perspectives on Aid from Africa and the US
6. Political Institutions and Development in Africa
7. Land Politics and Traditional Leadership in Africa
8. New Issues in Security and Conflict in Africa
9. State-Building in Liberia
10. Gender Politics and LGBT Rights in Africa
12. The State of Democracy in Kenya
13. Electoral and Police Violence in Africa
15. After Meles: Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa
Calls for Papers

African Studies Association
Call for Papers
APCG Deadline: Feb 25
ASA Deadline: March 15

The 2013 African Studies Association (ASA) annual meeting will be in Baltimore from November 21 to November 24. The ASA call for papers is open (see below) and the deadline for submitting panel and paper proposals is Monday, February 25. This deadline is the APCG internal deadline and will allow the APCG ASA 2012 Selection Committee to review the proposals prior to ASA’s March 15 deadline. The theme for this year’s conference is “Mobility, Migration and Flows.” The African Politics Conference Group has been guaranteed one panel at the conference, with the possibility of one or two more (which will be reviewed by the ASA Program Committee). We are also seeking participants in a roundtable on “Teaching African Politics.” If you would like to be considered for participation in this roundtable please submit a proposal by the February 25 deadline. To submit a panel, paper, or roundtable proposal, please email your proposal to the APCG ASA 2013 Selection Committee. We will then review all proposals that we receive and select from them those that will be submitted as APCG panels by ASA’s March 15 deadline. Prior to March 15, the APCG selection committee will inform all individuals who submitted proposals about their proposal’s status so that they can submit directly to ASA’s program committee should they so choose. The committee members serving this year are Lahra Smith (ls356@georgetown.edu), Kevin Fridy (kevin@fridy.com), and Warigia Bowman (warigia@gmail.com).

As per APCG rules, and consistent with other organizations, you must be a paid APCG member to submit a paper or panel proposal to be considered for the APCG designated panels. Dues are $10 per year. The committee will confirm with the treasurer, Gina Lambright (gina.lambright@gmail.com), before reviewing your proposal to be sure that you are current on your dues. For information about how to pay your dues using PayPal, see the APCG website (www.africanpoliticsgroup.org). We look forward to receiving your proposals. To view the ASA call for proposals, please visit their website at http://tinyurl.com/clrcxcn [Shorter link created by Editor. - MN.]

Sincerely, Lahra Smith, Kevin Fridy and Warigia Bowman

Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New
Moscow, Russia
Deadline: April 1, 2013


The Organizing Committee will assist you in the beginning of 2014 the list of documents necessary to support your and your panel participants’ visa application process at the Russian Consulates or Embassies in the respective countries.

The conference registration fee in Russian rubles, equivalent to $150 ($75 in rubles for students) is to be paid in cash onsite upon arrival. The registration fee includes the visa application support (Official Invitation), the Conference Book of Abstracts, stationary items, reception and coffee-breaks. The fee for an accompanying person, equivalent to $50 in rubles, includes the visa application support (Official Invitation) and reception.

None of the proposals may be accepted or rejected on the basis of its submitter(s)’ previous academic credentials, ethnic or national origin, sex, or otherwise, but only on the basis of the proposal’s relevance to, and importance for, the Conference’s general theme. In the case the proposal is accepted, the Organizing Committee will send you in the beginning of 2014 the list of documents necessary to support your and your panel participants’ visa application process at the Russian Consulates or Embassies in the respective countries.

The Organizing Committee would like to encourage you to submit panel proposals, focusing on any particular topics related to the Conference’s umbrella theme. The deadline for panel proposals submitting is April 1, 2013. The Organizing Committee will be glad to consider any panel proposals (within 500 words in English or both English and Russian) received by this date. The information to be submitted alongside with the proposal includes the proposed panel convenor(s)’ full name(s), title(s), institutional affiliation(s), full mail and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax #. The list of prospective papergivers with their particulars is desirable.

The Organizing Committee will inform the applicants about the results of their panel proposals’ consideration by April 15, 2013. Besides that, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to establish one or more Free Communication panels. The list of all the Conference participants is to become known by December 1, 2013 due to the activities of both the Organizing Committee and panel convenors.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to establish one or more Free Communication panels. The list of all the Conference participants is to become known by December 1, 2013 due to the activities of both the Organizing Committee and panel convenors.

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Calls for Papers, continued from page 23

in booking accommodation, but independent reservation is encouraged. Please note that early hotel reservation in strongly recommended, as the Conference is to take place in tourist high season.

All the correspondence should be sent by e-mail for the Conference Organizing Committee, to the attention of Mrs. Natalia Bondar, Head, Center of Information and International Relations, Institute for African Studies (conf2014@gmail.com; tel.: +7 495 690 2752) – prospective international participants, or to the attention of Dr. Natalia Zherlitsyna, Secretary, Research Council for the Problems of African Countries (ns_inafr@mail.ru; tel.: +7 495 690 6025) – prospective Russian participants.

The Organizing Committee would appreciate your familiarizing the faculty of your research unit, as well as all interested persons, with the content of the present Announcement.

Sincerely yours, Centre for Information and International Relations Institute for African Studies Russian Academy of Sciences (conf2014@gmail.com; tel.: +7 495 690 2752 fax. (7 495) 697 1954

UNU-WIDER Conference on “Inclusive Growth in Africa” Applications accepted between 15 January and 1 April 2013.

The United Nations University-World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) welcomes paper submissions for an upcoming, multidisciplinary conference on “Inclusive Growth in Africa: Measurement, Causes, and Consequences.” The conference will be held on 20-21 September, 2013 in Helsinki, Finland. To submit paper abstracts and to learn more about the conference, please visit: http://www1.wider.unu.edu/inclusivegrowth/

Now Hiring

Director of Research, IDASA

The Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) is looking for a Director of Research.

Closing Date: February 25
http://www.idasa.org/about_us/employment/vacancies/

Research Fellow, V-Dem

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new large-scale data collection and research-program (see https://v-dem.net). The V-Dem Research Fellowship is open to postdoctoral students, junior faculty, as well as senior faculty with an established record of accomplishments in comparative democratization and research methods, in particular pertaining to issues of models of aggregation.

The Research Fellow will work in collaboration with the Principal Investigators (Assoc. Professor Staffan I. Lindberg och Professor Jan Teorell) of this grant, but also be closely involved with the larger framework of the V-Dem Project. The V-Dem Research Fellow is expected to do research focusing on issues related to the core questions of the V-Dem Research Program, see the project description (downloadable at the V-Dem website). The successful applicant is also expected to play an important role in the planning, coordination, and execution of the final phase of data collection. The position is primarily a research assignment but the fellow may be asked to teach and/or fill administrative functions as well up to .25FTE. The Research Fellow is expected to be in residence at the new V-Dem Institute at University of Gothenburg. For further details, see http://www.gu.se/english/about_the_university/announcements-in-the-job-application-portal/

Social Scientist, BAE Systems

There are two Europe-based Africom Social Scientist positions (Italy and Germany) for BAE Systems. You can learn the specifics on our website at baesystems.jobs by looking for positions numbered 381243 and 385483. We are looking for a PhD level candidate for both of these needs. Contact: Amy Butchko, SPHR, Senior Technical Recruiter, amy@intelligence-communityjobs.com, amy.butchko@baesystems.com, 703.828.7651.

Submit Online!

Submissions to the newsletter can be made via our website: http://africanpoliticsgroup.org/index.php/submit-news/
General Announcements

Rift Valley Institute
Applications now open for RVI 2013 field courses. The Rift Valley Institute’s three field courses, now in their tenth year, offer a unique opportunity to spend an intensive week with an outstanding group of experts and fellow participants, away from routine distractions. Taught by teams of leading regional and international specialists, the courses provide the basis for an understanding of current political and developmental challenges in Eastern and Central Africa. The innovative programme of seminars, lectures, group discussions and special events examines key environmental, political and cultural features of the three sub-regions, contextualizing contemporary problems. They are designed for policy-makers, diplomats, investors, development workers, researchers, activists and journalists—for new arrivals to the region and those already working there who wish to deepen their understanding.

Horn of Africa Course
Saturday 8 – Friday 14 June
The Horn of Africa Course covers Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Somaliland, Puntland and Northern Kenya.

The Great Lakes Course
Saturday 22 – Friday 28 June
The Great Lakes Course covers Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (with an emphasis on eastern DRC).

Sudan and South Sudan Course
Saturday 6 – Friday 12 July
The course covers all areas of Sudan and South Sudan, including the borderlands between the two countries.

All three courses will be held in Jinja, Uganda. For further details of the format, syllabus and core teaching staff of the courses, please see the course prospectus (http://rvi.asilialtd.com/download/file/fid/1127). Alternatively you can visit www.riftvalley.net/courses or write to courses@riftvalley.net. You can apply at https://riftvalley.wufoo.eu/forms/rift-valley-institute-field-courses-2013/ or via www.riftvalley.net. The application deadline is 31 March 2013. Applications will be considered in order of receipt.

The African Affairs African Author Prize
The next African Author Prize will be awarded at the ASAUK 2014 Conference. The African Author Prize is awarded for the best article published in the journal by an author based in an African institution, or an African Ph.D student based in an overseas university. The prize is in recognition of excellent African scholarship, which often does not reach audiences outside the African continent. To the extent possible, the prize committee will prioritize scholars at the beginning of their career.

The prize is awarded every second year, for the best article published in the previous two year period. Thus, the first winning article was chosen from those articles published in the calendar years 2008-2009, and was conferred at the ASAUK conference in 2010. In 2012, the Prize was awarded to Samson Bezabeh for his article Citizenship and the Logic of Sovereignty in Djibouti. The awarding committee included Richard Dowden (Director of Royal African Society), Meghan Vaughan [President of The African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (ASAUK)], Nicoli Nattrass (Member of the Editorial Board), and the editors of African Affairs.

The winner receives a cash prize of £500, one year’s free subscription to African Affairs, an economy airfare to London, and £500 for expenses to attend the ASAUK Conference. The runner-up receives one year’s free subscription to the journal.

New Database on Power-Sharing Agreements and Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa

The database was developed by the University of Antwerp and is accessible on www.ua.ac.be/powersharing -From Dr. Sahla Aroussi.

Boston University Study Abroad

Boston University’s African Studies Center is launching a new summer study opportunity in Zanzibar. Timothy Longman, Director of BU’s Center and Political Science professor, will be leading the program and teaching a course on the politics of religion and identity in East Africa. Students will also take a course in Swahili, with beginning through advanced instruction available. The six week program, May 27 through July 5, is ideal for students in Political Science and International Relations and will include visits to Pemba and mainland Tanzania. For more information, check out http://www.bu.edu/abroad/.
Member News

Leonardo R. Arriola, assistant professor of political science, University of California, Berkeley, published *Multiethnic Coalitions in Africa: Business Financing of Opposition Election Campaigns* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Combining cross-national statistical analyses of African countries with case studies of Kenya and Cameroon, the book shows that opposition politicians are unlikely to form cross-ethnic electoral alliances where incumbents can use their influence over finance to control business — the main funder of opposition in poor countries. Additionally, Arriola published “Protesting and Policing in a Multiethnic Authoritarian State: Evidence from Ethiopia” in the January 2013 *Comparative Politics*. Focusing on post-election protests in the country’s largest region, the article shows that anti-government protests were more likely to erupt in ethnically homogeneous constituencies, but that those protests were also less likely to turn violent where protesters were repressed by police staffed by their own co-ethnics.


In March 2013, Lynne Rienner Publishers will issue *Africa in World Politics* has been published by Westview. Also, I completing my second year doing a monthly essay for the *Nairobi Law Monthly*, and in my sixth year doing a monthly op. ed for the *Sunday Nation* (Kenya).

**Jana Hoenke:** I am happy to announce that I have moved from Freie Universität Berlin in Germany to the University of Edinburgh (still ;-) in the UK. I have taken up a position as Lecturer in International Relations at Politics and IR and am affiliated to the African Studies Centre. I will remain related to FU Berlin as associate researcher with its Collaborative Research Centre SFB 700 in order to finish a research project on multinational mining companies and security governance in Subsaharan Africa (case studies in Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Tanzania and South Africa). I would also like to bring this great book to your attention for the *Routledge*. I would also like to bring this great book to your attention for the *Routledge*. I would also like to bring this great book to your attention for the *Routledge*.

**Nadia Rabesahala Horning** reports that she received tenure at Middlebury College in December 2012.

**Sandra Joireman** is conducting research this year on post-conflict property rights in Kosovo through a Fulbright Senior Scholar award and in Liberia funded by a grant from the Earhart Foundation.


**David Leonard** reports he has retired from IDS and is now at the address immediately below: David K. Leonard, 275 Kendal Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348-2337, USA, Tel.: Land line 1-610-388-0340, Mobile/ Cell 1-510-275 Kendal Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348-2337, USA, Tel.: Land line 1-610-388-0340, Mobile/ Cell 1-510-207-4482.

David also reports that he has edited a special issue of the IDS Bulletin which has just been published. Note that articles can be downloaded for free. The announcement is:

IDS Bulletin 44.1 on ‘Piecing it Together: Post-Conflict Security in an Africa of Networked, Multilevel Governance,’ edited by David Leonard was published in January 2013. The articles in this issue focus on how do, could and should institutions responsible for security and the management of conflict in Tropical African societies respond to violent conflict? This IDS Bulletin is built on the observation that all governance (especially in Africa) is multileveled and networked – from the village to the international...
organisation, well beyond what is specified in formal government structures. Thus the focus must be not only on the ways in which key conflict-management institutions evolve themselves but also on the changing ways in which the networks where they are embedded actually operate. This issue is about post-conflict reconstruction and the rebuilding of shattered states and societies, presenting fieldwork from articles covering the Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Mozambique and Somalia. The articles are based on research conducted within our ‘Global Uncertainties: Security in an Africa of Networked, Multilevel Governance’ programme. Please find further information on the Bulletin issue, its table of contents, information on purchasing the entire issue or in downloading individual articles for free at: http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/piecing-it-together-post-conflict-security-in-an-africa-of-networked-multilevel-governance.

Staffan I. Lindberg received a grant from Riksbankens Jubileumsfond of the equivalent of USD 245,000 for networking, capacity building, and conferences for the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) project at University of Gothenburg. As a first activity, Lindberg together with Project Coordinator Natalia Stepanova (University of Gothenburg) conducted a workshop in Bishkek, Kirgistan on January 13-14 2013 with the V-Dem Project Coordinator Natalia Stepanova (University of Gothenburg) conducted a workshop in Bishkek, Kirgistan on January 13-14 2013 with the V-Dem Regional Manager for Central Asia, professor Medet Tiulegenov (American University in Central Asia), and a series of the V-Dem Country Coordinators for Central Asia. The second workshop was held at University of Gothenburg for Regional Managers of Northern Europe (Carl-Henrik Knudsen, Oslo University) and the Baltic Republics (Vello Pettai, University of Tartu), on January 28-30, 2013. These will be followed by workshops in to be held in Republic of Congo, Zambia, South Africa, Hungary, Portugal, Kosovo, and Philippines during the Spring. Lindberg (with Jan Teorell, Lund University) received another grant of about USD 1mn from the Swedish Research Council to complete additional coding for V-Dem, to conduct research on democratization using V-Dem data, and to hire two researchers/postdocs to be stationed at the new V-Dem Institute at University of Gothenburg (see details about one position in this newsletter).

Louisa Lombard completed her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at Duke University (dissertation title: Raiding Sovereignty in Central African Borderlands) and began a Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellow in the department of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley.

Guy Martin (Winston-Salem State University) has just completed a textbook entitled African Political Thought, the first single, thematic volume that constitutes a synthesis of the state of knowledge on the subject. The book was published in December 2012 by Palgrave Macmillan (New York).

Prof. Mibenge led CUNY students in a human rights and transitional justice winter 2013 study abroad program in Chile. The program partners were Lehman College departments of Philosophy and Political Science, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Middlebury College, Universidad Bolivariana School of Law in Santiago, and the NGO Global Majority. Students traveled to and at times resided with Native American Mapuche communities in the south of Chile for training and experience in community organizing, rights based activism and advocacy. They were invited to observe a monumental and high level summit between Mapuche representatives and Chilean government representatives. In Santiago they engaged with human rights defenders who have fought for decades for justice and truth for the Disappeared and other victims of the Pinochet dictatorship. They also participated in the Summit of the Peoples of Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe at the University of Chile.

Kristin Michelitch will start as Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University this coming August.

Ngoni Munemo (Political Science Department, Williams College) reports that he was awarded tenure in December 2012.

Bob Press: The Library of Congress has just uploaded transcripts of 50 of my interviews of Kenyan human rights/democracy activists and others recorded in 2002. Here is the link: http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/afs/kenyanhumanrightsinterviews.html If you lose the link, go to the Library of Congress Africa and Middle East Division (http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/); type in Kenya in the search box; click on the Kenya link that appears, and the Kenya page features the new collection of interviews which was uploaded in November. The Library of Congress is interested in this kind of primary source material for scholars and others in case any other colleagues want to share their work. My contact at LOC is Eve Ferguson efer@loc.gov.
Will Reno reports he was appointed Director of the Program of African Studies at Northwestern University.

Rachel Beatty Riedl, assistant professor of political science at Northwestern University is a postdoctoral fellow at the Yale Program on Democracy. She recently published “Political Parties and Uncertainty in Developing Democracies” in Comparative Political Studies with Noam Lupu. The article is a theoretical introduction to a Special Edition on Political Parties in the Developing World. Riedl also recently published “Transforming Politics, Dynamic Religion: Religion’s Political Impact in Contemporary Africa” in African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review October 2012, Vol. 2.2.

Robert Rotberg reports that his book, Africa Emerges: Consummate Challenges, Abundant Opportunities, is forthcoming this year in Polity Press.

Laura Seay is joining the faculty of Colby College as Assistant Professor of Government in Fall 2013.

Theodore M. Vestal: Readers of the newsletter may be interested in a new publication described at http://store.tsehaipublishers.com/product_info.php?products_id=111. The afterword is my history of the last five years of Emperor Haile Selassie’s life.

Keith Weghorst has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship in the Political Science department at Vanderbilt University.

Tom Wolf is now back in Kenya as a Research Analyst (Public Affairs) for IPSOS (formerly Synovate, formerly The Steadman Group). It is a 9 month/per year position, so he is available to collaborate with scholars on topics of mutual interest. He is also happy to assist graduate research students anytime. For further details (including information about obtaining Kenyan/regional public survey data) please contact him at: twolf@wananchi.com.

Submit Online!

Submissions to the newsletter can be made via our website: http://africanpoliticsgroup.org/index.php/submit-news/

Member News, continued from page 27

Will Reno in Mogadishu: “This is a photo of me at an AMISOM checkpoint to enter Villa Somalia where the transitional government hunkers down. I travel to Somalia to study how armed groups adapt their organizational strategies amidst a general transition from secular (mostly Marxist-Leninist) "organizational technologies" to other, mostly religious-inspired strategies.

Chiseche Mibenge with Comuna Collipulli in Mininco, Chile.
Committees 2012 - 2013, & Other Officials

Best Book in 2012 Award
Michelle Kuenzi
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
michele.kuenzi@unlv.edu

Rachel Riedl
Northwestern University
r-riedl@northwestern.edu

Scott Straus
University of Wisconsin
sstraus@wisc.edu

Best Article in 2012 Award
John Heilbrunn
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jheilbru@mines.edu

Alice Kang
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
akang2@unl.edu

Andrew Lawrence
University of Edinburg
andrew.lawrence@ed.ac.uk

APCG-Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation in 2012 Award
Martha Johnson
Mills College
majohnson@mills.edu

Amy Poteete
Concordia University
apoteete@alcor.concordia.ca

Laura Seay
Morehouse College
lseay@morehouse.edu

APCG-African Affairs Best Graduate Student Paper 2012/2013 Award
Claire Adida
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claire@adida.net

Robin Turner
Butler University
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Tim Shaw
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Ad Hoc Mentoring Committee Chair
Sandra Joireman
Wheaton College
sandra.joireman@wheaton.edu

* Committee chair
Publications

* denotes items submitted directly by members. All other references were discovered by the editor. I only include items here that have already been published. Forthcoming titles are placed in the “Member News” section. See the end of this section for more information on that selection process.

Books


Edited Books


Journals

Africa Spectrum


African Affairs


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Recent Publications, continued from page 30


African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review


African Journal of Political Science and International Relations


Edaward, Brenya. 2012. Struggling to weaken the giant: Litigation as a measure to compel the adoption of tobacco control instrument in Malawi. African Journal of Political Science and International Relations, 6(7).


African Security


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Recent Publications, continued from page 31


African Security Review


African Studies Review


Comparative Political Studies


Walsh, Denise M. 2012. Does the Quality of Democracy Matter for Women’s Rights? Just Debate and Democratic Transition in Chile and South Africa. *Comparative Political Studies*, 45(11), 1323-1350.

Comparative Politics


Democratization


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Recent Publications, continued from page 32


Development and Change


Human Rights Quarterly


Journal of African Law


Journal of Contemporary African Studies


Review of African Political Economy


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Recent Publications, continued from page 33


**South African Journal of International Affairs**


**The Journal of Modern African Studies**


Recent Publications, continued from page 34

**Third World Quarterly**


**World Development**


**Other Journal Articles, Book Chapters, and Papers**


continued on page 36
Recent Publications, continued from page 35


* Wing, Susanna D. Human Rights Based Approaches to Development: Justice and Legal Fiction in Africa. *Polity* 44(4).

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