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Research Interests

Conflict processes, social movements, repression, African politics, antisemitism, political psychology & behavior

Academic Appointments

Washington State University

School of Politics, Philosophy, and Public Affairs

Assistant Professor

2020 - Current

Pennsylvania State University, the Behrend College

Department of Political Science

Assistant Teaching Professor

2019 - 2020

Education

University of Maryland, College Park

Ph.D., *Government and Politics*

2019

American University of Paris

MA, *Strategic Public Policy and International Affairs*

2010

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

BA, *Psychology and English*

2006

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Conspiracy and antisemitism in contemporary political attitudes” (2025) *Political Research Quarterly*.

“What determines the duration of protest events in Africa?” (2025) *Government & Opposition*. With William Favell.

“Violent riots and South African satisfaction with democracy” (2024) *Political Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-024-09945-7>

“Antisemitic Hate Crime Exposure and Foreign Policy Preferences.” (2023) *Journal of Contemporary Antisemitism*, 7(1): 13-34. With Ayal Feinberg. <https://doi.org/10.26613/jca/7.1.149>

“Repression, backlash, and the duration of protests in Africa.” (2023) *Journal of Peace Research*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433231186449>. With Brandon Ives

“Proximate exposure to conflict and the spatiotemporal correlates of social trust in Africa.” (2023) *Political Psychology*, 44(3): 667 - 687. With Sedef Topal. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12864>

“What determines support for separatism? Evidence from Biafra, Nigeria.” (2022) *Nations and Nationalism*, 29(4): 1159-1438. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12907>

“Repression and bystander mobilization in Africa” (2022) *Social Movement Studies*, 22(4): 494-512. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2022.2052837>

“Territorial origins of center-seeking and self-determination claims in Africa.” (2022) *Political Geography*, 94. With Mike Widmeier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2021.102564>

“Signals, strongholds, and support: political party protests in South Africa.” (2021) *Politics*, 41(2): 189-206. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0263395720935029>

“Corruption Perceptions and Contentious Politics in Africa: How Different Types of Corruption Have Shaped Africa’s Third Wave of Protest.” (2021) *Political Studies Review*, 19(2): 227-244. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1478929920903657>

WINNER: Political Studies Review's best article of 2021.

"From Rallies to Riots: Why Some Protests Become Violent." (2020) *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 64(5): 958–986.
With Brandon Ives. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022002719887491>

MONOGRAPHS, WHITE PAPERS, AND PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

"The role of trust in mobilization and nonviolent discipline: evidence from civil resistance in Africa". *International Center on Nonviolent Conflict*. (2021) Available online: <https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/resource/how-social-trust-shapes-civil-resistance-lessons-from-africa/>

"How does exposure to conflict events shape social trust? A spatiotemporal approach." (2022) *Afrobarometer Working Paper*. No. 189. With Sedef Topal.

"Elite corruption has the power to ignite mass protests in Nigeria - why police corruption doesn't." *The Conversation*. Available online: <https://theconversation.com/elite-corruption-has-the-power-to-ignite-mass-protests-in-nigeria-why-police-corruption-doesnt-239760>

Invited Talks

- 2024 "Antisemitism in contemporary politics," *Seoul National University*.
"Unpacking the link between conspiracies and antisemitism," *Gratz College*.
Available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QYlrVqoM5Q>
- 2023 "Populism, Conspiracy, and Antisemitism," *University of Richmond*

Awards, Fellowships & Grants

AWARDS

- Best Article of 2021, *Political Studies Review* 2022
Excellence in Teaching Award, *University of Maryland* 2018

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2024 Minerva, *Department of Defense* \$3,961,298
- 2023 Alan Cornell Seminar Fellowship, *International School for Holocaust Studies, Yad Vashem*
- 2022 Trust2Peace, *U.S. Agency for International Development (CA# 72064122CA00003)* \$1,200,000
Co-PI with John McCauley, *University of Maryland*.
Center for Antisemitism Research Fellowship, *Anti-Defamation League* \$25,000
Sustainable Peace in Africa, *Carnegie Corporation of New York* \$200,000
Micro-grant Program, *Academic Engagement Network* \$3,000
- 2021 Antisemitism Fellowship, *Academic Engagement Network* \$1,000
Summer Research Funding, *Washington State University* \$5,000
- 2019 Monograph Fellowship, *International Center for Nonviolent Conflict* \$5,000
- 2018 Dean's Research Initiative Grant, *University of Maryland* \$5,000
- 2017 Research Grant, *Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa* \$2,500
- 2016 GVPT Research Initiative Grant, *University of Maryland* \$2,500
- 2015 Dean's Research Initiative Grant, *University of Maryland* \$2,500
Comparative Politics Research Grant, *University of Maryland* \$2,500
- 2014 Summer Research Fellowship, *University of Maryland* \$5,000

Research

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- Research Adviser - International Affairs, *Anti-Defamation League* 2023 - current
Research Adviser - Center for Antisemitism Research, *Anti-Defamation League* 2023 - current

Research Consultant – G100 Data Project, <i>Anti-Defamation League</i>	2023
Research Fellow – Open Data Roundtables, <i>Center for Open Data Enterprise</i>	2018-2019
Research Manager – Africa Integrity Indicators, <i>Global Integrity</i>	2016-2018
Visiting Researcher – UCDP One-Sided Violence, <i>Uppsala University</i>	2015
Research Assistant – Paul Huth, <i>University of Maryland</i>	2014-2016
Research Assistant – Mark Lichbach, <i>University of Maryland</i>	2013-2014

FIELD WORK

Ghana, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe

METHODS

<i>Quantitative</i>	parametric/nonparametric statistics, maximum likelihood & hierarchical
<i>Geospatial</i>	spatial autocorrelation, temporal inference, novel data collection
<i>Experiments</i>	field experiments, lab experiments, survey experiments
<i>Qualitative</i>	field research, QCA, semi-structured interviews & focus groups

Courses Taught

<i>Undergraduate</i>	Introduction to Comparative Politics, Introduction to International Relations, Death of Democracy, Political Psychology, Politics of the Developing World, African Politics, International Development and Conflict Management, Capstone in Conflict Management, Capstone in International Development, Weak and Failing States, Peace, Justice, & Human Rights
<i>Graduate</i>	Seminar in Global Politics, Seminar in Political Psychology, Advanced Quantitative Methods, Seminar in Comparative Politics & Methods

Graduate Student Mentorship

DISSERTATION CHAIR

Sedef Topal, *Assistant Professor (TT) at Ripon College*

Dissertation: *“Pathways to Cooperation: A Relational Theory of Rebel Alliances.”*

Winner: *APSA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Civil Wars Pathways Fellowship*

William Favell

Research focuses on conflict and social cohesion.

Winner: *EITM 2024 Summer Fellow, British Political Studies Association Best Paper 2024.*

Joseph Akowuah

Research focuses on electoral violence in sub-Saharan Africa

Winner: *Institute for Humane Studies 2025 Research Grant, Amsterdam Centre for Conflict Studies 2024 Research Grant*

Undergraduate Student Mentorship

HONORS ADVISER

Emma Ekman, <i>passed with distinction</i>	2021-2022
Emily Frey, <i>passed with excellent rating</i>	2022-Current

McNAIR SCHOLARS ADVISER

Anika Wood	2023 - Current
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MENTORSHIP

Isabelle Gibson, <i>2x undergraduate research grant winner, accepted to APSA 2022, accepted to UMD Ph.D</i>	2020-2022
Jocelyn Granados, <i>accepted full scholarship to UW law school</i>	2023-2024
Jordan Mitchell, <i>accepted to law school</i>	2021-2022
Hector Salcedo, <i>prepared job market materials</i>	2021-2023
Tara Sullivan, <i>2023 Auwil Scholars Fellowship, internship in Zimbabwe</i>	2022-Current

Service

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

<i>Departmental</i>	Graduate Studies Committee	2020 - Current
	Website & Communications Committee	2020-2021
	Safety Committee	2020-2021
	Faculty Search Committee, Global Politics	2023-2024
	CAS Scholarship Evaluations	2024
	Pi Sigma Alpha Adviser	2024 - Current
<i>Initiatives</i>	In charge of the research colloquium series	
	Developing BA+MA program	
<i>University</i>	Faculty Senate Member	2022 - 2024
	Library Committee	2021 - 2024
	Dean's Faculty Adviser Committee	2025 - Current
<i>External</i>	Dissertation reviewer, Moses Onyanga, <i>University of Johannesburg</i>	
	Dissertation reviewer, Eve Nyemba, <i>University of Johannesburg</i>	

FIELD SERVICE

<i>Editorial Board</i>	Journal of Peace Research	
	Political Psychology	
<i>Journal review</i>	American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Comparative Politics, Conflict Management and Peace Research, Democratization, Political Research Quarterly, Global Studies Quarterly, Empirical Economics, Journal of Politics, Civil Wars, Social Dynamics, African Security Review, Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics, Security Studies	
<i>Associational</i>	Pre-conference organizer - Political Psychology - APSA	2024, 2025
	Section Chair - Political Psychology - APSA	2024
	Section Chair - African Politics - 2024 - MPSA	2024
<i>Panel chair</i>	American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, International Studies Association, International Society for Political Psychology	
<i>Publisher review</i>	Routledge, Polity Books, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan	
<i>Grant review</i>	The Leverhulme Trust, U.S. Department of Defense Minerva Initiative	