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Dept. of Political Science
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia, 2008
M.A., Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia, 2003
B.S. in Business, Miami University, 1998
B.A., Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, Miami University, 1998

EMPLOYMENT

University of Tulsa
Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development, July 2024-present
Associate Professor of Political Science, 2014-present
Department Chair, 2019-2021
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2008-2014

Visiting Position
Guest Professor, Lund University, Sweden, January-June 2022

BOOK

State Building in Boom Times: Commodities and Coalitions in Latin America and Africa
(New York: Oxford University Press, 2014). [LINK](#)

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Why Causal Mechanisms and Process Tracing Should Alter Case Selection Guidance.”
Sociological Methods & Research 49(4) (November 2020): 982-1017. [DOI](#)

“Paying for War and Building States: The Coalitional Politics of Debt Servicing and Tax Institutions” (with Nicholas C. Wheeler). *World Politics* 69(2) (April 2017): 366-408. [DOI](#)

“Ethnic Entrepreneurs and Movements for New Administrative Units: Lessons from Nigeria.” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 46(4) (Fall 2016): 568-595. [DOI](#)

“Commodity Booms, Coalitional Politics, and Government Intervention in Credit Markets.”
Review of International Political Economy 21(3) (June 2014): 640-669. [DOI](#)

“Concepts, Measures, and Measuring Well: An Alternative Outlook.” *Sociological Methods & Research* 42(3) (August 2013): 354-391. [DOI](#)

“Probing the Historical Sources of the Mauritian Miracle: Sugar Exporters and State Building in Colonial Mauritius.” *Review of African Political Economy* 39(133) (September 2012): 465-478. [DOI](#)

“Sources of State Capacity in Latin America: Commodity Booms and State Building Motives in Chile.” *Theory and Society* 41(3) (May 2012): 301-324. [DOI](#)

OTHER PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Causal Explanation with Ideal Types: Opportunities for Comparative Area Studies.” In *Advancing Comparative Area Studies: Analytical Heterogeneity and Organizational Challenges*, ed. Ariel Ahram, Patrick Köllner, and Rudra Sil (New York: Oxford University Press, 2025), 75-104. [DOI](#)

“Comparative Area Studies: A Route to New Insights.” *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 17-18(1) (Spring 2020): 1-6. [DOI](#)

“Gaining by Shedding Case Selection Strictures: Natural Resource Booms and Institution Building in Latin America and Africa.” In *Comparative Area Studies: Methodological Rationales and Cross-Regional Applications*, ed. Ariel Ahram, Patrick Köllner, and Rudra Sil (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 185-203. [DOI](#)

“Debtor Coalitions and Weak Tax Institutions in Latin America: Insights from Argentina and Brazil.” In *Rethinking Taxation in Latin America: Reform and Challenges in Times of Uncertainty*, ed. Jorge Atria, Constantin Groll, and María Fernanda Valdés (Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), 31-56. [DOI](#)

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Sacred Foundations: The Religious and Medieval Roots of the European State*, by Anna Grzymała-Busse. *Governance* 36(4) (October 2023): 1343-1345.

Review of *The Political Economy of Taxation in Latin America*, edited by Gustavo Flores-Macías. *Journal of Latin American Studies* 53(3) (August 2021): 609-611.

Review of *The Franco-Mauritian Elite: Power and Anxiety in the Face of Change*, by Tijo Salverda. *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 54(2) (June 2016): 358-359.

Review of *Reinventing State Capitalism: Leviathan in Business, Brazil and Beyond*, by Aldo Musacchio and Sergio Lazzarini. *Perspectives on Politics* 13(4) (December 2015): 1190-1191.

Review of *The Market and the Masses in Latin America: Policy Reform and Consumption in Liberalizing Democracies*, by Andy Baker. *Comparative Political Studies* 43(2) (February 2010): 264-268.

POPULAR AND NEWSLETTER WRITINGS

- “What’s So Bad About a Little Political Hyperbole?” *Tulsa World*. Nov. 6, 2022, p. E5. [LINK](#)
- “If Trump Wins Again, He Wants to Be Able to Fire Civil Servants.” The Monkey Cage blog of *The Washington Post*, August 26, 2022. [LINK](#)
- “Under Democracy, Losing Is More Important Than Winning.” *Tulsa World*. November 15, 2020, p. E6. [LINK](#)
- “A Crisis of Shared Governance at the University of Tulsa” (with Matthew Dean Hindman). *Academe* blog of the American Association of University Professors, May 3, 2019. [LINK](#)
- “A New Approach to Case Selection, Using Ideal Types.” *Clio: Newsletter of Politics & History, an organized section of the American Political Science Association* 27(2) (Summer 2018): 7-8. [LINK](#)
- “President Trump Doesn’t Mind Business Debt. But What Does that Say about His Fiscal Policy?” The Monkey Cage blog of *The Washington Post*, April 28, 2017. [LINK](#)
- “Africa’s Ethnic Politics: Demands for New Administrative Areas.” Oxford University Press blog, November 3, 2016. [LINK](#)
- “Does Political Development Involve Inherent Tradeoffs?” Oxford University Press blog, October 12, 2014. [LINK](#)
- “Do Natural Resource Exports Curse Governments? Some Insights from Latin America.” *The World Financial Review* (May/June 2014): 34-36. [LINK](#)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Creditor Coalitions and State Formation in Europe. Book manuscript, revise and resubmit.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Causal Explanation with Ideal Types: Opportunities for Comparative Area Studies,” APSA 2025; Social Science History Association 2022; German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, April 2022; APSA 2021; and GIGA, March 2021 (online workshop).
- “Creditor Coalitions and State Formation in Europe,” ISA 2025; Council for European Studies conference, Lyon, France, July 2024; Council for European Studies Research Network for the Historical Study of States and Regimes research lab (online), April 2024; Social Science History Association 2022; McGill University, Montreal, October 2022; Lund University, Sweden, June 2022; University of Gothenburg, Sweden, February 2022; ISA 2019; and APSA 2018.
- “Reconnecting International Studies: Bringing Area Studies Back In” (roundtable), ISA 2025.

“Creditor Coalitions and the Emergence of Meritocratic Bureaucracies,” BRIDGEGAP conference on The History of Corruption and Anti-Corruption: Institutional Insights and Policy Instruments, Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), October 2024.

“Creditor Communities and the Emergence of the Tax State,” APSA 2023.

“The Coalitional Politics of Bureaucratic Reform in the Developing World,” Lund University, Sweden, February 2022.

“Creditor Coalitions and State Development in Early Modern Europe,” APSA 2020.

“Coalitional Sources of Good Governance: Insights from Africa’s Exemplars,” APSA 2019.

“Are There Valid Measures of State Capacity? No, but We Can Build Good Datasets Nonetheless,” conference on State Capacity Research: Advancing the Conceptual and Methodological Frontier, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, June 2019.

“Comparative Area Studies: Why We Need Contextualized Cross-Regional Comparison” (roundtables), ISA 2019 and APSA 2018.

“Sources of Good Governance in the Developing World: Insights from Botswana, Chile, and Mauritius,” MPSA 2018.

“Forging the Modern State: A New Dataset on State Formation in Europe, 1600-1900,” APSA 2017.

“Why Causal Mechanisms and Process Tracing Should Relax Case Selection Strictures,” MPSA 2017 and APSA 2016.

“How Successful Transformations Overcome Social Dilemmas” (roundtable), APSA 2016.

“Coalition Building and Ethnic Movements for New Administrative Units,” APSA 2015.

“Case Selection and Comparative Area Studies,” German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, July 2015.

“Building Coalitions and Controlling Corruption in Botswana and Chile,” ANTICORRP Understanding Governance Virtuous Circles conference, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, July 2015.

“Resource Booms, Coalitional Threat, and Institutional Change,” APSA 2014.

“Oil, Institutional Subdivision, and Ethnic Competition in Nigeria,” WPSA 2014.

“Paying for War and Making States: Debt Servicing, Political Coalitions, and State Formation” (with Nicholas C. Wheeler), WPSA 2014, ISA 2013, and APSA 2012.

- “The Politics of Debt Servicing and Fiscal Institutions in Western Europe and Latin America,” APSA 2013.
- “The Viability and Virtues of Temporally-Disjunctive, Cross-Regional Analysis: Insights from State Building in Latin America and Africa,” ISA 2013.
- “Windows of Opportunity: Commodity Booms, Coalitional Politics, and State Building in Latin America and Africa,” APSA 2012.
- “Probing the Historical Sources of the Mauritian Miracle: Sugar Exporters and State Building in Colonial Mauritius,” MPSA 2012.
- “Commodity Booms and Inter-Provincial Conflict in Argentina, 1852-1881,” Latin American Studies Association 2010.
- “Commodity Booms and Prospects for Bureaucratic Reform,” MPSA 2010.
- “Public Goods, Politics, and State Building in the Post-Colonial World,” MPSA 2009.
- “Unintended Beneficence: Export Elites, Public Goods, and State Building in Latin America and Africa,” University of Oklahoma, March 2009.
- “Rivalry and State Building in Latin America: Tracing and Adjudicating Competing Causal Mechanisms” (with Hillel Soifer), APSA 2008.
- “Export Elites and State Building in Latin America and Africa,” Social Science History Association 2007.
- “Sources of State Capacity in Latin America: Warfare, Export Elites, and State Formation in Argentina and Chile,” APSA 2007.
- “A Qualitative Perspective on Measurement: Improving Measurement Validity in the Study of State Capacity,” Miami University, November 2006.

HONORS & AWARDS

Small Research Grant, American Political Science Association, 2016
Outstanding Reviewer Award, *Political Research Quarterly*, 2015
Faculty Research Grant, University of Tulsa, 2017, 2016, 2013
International Faculty Development Grants, Univ. of Tulsa: Botswana (2014); Ghana (2009)
Faculty Development Summer Fellowship, University of Tulsa, 2010, 2009

TEACHING

African Politics
Corruption and Government Reform
Dictatorship and Democracy
Global Challenges

Introduction to Comparative Politics
Latin American Politics
The Politics of Natural Resource Wealth
State Building

SERVICE

Manuscript reviewer

Africa Today
African Identities
American Journal of Political Science
American Journal of Sociology
American Political Science Review
American Sociological Review
British Journal of Political Science
Bulletin of Latin American Research
Comparative Political Studies
Comparative Politics
Development and Change
Economic Hist. of Developing Regions
Economic History Review
Energy Research & Social Science
Geoforum
Globalizations
Governance
History and Technology
Jour. of Contemporary African Studies
Journal of Institutional Economics

Journal of Modern African Studies
Latin American Politics and Society
Latin American Research Review
Methodological Innovations
National Science Foundation
Oxford Development Studies
Perspectives on Politics
Policy Sciences
Political Research Quarterly
Polity
Publius: The Journal of Federalism
Regional & Federal Studies
Review of African Political Economy
Review of International Political Economy
Sociological Methodology
Sociological Methods & Research
Studies in Comparative Int'l Development
Temple University Press
Theory and Society
World Politics

Conference service

Division Program Chair, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research section, APSA 2018

Chair & discussant, "The State and State Capacity: Causes and Consequences," APSA 2025

Chair, "Perspectives on Long-run Development," Council for European Studies conference, Lyon, France, July 2024

Discussant, Emerging Methodologists Workshop, APSA 2023

Discussant, "Comparative Perspectives on Regime Institutionalization," APSA 2023

Chair, "Fiscal and Monetary States," SSHA 2022

Discussant, Advancing Comparative Area Studies conference, German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, April 2022

Discussant, Quality of Government Institute conference, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, February 2022

Discussant, "International Relations in Africa," APSA 2021

Discussant, *Latecomer State Formation: Political Geography and Capacity Failure in Latin America* by Sebastián Mazzuca, REPAL (Red para el Estudio de la Economía Política de América Latina), July 2021

Chair, "Social Spending, Taxation, and Welfare in the Global South," APSA 2020

Discussant, "State Building in Comparative Perspective," APSA 2020

Chair and discussant, "States, State Capacity, and Development," APSA 2019

Discussant, "Fiscal Capacity," Conference on State Capacity Research, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, June 2019

Chair, "Long-run Development in Europe: Taxes, Institutions, and Governance," APSA 2018

Chair & discussant, "Bureaucratic Politics," APSA 2018

Discussant, "Case Studies: Selection, Generalization, and a Reconsideration," APSA 2018

Chair and discussant, "Decentralization, Devolution, and Land Reform in Africa," MPSA 2018

Chair and discussant, "African States' Spending and Revenue Generation: Between Innovation & Challenges," APSA 2017

Discussant, "The State in Societal Context: Family, Faith, Firms, & Mafia," APSA 2017

Chair, "State Development," MPSA 2017

Discussant, "Citizens, States, and Markets," APSA 2016

Chair and discussant, "Understanding Clientelism," APSA 2015

Chair and discussant, "Going beyond the Median: Varieties of Case Selection in Social Science Inquiry," APSA 2014

Discussant, "Economic Development," WPSA 2014

Chair and discussant, "Multiple Faces and Foundations of the State," APSA 2013

Chair, "The Politics of Africa's Global Economic Engagement," MPSA 2012

Other service to the discipline

Mentor, Emerging Methodologists Workshop, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research section of APSA, 2023-24

External Tenure and Promotion Review, 2023

Chair, Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation Award Committee, African Politics Conference Group section of APSA, 2018

Arm's Length Referee, Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada), 2016

Service at University of Tulsa

Department Chair, 2019-21

Director, International Studies certificate program, 2013-18

Co-organizer, "Academics & Ales" research symposia, 2022-present

Mentor, Junior Faculty Mentoring Program, 2022-2024

UTulsa representative at the Institute for Citizens & Scholars' faculty institute on civic dialogue, Rutgers University, June 2024

College of Arts & Sciences ad hoc committee on administrative compensation, 2021
College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Research Award committee, 2020
Global Scholars program advisory board, 2016-20
University Alumni Relations Committee, 2016-18
Center for Global Education scholarship review committee, 2015-17
College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee, 2011-13
Faculty review committees (14)
Search committees (7), including for Dean of Arts & Sciences (2023) and Director of
University School (K-8 school overseen by UTulsa; 2024).
Faculty advisor to student groups:
Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature, 2016-23
Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honors society), 2008-14, 2021
A.F.R.I.C.A. (Aid, Facilitate, Respond, Inform, Communicate, Act), 2009-10