

# NATALIE WENZELL LETSA

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### **Stanford University, 2018-2019**

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

### **University of Oklahoma, 2017-**

(On leave, 2018-2019)

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

## EDUCATION

### **Cornell University, 2017**

Ph.D., Government

### **Reed College, 2009**

B.A., Political Science

## PUBLICATIONS

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

2018. "Popular Support for Democracy in Autocratic Regimes: A Micro-Level Analysis of Preferences" (with Martha Wilfarht). *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.

## MANUSCRIPTS & WORKING PAPERS

**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 Wilfarht)

“Political Geography in Africa’s Electoral Autocracies: The Influence of Party Strongholds on Public Opinion” (*under review*).

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

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

OTHER WRITING “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

##### **Instructor**

*African Politics and Society*

Undergraduate, University of Oklahoma

*Political Economy of Development*

Undergraduate, University of Oklahoma

*African Elections*

Freshman Writing Seminar, Cornell University

*Protest & Political Participation in Authoritarian Regimes*

Freshman Writing Seminar, Cornell University

#### AWARDS & HONORS

OU International Studies Faculty Support Grant (France), 2018

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

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

Sage Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University, 2014

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

Cornell Graduate School Research Travel Grant (Cameroon), 2014

Department Grant for Language Training (Senegal), 2012

CONFERENCES  
& WORKSOPS

Southern Political Science Association, 2019  
African Studies Association, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015  
Cameroon Conference - Université Paris Diderot, 2018  
American Political Science Association, 2017, 2016, 2015  
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 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