

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, Valerie Bunce, Adam Levine

Reed College, 2009

B.A., Political Science

PUBLICATIONS

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.

MANUSCRIPTS & WORKING PAPERS

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

"Electoral Behavior in Autocracies: A Theory of Non-Economic Participation with Evidence from Cameroon" *Best Graduate Student Paper, African Politics Conference Group (Honorable Mention)*

"Political Geography in Africa's Electoral Autocracies: The Influence of Party Strongholds on Public Opinion" (Presented at APSA and MPSA, 2017)

“The Mechanisms of Direct and Indirect Rule: Colonialism and Economic Development in Africa” with Martha Wilfahrt
(Presented at VIM and ASA, 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

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University

Intro to International Relations (with two sections)

Intro to American Politics

How Do You Know That?

Middle Eastern Politics (with two sections)

American Political Campaigns (with two sections)

AWARDS
& HONORS

International Studies Faculty Support Grant, 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

McGill Lawrence Award, Reed College (Ghana)

Professor Carl Stevens Memorial Award, Reed College (Ghana)

CONFERENCES
& WORKSOPS

African Studies Association, 2017, 206, 2015
American Political Science Association, 2017, 2016, 2015
Midwest Group in African Political Economy, 2017
(Northwestern)
Visions in Methodology, 2017 (Stony Brook)
Midwest Political Science Association, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013
APSA Workshop on Elections and Democracy in Africa, 2009

INVITED
TALKS

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

MEMBERSHIP

African Politics Conference Group
African Studies Association
American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association
North American Association of Scholars on Cameroon
Visions in Methodology