

# Peter H. Penar

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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

## RESEARCH INTERESTS & TEACHING FIELDS

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African Politics, Democratization and Regime Transitions, Electoral Integrity and Malpractice, Fieldwork and Interview Methods, Human Rights and International Law, International and Regional Organizations, Political Parties and Campaigns, Public Opinion and Survey Design, Public Policy, Quantitative Methods

## EDUCATION

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### **Ph.D., Political Science, Michigan State University, 2018**

Dissertation Title: "My Brother's Keeper? The Effects of African Regional Organizations on Election Quality"

Chair: Michael Bratton

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

### **B.A., International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, 2009**

Distinctions: *summa cum laude*, Elliott School Distinguished Scholar Award, University Honors Program, Special Honors, Phi Beta Kappa

## REFEREED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

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

"Power Sharing as a Strategy to Resolve Political Crises." (with Michael Bratton) In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2018).

## SELECTED POLICY PUBLICATIONS

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"Will of the People? Election Results and Public Opinion in Gabon." *Afrobarometer Dispatch* (2016) No. 119.

"Election Quality, Public Trust are Central Issues for Africa's Upcoming Contests." (with Rose Aiko, Thomas Bentley, and Kangwook Han) *Afrobarometer Policy Paper* (2016) No. 35.

"Off-grid or 'Off-on': Lack of Access, Unreliable Electricity Supply Still Plague Majority of Africans." (with Abel Oyuke and Brian Howard) *Afrobarometer Dispatch* (2016) No. 75.

"Escalating Political Crisis Belies Burundians' Strong Support for Democracy." (with Thomas Bentley, Abel Oyuke, and Christophe Sebudandi) *Afrobarometer Dispatch* (2016) No. 68.

"Elections Burkina Faso: Citizens Trust Electoral Institutions, Incumbent Leaders." *Afrobarometer Dispatch* (2015) No. 61.

"Elections Côte d'Ivoire: Citizens Mistrust Electoral Commission, Fear Political Violence." (with Ségorbah Silwe) *Afrobarometer Dispatch* (2015) No. 51.

"Guineans Confident in their Freedom to Vote, but not in the Fairness of the Count." (with Thomas Bentley and Kangwook Han) *Afrobarometer Dispatch* (2015) No. 49.

"African Democracy Update: Democratic Satisfaction Remains Elusive for Many." (with Thomas Bentley and Kangwook Han) *Afrobarometer Dispatch* (2015) No. 45. Article republished on *The Conversation Africa* and newspapers in South Africa (e.g., *Mail & Guardian Africa*) and Zimbabwe.

"Mali's Public Mood Reflects Newfound Hope." (with Michael Bratton) *Afrobarometer Policy Paper* (2014) No. 9.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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### Book Manuscript

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

### Article Manuscripts

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

"Pro-interventionists v. Pro-sovereignists in Africa: Explaining Attitudes towards the Duty to Intervene Regionally."

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

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS**

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### **Awards**

Best Graduate Student Departmental Teaching Award, 2017.

University Distinguished Fellowship, Michigan State University, 2011 – 2016.

### **Research Grants**

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Michigan State University, 2017.

University Fellowship and Associated Awards, Michigan State University (for dissertation fieldwork), 2014 – 2015.

Graduate Student Research Enhancement Award, Michigan State University College of Arts and Sciences (for dissertation fieldwork), 2013.

Departmental Summer Fieldwork Fellowship, Michigan State University Department of Political Science (for dissertation fieldwork), 2013.

Departmental Summer Fieldwork Fellowship, Michigan State University Department of Political Science (for pre-dissertation fieldwork), 2012.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS**

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### **African Studies Association Conference**

"My Brother's Keeper? The Effects of African Regional Organizations on Election Quality." 2018.

### **American Political Science Association Conference**

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

### **International Studies Association Conference**

"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**

"Zimbabwe's 2018 Elections Up-close: A Departure from the Past?" Paper presented at the MSU African Studies Center's Eye on Africa Series, 2018.

"The Leaders of Africa Project: Studying Leadership Rigorously." Paper presented at the African Graduate Student Association Conference, 2018.

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

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

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

### **Midwest Political Science Association Conference**

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

"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)**

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

## SELECTED OP-EDS

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"What the Return of Gbagbo Could Mean for Ivory Coast's 2020 Election." (with Abel Gbala) *The Conversation Africa*, 2019.

"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, 2017.

"Controversial Constitutional Referendum Sparks Distrust in Côte d'Ivoire." (with Abel Gbala) *The Conversation Africa*. Republished by *African Arguments*, *Newsweek*, and *Quartz Africa*, 2016.

"Gabon Violence Reflects Longstanding and Deep Mistrust of Election Handling." *The Conversation Africa*, 2016.

## FIELDWORK RESEARCH

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**Botswana** at the Southern African Development Community (2013), **Côte d'Ivoire** (2015), **Ethiopia** at the Africa Union (2015), **Kenya** (2014, 2015), **Nigeria** at the Economic Community of Western African States (2015), **South Africa** (2013, 2014, 2015), **Tanzania** at the East African Community (2012) and **Zimbabwe** (2014, 2018).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Long-term Election Observer*, Republican Institute-National Democratic Institute Zimbabwe International Election Observation Mission, Zimbabwe, June – August 2018.

*Research Assistant*, Afrobarometer, August 2015 – December 2015, May 2016 – August 2016.

*Publications Manager and Research Assistant*, Afrobarometer, August 2012 – September 2014.

*Short-term Election Observer*, The Carter Center Kenya Election Mission, Kenya, March 2013.

*Teach for America Corps Member and Regular Education Teacher*, Social Studies and English Language Arts, Boston Public Schools, Boston, MA, August 2009 – August 2011.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS**

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Nigeria Policy Initiative (NPI) with Adsoji Adelaja and Femi Vaughan, Wilson Center, Washington DC, 2018 – Present

Leaders of Africa Project (LOAP) and Educational Institute with Africa-based collaborators, Co-Founder, 2017 – Present

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (Regressions III: Advanced Methods, Multilevel Models: Introduction and Application), University of Michigan, 2016

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University, 2013

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Michigan State University, Lecturer**

*African Politics* (PLS 351: Undergraduate). Spring 2018

*Comparative Campaigns and Elections*, Senior Research Seminar in Political Science (PLS 422: Undergraduate). Fall 2018

*Democratization* (PLS 347: Undergraduate). Fall 2017

*Human Rights, International Law, and Elections*, Senior Research Seminar in Political Science (PLS 422: Undergraduate). Spring 2019

*Introduction to Comparative Politics* (PLS 140: Undergraduate). Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017

*Politics of Developing Areas* (PLS 344: Undergraduate). Fall 2018

## **SERVICE**

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

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

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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African Studies Association, American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association

## **SKILLS**

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Language: English (native), French (advanced) and Swahili (beginner)

Production and Graphic Design: Documentary and podcast production using Adobe Creative Cloud Suite (After Effects CC, Audition CC, Prelude CC, Premiere Pro CC), graphic design (InDesign CC, Photoshop CC) and photography and photo editing (LightRoom CC)

Selected Statistical and Mathematical Software: R, STATA, SPSS and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

Website Design and Management: Joomla, WIX and WordPress

## **REFERENCES**

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Michael Bratton, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, mbratton@msu.edu

Benjamin Appel, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, appelben@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