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CURRENT POSITION

Fellow in Comparative Politics
London School of Economics

September 2015—
London, England

- Taught four courses to MSc students: Introduction to Comparative Politics, Capitalism & Democracy, The Politics of Globalization, and States & Markets
- 1.37 average score on 2015-17 teaching evaluations (1 being best; 5 being worst); Government Department Teaching Award (2016-17 academic year)
- Academic adviser to dozens of MSc and undergraduate students in various programmes
- Convener of dissertation preparation 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 Professor Nic Cheeseman—formerly of University of Oxford (Jesus College), now at the University of Birmingham
- 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.”
- Examined how US and Western foreign policy affected on-the-ground decisions related to election rigging and political violence
- 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)
- Thesis focused on African election rigging and subsequent post-election political violence (coups and civil wars)
- 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)

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

- *How to Rig an Election*. Full-length manuscript. Co-authored with Professor. Nic Cheeseman (University of Birmingham); will be published by Yale University Press on May 22, 2018.
- *The Despot's Apprentice: Donald Trump's Attack on Democracy*. Hurst & Co Publishers. Full-length manuscript. Published on November 14, 2017.
- *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.
- *Bullets over Ballots: How rigged, exclusionary elections spark coups and civil wars*. Full-length manuscript, adapted from my doctorate. Currently under peer review at University of Michigan Press.
- *Following the Rules: How Election Institutions Can Reduce Conflict* chapter in Cheeseman, N. (ed) *Political Institutions in Africa* (forthcoming early 2018; Cambridge University Press)
- *The Coup Makeover: Madagascar's 2013 Election and Legitimization of the 2009 Coup* (revise and resubmit stage in the *Journal of Modern African Studies*; co-authored with Dr. Juvence Ramasy (Université de Toamasina, Madagascar).
- *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 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.
- *Golden Handcuffs: how international diplomacy can deter despots from repression by enticing them to step down peacefully*. Working paper.
- *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

- "Trump is steadily eroding American democracy," *The Hill*, 10 November 2017.
- "Trump's Asia Tour is a gift to China," *USA Today*, 6 November 2017.
- "Trump is doing irreparable harm to the White House's credibility," *CNN*, 2 August 2017.
- "Throw the Bums Out, Africa Edition," *Washington Post*, 28 July 2017.
- "North Korea test shows need for strong State Department," *The Hill*, 5 July 2017.
- "America First is Becoming America Alone," *Washington Post*, 28 June 2017.
- "Can American Democracy Survive Donald Trump?" *USA Today*, 15 May 2017.
- "America's Lethal Trust Gap is Widening," *Washington Post*, 5 May 2017.
- "Trump to Erdogan: Congrats on dismantling democracy!" *Washington Post*, 18 April 2017
- "Dear President Trump: Do you want to be on the side of the torturers or the tortured?," *Washington Post*, 18 March 2017
- "Democracy is dying around the world—and the West has only itself to blame," *Quartz*, 10 March 2017
- "Dictators around the world will delight in Trump's victory," *The Guardian*, 2 December 2016.
- "The United States Needs to Learn from African Post-Election Peace Plans," *Foreign Policy*, 5 November 2016.
- "Democracy Promotion: Another Bipartisan Tenet of US Foreign Policy Bites the Dust," *Foreign Policy*, 2 November 2016.
- "The Unthinkable Olive Branch: Incorporating Authoritarianism during Transitions," *Foreign Policy*, 5 October 2016.
- "Glaring Inequality and Conflict with Market-Dominant Minorities," *Good Governance Africa*, 1 October 2016.
- "Why Coups Fail," *Foreign Affairs*, 17 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," *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: Mining in Madagascar," *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
- “Coup decay,” *Good Governance Africa*, 1 February 2015
- “The Tunisia Model,” *Foreign Affairs*, 23 October 2014 (co-authored with Marcel Dirsus)
- “Bridging the two Tunisiyas,” *Foreign Policy*, 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

- “The Despot’s Apprentice: Donald Trump’s Attack on Democracy,” LSE public lecture, 24 January 2018
- “How to Save Democracy,” TEDx London, 24 November 2017
- “Do election monitors set the bar lower for Africa?” conference paper, Midwest Political Science Association, April 2017
- “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

Political Adviser / Consultant NATO

August 2017
Brussels, Belgium

- Lead author on a NATO report outlining corruption and security challenges in Tunisia during its post-Arab Spring struggle for democracy

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)**

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Since the summer of 2016, I have attempted to use my expertise to better inform the public on a variety of topics. I write a biweekly column for *The Washington Post*, *The Hill*, and *USA Today*. I have also written regular columns for *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *the Prospect*, *the Conversation*, *CNN*.

I am a regular contributor on the BBC, Sky News, Channel 4 News, CNN, MSNBC, Bloomberg, CNBC, LBC Radio, and many other outlets. In the last two years, I have done roughly 500 television and radio interviews.