

Megan Turnbull

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Academic Appointments

- Fall 2022 Visiting Faculty, Elections, Violence, and Parties Project, University of Amsterdam
- 2021-22 Research Fellow, International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School
- 2018- Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia
Faculty Affiliate, African Studies Institute
Faculty Fellow, Center for International Trade and Security (2020-)
- 2017-2018 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Skidmore College

Education

- 2017 Ph.D., Political Science, Brown University
Dissertation: State Responses to Armed Groups and Political (Dis)Order in Nigeria
Committee: Ashutosh Varshney (Chair), Melani Cammett, and Daniel Jordan Smith
Field Certifications: Comparative Politics and Political Theory
- 2008 M.A., with distinction (*cum laude*), Political Science, Leiden University
- 2007 B.A., with distinction (*summa cum laude*), Political Science, University at Albany

Peer Reviewed Publications

- 2025 “Democracy Dismissed: When Leaders and Citizens Choose Election Violence,” Kathleen Klaus and **Megan Turnbull**, *Journal of Peace Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433251352662>
- 2025 “Couples Therapy for a Divided America: Assessing the Effects of Reciprocal Group Reflection on Partisan Polarization,” Hannah Baron, Robert A. Blair, Donghyun Danny Choi, Laura Gamboa, Jessica Gottlieb, Amanda Lea Robinson, Steven C. Rosenzweig, **Megan Turnbull**, and Emily A. West, *Political Behavior*, 47: 1363-1388. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-024-09993-z>
- 2024 “Elites and Arbitrary Power: Ethical Challenges and Guiding Principles for Research with Violent Political Actors,” Niloufer A. Siddiqui and **Megan Turnbull**, *Conflict, Security, and Development*, 24 (6): 599-619. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14678802.2024.2382189>

- 2024 “Nigerian Youth Engagement in Violent Electoral Environments: Political Apathy or ‘Constrained Optimism’?,” Justine M. Davis and **Megan Turnbull**, *African Affairs*, 123 (491): 133-164. <https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/adae010>
- 2024 “Incumbent Responses to Armed Groups in Nigeria and Kenya.” *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 59: 56-85. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12116-023-09414-y>
- 2021 “When Armed Groups Refuse to Carry Out Election Violence: Evidence from Nigeria.” *World Development*, 146: 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105573>
- 2020/21 “Elite Competition, Social Movements, and Election Violence in Nigeria,” *International Security*, 45 (3): 40-78. https://doi.org/10.1162/isec_a_00401
- 2018 “When Militias Provide Welfare: Lessons from Pakistan and Nigeria,” with Yelena Biberman. *Political Science Quarterly*, 133 (4): 695-727. <https://doi.org/10.1002/polq.12832>

Works-in-Progress

“Can Violence Narratives Shape Political Participation?: Evidence from Nigeria,” with Justine M. Davis (Writing in progress)

“Class Politics and Perspectives on Accountability and Election Violence in Kenya” (Data analysis in progress)

“Authority and State Violence: A Survey Experiment in Nigeria,” with Hanne Fjelde, Kristen Kao, and Tore Wig (Writing in progress)

Book Manuscript: *Political Order and Election Violence in Nigeria* (Under review)

Invited Talks and Publications

- 2025 Democracy, Diplomacy, and Development in Africa Conference, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, March 13-14
- “Young People in Nigeria Continue to Participate in Politics Despite Election Violence,” Justine Davis and Megan Turnbull, LSE Politics Blog, January 15, at <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2025/01/15/young-people-in-nigeria-continue-to-participate-in-politics-despite-election-violence/>
- 2024 “Democracy Dismissed: When Leaders and Citizens Choose Election Violence,” Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan, September 18
- “Democracy Dismissed: When Leaders and Citizens Choose Election Violence,” Comparative Politics Annual Conference, Washington University, April 26
- Book review: Wahman M. Michael Wahman. *Controlling Territory, Controlling Voters: The Electoral Geography of African Campaign Violence*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2024. *African Studies Review*, 67 (3): 726-728. doi:10.1017/asr.2024.23

- 2022 “Political Order and Election Violence in Nigeria,” Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, December 7
- “Political Order and Election Violence in Nigeria,” New Research on Politics in Africa Workshop organized by the Elections, Violence, and Parties Project, University of Amsterdam, December 5
- “Political Order and Election Violence in Nigeria,” Institute of Political Science, Leiden University, November 30
- “Election Violence and Participation in Nigeria,” Government and Public Policy Department Colloquium, University of Strathclyde, November 23
- Discussant for Book Adda: *Ordering Violence: Explaining Armed Group-State Relations From Conflict to Cooperation*, by Paul Staniland, hosted by the Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University, March 11
- “Support, Toleration, and Repression: Incumbent Responses to Dissident Armed Groups in Nigeria and Kenya,” Comparative Politics Workshop, Boston University, February 9
- 2020 “Nigerians and Americans Are Protesting Police Violence, But They Have Different Demands. Here’s Why.” *Political Violence at Glance*, November 16, at <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2020/11/16/nigerians-and-americans-are-protesting-police-violence-but-they-have-different-demands-heres-why/>
- 2020 “Gangs, Governors, and Godfathers: The Subnational Politics of Election Violence in Nigeria,” The African Studies Program, Johns-Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington D.C., April 8 (canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2019 “Resisting Co-Optation: Political Activism in Nigeria,” Lagos State University, Lagos, Nigeria, May 21.
- 2018 Book review: Straus, Scott. Making and Unmaking Nations: War, Leadership, and Genocide in Modern Africa. *African Studies Review* 61(1): 264-266, doi.org/10.1017/asr.2018.3
- 2017 “Armed Groups and the Security Situation in the Niger Delta,” European Asylum Support Office Practical Cooperation Meeting on Nigeria, Rome, June 12-13
- 2016 “State Responses to Militias and Political (Dis)Order in Developing Democracies,” The MacMillan Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence Speaker Series, Yale University, September 19
- 2015 “Boko Haram in Nigeria and the New World (Dis)Order,” Skidmore College, April 1
- 2013 “Explaining State-Militia Relationships in Nigeria,” United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Abuja, Nigeria, November 19

Conference Presentations & Workshops

- 2025 Carolinas Conflict Consortium, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, April 25-26

	American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting
2024	Non-State Armed Governance in Settings of Crime and War Workshop, Barnard College of Columbia University, June 6-7 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting
2023	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Meeting African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting
2022	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting Descriptive Research Inaugural Meeting Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties (EPOP) Annual Meeting American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting Illicit Economies and Extra-Legal Actors Inaugural Meeting Political Violence and Electoral Politics, virtual conference hosted by Elections, Violence, and Parties Project, University of Amsterdam
2021	American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting Elections and Violence: New Research on Actors, Targets, and Strategies, virtual conference hosted by Elections, Violence, and Parties Project, University of Amsterdam
2020	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting (canceled due to COVID-19) Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting (canceled due to COVID-19) American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting Peace Science Society (PSS) Annual North American Meeting African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Workshop, The Pursuit of Peaceful Polling
2019	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting
2018	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting
2017	International Studies Association Northeast (ISA-NE) Annual Meeting American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting New England Political Science Association (NEPSA) Annual Meeting Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting
2016	Peace Science Society (PSS) Annual North American Meeting International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting
2015	African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting International Studies Association Northeast (ISA-NE) Annual Meeting American Political Science Association Annual Meeting New England Political Science Association (NEPSA) Annual Meeting

2014 African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting
International Security and Arms Control Section of the American Political Science Association and the International Security Studies Section of the International Studies Association (ISAC-ISSS) Joint Annual Meeting

Grants & Fellowships

2024 School of Public and International Affairs Seed Grant, University of Georgia: “Security Provision and Legitimate Violence: Police and Vigilantes in Nigeria,” \$5913.62, with Genesis Ivey

2022-23 COVID Impact Research Recovery Funding Grant, University of Georgia: International and Local Efforts to Prevent Election Violence in Kenya (\$9,000.00)

2021-22 School of Public and International Affairs Seed Grant, University of Georgia: Justice, Reform, and Accountability for Election Violence (\$4,000.00)

Faculty Seed Grant in the Sciences, University of Georgia: Election Violence and Voting Behavior in Nigeria (\$9,950.00)

2019-20 Center for International Trade and Security Seed Grant, University of Georgia: Protesting Election Violence (\$2,500.00)

2013-14 Smith Richardson Foundation, World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship (\$7,500.00)

2011-12 National Science Foundation-IGERT Doctoral Fellowship, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Development

Graduate Program in Development, Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University, Summer Fieldwork Grant (\$2,500.00)

Department of Political Science, Brown University, Methods Training Scholarship to attend Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University

2008 Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science, Huygens Scholarship

Teaching

Courses, University of Georgia

Introduction to Comparative Politics, undergraduate (2018-2024)
African Politics, undergraduate (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)
Democratic Erosion, undergraduate (Fall 2020, Summer 2023, Summer 2024, Fall 2025); graduate (Spring 2021)
Election Violence, graduate (Fall 2023)

Independent Research Supervision, University of Georgia

Elizabeth Stark, Independent Study, Political Conflict in Africa, Spring 2024
Sonia Kalia, “Understanding Election Violence in Nigeria,” CURO, Spring 2021

Rehna Sheth, “The Impact of Terrorist-Provided Social Welfare Services on Children’s Educational Achievement and Participation,” CURO, Spring 2021
Angelia Higginson, “Sustainability Portfolio,” Undergraduate Thesis, Fall 2020
Huong Vy (Cindy) Phan, Honors Project, Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2020
Reshikesav Rajan, Honors Project, Democratic Erosion, Fall 2020
Benton Sample, Masters Thesis Committee Member, “Blood and Gold: Insurgency and Economic Aid in Iraq,” Spring 2021

Outside Independent Research Supervision

Xiran Chen, Dissertation Committee Member, “Chiefs, Elections, and Violence: Mobilization and Demobilization of African Voters,” University of Arizona, Defended December 2022

Courses, Skidmore College

Introduction to Comparative Politics & International Relations (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)
Africa’s Rise in a Changing World (Fall 2017)
States, Markets, and Politics in Developing Countries (Fall 2017)
Democratic Erosion (Spring 2018)
International Interventions and Post-Conflict Politics (Spring 2018)

Pedagogical Training

2015-16	Teaching Certificate III: Professional Development Seminar, The Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University
2014-15	Teaching Certificate I: Reflective Teaching, The Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University

In-Country Research

Nigeria	July 2011, July-August 2012, September-December 2013, March-May 2014, May 2019, November-December 2024
Kenya	June-July 2019, July-August 2022

Professional Activities and Service

2025-26	Faculty Affairs Committee, Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs Council, University of Georgia
2023-24	Faculty Affairs Committee, Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Latin American Politics, Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia Grader, Comparative Politics Comprehensive Exam, Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia Program Director, Stellenbosch, South Africa, Maymester

2022	Committee Member, Best Book Award, African Politics Conference Group Co-Organizer, Dissertation Workshop on Political Violence, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association
2020-22	Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia
2020-21	Grader, Comparative Politics Comprehensive Exam, Department of International Affairs, University of Georgia
2019-20	Co-organizer, Diversity and Inclusion Discussion Group, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia
2018	Expert reviewer on Nigeria, European Asylum Support Office
2014-17	Managing Editor, Studies in Comparative International Development
Reviewer	Academic Journals: <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> , <i>Civil Wars</i> , <i>Conflict, Management, and Peace Science</i> , <i>Critical African Studies</i> , <i>Democracy and Security</i> , <i>International Security</i> , <i>Journal of African Elections</i> , <i>Journal of Contemporary African Studies</i> , <i>Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties</i> , <i>Journal of Global Security Studies</i> , <i>Journal of Peacebuilding and Development</i> , <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , <i>Security Studies</i> , <i>Studies in Comparative International Development</i> , <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> , <i>World Development</i> Academic Presses: Oxford University Press
Discussant	Regular discussant and chair at the annual meetings of the African Studies Association, American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association, and the Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science