

Peter H. Penar

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
Michigan State University
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PRESENT APPOINTMENT

2018 – Present Assistant Professor of Political Science (fixed term), Michigan State University

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D., Political Science, Michigan State University
Comparative Politics (major field) and International Relations (minor field)

Dissertation title: "My Brother's Keeper? The Effects of African Regional Organizations on Election Quality"
Dissertation committee: Michael Bratton (chair, MSU), Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz (MSU), Benjamin Appel (MSU), Michael Colaresi (University of Pittsburgh)

2014 M.A., Political Science, Michigan State University

2009 B.A., International Affairs (major) and Comparative Religion (minor)
Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University

Distinctions: *summa cum laude*, Elliott School of International Affairs
Distinguished Scholar Award (2009), University Honors Program, Special Honors, Phi Beta Kappa

2007 – 2008 Visiting Student, University of Oxford, St. Anne's College

RESEARCH INTERESTS & TEACHING FIELDS

African politics

Democratization and regime transitions

International and regional organizations

Human rights and international law

Elections and election quality

Political parties

Political campaigns

Fieldwork and interview methods

Quantitative methods and public opinion

Survey design

PUBLICATIONS (with active links)

Peer-reviewed publications

Bratton, Michael and Peter Penar (2018). ["Dropping the Democracy Ball in Southern Africa: South Africa, SADC and Zimbabwe."](#) *Taiwan Journal of Democracy* 14(1): 41-65.

Bratton, Michael and Peter Penar (2018). Forthcoming. "Power Sharing as a Strategy to Resolve Political Crises." *The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Politics* (Oxford University Press).

Book manuscript

Penar, Peter (2018). *My Brother's Keeper? The Effects of African Regional Organizations on Election Quality* (based on the dissertation project)

Working papers & under review

Penar, Peter (2018). "Winning at the Regional Level: African Regional Organizations' Cartel Behavior and How Opposition Parties Attempt to Break It."

Penar, Peter (2017). "Pro-interventionists v. Pro-sovereignists in Africa: Explaining Attitudes towards the Duty to Intervene Regionally."

Other publications

Penar, Peter (2016). [Will of the People? Election Results and Public Opinion in Gabon.](#) Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 119.

Penar, Peter, Rose Aiko, Thomas Bentley, and Kangwook Han (2016). [Election Quality, Public Trust are Central Issues for Africa's Upcoming Contests.](#) Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 35.

Oyuke, Abel, Peter Halley Penar, and Brian Howard (2016). [Off-grid or 'Off-on': Lack of Access, Unreliable Electricity Supply Still Plague Majority of Africans](#). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 75.

Bentley, Thomas, Abel Oyuke, Peter Halley Penar, and Christophe Sebudandi (2016). [Escalating Political Crisis Belies Burundians' Strong Support for Democracy](#). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 68.

Peter Halley Penar (2015). [Elections Burkina Faso: Citizens Trust Electoral Institutions, Incumbent Leaders](#). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 61.

Peter Halley Penar and Ségorbah Silwe (2015). [Elections Côte d'Ivoire: Citizens Mistrust Electoral Commission, Fear Political Violence](#). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 51.

Bentley, Thomas, Kangwook Han, and Peter Halley Penar (2015). [Guineans Confident in their Freedom to Vote, but not in the Fairness of the Count](#). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 49.

Bentley, Thomas, Kangwook Han, and Peter Halley Penar (2015). [African Democracy Update: Democratic Satisfaction Remains Elusive for Many](#). Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 45. (Article republished on The Conversation Africa: <http://goo.gl/H258iB> and several newspapers in South Africa (M&G) and Zimbabwe)

Bratton, Michael and Peter Penar (2014). [Mali's Public Mood Reflects Newfound Hope](#). Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 9.

Media, op-eds, & blogs

Penar, Peter (2017). [How The Gambia is Testing West Africa's Resolve to Protect Democracy](#). The Conversation Africa. Republished by [Mail & Guardian Africa](#), [The Wire](#), and other Africa-based news outlets. Article served as a basis for interviews with the BBC World Service and Deutsche Welle.

[5 Reasons Ghanaians Don't Trust Elections](#) (7 December 2016) CNN article by Sophie Morlin-Yron, includes my interview.

Penar, Peter and Abel Gbala (2016). [Controversial Constitutional Referendum Sparks Distrust in Côte d'Ivoire](#). The Conversation Africa. Republished by [African Arguments](#), [Newsweek](#), and [Quartz Africa](#).

[Why Nearly Half of Africans Don't Trust Elections](#) (26 September 2016) CNN article by Sophie Morlin-Yron, includes my interview.

Penar, Peter (2016). [Gabon Violence Reflects Longstanding and Deep Mistrust of Election Handling](#). The Conversation Africa.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

African Studies Association (Upcoming, 2018)

"My Brother's Keeper? The Effects of African Regional Organizations on Election Quality"
(Upcoming, 2018)

American Political Science Association (2018)

"Zimbabwe's 2018 Elections: A 'Not-So-Removed' Post-Mortem" (2018)

International Studies Association (2016, 2017, 2018)

"Winning at the Regional Level: African Regional Organizations' Cartel Behavior and How Opposition Parties Attempt to Break It" (2018)

"Pro-interventionists v. Pro-sovereignists in Africa: Explaining Attitudes towards the Duty to Intervene Regionally" (2017) also MPSA (2016)

"The Regionalization of Election Support in Africa: Explaining Differing Responses and Elite Perceptions of Responses by African Regional Organizations" (2016)

Michigan State University (2016, 2017, 2018)

MSU African Studies Center's Eye on Africa Series, "Zimbabwe's 2018 Elections Up-close: A Departure from the Past?" (Upcoming, 2018)

African Graduate Student Association Conference, "The Leaders of Africa Project: Studying Leadership Rigorously" (2018)

MSU African Studies Center's Special Panel, "Perspectives on Kenyan Elections" (2017)

MSU African Studies Center's Eye on Africa Series, "Closing Africa's Eye to Election Malpractice? Prospects for Free and Fair Elections and the Role of African Regional Intervention" (2016)

African Graduate Student Association Conference, "Becoming My Brother's Keeper? Examining the Effects of African Regional Organizations on Election Quality" (2016)

Midwest Political Science Association (2016, 2017)

"Is China's Love Affair with Africa Mutual: Determinants of Africans' Perceptions Toward China-Africa Relations" (2017) with Master's student Eva Tetteh

"The Double-Edged Sword of Election-Related Intervention: Explaining Why ECOWAS and the African Union Played a Decisive Role in Côte d'Ivoire and the Consequences" (2017)

Invited talks (2016)

Workshop on Electricity in Africa at École Polytechnique, "Turning on the Lights for All: How Unequal Access to Electricity Persists Alongside Relative Deprivation in Africa," Paris, France (December 15, 2016)

PROJECTS

2018 – Present Nigeria Policy Initiative (NPI), Wilson Center, Washington DC

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

2017	Best Graduate Student Departmental Teaching Award
Summer 2017	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Michigan State University
2011 – 2016	University Distinguished Fellowship, Michigan State University
2014 – 2015	University Fellowship, Michigan State University
Summer 2013	Graduate Student Research Enhancement Award, Michigan State University College of Arts and Sciences
Summer 2013	Departmental Summer Fieldwork Fellowship, Michigan State University Department of Political Science
Summer 2012	Departmental Summer Fieldwork Fellowship, Michigan State University Department of Political Science
2009	Elliott School of International Affairs Distinguished Scholar Award

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Summer 2016	Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Courses: Regressions III: Advanced Methods; Multilevel Models: Introduction and Application
Summer 2013	Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR)

FIELDWORK

Zimbabwe	June – August 2018, October – December 2014
Kenya	June – August 2015, August – September 2014
Nigeria	May 2015 at the Economic Community of Western African States
Ethiopia	April 2015 at the African Union
Côte d'Ivoire	January – April 2015
South Africa	December 2014 – January 2015, March 2014, May – June 2013)
Botswana	May – June 2013 at the Southern African Development Community
Tanzania	July – August 2012 at the East African Community

TEACHING

Michigan State University, Lecturer (principal instructor)

Fall 2018	PLS 344. Politics of Developing Areas (Undergraduate), 50 students PLS 422. Research Seminar in Political Science, Comparative Campaigns and Elections (Undergraduate), 30 students
Spring 2018	PLS 351. African Politics (Undergraduate), 50 students
Fall 2017	PLS 347. Democratic Regimes (Undergraduate), 50 students Themes: Democratization, democratic consolidation, election integrity, campaigns, institutions and institutional design

Spring 2017, PLS 140. Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate),
Fall 2016, 100-150 students
Spring 2016

Michigan State University, Teaching Assistant

Fall 2012 PLS 140. Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate)

Teach For America, Regular Education Teacher, Boston Public Schools, Boston, MA

2009 – 2011 6th grade Social Studies and English Language Arts
8th grade English Language Arts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

June – Aug 2018 Long-term Election Observer, International Republican Institute-National Democratic Institute Mission, Zimbabwe’s General Elections

May 2016 – Afrobarometer, research assistant
Aug 2016,
Aug 2015 –
Dec 2015

Aug 2012 – Afrobarometer, research assistant
Sept 2014 Afrobarometer, publications manager and website manager

March 2013 Short-term Election Observer, The Carter Center Election Observation Mission, Kenya’s General Elections

SERVICE

2013 – 2014 President of the Graduate Student Association, Michigan State University Department of Political Science

2012 – 2013 Academic Standards and Admissions Committee Representative, Michigan State University Department of Political Science

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
African Studies Association

International Studies Association
Midwest Political Science Association

SKILLS

Language	English (native), French (intermediate/ advanced), Swahili (beginner)
Software	R (preferred), STATA, SPSS, LaTeX
Website design and management	WordPress, Joomla, WIX
Research	Elite and public opinion survey design
Other	Radio and television interviews, documentary video and podcast production

REFERENCES

Michael Bratton	University Distinguished Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, mbratton@msu.edu
Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, conroyk6@msu.edu
Carolyn Logan	Associate Professor and Deputy Director of the Afrobarometer, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, clogan@msu.edu

Updated 1 November 2018