

NICHOLAS RUSH SMITH

EMPLOYMENT

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

EDUCATION

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – GRADUATE CENTER	2025-Present
MA, Biography and Memoir Writing	
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	2013
PhD, Political Science	
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	2004
MA, Social Sciences	
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY	2003
MA, International Development Studies	
COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY	2001
BA, Government and History	

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

<i>COMPARATIVE POLITICS</i>	2025-Present
Co-editor-In-Chief	
FELLOW OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY (FHEA)	2026-Present
Advance HE United Kingdom	
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR	2026-Present
Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies	
Bologna Institute for Policy Research	
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY	2021-Present

Instructor, Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research

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

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL (SOUTH AFRICA)
Visiting Scholar, Centre for Civil Society

2008, 2009-2010

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*

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2026. "How Cases Speak to One Another: Using Translation to Rethink Generalization in Political Science Research." *American Political Science Review*. 120 (1): 110-122.

- Honorable Mention, Alexander L. George Award for the Best Article Award, Qualitative and Multimethod Research Section, American Political Science Association
- Honorable Mention, Peregrine Schwartz-Shea and Dvora Yanow Best Article Award, Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Related Group, American Political Science Association

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2025. "Le Massacre de Marikana en 2012, Ou la Transformation Politique Manquée" (The Marikana Massacre as a Moment of Failed Transformation) *20&21: Revue d'Histoire* 166 (2): 149-161.

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.

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.

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 CHAPTERS

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2026. "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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

BOOK REVIEWS

Smith, Nicholas Rush. Forthcoming. "Inside Criminalized Governance: How and Why Gangs Rule the Streets of Rio de Janeiro by Nicholas Barnes." *Civil Wars*.

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; US\$5000 from the American Political Science Association)

There Are No Research Methods: An Irreverent Guide to Studying Politics
(Early Book Project in Development; Methods "textbook" based upon classroom teaching; Solicited by SAGE)

"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; Under Review at Oxford University Press)

"Rethinking Democracy as a System of Contradictions"
(Co-authored with Zachary Klamann; Working Paper in Preparation for Submission)

"Democratic State Violence: Contemporary Epistemics and Their Political Considerations"
(Co-authored with Kanisha D. Bond and Lahoma Thomas; 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

ALEXANDER L. GEORGE BEST ARTICLE AWARD (HONORABLE MENTION) American Political Science Association, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section	2026
PEREGRINE SCHWARTZ-SHEA AND DVORA YANOW BEST ARTICLE AWARD (HONORABLE MENTION) Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Related Group, American Political Science Association	2026
GRANT FOR PROJECT ON DEMOCRATIC STATE VIOLENCE American Political Science Association, \$5000 (Co-PI with Lahoma Thomas and Kanisha Bond)	2025-2026
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY Visiting Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences, AUS\$11,000	2025
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
DAVID COLLIER MID-CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (JOINT WINNER WITH ERICA S. SIMMONS) American Political Science Association, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section	2023
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
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
CHARLES TAYLOR BOOK AWARD (HONORABLE MENTION) American Political Science Association, Interpretive 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

INNOVATION IN TEACHING AWARD (SHORTLIST) SOAS Student Union	2026
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD (NOMINATED) SOAS Student Union	2026
RESEARCH CULTURE FUND AWARD for the SOAS School of Methods SOAS University of London, £10,000	2025
PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B)	2021

City University of New York, \$6000	
COLIN POWELL SCHOOL FACULTY TEACHING AWARD City University of New York – City College, \$500	2020
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

SOAS SCHOOL OF METHODS SOAS University of London Co-Organizers: Tessa Devereaux and Tolga Sinmazdemir Funder: SOAS Research Culture Fund	2026
PUTTING SOCIAL SCIENCE IN MOTION: TRACING, FOLLOWING AND BEYOND European University Institute, Third-Term Workshop Lead Co-Organizers, Jeffrey Checkel and Nora Soderberg	2026
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	2017

Co-Organizer, Erica S. Simmons
Funder: National Science Foundation

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)

BODY COUNTS: A PERSONAL HISTORY
Political Science Department Research Seminar, University College London,
November 2026 (Invited)

RETHINKING GENERALIZATION
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, September
2027

WHAT THE SHADOWS DO TO US: A NOTE ON RESEARCH IN PROGRESS
DPCR Speaker Series, Uppsala University, April 2026 (Invited)
Moynihan Institute Seminar, CUNY-City College, November 2024
Workshop on Political Violence in Comparative Perspective, Yale University,
November 2022 (Invited)

THE TRUTH ABOUT POLICE VIOLENCE
Politics Department Seminar, University of Virginia, April 2026 (Invited)
Institute of Politics Seminar, Leiden University, November 2025 (Invited)
SPIR Seminar, Australian National University, April 2025 (Invited)

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
Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Chicago, November 2025
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

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 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

SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

GRADUATE

MPhil Research Methods (PhD)

UNDERGRADUATE

Introduction to Research Methods
State and Politics in Africa

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – CITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE

Basic Theories and Methods in Comparative Politics (PhD, CUNY Graduate Center)
Global Justice (MA)
Theories of International Relations (MA)
Research Methods (MA)

Africa in World Affairs (MA)

UNDERGRADUATE

Arguments and Evidence
Contemporary Comparative Politics
Introduction to World Politics
Politics of Crime and Punishment
Political Systems of Africa
Senior Thesis

THESIS ADVISING

PHD DISSERTATIONS

MASIMBA MAKASI – ONGOING – POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, SOAS
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (PRIMARY THESIS ADVISOR)
CESILIA SINUR – ONGOING – POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, SOAS UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON (THESIS COMMITTEE MEMBER)
FROILAN MALIT – ONGOING – POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, SOAS UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON (THESIS COMMITTEE MEMBER)
SALEH NAAS – ONGOING – POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, SOAS UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON (THESIS COMMITTEE MEMBER)
AZRA SYED – ONGOING – POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, SOAS UNIVERSITY OF
LONDON (THESIS COMMITTEE MEMBER)
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

ELLIOTT WEBB – ONGOING – POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
BINTA DIARRA – 2025 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COLLIN FERNANDES – 2025 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
JOURDAN LEONARD – 2025 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AYA OSMAN – 2025 – 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: ~23 Months (June-September 2008, October 2009-October 2010, February-April 2011, July-August 2015, December 2016-January 2017, January 2019, August 2019, August 2022, July-August 2026)

LANGUAGES

ISIZULU - Speaking Advanced, Reading Intermediate
FRENCH - Speaking Intermediate, Reading Advanced

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, *Comparative Politics*, 2025-Present

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

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

MEMBER, Executive Committee, Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Related Group, American Political Science Association, 2020-2026

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

SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

CO-LEADER (with Phil Clark), Rwanda Study Tour, 2026

ORGANIZER, Department Seminar, 2025

MEMBER (EX-OFFICIO), Department Research Committee, 2025

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 August 2026)