



SPEAKERS



Steven Brooke,
University of
Wisconsin-Madison

Steven is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also a Faculty Fellow at the Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS) and a non-resident fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative. Steven's research and teaching focuses on comparative politics, religion and politics, and the politics of the Middle East. His first book, *Winning Hearts and Votes: Social Services and the Islamist Political Advantage*, looks at how and why non-state groups provide social services, with an empirical focus on the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood.



David Buckley,
University of Louisville

David Buckley is Associate Professor of Political Science, and Paul Weber Endowed Chair in Politics, Science & Religion at the University of Louisville. His research focuses on the often-contentious relationship between religion and democracy. His book, *Faithful to Secularism: The Religious Politics of Democracy in Ireland, Senegal and the Philippines* (Columbia University Press 2017), analyzes the emergence and endurance of secular democracy in cases with politically active religious majorities. It received the International Studies Association's 2018 Book Award for Religion and International Relations. David was a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow (2016-17), serving as Senior Advisor in the Department of State's Office of Religion in Global Affairs.



SPEAKERS



Frazer Macdonald Hay,
University of Edinburgh

Frazer Macdonald Hay is a consultant focused on assessing and improving post-conflict conditions. He has worked with the United Nations in Iraq addressing Housing Land and Property (HLP) issues in and around Mosul (Report). He has been contracted by the Japanese Government, facilitated by IOM, to conduct an assessment, develop programming and provide training to IOM staff on appropriate memorialization initiatives. Currently, Frazer is overseeing construction of his local urban park designs in Mosul's urban west (Old Town) as part of a collaboration between The Halo Trust, UNMAS, and Alghad. Frazer is also a member of an academic team developing co-created smart city solutions for managed adaptation and monitoring of hydro-meteorological climate change-related risk in Mexico' within ESALA, Edinburgh College of Art.



Mara Revkin,
Georgetown University

Mara Revkin is a political scientist and lawyer who specializes in empirical research on armed conflict, security sector reform, peacebuilding, and transitional justice with a regional focus on the Middle East. She is currently the National Security Law Fellow at the Georgetown University Law Center and holds a J.D. from Yale Law School (2016) and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale (2019). Her dissertation and book project examine civilian experiences with the Islamic State's system of governance in Iraq and Syria. Other past and current projects examine the effects state repression on Iraqi public opinion toward security forces, the determinants of preferences for punishment and reintegration of Islamic State fighters and civilian "collaborators," and variation in state militaries' compliance with the laws of war.



SPEAKERS



Ala' Alrababa'h,
ETH Zürich

Ala' Alrababa'h is a post-doctorate fellow at the Immigration Policy Lab at ETH Zurich. Ala' completed his Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University in 2021. He uses multi-methods research to study topics related to authoritarian media, political violence, and immigrants and refugees, with a special focus on the Middle East. His research has been published or is forthcoming in the American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, Political Analysis, International Studies Quarterly, and Political Science Research and Methods. In addition, his research has been covered by several media outlets, including The Economist, BBC, and Aljazeera.



Lindsay Benstead,
Portland State University

Lindsay J. Benstead is Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Middle East Studies Center (MESC) at Portland State University. Previously she served as a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC, and Kuwait Visiting Professor at SciencesPo in Paris. Her research appeared in Perspectives on Politics, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Governance, and Foreign Affairs. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor.



SPEAKERS



Michael Seese,
WZB Berlin Social
Science Center

Michael is a Ph.D. candidate in political science and international affairs at the Graduate School of Global Policy and Strategy, University of California San Diego. He is currently writing a dissertation on the expansion of state control over territory in Africa. His current research explores the political geography of civil war and state-building in Africa, the political economy of development, and the effects of political and economic inequality. Michael earned a Master's degree in International Affairs from UC San Diego and previously served as a research fellow with the Institutions and Political Inequality group at the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB Berlin Social Science Center).



Nico Ravanilla,
University of California,
San Diego

Nico Ravanilla is Assistant Professor at UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy. Before coming to UCSD, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University. He received his Joint Ph.D. in Political Science and Public Policy from the University of Michigan in August 2015. His research uses natural and field experiments to evaluate policies that improve political selection, democratic accountability, and governance in developing democracies, focusing on the Indo-Pacific, Southeast Asia, and the Philippines. He has published in top journals in political science and economics, and his work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and others.



SPEAKERS



Alicia Cooperman,
Texas A&M University

Dr. Alicia Cooperman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M University. She researches local and global challenges in the political economy of development, water, energy policy, civil society and accountability, and environmental politics. She has conducted extensive applied research in Brazil using field experiments, original household surveys, climate and electoral data analysis, and qualitative methods. Dr. Cooperman received a Ph.D. from Columbia University (2019), a Master of International Affairs (M.I.A.) from UCSD's School of Global Policy & Strategy (2013), and a B.A. from Stanford University (2008). Before joining the faculty at Texas A&M, she was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Princeton University.



Adam Auerbach,
American University

Adam Auerbach is an associate professor in the School of International Service, American University. His first book *Demanding Development: The Politics of Public Goods Provision in India's Urban Slums*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2020. Drawing on more than two years of ethnographic fieldwork and survey research in the north Indian cities of Bhopal and Jaipur, *Demanding Development* explains why some slum settlements can demand and secure public services from the state while others fail. Auerbach's research on local governance and development in India's cities also appears in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *World Development*, and *World Politics*, among other journals.



SPEAKERS



Tugba Bozcaga,
Harvard University

Tugba Bozcaga is a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard University's Middle East Initiative. Her research interests lie in the political economy of development, focusing on local governance, bureaucracy, social welfare, and distributive politics. Her main research examines how local social structures and institutions affect state capacity and service provision, employing data from Turkey. Her other research focuses on education politics, refugee welfare, and geospatial measures in the study of development. Bozcaga uses quasi-experimental statistical methods, data sources, and tools such as geospatial analysis, automated web scraping, historical archives, mobile call detail records, and qualitative fieldwork. She is a junior fellow at the Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS).



Andrea Benjamin,
University of Oklahoma

Andrea Benjamin is an Associate Professor in the Clara Luper Department of African and African American Studies at the University of Oklahoma. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 2010. Her research interests include Race and Politics, Local Elections and Voting Behavior, and Public Opinion. Her first book, *Racial Coalition Building in Local Elections: Elite Cues and Cross-Ethnic Voting*, explores the potential for Black and Latino Coalitions. Dr. Benjamin is currently working on a project about coalitions, electoral representation, and policy representation in local politics. Dr. Benjamin lives in Oklahoma City, and she currently serves on the Boards of Sally's List, North East Oklahoma City Renaissance, and the Oklahoma ACLU. She is also a co-chair of the Human Rights Commission Task Force in Oklahoma City.



SPEAKERS



Andy Harris,
New York University,
Abu Dhabi

Andy Harris is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at NYU Abu Dhabi. Andy studies institutions, bureaucracy, and political behavior in Africa, with a focus on Kenya. Forthcoming work in *The Journal of Politics* features a collaboration with Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission examining the sources of inequality in voter registration to equalize access to the ballot box. Past work developed novel measurement strategies for difficult to measure concepts like political violence (via satellite data), ethnicity (using person-names from the voter register), and electoral fraud (using demographic methods to detect ballot stuffing). Andy's research draws on a wide variety of evidence, from archival records and interviews to randomized control trials and satellite data.



Joe Mlenga,
The Polytechnic,
University of Malawi

Joe Mlenga is a lecturer at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (formerly known as the University of Malawi-The Polytechnic). His interests include human rights, social innovations, good governance, development, academic freedom, media, power, and north-south collaboration. He holds an MA in Human Rights Practice (Gothenburg-Sweden, Tromsø-Norway, and Roehampton-England) and MA in Global Journalism (Orebro-Sweden). Joe worked as a journalist at Malawi Broadcasting Corporation before becoming a scholar. Mlenga has attended high-profile conferences such as the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) 2018 & 2017, and Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD) 2017 and 2016.



SPEAKERS



Janica Magat,
Texas A&M University

Janica Magat is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Political Science in Texas A&M University. Her research focuses on the political economy of state capacity and development. In her dissertation, she investigates enforcement and compliance in the informal sector in weak states, with a regional focus in Southeast Asia and West Africa. Specifically, she examines how economic and social differences within the informal sector shape state response to informality. Her research interests also include political methodology, specifically experimental methods and time series econometrics.



Nora Stel,
Radboud University
Nijmegen

Nora Stel is Assistant Professor in Conflict Studies at Radboud University Nijmegen, where she is a founding member of the Radboud Young Academy. Her work explores the epistemic politics of authority and legitimacy in conflict-affected settings, specifically focusing on the governance of forced displacement in the Middle East. Nora's first monograph *Hybrid Political Order and the Politics of Uncertainty – Refugee Governance in Lebanon*, came out with Routledge in 2020. She also published in, among other journals, *Antipode*, *Political Geography*, the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, and *Development and Change*.



SPEAKERS



Chrispin Mphande,
Mzuzu University

Chrispin Mphande is a lecturer at Mzuzu University currently in his final stages of his Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies. The thesis title is 'Land Governance in a Multilinear Descent Social System of the Tonga of Nkhata Bay. It has since been submitted for examination. My research areas focus on political transitions in Africa, Institutions and Development, Land Governance, public policy, analysis, and development administration. I have so far participated in the following institutes: Gender and Land Governance in Dakar, Senegal (CODESRIA), Gender and Agriculture in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (OSSREA), Post-conflict water governance in Gulu Northern Uganda (GIZ).



Daniel Appiah,
University of Ghana
Business School

Dr. Daniel Appiah is a Lecturer with the University of Ghana Business School, Department of Public Administration and Health Services Management, since 2014. Dr. Appiah is particularly interested in public sector reform projects in the areas of public sector reform, public sector coordination, new public management, civil service administration, management of state-owned enterprises, land administration, traditional authorities, and local government administration.



SPEAKERS



Lama Mourad,
Carleton University

Lama Mourad is an assistant professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University. Her research focuses on the intersection of forced migration, local governance, and the politics of borders, with a regional focus on the Middle East. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto. She previously held fellowships at Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, and at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.



Rose Camille Vincent,
ETH Zürich

Dr. Rose Camille Vincent is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Chair of Public Economics of ETH Zürich. Her research focuses on the political-economic and behavioral implications of institutional arrangements regarding taxation and tax policies. Dr. Vincent graduated with a dual Ph.D. in Economics from Maastricht University (The Netherlands) and Université Clermont-Auvergne (France) in 2020. She also holds an MSc in Econometrics and Statistics from the University of Toulouse (France), a Master of Public Policy from the Hertie School of Governance (Germany), and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the National Taiwan University. She has worked for/consulted the OECD, the World Bank Group, the GIZ, the Inter-American Development Bank, the WHO, the UNU-WIDER, the International Centre for Tax and Development (IDS/ICTD), the German Institute for Economic Research, among others.



SPEAKERS



Aksel Sundström,
University of Gothenburg

Dr. Aksel Sundström (Ph.D., 2015) is an associate professor (docent) and senior lecturer at the Department of Political Science (University of Gothenburg). In addition, he is the PI for the Quality of Government Institute Data team. Sundström's research interests include a comparative focus on corruption and the presence of women and youth in political assemblies, especially in low-income countries. His research has resulted in numerous publications, and he conducted a year-long research stay in 2017-2018 at Harvard University, supported by the Swedish Research Council's postdoc program.



Hanne van Cappellen,
University of Antwerp

I am a research and teaching assistant and a Ph.D. candidate in Development Studies at the Institute of Development Policy (IOB) of the University of Antwerp, Belgium. I hold a Master in Advanced Studies in Economics and a Master in Cultures and Development Studies (Anthropology), both from the KULeuven, Belgium. In my Ph.D. research, I focus on the impact of urbanization on social change in Sub-Saharan Africa from a multidisciplinary perspective. In the quantitative part of my Ph.D. research, I am looking into the effect of urbanization on rural labour dynamics using household survey data and satellite Night Time Lights data. In the qualitative part, I am focusing specifically on the Kagera region in Tanzania. Furthermore, I am interested in the ontological and epistemological underpinnings of doing multidisciplinary research.