

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

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*.

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

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 (*under review*).

“Contesting Autocracy: Explaining the Origins of Opposition Strongholds in Africa” with Leonardo Arriola and David Dow (Presented at 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

“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
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 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

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
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