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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Maryland, College Park

Professor of Government and Politics, 2024 –
Director, International Development & Conflict Management Program, 2022 –
Director, Trust2Peace Conflict Mitigation & Prevention Program, 2022 – 2025
Associate Professor of Government & Politics, 2017 – 2024
Assistant Professor of Government & Politics, 2011 – 2017

Research Associate, Center for International Development & Conflict Management
Research Affiliate, Consortium for the Study of Terrorism & Responses to Terrorism

École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris

Research Fellow, *Institut des Mondes Africains*, 2018

Harvard University

Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, 2010 - 2011

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles

Ph.D., Political Science

Yale University

M.A., International Relations

College of William & Mary

B.A., *cum laude*, Economics

BOOKS, PAPERS, & PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

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

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

2026. "Influential but Unwanted: Chinese and US FDI in Africa." *Studies in Comparative International Development* (2026): 1-30. DOI: 10.1007/s12116-026-09495-5. With Xiaonan Wang and Margaret M. Pearson.
2023. "Flood Risk and Household Losses: Empirical Findings from a Rural Community in Pakistan." *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* DOI: 10.1016/j.ijdr.2023.103930. With Muhammed Yaseen, Shahab E. Saqib, Supawan Visetnoi, and Jamshid Iqba.
2023. "Salary Negotiations and the Gender Pay Gap: Evidence from a University Setting." *Journal of the Professoriate*. With Sarah J. Kilmer and Cameron Busacca.
2022. "FDI, Unmet Expectations, and the Prospects of Political Leaders: Evidence from Chinese Investment in Africa." *Journal of Politics*. DOI: 10.1086/717849. With Xiaonan Wang and Margaret M. Pearson.
2022. "Does Chinese FDI in Africa Inspire Support for a China Model of Development?" *World Development*. DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105738. With Margaret Pearson and Xiaonan Wang.
2021. "Where Terror Lies: Misrepresentation of Extremist Attitudes and Terrorist Attacks in the Sahel." *Terrorism and Political Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2021.1987893>. With Steven E. Finkel, Michael Neureiter, and Christopher Belasco.
2021. "Clientelism and Community Support in Times of Crisis: Evidence Following Floods in Ghana." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 10.1007/s12116-021-09329-6.
2021. "Community Violence and Support for Violent Extremism: Evidence from the Sahel." *Political Psychology* 42, 1: 143-161. With Steven E. Finkel, Michael Neureiter, and Christopher Belasco.
2020. "The Grapevine Effect in Sensitive Data Collection: Examining Response Patterns in Support for Violent Extremism." *Political Science Research and Methods* doi:10.1017/psrm.2020.34. With Steven E. Finkel, Michael Neureiter, and Christopher Belasco.
2019. "The Political Sources of Religious Identification: A Study on the Burkina Faso-Côte d'Ivoire Border." *British Journal of Political Science* 49, 2: 421-441. With Daniel N. Posner.
2017. "Disaggregating Identities to Study Ethnic Conflict." *Ethnopolitics* 16, 1: 12-20.
2015. "African Borders as Sources of Natural Experiments: Promise and Pitfalls." *Political Science Research and Methods* 3, 2: 409-418. With Daniel N. Posner.
2014. "The Political Mobilization of Ethnicity and Religion in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 108, 4: 801-816.

2014. "Pentecostalism as an Informal Political Institution: Experimental Evidence from Ghana." *Politics & Religion* 7, 4: 761-787.

2014. "Measuring and Reducing Religious Bias in Post-Conflict Zones: Evidence from Côte d'Ivoire." *Political Psychology* 35, 2 (April): 267-289.

2013. "Economic Development Strategies and Conflict in Africa: The Cases of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana." *Comparative Political Studies* 46, 2 (Feb): 182-211.

2013. "Africa's New Big Man Rule? Pentecostalism and Patronage in Ghana." *African Affairs* 112, 446 (Jan): 1-21.

2009. "Religious Faith and Democracy: Evidence from the Afrobarometer Surveys." Afrobarometer Working Paper No. 113. With E. Gyimah-Boadi.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

2020. "The Intoxication of Fieldwork: Obtaining Authorizations in Burkina Faso." In Peter Krause and Ora Szekely, eds. *Stories from the Field: A Guide to Navigating Fieldwork in Political Science*. Columbia University Press.

2019. "Identity, Internal State Conflict, and Religion." In *Oxford Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion*. Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.843.

2019. "The Politics of Pentecostalism in Africa." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1379>.

2017. "Disaggregating Identities to Study Ethnic Conflict." In Erika Forsberg, J.K. Birnir, and Christian Davenport, eds., *Ethnic Politics and Conflict/Violence*. New York: Routledge. Ch. 3.

2015. "Pentecostals and Politics: Redefining Big Man Rule in Africa." In Martin Lindhardt, ed., *Pentecostalism in Africa: Presence and Impact of Pneumatic Christianity in Postcolonial Societies*. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Publishers. Ch 13: 322-344.

2013. "Economic Development and Conflict Outcomes: Fifty Years of Evidence from West Africa." In William Ascher and Natalia Mirovitskaya, eds., *Economic Development Strategies and Inter-Group Violence*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. Ch. 6: 141-166.

REVIEWS

2019. *Religion, Violence, and Local Power-Sharing in Nigeria* by Laura Thaut Vinson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017. Pp. 360. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 57(2), 347-348.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript: *Communal Violence and Peacebuilding in Africa*.

“The Democratic Costs of Terrorism in Africa.” With Xiuling Zhang and Trey Billing. Under review.

“How Project Features Shape Preferences over Foreign Economic Engagement in Africa.” With Xiuling Zhang. Under review.

“Do Terrorist Attacks Alter the Social Tolerance of Survivors? Evidence from Africa.” Xiuling Zhang and Trey Billing. Under review.

“Insiders and Outsiders: How the Sources of Violence Shape Social Cohesion in Northern Ghana.” With William Favell and Jacob Lewis. Under review.

“Sport as a Mechanism for Peacebuilding: Team Construction and Team Success in Northern Ghana.”

GRANTS, & COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

USAID Conflict Mitigation and Prevention Grant (PI), \$4,200,000, 2022-2025

US Department of Labor Child Labor and Trafficking Agreement (PI), \$4,500,000, 2023-2028

US Department of State INL Research Grant (PI), \$2,800,000, 2018-2023

Dean’s Research Initiative Level 1 Seed Grant, University of Maryland, 2014

Templeton Foundation *Pentecostal & Charismatic Research Initiative* Grant, 2010-2012

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2009

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Excellence in Teaching Award, UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, 2023

Omicron Delta Kappa Teaching Award, 2021

Provost’s Innovation in Teaching Award, 2020

Research and Scholarship Award (RASA), University of Maryland, 2018

Global Religion Research Initiative Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2018

Excellence in Teaching Award, UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, 2013

Research and Scholarship Award (RASA), University of Maryland, 2013

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Research Fellowship, 2007-2008, 2009-2010

Distinguished Teaching Award & Fellowship, UCLA, 2009

RESEARCH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Conflict and terrorism; peacebuilding; political economy of development; informal institutions; sport and security; religious & ethnic identities; borders & cultural boundaries

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Non-Resident Scholar, Middle East Institute (2020 – present)
Senior Evaluation Specialist, USAID Sahel Resilience Learning Initiative (2014-2019)
Senior Field Specialist, USAID Peace through Development II initiative (2013-2017)
Expert Witness, U.S. Immigration Court (2011, 2016, 2018, 2023, 2026)
Election Observer, Ghana Presidential Election (2008)
Visiting Researcher, Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra, Ghana (2008-2009)

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

TEACHING

COURSES

Political Economy of Development (GVPT 888, grad)
Political Economy of Development (GVPT 459O, undergrad)
Field Methods in Political Science: Experiments, Surveys, and Analysis (GVPT 884, grad)
Analysis of African Politics (GVPT 888, grad)
Seminar in Comparative Politics (GVPT 780, grad)
International Development & Conflict Management (GVPT354, undergrad)
African Politics (GVPT 484, undergrad)
Religions, Beliefs, and World Affairs (GVPT 210, undergrad)

PROFESSIONAL TALKS & INVITED PAPER PRESENTATIONS

“Project Features and Preferences over Foreign Economic Engagement in Africa.” SPSA, 2025.
“Violence Typologies and Intergroup Trust.” APSA, 2024.
“Inflated Expectations of FDI in Africa.” APSA, 2023.
“FDI and Chinese Influence in Africa.” APSA, 2022.
“Terrorist Attacks and the Religiosity of Survivors.” APSA, 2021.
“Terrorism and Democratic Preferences in Africa.” APSA, 2020.
“The State of Terrorism in the Sahel.” International Republican Institute, 2019.
“The Grapevine Effect in Sensitive Data Collection.” APSA, 2018.
“Social Desirability Bias and Violent Extremism in the Sahel.” American University, 2017.
“Why Are Africa’s Conflicts Sometimes Ethnic and Sometimes Religious?” JHU SAIS, 2017.
“Disaggregating Identities to Study Ethnic Conflict.” Roundtable, ISA, 2017.
“Ethnicity and Religion as Sources of Division in Côte d'Ivoire.” U. of Alabama, 2017.
“Ethnic and Religious Violence in Africa.” U. of Florida, 2016.
“Contextual Factors and Support for Violent Extremism in the Sahel.” APSA, 2016.
“The Political Divisiveness of Ethnicity and Religion in Africa.” UC-Berkeley, 2016.
“The Politics of Changing Identities: Evidence from Burkina and Côte d'Ivoire.” ASA 2015.
“Political Conflict and the Salience of Religion in Côte d'Ivoire.” UMD, 2015.
“The Political Sources of Identity Salience: a Border Study.” APSA, 2014.

“Pentecostalism as an Informal Political Institution: Experiments from Ghana.” MPSA, 2014.
 “Pentecostal Big Man Rule.” ASA, 2013.
 “The Political Mobilization of Religion and Ethnicity.” ISA, 2013.
 “Pentecostals, Patronage, and Informal Politics in Africa.” U. of Jos, Nigeria, 2012.
 “Land and Religious Conflict: Evidence from Africa and the Middle East.” MPSA, 2012.
 “Religious Violence along Civilizational Faultlines.” Kennedy School, Harvard, 2011.
 “Côte d’Ivoire’s Violence, Ghana’s Peace.” University of Ghana, 2011.
 “Distinguishing Religious and Ethnic Conflict in Côte d’Ivoire.” Harvard University, 2011.
 “Religious Tension in Post-Conflict Zones: Experimental Evidence.” APSA, 2010.
 “Religious and Ethnic Politics in Côte d’Ivoire.” U.S. Department of State, 2010.
 “Political Preferences of ‘Extremist’ Group Members in Africa.” MPSA, 2010.
 “Strategies to Reduce Inter-Religious Bias in Côte d’Ivoire.” SSSR, 2009.
 “The Political Implications of Religion in Africa: a Field Experiment.” APSA, 2009.
 “What’s Unique about Religious Identity in Ghanaian Politics?” CDD-Ghana, 2009.
 “Social Insurance during Crises: Evidence from Ghana.” APSA, 2008.
 “Clientelism in Times of Crisis: When Big Men Aren’t Big Enough.” MPSA, 2008.
 “African Borders as Sources of Natural Experiments.” WGAPE, 2007.
 “When Does Religion Become Politically Salient in Africa?” MPSA, 2007.
 “Political Unrest and the Salience of Religion: Evidence from Côte d’Ivoire.” MPSA, 2006.
 “The Political Determinants of Self-Identity in Africa.” African Studies Association, 2005.
 “Culture and Corruption: Obstacles to Development in sub-Saharan Africa?” Yale CPW, 2004.
 “U.S. Foreign Policy and the Threat of Terrorism.” State Capital, Hartford, CT, 2004.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association
 Midwest Political Science Association
 International Studies Association
 African Studies Association
 Working Group on African Political Economy

UNIVERSITY & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

EDITORIAL BOARD: *Political Behavior*

REVIEWER: *American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, International Security, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, World Politics, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, British Journal of Political Science, Political Science Research and Methods, Political Studies, Political Psychology, Political Research Quarterly, Political Behavior, Social Science Research, Democratization, African Affairs, Journal of Modern African Studies, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Studies in Comparative International Development*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Dean’s Committee, Excellence in Teaching, 2025

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

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Director, GVPT Honors Program, 2018-2022
Director, GVPT Undergraduate TA Program, 2020-2022
Comparative Politics Field Chair, 2016-2019
Department Executive Committee, 2014-2015, 2016-2018, 2025-present
Graduate Studies Committee, 2012-2013, 2016-2017, 2019-2020
Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2010-2011, 2011-2012

GRADUATE ADVISING

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

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

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

GVPT Honors Theses

Chair – Manuela Prieto	2026
Chair – Jessica Johnson	2024
Chair – Devorah Sklute	2023
Chair – Maryam Chaudhry, Bilal Elmasry, Ashley Wells	2022
Chair – Ryan Harrison, Shawn Nijjar, Imani Nokuri	2021
Chair – Betzalel Newman, Jessica Coghlan	2020
Chair – Luisa Beltran Ray	2019
Chair – Aayushi Shah, Daniela Nagar, Adler Pruitt, Melin Sotiriou	2018
Chair – Thomas Matthews, Nolan Quinn, Christopher Walkup	2017
Chair – Jacob Magid	2016
Chair – Yael Nagar	2015
Chair – Josef Danczuk, Rebecca Kim	2014
Chair – Molly Brune	2013

Other

Advisor – Angelina Vu, GVPT Research Program, 2026
Advisor – Zoe Meyers-Thomas, BSOS Student Research Initiative, 2018
Advisor – Brielle Morton, McNair Scholars Program, 2018
Advisor – Tatios Kebrab, McNair Scholars Program, 2014
Advisor – Fikir Abraha, McNair Scholars Program, 2013