

NATALIE WENZELL LETSA

729 Elm Avenue
Farzaneh Hall, Room 315
Norman, OK 73019

nwletsa@ou.edu
www.natalieletsa.com
209.304.5459

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Oklahoma, 2017-

Wick Cary Assistant Professor of Political Economy, Department of
International and Area Studies

Stanford University, 2018-2019

Postdoctoral Scholar, Center on Democracy Development and the Rule
of Law

EDUCATION

Cornell University, 2017

Ph.D., Government

Committee: Nicolas van de Walle (Chair), Valerie Bunce, and
Adam Levine

Reed College, 2009

B.A., Political Science

PUBLISHED WORK

Forthcoming. "Expressive Voting in Autocracies: A Theory of Non-
Economic Participation with Evidence from Cameroon." *Perspectives
on Politics*.

2019. "Political Geography in Africa's Electoral Autocracies: The
Influence of Party Strongholds on Public Opinion." *Electoral Studies*
Volume 60.

2018. "Popular Support for Democracy in Autocratic Regimes: A Micro-
Level Analysis of Preferences" (with Martha Wilfahrt). *Comparative
Politics* 50 (2).

2017. "'The People's Choice': Popular (Il)Legitimacy in Autocratic
Cameroon." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 55 (4), 647-679.

2017. "Voting for Peace, Mobilizing for War: Post-Conflict Voter
Turnout and Civil War Recurrence." *Democratization* 24 (3), p. 425-
443.

WORKING
PAPERS

“The Mechanisms of Direct and Indirect Rule: Colonialism and Economic Development in Africa” with Martha Wilfahrt (*Revise & Resubmit*).

“Contesting Autocracy: Explaining the Origins of Opposition Strongholds in Africa” with Leonardo Arriola and David Dow (Presented at APSA, ASA, SPSA, WPSA 2018/19)

IN PROGRESS

Book Project: *The Autocratic Voter: Partisanship and Electoral Behavior under Dictatorship*

Book Project: *Legacies of British and French Colonialism in sub-Saharan Africa* (with Martha Wilfahrt)

OTHER WRITING

Book review of *How Autocrats Compete: Parties, Patrons, and Unfair Elections in Africa*, by Yonatan Morse. *Perspectives on Politics*. Forthcoming.

“What’s Driving the Conflict in Cameroon?” *Foreign Affairs* (online), November 8, 2018.

“Cameroon’s Anglophone Crisis May Intensify Post Post-Poll” *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*, October 5, 2018.

“Cameroon’s Anglophone Resistance Will Endure” *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*, July 5, 2017.

TEACHING

African Politics and Society (Fall 2017)

Political Economy of Development, Undergraduate. (Fall 2017, 2019)

Political Economy of Development, Master’s (Fall 2019)

African Elections

Freshman Writing Seminar, Cornell University

Protest & Political Participation in Authoritarian Regimes

Freshman Writing Seminar, Cornell University

AWARDS
& HONORS

OU Junior Faculty Fellowship (Ghana and Togo), 2019

OU International Studies Faculty Support Grant, 2019 (Ghana and Togo) and 2018 (France)

African Studies Association Student Travel Award (Ghana and Benin), 2016

Houston I. Flournoy Graduate Fellowship (with Nicolas van de Walle), 2016

The Mario Einaudi International Research Travel Grant (Cameroon), 2014

Cornell Graduate School Research Travel Grant (Cameroon), 2014

Department Grant for Language Training (Senegal), 2014

CONFERENCES
& WORKSOPS

American Political Science Association, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2015

Authoritarian Politics Mini-Conference at WPSA, 2019

Southern Political Science Association, 2019

African Studies Association, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

Cameroon Conference - Université Paris Diderot, 2018

Midwest Group in African Political Economy, 2017

Visions in Methodology, 2017

Midwest Political Science Association, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013

APSA Workshop on Elections and Democracy in Africa, 2009

INVITED
TALKS

“Legacies of British and French Colonial Rule in sub-Saharan Africa” UC
Berkeley Africa Colloquium. February 20, 2019.

“Political Geography in Africa’s Electoral Autocracies” Center on
Development, Democracy and the Rule of Law, Stanford University.
November 15, 2018.

“Perceptions on Regime Legitimacy and Political Participation in
Cameroon,” US Department of State, Executive Exchange with the
Ambassador to Cameroon. November 30, 2017