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Academic Employment

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Florida, August 2018 - present

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Alabama, August 2013 - 2018

Research & Teaching Interests

Comparative Politics with specific focus on African Politics, Comparative Political Institutions, Democratization, Electoral Integrity, Political Behavior, Public Opinion, & Research Methods

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Michigan State University, 2013

Dissertation Title: "Causes & Consequences of Electoral Administrative Reform in Africa"

Chair: Michael Bratton

B.A., Political Science and Economics, Williams College, 2004

Refereed Articles

Higashijima, Masaaki and Nicholas Kerr. 2023. "When Does the Honeymoon End? Electoral Cycles of Democratic Satisfaction in Africa." *Political Psychology*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12878>

Kerr, Nicholas, and Michael Wahman. 2021. "Electoral Rulings and Public Trust in African Courts and Elections." *Comparative Politics* 53(2): 257-90.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5129/001041521X15930293747844>

Kerr, Nicholas. 2018. "Election-Day Experiences and Evaluations of Electoral Integrity in Unconsolidated Democracies: Evidence from Nigeria." *Political Studies* 66(3): 667-86.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0032321717724932>

Kerr, Nicholas, and Anna Lührmann. 2017. "Public Trust in Manipulated Elections: The Role of Election Administration and Media Freedom." *Electoral Studies* 50: 50-67.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2017.08.003>

Chang, Eric CC, and Nicholas Kerr. 2017. "An Insider-Outsider Theory of Popular Tolerance for Corrupt Politicians." *Governance* 30(1): 67-84.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/gove.12193>

Erlich, Aaron, and Nicholas Kerr. 2016. "'The Local Mwananchi Has Lost Trust': Design, Transition and Legitimacy in Kenyan Election Management." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 54(4): 671-702.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022278X16000604>

Conroy-Krutz, Jeffrey, and Nicholas Kerr. 2015. "Dynamics of Democratic Satisfaction in Transitional Settings: Evidence from a Panel Study in Uganda." *Political Research Quarterly* 68(3): 593-606.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912915589763>

Kerr, Nicholas. 2013. "Popular Evaluations of Election Quality in Africa: Evidence from Nigeria." *Electoral Studies* (2013) 32(4): 819-837.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2013.02.010>

Book Chapters

Kerr, Nicholas. 2014. "EMB Performance and Perceptions of Electoral Integrity in Africa." In *Advancing Electoral Integrity*, eds. Pippa Norris, Richard W. Frank and Ferran Martinez i Coma. New York: Oxford University Press (2014).

Other Publications

Fjelde, Hanne, Jenniina Kotajoki, Henrik Angerbrandt, and Nicholas Kerr. 2019. "Voter Perceptions in the Nigerian 2019 Election." *Uppsala University Policy Brief*.

Kerr, Nicholas. 2016. "Manipulating Elections Across the World." *Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy* 15(1): 109–14.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1089/elj.2015.0355>

Kerr, Nicholas. 2009. "Electoral Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa: Assessing the Impact of Electoral Management Bodies Autonomy & Capacity on Citizens' Perceptions of Election Quality." *International Foundation of Electoral Systems Fellowship Paper*.

Manuscripts Under Review

Erlich, Aaron, Nicholas Kerr and Saewon Park. "Weaponizing Post-Election Court Challenges: Assessing Losers' Strategic Motivations."

"Election Commissions & Democratization in Africa: Everyday Production of Democratic Legitimacy." (Book Manuscript)

Work in Progress

"Providing security or Enforcing Partisan Interests? How States' Electoral Security Provision Shapes Public Trust in their Coercive Institutions." (with Annekatrin Deglow & Hanne Fjelde)

"Turnovers Under Competitive Authoritarianism and Perceptions of Electoral Integrity." (with Michael Wahman and Matthias Kronke)

"Assessing the Strategic Motivations of Sub-National Post-Election Petitions in Africa." (with Richard Kweitsu)

"Election Quality & the Dynamics of Voter Turnout in Electoral Democracies: Evidence from Nigeria's 2019 Elections." (with Bodunrin Adebo, Safiya Bichi & Samson Itodo)

"Obtaining Electoral Fraud Measures through Court Election Petitions." (with Aaron Erlich)

"Vote Selling in the 2015 Nigeria Elections: Challenges of Using List Experiments to Gauge Social Desirability Bias."

"Assessing the Effectiveness of Electronic Data Capture in face-to-face Surveys: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Kenya." (with Boniface Dulani)

"Violent Conflict, Gender, & Attitudes on Leadership: Survey Results from Nigeria." (with Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz)

Research Grants

Research Tutorial Abroad, University of Florida, Center for African Studies: Awarded to facilitate international undergraduate research with two students in Abuja, Nigeria (2019: \$15K).

Global Fellows Program, University of Florida, International Center: Electoral Management Performance and Electoral Integrity in Nigeria (2018-19: \$5K).

Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund, University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Center for the Humanities and Public Sphere: Electoral Management Performance and Perceptions of Democratic Legitimacy Among Elites in Africa (2019: \$11.5K).

Research Tutorial Abroad, University of Florida, Center for African Studies: Awarded to facilitate international undergraduate research with two students in Lagos, Nigeria (2019: \$12K).

CARSCA, University of Alabama, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Assessing the Consequences of Violence on Electoral Integrity in Africa (2016-2018 \$4.9K).

Research Grants Committee, University of Alabama: Assessing the Consequences of Electoral Management Bodies on Electoral Integrity in Africa (2014-2016 \$5.9K).

Democracy in Africa Research Unit Research Fellowship, University of Cape Town, South Africa (for project on causes of electoral administrative reform in Africa: 2010, \$8.5K).

International Studies and Programs Pre-dissertation Fellowship Michigan State University, (for project on causes of electoral administrative reform in Africa: 2010, \$5K).

Manatt Research Fellowship International Foundation of Electoral Systems, (for project on the consequences of electoral administrative reform in Africa: 2009, \$5K).

Awards and Recognition

Junior Faculty, International Educator of the Year Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Florida, November 2019

Research Conducted Outside of the United States

Ghana (2010), Nigeria (2010, 2011, 2015, 2018-19), South Africa (2010), Zambia (2017) and Zimbabwe (2012).

Research & Professional Experience

Consultant, International Foundation of Electoral Studies (Nigeria EMB Public Opinion Surveys), 2020.

Short-term Election Observer, National Democratic Institute/International Republican Institute International Election Mission, Nigeria, March 2019.

Country Analyst, Freedom House: 2014-19 Freedom of the World Reports for Ghana and Nigeria.

Member, Committee on the Status of African Americans in the South. Southern Political Science Association, 2016-present.

Section Chair, Comparative Politics Developing Nations. Southern Political Science Association Conference, 2017-2018.

Section Chair, Transitions to Democracy. Midwest Political Science Association, 2017-2018.

Consultant, International Foundation of Electoral Studies (Nigeria pre/post election survey), 2014-2015.

Publications and Research Manager, Afrobarometer Research Project, Michigan State University, MI, 2008-2012.

Long-term Election Observer, National Democratic Institute Election Mission, Nigeria, January-May 2011.

Research Fellow, Democracy in Africa Research Unit (DARU), University of Cape Town, South Africa, 2010.

Short-term Election Observer, The Carter Center Ghana Election Mission, Ghana, December 2008.

Research Fellow, The International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES), Washington DC, June-August 2009.

Peer-reviewer, African Affairs, African Geography Review, African Security Review, African Studies Quarterly, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Canadian Journal of African Studies, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Development Studies, Electoral Studies, Governance, Journal of Elections Public Opinion and Parties, Journal of Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Political Research Quarterly, Political Psychology, and Research and Politics.

Invited Talks

Nicholas Kerr. *Lecture*. "Parliamentary Campaign Spending in Nigeria." Virtual Symposium on the Costs of Politics in Africa, University of Mauritius, October 29, 2020.

Nicholas Kerr. *Lecture*. "Election Commissions & Opposition Behavior in Africa's Multiparty Regimes: Does Institutional Performance Matter for Electoral Boycotts and Losers' Compliance?" University of Colorado-Boulder, Political Science Department, Boulder, February 21, 2020.

Nicholas Kerr. *Lecture*. "Election Commissions & Democratization in Africa: Design Performance & Legitimacy." University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs, Athens, November 15, 2019.

Nicholas Kerr. *Workshop*. "Opportunities and Challenges of Fieldwork on Elections: Conducting Mass and Elite Surveys around the 2019 Nigerian Elections. University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs, Athens, November 15, 2019.

Nicholas Kerr. *Lecture*. "When Does the Honeymoon End? Electoral Cycles of Democratic Satisfaction in Africa, University of Gothenburg/Varieties of Democracy (V-DEM), Gothenburg, Sweden, March 15, 2018.

Nicholas Kerr. *Lecture*. "Does Victimhood Matter? Electoral Violence & Perceptions of Electoral Quality in Nigeria. University of Kentucky Political Science Department, Lexington, April 17, 2017.

Selected Conference Presentations

Nicholas Kerr. *Paper*. "Asymmetries in Campaign Spending and Electability of Parliamentary Candidates." Presented at American Political Science Association Annual Virtual Conference, September 2021.

Nicholas Kerr, Bodunrin Adebo, Safiya Bichi, & Samson Itodo. *Paper*. "Election Quality and the Dynamics of Voter Turnout in Electoral Democracies: Evidence from Nigeria's 2019 Elections." Electoral Integrity Project Pre-APSA Workshop in Washington DC, August 2019.

Nicholas Kerr, Aaron Erlich and Saewon Park. *Paper*. "Weaponizing Election Petitions: Theory and Evidence from Kenya." African Studies Association Annual Conference in Atlanta, December 2018.

Nicholas Kerr and Masaaki Higashijima. *Paper*. "When Does the Honeymoon End? Electoral Cycles of Democratic Satisfaction in Africa." American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Boston, September 2018.

Nicholas Kerr and Aaron Erlich. *Paper*. "What is in a Tally? Extracting Information on Fraud from Scanned Precinct Data." American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Boston, September 2018.

Nicholas Kerr and Michael Wahman. *Paper*. "Courts and Institutional Legitimacy in African Competitive Authoritarianism: How Rulings in Parliamentary Petitions Affect Electoral and Judicial Legitimacy." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, April 2018.

Nicholas Kerr and Masaaki Higashijima. *Paper*. "Electoral Cycles of Political Legitimacy and the Integrity of Elections: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa." American Political Science Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, August-September, 2017.

Nicholas Kerr and Anna Lührmann. *Paper*. "Public Trust in Manipulated Elections: The Role of Election Administration and Media Freedom." American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, August 2016.

Nicholas Kerr and Jeff Conroy-Krutz. *Paper*. "Violent Conflict, Gender, and Attitudes on Leadership: Survey Results from Nigeria." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, April, 2016.

Nicholas Kerr and Adryan Wallace. *Paper*. "Assessing Women's Electoral Participation in Africa: A Cross-National Analysis." African Studies Association Annual Conference, Indianapolis, November, 2014.

Nicholas Kerr. *Paper*. "The Consequences of Electoral Reform on Electoral Integrity in Africa." International Political Science Association Annual Conference, Montreal, July 20-24, 2014.

Nicholas Kerr and Jeff Conroy- Krutz. *Paper*. "How Campaigns and Election-Day Experiences Affect Evaluations of Democracy in Africa: Panel Evidence from Uganda." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, April , 2014.

Nicholas Kerr. *Paper*. "Public Perceptions of Election Quality in Africa: A Cross-national Analysis." American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, August, 2013.

Nicholas Kerr and Eric Chang. *Paper*. "The Sources and Consequences of Heterogeneity in Perceptions of Political Corruption." American Political Science Association Conference, Toronto, Canada, September, 2009.

Additional Academic Training

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Short Course (Structural Equation Modeling), University of Michigan, June 2012

Institute of Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University, June 2009

Institute of Survey Research Techniques, University of Michigan, June 2008

Teaching Experience (University of Florida)

Graduate Seminar: African Politics (CPO 6206: Graduate). Spring 2020, Spring 2022

Survey Research Methods (POS 6757: Graduate). Spring 2019

African Politics (CPO 3204: Undergraduate). Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Research Tutorial Abroad (Lagos, Nigeria: 2 undergraduate students). Summer 2019

Democratization from a Global Perspective (CPO 4731: Undergraduate). Fall 2018

Research Methods (POS 4734 : Undergraduate). Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Fall 2021

Teaching Experience (University of Alabama)

Seminar in Comparative Politics (PSC 631: Graduate). Spring 2015, Fall 2016

African Politics (PSC 321: Undergraduate). Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017

Democratization (PSC 330: Undergraduate). Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017

Elections in the Global South (UA In Jamaica Study Abroad). Summer 2017, Summer 2018

Economic Development in the Global South (UA In Jamaica Study Abroad). Summer 2017, Summer 2018

University Service (University of Florida)

Member, Political Science Department Chair's Advisory Council (CAC), University of Florida, 2019-present

Member, Center for African Studies, Faculty Advisory Council (AC), University of Florida, 2019-present

University Service (University of Alabama)

Member, Political Science Department Political Administration Search Committee, 2017

Member, College of Arts and Sciences, Initiative on Faculty Diversity and Inclusion, 2016-2018

Chair, Political Science Department Colloquium Speaker Series, 2016-17

Member, Political Science Department IR Search Committee, 2016-2017

Member, Political Science Department Comparative Search Committee, 2014-2016

Member, Political Science Department Graduate Studies Committee, 2015

Member, College of Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee, 2013-16

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