

AMANDA LEA ROBINSON
CURRICULUM VITAE

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Positions

Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University, September 2025–current

Associate Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University, September 2018–2025

Visiting Fellow, European University Institute, September 2020–July 2021

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University, July 2013–August 2018

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Stanford University, June 2013

B.A. Biology, *Summa Cum Laude*, Appalachian State University, August 2005

Research

BOOK

The Political Logic of Cultural Revival: Ethnic Visibility, Linked Fate, and Electoral Politics in Africa. 2024. Oxford Studies in African Politics and International Relations, Oxford University Press.

*** Honorable Mention, Best Book Award, African Politics Conference Group, 2025 ***

ARTICLES

Representation Increases Women's Influence in Climate Deliberations: Evidence from Community-Managed Forests in Malawi. Forthcoming, *American Journal of Political Science*.
(with Amanda Clayton, Boniface Dulani, and Katrina Kosec)

Beyond the Urban-Rural Divide: Urban Duration, Rural Connections, and Sociopolitical (Re)orientation in Kenya. 2025. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 63 (4): 241-261.
(with Rachel Beatty Riedl)

Couples Therapy for a Divided America: Assessing the Effects of Reciprocal Group Reflection on Partisan Polarization. 2025. *Political Behavior* 47: 1363-1388.
(with Hannah Baron, Robert A. Blair, Donghyun Danny Choi, Laura Gamboa, Jessica Gottlieb, Steven C. Rosenzweig, Megan M. Turnbull, and Emily A. West)

Ethnic Visibility. 2024. *American Journal of Political Science* 68 (4): 1234-1251.

Inventing Traditional Authority: Lhomwe Chiefs in Malawi. 2024. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 62 (1): 25-51.

Why (Some) Immigrants Resist Assimilation: US Racism and the African Immigrant Experience. 2023. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 18 (3): 295-338.
(with Claire Adida)

Triggers of Escalations in Violence Against Civilians by Non-State Actors in Africa. 2021. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 10: 1-19
(with Hollie Nyseth Brehm and Mini Saraswati)

Deeper Decentralization, Fewer Women? Decentralization and Women's Candidacies for Local Office in Benin and Malawi. 2021. in Leonardo Arriola, Martha Johnson, and Melanie Phillips (eds.), *Women and Power in Africa: Aspiring, Campaigning, and Governing*. Oxford University Press. pp. 85-116.
(with Amanda Clayton, Martha Johnson, and Ragnhild Muriaas)

Ethnic Diversity, Segregation, and Interethnic Trust in Africa. 2020. *British Journal of Political Science* 50 (1): 217-239.

(How) Do Voters Discriminate Against Women Candidates? Experimental and Qualitative Evidence from Malawi. 2020. *Comparative Political Studies* 53: 3-4: 601-630.
(with Amanda Clayton, Martha Johnson, and Ragnhild Muriaas)

Coethnicity and Corruption: Field Experimental Evidence from Public Officials in Malawi. 2020. *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 7 (1): 61-65.
(with Brigitte Seim)

How to Close the Gender Gap in Political Participation: Lessons from Matrilineal Societies in Africa. 2021 (2019 First View). *British Journal of Political Science*, 51 (1): 68-92.
(with Jessica Gottlieb)

*** Best Article, African Politics Conference Group, 2020 ***

Ethnic Associations and Politics in Contemporary Malawi. 2019. *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 13 (4): 718-738.
(with Paul C. Banda and Gift Kayira)

Who is Targeted in Corruption? Disentangling the Effects of Wealth and Power on Exposure to Bribery. 2018. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 13 (3): 313-331.
(with Brigitte Seim)

Segregation, Ethnic Favoritism, and the Strategic Targeting of Distributive Goods. 2018. *Comparative Political Studies*, 51(9): 1111-1143.
(with Simon Ejdemyr and Eric Kramon)

Do Men and Women Have Different Policy Preferences in Africa? Determinants and Implications of Gender Gaps in Policy Prioritization. 2018. *British Journal of Political Science*, 48(3): 611-636.
(with Jessica Gottlieb and Guy Grossman)

Nationalism and Social Sanctioning Across Ethnic Lines: Experimental Evidence from the Kenya-Tanzania Border. 2017. *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 4 (1): 1-20.
(with Sangick Jeon and Tim Johnson)

Nationalism and Ethnic-Based Trust: Experimental Evidence from an African Border Region. 2016. *Comparative Political Studies* 49 (14): 1819–1854.

Internal Borders: Ethnic-Based Market Segmentation in Malawi. 2016. *World Development* 87: 371–384.

Who’s Asking? Interviewer Coethnicity Effects in African Survey Data. 2016. *Comparative Political Studies* 49 (12): 1630–1660.

(with Claire L. Adida, Karen Ferree, and Daniel Posner)

National versus Ethnic Identification in Africa: Modernization, Colonial Legacy, and the Origins of Territorial Nationalism. 2014. *World Politics* 66 (4): 709–746.

*** Best Graduate Student Paper, African Politics Conference Group, 2013 ***

Geographic Axes and the Persistence of Cultural Diversity. 2012. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 109 (26): 10263–10268.

(with David D. Laitin and Joachim Moortgat)

INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS

Review of *Precolonial Legacies in Postcolonial Politics* by Martha Wilfahrt. 2022. *Perspectives on Politics* 20 (3): 1133–1134.

Colonial Rule and Its Political Legacies in Africa. 2019. In Nic Cheeseman (editor), *Oxford Encyclopedia of African Politics*. Oxford University Press.

Review of *Beyond Ethnic Politics in Africa* by Dominika Koeter. 2018. *Perspectives on Politics* 16(1): 266–267.

Ethnic Visibility. 2017. *CP: Newsletter of the Comparative Politics Organized Section of the American Political Science Association* 27(2): 79–89.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Are Black Immigrants Viewed as an “Elevated Minority”? White Americans’ Stereotypes about African Immigrants

(under review, with Claire Adida)

Ethnic Politics Revisited: Political Dynamics of Ethnic Formation and Change

(invited contribution to the *Annual Review of Political Science*)

Kinship Moderates Women’s Empowerment: Evidence from Patrilineal and Matrilineal Malawi

(with Amanda Clayton, Kamya Yadav, Boniface Dulani, and Asiyati Chiweza)

Women’s Group Empowerment Can Increase Political Participation: Evidence from Five Coordinated Field Experiments

(with 28 EGAP Metaketa V collaborators)

Becoming Black: Racial Identity Formation Among Africans in the US

(with Claire Adida)

Traditional Institutions and Governance in Malawi

(with Vlad Chlouba, Boniface Dulani, and Lauren Honig)

Grants & Awards

RESEARCH GRANTS

Mershon Center for International Security, Ohio State University, 2025. \$30,927

EGAP Metaketa V, Women's Action Committees & Local Services in Malawi, 2020-2023. \$295,711

USAID, Governance Research on Water Systems (GROWS) in East Africa, 2018-2021. \$844,000

Mershon Center for International Security, Ohio State University, 2017. \$12,000

Institute for Population Research, Ohio State University, 2016. \$24,577

Criminal Justice Research Center, Ohio State University, 2016. \$10,000

Mershon Center for International Security, Ohio State University, 2016. \$18,000

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Ohio State University, 2016. \$4000

Russell Sage Foundation, Small Grant in Behavioral Economics, 2011. \$8000

PROGRAMMING GRANTS

Mershon Center for International Security, Ohio State University, 2024. \$26,250

Centennial Center Research Grant, American Political Science Association, 2024. \$9,295

Hewlett Foundation's Global Development and Population Program, Working Group in African Political Economy, 2021-2024. \$250,000

Office of International Affairs, Ohio State University, 2014. \$7800

FELLOWSHIPS

Huber Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences, Ohio State University, 2026-2027

Casper Fellow, Department of Political Science, Ohio State University, 2016-2017

African Language Fellowship for Advanced Chichewa at Center for Language Studies, University of Malawi, Chancellor College. Stanford University Center for African Studies, 2011

Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship, 2010-2013

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship for Intermediate Chichewa. Center for Language Studies, University of Malawi, Chancellor College, 2010

AWARDS

David M. Collier Mid-Career Achievement Award, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section, 2025

Honorable Mention, Best Book Award, African Politics Conference Group, 2025

Outstanding Reviewer Award, *Comparative Political Studies*, 2023

Best Article, African Politics Conference Group, 2020

Best Reviewer Award, *Comparative Political Studies*, 2016

Distinguished Denman Research Mentor Award, Ohio State University, 2017

Best Graduate Student Paper Award, African Politics Conference Group & *African Affairs*, 2013

Invited Presentations

ACADEMIC

University of Notre Dame, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, February 3, 2026

Korea University, January 12, 2026

Stanford University, Comparative Politics Workshop, April 28, 2025

University of Wisconsin, Comparative Politics Seminar, December 5, 2024

University of Pennsylvania, Comparative Politics Workshop Series, February 20, 2024

University of California Berkeley, Comparative Politics Speaker Series, January 18, 2024

University of Texas, Comparative Politics Speaker Series, March 28, 2022

University of Pennsylvania, Identity Lab Colloquium, February 23, 2022

University of Oxford, Nuffield Political Science Seminar, January 25, 2022

Minority Politics Online Seminar Series, November 16, 2021

Vanderbilt University, Comparative Politics Seminar, October 28, 2021

European University Institute, Migration Working Group, April 20, 2021

New York University, Abu Dhabi, Political Science Speaker Series, February 17, 2021

European University Institute, Political Behavior Colloquium, January 28, 2021

London School of Economics, Political Economy Workshop, December 2, 2020

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Comparative Politics Workshop, February 11, 2020

Yale University, Comparative Politics Workshop, January 14, 2020

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, GOV/LAB Political Behavior of Development Conference, November 15, 2019

University of Pennsylvania, Immigration: Research Frontiers & Policy Challenges Conference, October 4-5, 2019

Columbia University, Department of Political Science, February 6, 2019

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Political Science, February 1, 2019

University of Michigan, Center for Political Studies, January 16, 2019

Toulouse School of Economics, Institute for Advanced Studies, March 27, 2018

Tulane University, Department of Political Science, December 12, 2017

University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Political Science, December 4, 2017

University of Southern California, Department of Political Science, November 15, 2017

University of Wisconsin, Department of Political Science, February 16, 2017

Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Political Science, September 15, 2016

Carlos III-Juan March Institute, Workshop on Ethnicity and Diversity, June 6-7, 2016

Ohio State University, John Glenn School of Public Affairs, April 18, 2016

Yale University, Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Africa Symposium, February 26-27, 2016

Texas A&M University, Bush School of Government and Public Service, April 13, 2015

University of Gothenburg, Department of Political Science, March 20, 2015

Uppsala University, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, March 19, 2015

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Political Science and Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, January 29, 2015

Santa Fe Institute, Coevolution of Behavior and Institutions, January 14, 2014

Arizona State University, Ethnic Politics Workshop, December 13-14, 2012

POLICY

Triggers of Mass Killings by Non-State Actors. Political Instability Task Force. Washington, D.C., January 23-24, 2017

Ethnic Political Mobilization in Africa. Political Instability Task Force. Washington, D.C., July 20-21, 2015

Identity Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa. Niagara Foundation, Columbus, OH, December 17, 2014

Protest Participation in Malawi. Department for International Development, British High Commission, Malawi, August 22, 2011

Teaching

UNDERGRADUATE

Research Methods for Politics and Development: Study Abroad in Malawi. Su19, Su24

African Politics. F13, F14, F14 (Honors), F15, S17, F17, F18, S22, S24

Nationalism and Ethnicity: The Politics of Belonging. S14 (Honors), S15, S15 (Honors), F15, F17, F18, F19

Democratic Erosion. S18 (Honors), S22 (Honors), F22 (Honors), F24 (Honors)

GRADUATE

Field Research Methods. F13, S17, F19, F22

Theories of Comparative Politics II. F21, S24, F25

Comparative Politics Research Workshop. F15, S16

Service

DISCIPLINE

Co-Editor, *African Affairs*, July 2024-Present

Editorial Board Member, *American Political Science Review*, 2024-Present

Editorial Board Member, *Comparative Political Studies*, 2020-Present

Editorial Board Member, *Political Behavior*, 2020-Present

Co-Organizer, Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), 2017-Present

African Politics Conference Group, Co-Organizer of the Online Colloquium, 2020-2023

Section Head, Undergraduate Comparative Politics, Midwest Political Science Association, 2022

Section Head, Experimental Research, American Political Science Association, 2020

Executive Committee Member, Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), 2015-2017

DEPARTMENT

Director of Graduate Studies: 2024-Present

Faculty Search Committee: 2014 (CP), 2016 (REP), 2022 (CP), 2023 (CP)

Diversity Committee: 2019-2020 (Chair), 2023-2024

Department Colloquium Series: 2021 (Chair), 2022

Graduate Admissions Committee: 2018, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025

Department Chair Search Committee: 2019

Graduate Studies Committee: 2018, 2019, 2024, 2025, 2026

Undergraduate Studies Committee: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

UNIVERSITY

Faculty Search Committee, Mershon Center for International Security: 2025

Advisory Committee, Center for African Studies, Ohio State University: 2023-present

University Graduate Fellowship Committee, Ohio State University: 2022, 2023

Decision Sciences Collaborative, Ohio State University: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 (Interim Director), 2018, 2019

Last updated: May 9, 2026