

MARTHA WILFAHRT

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Political Science
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of California, Berkeley
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, July 2018-

Northwestern University
Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, 2017-18
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept. of Political Science, 2015-17

EDUCATION

Cornell University
Ph.D., Government, 2015
Dissertation: *The Historic Origins of Public Goods: Local
Distributional Politics in Rural West Africa, 1880-Present*
Committee: Nicolas van de Walle (chair), Ken Roberts,
Christopher Way

Indiana University- Bloomington
M.A., Political Science, 2008

University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.A., Geography and Political Science (with distinction), 2005

BOOK

2021. *Precolonial Legacies in Postcolonial Politics: Representation
and Redistribution in Rural Africa*. Cambridge University Press
(Cambridge Series in Comparative Politics)

ARTICLES

Accepted. Improving Open-Source Information on African Politics,
One Student at a Time (with Kristin Michelitch) *PS: Politics and
Society*.

2020. The Mechanisms of Direct and Indirect Rule: Colonialism and
Economic Development in Africa (with Natalie Letsa) *Quarterly
Journal of Political Science* 15(4), pp. 539-577.

2018. Precolonial Legacies and the Contemporary Politics of Public
Goods Provision in Decentralized West Africa. *World Politics*
70(2), pp. 239-74.

2018. The Politics of Local Government Performance: Elite Cohesion
and Cross-Village Constraints in Decentralized Senegal. *World
Development* 103, pp. 149-61.

2018. Popular Support for Democracy in Autocratic Regimes: A Micro-Level Analysis of Preferences (with Natalie Letsa). *Comparative Politics* 50(2).

WORKING PAPERS

Personalized Accountability? Evidence of Emerging Democratic Accountability in Decentralized West Africa
Demanding Recognition: Citizen Perspectives on Clientelism in Africa (with Jeffrey Paller & Kathleen Klaus)
Contesting Autocracy: Explaining the Origins of Opposition Strongholds in Africa (with Leonardo Arriola, David Dow & Natalie Letsa)
Precolonial States / Precolonial Cultures: Measurement Validity in the ‘Historical’ Renaissance

IN PROGRESS

Enumerator Experiences in Survey Data Collection in Sub-Saharan Africa (with Justine Davis)
Endogenous (Re)Districting? The Politics of Subnational Boundary Creation
Book Project: Reevaluating Legacies of Direct and Indirect Rule: Evidence from the Ghana-Togo Borderlands (with Natalie Letsa)
Book Project: Tropical Subjects: Ethnographies of Experimentation

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Undergraduate Research Assistance Program Grant, Northwestern University AY 2016-17
Janice N. and Milton J. Esman Best Dissertation Prize, Cornell University 2016
Best Graduate Student Paper, African Politics Conference Group/African Affairs, 2014-15 for “Local Logics of Public Goods Distribution in Decentralized West Africa” (MPSA 2015)
Seed Grant, Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University, Fall 2014
Sage Completion Fellowship, Cornell University, 2014-15
Boren Fellow (Senegal), 2012-13
Cornell Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant (Senegal), Fall 2012
APSA Africa Workshop Fellow, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, July 2012
Houston I. Flournoy Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University, Summer 2012
Einaudi Center International Research Travel Grant (Mali), 2011
Einaudi Center International Research Travel Grant (Niger), 2010
Russell Sage Fellowship, Cornell University, 2008-09

FLAS (Bambara), Indiana University, 2007-08; 2008-09 (declined)

PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association (2013-2019)
International Studies Association (2019)
Midwest Political Science Association (2014-2018)
African Studies Association (2013-2020)
Governance and Local Development Annual Conference, University of
Gothenburg, 31 May-1 June 2018
MGAPE, Northwestern University, December 2017
Post-Intervention Governance and Security in the African Sahel,
Northwestern University, May 2017
Comparative Historical Social Sciences, Northwestern, April 2017
Program on African Studies, Northwestern, May 2016

TEACHING &
ADVISING

Department of Political Science, UC Berkeley
African Politics (Undergraduate)
The Politics of International Aid (Undergraduate)
Major Themes in Comparative Politics (200A) (Graduate)

Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Contemporary African Politics (Undergraduate)
The Politics of International Aid (Undergraduate)
The Politics of Social Welfare (Undergraduate)
African Politics through Literature and Film (Undergraduate)
African Studies Seminar (Afrisem) (Graduate)

PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association, African Politics Conference
Group, Midwest Political Science Association, West African Research
Association, African Studies Association

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE

Co-organizer *Research and Development Group* African Politics
Conference Group, APSA 2020
2021 QMMR Best Article Award Committee
2020 APCG Finishing-Up Grant Award Committee
2017 APCG Best Book Award Committee
Reviewer *African Affairs*, *American Political Science Review*, *British
Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Politics*, *Comparative
Political Studies*, *Governance*, *Journal of Politics*, *International
Studies Quarterly*, *Theory and Society*, *World Politics*, *World
Development*

RELATED SKILLS
AND TRAINING

Languages: English (native), French (Professional Proficiency), Dutch (elementary)

ICPSR, University of Michigan, 2014

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, 2011

REFERENCES

Nicolas van de Walle
Professor, Government
Cornell University
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