

NICHOLAS RUSH SMITH

EMPLOYMENT

SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON Reader in Politics and International Relations	2025-Present
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – CITY COLLEGE Doctoral Faculty Member, CUNY – Graduate Center	2014-2025 2025-Present
Director, MA Program in International Affairs	2023-Present
Associate Professor of Political Science	2021-Present
Assistant Professor of Political Science	2014-2021
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Preceptor, Masters of the Arts Program in the Social Sciences	2011-2013

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PhD, Political Science	2013
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MA, Social Sciences	2004
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MA, International Development Studies	2003
COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY BA, Government & History	2001

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY Instructor, Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research	2021-Present
UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA) Senior Research Associate, Department of Sociology	2019-Present
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY RSSS Visiting Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences	2025
CUNY PRISON TO COLLEGE PIPELINE PROGRAM Instructor	2023
CARNEGIE NEW LEADERS PROGRAM Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs	2020

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith (eds.). *Rethinking Generalization: Expanding the Possibilities for Social Inquiry*. Under Contract at Cambridge University Press.

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith (eds.). 2021. *Rethinking Comparison: Innovative Methods for Qualitative Political Research*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

- David M. Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award from the Qualitative Method and Multi-Method Research Section of the American Political Science Association (co-winner with Erica S. Simmons)
- Featured in New Books Network Podcast
- Reviewed in *Administrative Studies Quarterly*; *Perspectives on Politics*

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2019. *Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa*. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Oxford Studies in Culture and Politics Series
- Winner, 2020 Distinguished Book Award, Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association
- Co-Winner, 2020 Best Book Award, African Politics Conference Group, American Political Science Association
- Honorable Mention, 2020 Charles Taylor Book Award, Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Related Group, American Political Science Association
- Reviewed in *American Ethnologist*; *American Journal of Sociology*; *English Historical Review*; *Insight on Africa*; *Journal of Modern African Studies*; *Law and Society Review*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Politique Africaine*; *Journal of Southern African Studies*; *Washington Post* Monkey Cage Blog

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Smith, Nicholas Rush. Forthcoming. "Non-Event? Provisional Notes on The Marikana Massacre as a Moment of Failed Transformation." *20&21: Revue d'Histoire*.

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2025. "How Cases Speak to One Another: Using Translation to Rethink Generalization in Political Science Research." *American Political Science Review*. First View.

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2025. "Communicating Across Contexts: How Translation Can Benefit Comparative Area Studies." In *Advancing Comparative Area Studies: Analytical Heterogeneity and Organizational Challenges*, Ariel I. Ahram, Patrick Köllner, and Rudra Sil (eds.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2023. "Pluralizing Comparison." In *The Oxford Handbook of Engaged Methodological Pluralism in Political Science*, Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Dino P. Christenson, and Valeria Sinclair-Chapman (eds.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2022. "The State as Golem: Police Violence in Democratic South Africa." In *Everyday State and Democracy in Africa: Ethnographic Encounters*, Wale Adebawale (ed.). Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.

Blake, Jonathan S. and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2022. "Identifying Violence: Ethics, Representation, and Politics in Lee Ann Fujii's Showtime." *Violence: An International Journal*. Sage Online First.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2021. "Seen Like a State." *Polity* 53 (3): 485-491.

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2021. "Comparisons with an Ethnographic Sensibility: Studies of Protest and Vigilantism." In *Rethinking Comparison: Innovative Methods for Qualitative Political Research*, Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith (eds.). New York: Cambridge University Press.

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith with Lisa Wedeen. 2021. "Theory and Imagination in Comparative Politics: An Interview with Lisa Wedeen." In *Rethinking Comparison: Innovative Methods for Qualitative Political Research*, Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith (eds.). New York: Cambridge University Press.

Tim Büthe, Jacobs, Alan M., with 48 others. 2021. "Transparency in Qualitative Research: An Overview of Key Findings and Recommendations." *Perspectives on Politics* 19 (1): 171-208.

Schwedler, Jillian, Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2021. "Ethnography and Participant Observation (Working Group III.3)." *Perspectives on Politics*.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2020. "Member Checking: Lessons from the Dead." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 17-18 (1): 60-65.

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2019. "The Case for Comparative Ethnography." *Comparative Politics* 51 (3): 341-359.

Simmons, Erica S., Nicholas Rush Smith, and Rachel Schwartz. 2018. "Rethinking Comparison in the Social Sciences." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 16 (1): 1-7.

- Co-Organizer of symposium on "Rethinking Comparisons"

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2017. "The Rule of Rights: Comparative Lessons from Twenty Years of South African Democracy." *Comparative Politics* 50 (1): 123-141.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2017. "New Situations Demand Old Magic: Necklacing Past and Present." In *Global Lynching and Collective Violence: Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. Michael Pfeifer, Ed. Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Press.

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2017. "Comparison with an Ethnographic Sensibility." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 50 (1): 126-130.

Slater, Dan and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2016. "The Power of Counterrevolution: Elitist Origins of Political Order in Postcolonial Asia and Africa." *American Journal of Sociology* 121 (5): 1472-1516.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2015. "Rejecting Rights: Vigilantism and Violence in Post-Apartheid South Africa." *African Affairs* 114 (456): 341-360. (Lead Article)

BOOK REVIEWS

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2021. "'The Terrorist Album: Apartheid's Insurgents, Collaborators, and the Security Police' by Jacob Dlamini." *Africa Spectrum* 56 (3): 335-337.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2020. "'Township Violence and the End of Apartheid: War on the Reef' by Gary Kynoch." *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 52 (3): 485-486.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2018. "'Bodies of Truth: Law, Memory, and Emancipation in Post-Apartheid South Africa' by Rita Kesselring." *Anthropological Quarterly* 91 (2): 841-845.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2017. "'Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa' by Stephanie M. Burchard and 'The Limits of Democratic Governance in South Africa' by Louis A. Picard and Thomas Mogale." *Perspectives on Politics* 15 (1): 261-262.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Sinwell, Luke and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2022. "Killing the Collective." *Africa Is a Country*. July 20. <https://www.africasacountry.com/2022/07/killing-the-collective>

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2020. "What Thirty Percent Unemployment Looks Like." *Boston Review*. May 14. <http://bostonreview.net/class-inequality-global-justice/nicholas-rush-what-30-percent-unemployment-looks>.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2019. "Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa." *Democracy in Africa*. 20 May. <http://democracyinafrica.org/contradictions-democracy-vigilantism-rights-post-apartheid-south-africa/>. (Invited)

Schwedler, Jillian M., Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2019. "Ethnography and Participant Observation." American Political Science Association Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Qualitative Transparency Deliberations, Working Group Final Reports, Report III.3 (August 2018). <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3333465>.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2018. "Apartheid." In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Surveillance, Security, and Privacy*. Bruce Arrigo, Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2018. "South Africa." In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Surveillance, Security, and Privacy*. Bruce Arrigo, Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2015. "The Case for Comparative Ethnography." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research: Newsletter of the American Political Science Association Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 13 (2): 13-18. (Invited)

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2014. "Beyond Pistorius: The Politics of South African Justice." *African Arguments*. September 12. <http://africanarguments.org/2014/09/12/beyond-pistorius-the-politics-of-south-african-justice-by-nicholas-rush-smith/>.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2013. "The Struggle Continues: Mandela and His Legacies." *Five Rupees*. July 1. <http://fiverupees.com/2013/07/01/guest-post-the-struggle-continues-mandela-and-his-legacies/>. (Invited)

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2008. "The Wonga Coup: Transparency and Conspiracy in Equatorial Guinea." *CSIS Online Africa Policy Forum*. January 23: <http://forums.csis.org/africa>. (Invited)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Truth About Police Violence: Interpreting Police Killing in South Africa
(Book Project in Development; Fieldwork, Data Collection, and Writing In-Progress; Draft Chapters and Proposal Available Upon Request)

All Dead Generations: A Family's Life in the Shadows
(Book Project in Development; Data Collection and Writing In-Progress; Draft Chapters and Proposal Available Upon Request)

Democratic State Violence

(Ongoing Research Project, co-PI with Kanisha Bond and Lahoma Thomas; CA\$70,360 Grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council)

“Democratic State Violence: Contemporary Epistemics and Their Political Considerations”

(Co-authored with Kanisha D. Bond and Lahoma Thomas; Under review)

“Killing the Collective: Violence on the Platinum Belt in the Wake of the Marikana Massacre”

(Co-authored with Luke Sinwell; Commissioned for edited volume on criminal and rebel governance by Ana Arjona, Desmond Arias, Zachariah Mampilly, and Eduardo Moncada)

“Review of Nicholas Barnes, *Inside Criminalized Governance: How and Why Gangs Rule the Streets of Rio de Janeiro*”

(Commissioned by *Civil Wars*; Under review)

“Rethinking Democracy as a System of Contradictions”

(Co-authored with Zachary Klamann; Working Paper in Preparation for Submission)

“Reflecting on Reflexivity: A Note on Multiple Ways to Be Reflexive.”

(Working Paper in Preparation for Submission)

EXTERNAL AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY Visiting Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences, AUS\$11,000	2025
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GRANT FOR PROJECT ON DEMOCRATIC STATE VIOLENCE Social Science and Humanities Research Council (Canada), CA\$70,360 (Co-PI with Lahoma Thomas and Kanisha Bond)	2024-2025
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DAVID COLLIER MID-CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (JOINT WINNER WITH ERICA S. SIMMONS) American Political Science Association, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section	2023
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BEST BOOK AWARD (CO-WINNER) American Political Science Association, African Politics Conference Group (For <i>Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa</i>)	2020
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DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section (For <i>Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa</i>)	2020
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HONORABLE MENTION, CHARLES TAYLOR BOOK AWARD American Political Science Association, Interpretative Methods and Methodologies Related Group (For <i>Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa</i>)	2020
GRANT FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH: ROBUST AND RELIABLE RESEARCH WORKSHOP PROPOSAL: RETHINKING COMPARISON IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES National Science Foundation, Award #1713769, \$49,950 (CUNY: \$8,309) (Co-PI with Erica S. Simmons)	2017-2018
FINALIST, ANDREW CARNEGIE FELLOWS PROGRAM Carnegie Corporation of New York (City College of New York Junior Faculty Nominee)	2016
SAGE PAPER AWARD FOR BEST PAPER PRESENTED AT APSA ANNUAL MEETING American Political Science Association, Qualitative and Multi-Method Organized Section (Joint Winner with Erica S. Simmons)	2016
HAYWARD ALKER STUDENT PAPER AWARD FOR BEST PAPER PRESENTED AT APSA ANNUAL MEETING American Political Science Association, Interpretive Methodologies And Methods Conference Group	2014
INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP Social Science Research Council, \$28,000	2009-2010
FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES (FLAS) SUMMER FELLOWSHIP Michigan State University, \$2500	2009
FULBRIGHT-HAYS ZULU GROUP PROJECT ABROAD FELLOWSHIP University of Pennsylvania	2007
FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES (FLAS) SUMMER FELLOWSHIP Indiana University, \$2500	2006

INTERNAL AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS (CUNY)

PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$6000	2021
COLIN POWELL SCHOOL FACULTY TEACHING AWARD	2020

City University of New York – City College, \$500	
PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$6000	2020
PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$6000	2019
PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$6000	2018
PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$5967.65	2017
BOOK COMPLETION AWARD City University of New York, \$1000 (Runner-Up Award)	2017
FACULTY FELLOWSHIP PUBLICATION PROGRAM FELLOWSHIP City University of New York	2016

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS ORGANIZED

WORKSHOP ON RETHINKING GENERALIZATION IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES City University of New York – City College Co-Organizer, Erica S. Simmons Funder: University of Wisconsin and Dean’s Office of the Colin Powell School	2023
WORKSHOP ON DEMOCRATIC STATE VIOLENCE City University of New York – City College Co-Organizers, Kanisha Bond and Lahoma Thomas Funder: CCNY Department of Political Science	2023
WORKSHOP ON RETHINKING COMPARISON IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES City University of New York – City College Co-Organizer, Erica S. Simmons Funder: National Science Foundation	2017
ELECTIONS IN VOLATILE STATES Human Rights Forum Panel, City University of New York – City College Funder: Dean’s Office of the Colin Powell School	2015

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS (SINCE 2014)

KILLING THE COLLECTIVE: UNDERSTANDING ASSASSINATIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE
MARIKANA MASSACRE

Workshop on Criminal and Rebel Governance, Penn State University, May 2025
(Invited)

HOW CASES SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER: HOW TRANSLATION CAN HELP US RETHINK THE GOALS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
Interpretive Methods Collaborative Network, Australian National University, May 2025 (Invited)
Yale University, Comparative Politics Workshop, February 2024 (Invited)
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, September 2023

THE TRUTH ABOUT POLICE VIOLENCE
SPIR Seminar, Australian National University, April 2025 (Invited)

FUCK UP? HOW POLICE VIOLENCE EXPERTS MADE SENSE OF THE MARIKANA MASSACRE
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, September 2024
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Denver, June 2024

CONTRADICTION
City University of New York, Comparative Politics Workshop, November 2023

THE PROTESTANT ETHIC AND THE SPIRIT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, November 2023

LIES THAT BIND: THE POLITICS OF OFFICIAL DECEPTION ABOUT POLICE KILLING
African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 2023
European Conference on African Studies, Cologne, June 2023

THESES ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF TRAGEDY: HOW OFFICIAL TRUTHS ABOUT POLICE VIOLENCE ARE MADE
Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, August 2023
University of Zurich, Workshop on South Africa in Transition, April 2022 (Invited, Virtual)
University of Chicago, Comparative Politics Workshop, March 2022 (Invited)

RETHINKING COMPARISON: INNOVATIVE METHODS FOR QUALITATIVE POLITICAL INQUIRY
McGill University, Institute for the Study of International Development, April 2023 (Invited)
Tilburg University, Global Law and Governance Research Group, September 2022, (Invited)
Interpretive Political and Social Science Podcast, New Books Network, April 2022 (Invited)
Yale University, Department of Political Science, April 2022 (Invited)

- Australian National University, Interpretation Method and Critique Seminar Series,
November 2021 (Invited, Virtual)
- WHAT THE SHADOWS DO TO US: A NOTE ON RESEARCH IN PROGRESS
Workshop on Political Violence in Comparative Perspective, Yale University,
November 2022 (Invited)
- WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS
University of California-San Diego, Workshop on Illicit Economies and Criminal
Governance, October 2022 (Invited)
- COMMUNICATING ACROSS CONTEXTS: HOW TO BUILD SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE
THROUGH COMPARATIVE AREA STUDIES
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, September
2022
GIGA Hamburg, Workshop on Comparative Area Studies, April 2022 (Invited)
- RIGHTS IN TRANSLATION: VIGILANTISM AND THE MEANINGS OF INSTITUTIONAL
EFFECTIVENESS AND FAILURE IN SOUTH AFRICA
University of Hannover, Conference on Dealing with Violence: Resolving Conflicts
in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2022 (Invited)
- THE TRUTH ABOUT POLICE VIOLENCE
Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Lisbon, July 2022
- LAW MAKING AND STATE MAKING AS VIGILANTISM
Stanford University, Freeman Spogli Institute, “State Violence: Problematic Policing
and Criminalization in Comparative Perspective,” March 2022 (Invited, Virtual)
- CONTRADICTIONS OF DEMOCRACY: VIGILANTISM AND RIGHTS IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH
AFRICA
Ethnographic Café, Author Meets-Readers-Event, February 2022 (Invited, Virtual)
Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Author-Meets-Readers
Roundtable, June 2020
Colgate University, Department of Political Science, March 2020 (Invited)
- GRAMMARS OF GENERALIZATION: HOW TRANSLATION CAN HELP US RETHINK THE GOALS
OF POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
University of Wisconsin – Madison, Comparative Politics Workshop, December 2021
(Invited)
- STATE VIOLENCE AND THE DECLINE OF VIGILANTISM: UNCOMFORTABLE LESSONS FOR
AFRICA FROM THE UNITED STATES
Harvard University, Workshop on The Political Science of Lynching in Global
Comparative Perspective, July 2020 (Invited, Virtual)

DEMOCRATIC DEATH: SOUTH AFRICA'S KILLING STATE

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2019
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2019
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, June 2018.
Boston University, Comparative Politics Workshop, October 2018 (Invited)

THE GOLEM STATE: POLICE VIOLENCE OLD AND NEW IN SOUTH AFRICA

Southern Methodist University, Violence and the End(s) Of Colonialism Conference,
September 2019 (Invited)

THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF VIGILANTISM

University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), Violent States, States of Violence
Colloquium, August 2019 (Invited)
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2016
CUNY–John Jay College, Department of Political Science, September 2015 (Invited)
University of Florida, Center for African Studies, Baraza Lecture Series, April 2015
(Invited)
Bates College, Departments of Political Science and Anthropology, April 2015
(Invited)
New York Law School, Twenty Years of South African Constitutionalism
Conference, November 2014

THE FUNERAL STATE: SEEING SOUTH AFRICAN STATE FORMATION THROUGH FUNERALS

Northeastern Workshop on Southern Africa, April 2019

COMMENT ON TIMOTHY PACHIRAT, *AMONG WOLVES: ETHNOGRAPHY AND THE IMMERSIVE
STUDY OF POWER*

Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, April 2019

TAKING CHARGE: THE PLEASURES OF CITIZEN CRIME FIGHTING

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, April 2019 (Invited)
Vassar College, Department of Political Science, April 2016 (Invited)

AGAINST VIGILANTISM: CONTRADICTIONS OF CITIZEN AND STATE ACTION TO COMBAT
VIGILANTISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2018
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2018

THE EMOTIONAL TURN IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH

CUNY–Graduate Center, Comparative Politics Workshop, September 2018 (Invited)

COMPARISONS WITH AN ETHNOGRAPHIC SENSIBILITY: STUDIES OF PROTEST AND
VIGILANTISM (w/ Erica s. Simmons)

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2018

LAW MAKING AND STATE MAKING AS VIGILANTISM

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, June 2018
 University of Witwatersrand, WISER, April 2018
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2017
 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, December 2016

THE POLITICS OF DEATH: YOUNG MEN AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA
 City University of New York, Politics and Protest Workshop, April 2018

CONTRADICTIONS OF DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA
 University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, February 2018 (Invited)

A GHOSTLY PRESENCE IN THE LIFE OF CIVILIZED STATES: YOUNG MEN AND THE POLICE
 AMIDST DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA
 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2017
 Northeastern Workshop on Southern Africa, October 2017

POLITICAL PASTS AND CRIMINAL FUTURES: THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
 COMMISSION AND POST-APARTHEID STATE BUILDING
 Law and Society Association of Africa Conference, University of Cape Town,
 December 2016
 University of Florida, African Studies Center, April 2016 (Invited)

ELECTIONS IN VOLATILE STATES: THE CASE OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
 CUNY – City College, Human Rights Forum, December 2015 (Moderator and
 Organizer)

THE PEOPLE’S JUSTICE: HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS OF CONTEMPORARY VIGILANTISM IN
 SOUTH AFRICA
 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2015
 New York Law School, South Africa Reading Group, October 2015 (Invited)
 CUNY – Graduate Center, Politics and Protest Workshop, February 2015

CONCEPTUALIZING VIGILANTISM: POSSIBILITIES FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE
 CUNY – Graduate Center, Comparative Politics Workshop, October 2015 (Invited)
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2014

COMPARISON AND ETHNOGRAPHY: WHAT EACH CAN LEARN FROM THE OTHER
 Princeton University, Qualitative Methods Workshop, October 2016 (Invited)
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2015
 CUNY - City College, Department of Political Science, February 2015

THE POWER OF COUNTERREVOLUTION: ELITIST ORIGINS OF POLITICAL ORDER IN
 POSTCOLONIAL ASIA AND AFRICA (WITH DAN SLATER)
 Yale University, Comparative Politics Workshop, April 2015

NEW VOICES IN POLITICAL ETHNOGRAPHY, ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANT

Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2015

BEYOND MILL'S METHODS: NEW APPROACHES TO COMPARISON, ROUNDTABLE

PARTICIPANT

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – CITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE

Basic Theories and Methods in Comparative Politics (PhD)

Global Justice (MA)

Theories of International Relations (MA)

Research Methods (MA)

Africa in World Affairs (MA)

UNDERGRADUATE

Political Systems of Africa

Introduction to World Politics

Contemporary Comparative Politics

The Politics of Crime and Punishment

Arguments and Evidence

Senior Thesis

THESIS ADVISING

PHD DISSERTATIONS

RYAN BRUNETTE – ONGOING – POLITICAL SCIENCE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK-GRADUATE CENTER (DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER)

GUILLERMO SARDI – ONGOING – POLITICAL SCIENCE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK-GRADUATE CENTER (DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER)

KIRA TAIT – 2021 – POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS-AMHERST (EXTERNAL DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER)

MA THESES

BINTA DIARRA – ONGOING – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COLLIN FERNANDES – ONGOING – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

JOURDAN LEONARD – ONGOING – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

AYA OSMAN – ONGOING – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SAMI ALTOMAIHI – 2023 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

AYOUBA DOUMBIA – 2022 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

KIIRU GICHURU – 2020 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

JOSEPH STEWARD – 2020 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

AMADOU KONTEYE – 2019 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (WINNER, AWARD FOR

OUTSTANDING THESIS RESEARCH)

ISLAM GOHER MOHAMMED – 2019 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

LUKE SCARPA – 2018 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

FOUSSENI NAMORO – 2017 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (WINNER, BEST THESIS AWARD)

RAHMA MASSOUD – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

LYNNE SCOTT JACKSON – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DANIELLE HAMILTON – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MONICA ORELLANA – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

ELIZABETH GARCIA – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CHARLETTE LOPEZ – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MARTA DIAZ – 2015 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

KOFI AFFUL – 2014 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BA THESES

JESSICA JORGE – 2018 – INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (WINNER, ALLEN F. AND BARBARA S. ISAACMAN FELLOWSHIP IN AFRICAN STUDIES)

SUPRITA DATTA – 2017 – INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

MAWULE AGBAHEY – 2015 – INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

NAZRRETH YEMANE – 2014 – INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

FIELDWORK

SOUTH AFRICA: ~22 Months (June-September 2008, October 2009-October 2010, February-April 2011, July-August 2015, December 2016-January 2017, January 2019, August 2019, August 2022)

LANGUAGES

ISIZULU - Speaking Advanced, Reading Intermediate

FRENCH - Speaking Intermediate, Reading Advanced

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

COEDITOR-IN-CHIEF, *Comparative Politics*, 2025-Present

VICE PRESIDENT, Qualitative and Multimethod Organized Section, American Political Science Association, 2025-Present

MEMBER, Executive Committee, Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Related Group, American Political Science Association, 2020-Present

BOARD MEMBER, International Advisory Board for the *Routledge Series on Interpretive Methods*, 2024-Present

MEMBER, Editorial Committee, *Comparative Politics*, 2019-2025

PROGRAM CHAIR, AFRICAN POLITICS AND POLICY SUBTHEME, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2025

MEMBER, David M. Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award Committee, Qualitative Methods Section, American Political Science Association, 2025

REVIEWER, Colin Powell School Fellowship Award Committee, City College of New York, 2025

REVIEWER, Book Completion Award Committee, City University of New York, 2025

REVIEWER, Center for Engaged Scholarship Dissertation Fellowship, 2025

REVIEWER, National Research Foundation (South Africa), 2023

MEMBER, Giovanni Sartori Book Award Committee, Qualitative Methods Section, American Political Science Association, 2021

CHAIR, Distinguished Book Award Committee, Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association, 2021

INVITED INSTRUCTOR, Advanced Research on Conflict Workshop, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Service, 2019, 2023

PROGRAM CHAIR, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Section, 2019, 2020

MEMBER, APCG Best Book Award Committee, African Politics Conference Group, American Political Science Association, 2018

REVIEWER, Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2017-2020

MODERATOR, Ethnographic and Participant Observation Methods Discussion, Qualitative Transparency Deliberations, American Political Science Association, 2016-17

MEMBER, Hayward R. Alker Student Paper Award Committee, Interpretive Methods and Methodologies Conference Group, American Political Science Association, 2015

ETHNOGRAPHY INSTRUCTOR, Methods Café, Western Political Science Association, April 2015; American Political Science Association, September 2015

REVIEWER, Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, November 2014

STUDENT PARTICIPANT, Planning Workshop for National Science Foundation Funded Qualitative Data Repository, Syracuse University, March 2009

REVIEWER, *Cambridge University Press; Columbia University Press; Oxford University Press; Stanford University Press; University of Virginia Press; African Studies Quarterly; African Studies Review; American Journal of Political Science; American Journal of Sociology; American Political Science Review; Antipode; Australian Political Science Review; Comparative Political Studies; Comparative Politics; Conflict and Society; Current Sociology; Journal of Modern African Studies; Journal of Peace Research; Perspectives on Politics; Political Studies; Polity; Qualitative Research; Review of Constitutional Studies; Theory and Society; World Politics; Violence*

MEMBER, African Studies Association

MEMBER, American Political Science Association

MEMBER, American Sociological Association

Member, Law and Society Association

Member, Social Science History Association

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY (CUNY)

MEMBER, Department of Political Science Executive Committee, CUNY – City College, 2021-22

MEMBER, Faculty Council of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, CUNY – City College, 2018-Present

MEMBER, Faculty Council of the Colin Powell School, CUNY – City College, 2017-Present

MEMBER, Student Elections Review Committee, CUNY – City College, 2017-Present

FACULTY SPONSOR, Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, CUNY – City College, 2014-Present

SENATOR FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE, Faculty Senate, CUNY – City College, 2020-2021

WEBMASTER, CUNY – City College, Department of Political Science, 2014-2019

MEMBER, MA in International Relations Admissions Committee, 2018, 2019

REVIEWER, CUNY Book Completion Award Competition, 2018, 2019, 2020

MEMBER, Search Committee for the Dean of the Colin Powell School of Civic and Global Leadership, 2018

CHAIR, Departmental Awards Committee, CUNY – City College, Department of Political Science, 2014-2018

MEMBER, Comparative Politics Search Committee, CUNY – City College Department of Political Science, Fall 2017

MEMBER, Political Theory Search Committee, CUNY – City College Department of Political Science, Fall 2014

FACULTY SPEAKER, “Know Your Rights” Event, New York Civil Liberties Union Student Chapter, CUNY - City College, November 2014

(Updated September 2025)