

# DR. BRIAN KLAAS

Department of Government  
Houghton Street  
London, WC2A 2AE  
United Kingdom

b.klaas@lse.ac.uk  
(office) +44 (0)20 7955 4686  
(mobile) +44 (0)7704 107175

---

## CURRENT POSITION

**Fellow in Global & Comparative Politics**  
**London School of Economics**

September 2015—  
London, England

- Teaching: “Politics of Globalization”; “Capitalism & Democracy”; “States & Markets”; and “Introduction to Comparative Politics” for the MSc programmes in Comparative Politics and Global Politics
- 1.1 average score on 2015-16 teaching evaluations (1 being best; 5 being worst); nominated for LSESU Student-Led Teaching Excellence Award
- Serving as the academic adviser to 24 MSc students and six undergraduate students (2015-16)
- Convener of the dissertation methods lecture for all MSc students on the Comparative Politics course

## EDUCATION

**DPhil in Politics**  
**University of Oxford (New College)**

Awarded September 2015  
Oxford, England

- Advised by Dr. Nic Cheeseman—Director of African Studies at the University of Oxford (Jesus College)
- Dissertation shortlisted for the PSA Arthur McDougall Fund Prize for Best Dissertation related to Elections, Electoral Systems or Representation (nominated by the University of Oxford, October 2015)
- Clarendon Scholar (“Awarded to academically excellent students with the best proven and future potential,” an honor “reserved for less than the top 3% of graduate students at Oxford.”)
- Dissertation: “Bullets over Ballots: How electoral exclusion increases the risk of coups d’état and civil wars.”
- Mixed methods research; created a new global dataset and conducted field work in five countries
- Conducted more than 200 elite-level field interviews with heads of state, diplomats, rebels, generals, politicians, etc. in five case studies: Madagascar, Zambia, Côte d’Ivoire, Tunisia, and Thailand
- “This thesis should be of interest to a wide array of scholars in the areas of democratization, security politics, conflict, African politics, and electioneering. The empirics were extensive and convincing...the writing was clear, sharp, and engaging. This was a strong thesis.” – Dr. Ben Ansell (Oxford) and Dr. Elliott Green (LSE; DPhil examiners).

**MPhil in Politics**  
**University of Oxford (St. Antony’s College)**

September 2011 – July 2013  
Oxford, England

- Distinction (Highest award available; based on academic excellence in the Master’s thesis and overall coursework)
- Distinction obtained on all marked courses during the two-years.
- Departmental studentship awarded (2012-13) for academic excellence

**BA in Political Science and History**  
**Carleton College**

September 2004 – June 2008  
Northfield, Minnesota (USA)

- Summa Cum Laude (3.90 GPA)
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Patricia V. Damon Scholar (awarded to the top ten students in graduating class)
- Robert Byrd Scholar (U.S. government scholarship for “exceptionally able students”)

\*Also La Sorbonne (Paris; 2005), Middlebury College Arabic Immersion (Vermont; 2007) and Qalam wa Lawh (Rabat; 2011)

## PEER-REVIEWED AUTHORSHIP

- *The Despot's Accomplice: How the West is Aiding & Abetting the Decline of Democracy*, Oxford University Press (US) / Hurst & Co Publishers (UK). Full-length manuscript. Published October 2016.
- *How to Rig an Election*. Full-length manuscript. Co-authored with Dr. Nic Cheeseman (University of Oxford); Contract with Yale University Press (expected publication late 2017)
- *Bullets over Ballots: How rigged, exclusionary elections spark coups and civil wars*. Full-length manuscript. Currently under peer review at University of Michigan Press.
- *Following the Rules: How Election Institutions Can Reduce Conflict* in Cheeseman, N. (ed) *Political Institutions in Africa* (forthcoming 2016; Cambridge University Press)
- *The Exclusion Trap: How electoral exclusion increases the future risk of coups d'état*, currently under review in *Comparative Political Studies*.
- *The Uneven Cost of Coups: Why countries that can least afford recession are most likely to experience one after a coup d'état*, currently under review in *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; co-authored with Dr. Jay Ulfelder.
- *The Coup Makeover: Madagascar's 2013 Election and Legitimization of the 2009 Coup* (currently under review in the *Journal of Modern African Studies*; co-authored with Dr. Juvence Ramasy.
- *Golden Handcuffs: how international diplomacy can deter despots from repression by enticing them to step down peacefully*. Working paper.
- *The Curse of Low Expectations: the destabilizing risks of the international community holding African elections to lower standards*. Working paper.
- *Taxing Nigeria: Government Performance, Political Knowledge, and the Evolution of a Social Contract in Lagos*. Working paper, co-authored with Prof. Nic Cheeseman.
- "From Miracle to Nightmare: An Institutional Analysis of Development Failures in Côte d'Ivoire," *Africa Today*, Vol. 55, No. 1, Fall 2008.

## SELECTED OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Dictators around the world will delight in Trump's victory," *The Guardian*, 2 December 2016.
- "The United States Needs a Post-Election Peace Plan," *Foreign Policy*, 5 November 2016.
- "Another Bipartisan Tenet of US Foreign Policy Bites the Dust," *Foreign Policy*, 2 November 2016.
- "The Unthinkable Olive Branch," *Foreign Policy*, 5 October 2016.
- "Glaring Inequality and Conflict with Market-Dominant Minorities," *Good Governance Africa*, 1 October 2016.
- "The Fatal Flaw in Trump's Frankenstein Economic Plans," *Newsweek*, 20 August 2016.
- "Why Coups Fail," *Foreign Affairs*, 17 July 2016.
- "The Circus of the Republican Convention Masks an Extremely Divided Party," *LSE APP Blog*, 16 July 2016.
- "Boris Johnson could ruin Britain's global relationships," *International Business Times*, 14 July 2016.
- "The Isolationist Catastrophe of Brexit," *Los Angeles Times*, 23 June 2016.
- "How Fake Democracies Damage Real Ones," *Foreign Policy*, 21 June 2016.
- "The Devil We Know in Minsk," *Foreign Policy*, 9 February 2016.
- "Tumult in Tunisia," *Foreign Affairs*, 31 January 2016.
- "Votes and hope in Côte d'Ivoire," *Foreign Affairs*, 22 October 2015
- "Tunisia's well deserved Nobel peace prize," *Foreign Policy*, 9 October 2015
- "Perilous depths," *Good Governance Africa*, 31 July 2015
- "Talking with the wrong Libyans," *New York Times*, 14 June 2015 (co-authored with Jason Pack)
- "Playing politics with migrants on both sides of the Mediterranean," *Financial Times*, 8 June 2015
- "Two elections and you're out?," *Good Governance Africa*, 1 June 2015
- "Paving the road to Africa's future," *Good Governance Africa*, 1 March 2015
- "Today, Tunisia is tested," *Foreign Policy*, 18 March 2015
- "Coups decay," *Good Governance Africa*, 1 February 2015
- "Fair weather opposition," *Good Governance Africa*, 1 December 2014
- "Penguins offer US a lesson on climate change," *Los Angeles Times*, 29 October 2014 (co-authored with Gemma Clucas)
- "The Tunisia Model," *Foreign Affairs*, 23 October 2014 (co-authored with Marcel Dirsus)
- "Bridging the two Tunisias," *Foreign Policy*, 19 September 2014
- "The cannibal emperor of Bangui and Africa's forgotten conflict," *VICE News*, 19 September 2014

- “From cocoa to Cocody: Côte d’Ivoire emerges from the shadow of war,” *Good Governance Africa*, August 2014
- “Weaving its way back in,” *Good Governance Africa*, June 2014
- “From Mogadishu to Minneapolis, and back,” *Good Governance Africa*, April 2014
- “Captain Phillips’ misplaced storyline,” *USA Today*, 1 March 2014
- “Somali Minnesotans wield clout from Minneapolis to Mogadishu,” *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, 28 January 2014
- “Will the Arab Spring still blossom in Tunisia?” *The Los Angeles Times*, 17 December 2013 (co-authored with Jason Pack)
- “The curse of low expectations: lessons for democracy from Madagascar’s election,” *Foreign Policy*, 27 November 2013
- “The Ben Ali gap: Tunisia’s youth revolution turns over the reins of power to increasingly wrinkled hands,” *African Arguments*, 14 November 2013

## LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

- “Democracy and despots in the age of Donald Trump,” public lecture, University of Gothenburg (11 November 2016)
- “The Curse of Low Expectations: Election Monitoring, Democracy, and Conflict in Africa,” public lecture, University of Oxford (24 October 2016)
- “The Despot’s Accomplice: How the West is Aiding and Abetting the Decline of Democracy,” public lecture, London School of Economics (13 October 2016)
- “The cost of coups: how coups d’état affect economic growth,” Midwest Political Science Association 2016 Conference (April 2016)
- “The international dimensions of coups d’état and growth,” 26 January 2016, public lecture, University of Kiel (Germany)
- “Côte d’Ivoire: from miracle, to war, and back again,” 4 November 2015, public lecture, University of Oxford
- “Côte d’Ivoire: electoral risk and volatility,” 21 October 2015, *Global Trade Review*
- “Ballots or Bullets? The potential risks and rewards of Côte d’Ivoire’s 2015 election,” 30 June 2015, Lloyd’s of London
- “The exclusion trap: election rigging and conflict in Madagascar, Zambia, and Côte d’Ivoire,” 11 May 2015, University of Oxford seminar series on African Politics & History, Georg Deutsch (discussant)
- “Côte d’Ivoire: from miracle to civil war,” 8 March 2015, University of Oxford, Politics in Africa seminar series
- “Bullets over Ballots: How electoral exclusion sparks violence,” 18 July 2014, Pre-IPSA workshop, Electoral Integrity Project (Montreal)
- “Electoral exclusion, coups, and civil wars,” 10 May 2015, University of Oxford, African Politics lecture series

## NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Lead Author / Consultant One Earth Future**

September 2015 –  
Denver, Colorado

- Lead author for a project related to assessing the cost of coups d’état on national economic growth

### **Côte d’Ivoire Country Expert Menas Associates**

January 2015 –  
London, England

- Provide regular briefings, reports, advising, and public speaking engagements related to Côte d’Ivoire for a wide variety of public and private clients

### **Lead Consultant (Madagascar Politics) International Crisis Group**

March 2013 – June 2014  
Antananarivo, Madagascar

- Lead author for the International Crisis Group post-election report, “A Cosmetic End to Madagascar’s Crisis?”; co-authored an opinion piece for City Press (South Africa), with an estimated readership of 2.5 million.
- Provided ongoing advice and analysis about the political crisis in Madagascar.

### **Political Adviser (Madagascar) The Carter Center**

Feb. 2013 – Feb. 2014  
Antananarivo, Madagascar

- Led a pre-election assessment team investigating whether Madagascar’s government was committed to the democratic process; wrote investigation report to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

- Served as The Carter Center’s chief political adviser for their election observation mission to the second round elections, which took place on December 20, 2013.

**Lead Consultant / Political Adviser**  
**Malachite Consulting**

August 2013 – Sep. 2013  
 Antananarivo, Madagascar

- Lead political adviser for a team investigating and advising a multi-billion dollar client on the political and economic risks of investment in Madagascar.

**Policy Director / Deputy Campaign Manager**  
**Mark Dayton for Governor (Minnesota)**

April 2009 – January 2011  
 St. Paul, Minnesota

- Co-director of former U.S. Senator Mark Dayton’s successful campaign for Governor of the State of Minnesota overseeing more than 100 paid staff members and thousands of volunteers

**Analyst**  
**New Zealand Ministry of Health**

June 2008 – January 2009  
 Wellington, New Zealand

- Helped establish the National Bowel Cancer Screening Programme and the Bowel Cancer Taskforce; tracked emerging cancer research and helped administer national cancer care

## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- **English (native)**
- **French (fluent in reading, writing, speaking)**
- **Arabic (proficient in reading, writing, speaking)**

## SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

This is a small selection of recent media appearances (out of roughly 200 TV / Radio interviews in 2016).

- “Political risks of 2017,” CNBC Europe, 4 January 2017.
- “Trumponomics in the age of globalization,” Bloomberg TV, 3 January 2017.
- “East-West Relations and Russia’s hacking of the US election,” BBC World Service, 2 January 2017.
- “Globalization and the New Year,” BBC Radio 4, 1 January 2017.
- “US Foreign Policy in the new Trump administration,” CNN International, 30 December 2016.
- “Trump’s admiration of authoritarian despots & Russian hacking,” LBC Radio, 30 December 2016.
- “Picking Winners and Losers in the US Economy,” CNBC Europe, 29 December 2016.
- “Rex Tillerson as US Secretary of State?” Sky News, 13 December 2016.
- “The Global Decline of Democracy,” BBC Newsnight, 29 November 2016.
- “Trump’s lawsuits and the risks of corruption in democracies,” BBC News, 19 November 2016.
- “Populism and Donald Trump’s Victory,” BBC World, 17 November 2016.
- “Is Populist Politics About to Take Over the World,” Bloomberg TV, 16 November 2016.
- “Stephen Bannon’s White Nationalism in Trump’s Administration,” BBC World Service, 14 November 2016.
- “Foreign Policy Risks of Donald Trump’s New Administration,” CNN International, 12 November 2016.
- “Donald Trump’s Cabinet,” BBC World, 11 November 2016.
- “What could Trump learn from post-conflict reconciliation plans?” WBEZ Chicago, 9 November 2016.
- “Election Day Paper Review,” Sky News, 8 November 2016.
- “Rich Hall’s US Election Breakdown,” BBC Radio 4, 2 November 2016.
- “The Comey Letter and the US Election,” Sky News, 1 November 2016.
- “Trump and the Lead-up to US Elections,” Bloomberg TV, 20 October 2016.
- “Final US Presidential Debate, Live Commentary,” Channel 4, 20 October 2016.
- “Tax Policy and the Clinton/Trump Divide,” CNBC Europe, 4 October 2016.
- “The Skittles / Refugee Comparison and the Post-Fact Age of Inequality,” BBC Newsday, 21 September 2016.