KATHLEEN F. KLAUS

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CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

Associate Professor (Senior lecturer), Department of Peace and Conflict Research, April 2026 – present
Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor (*Docent*), Department of Peace and Conflict Research
Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden (2022-2026)

Visiting Scholar, UC Berkeley, Department of Political Science, (2024-2025)

Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and International Studies (2018-2021)
University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Government (2017-2018)
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Postdoctoral Fellow, Buffett Institute for Global Studies (2015-2017)
Northwestern University, Evanston IL

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Political violence; African politics; elections and democratic erosion; U.S. political violence and political behavior; land and property rights; refugees and migration; peacebuilding and resilience; survey, experimental, and field-based mixed methods.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Political Science, August 2015
Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations
Dissertation: Claiming Land: Institutions, Narratives, and Political Violence in Kenya

M.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison*,* Political Science, May 2009

B.A., Smith College, Northampton, MA, May 2007
Major: Government (High Honors), Minor: African Studies
Semester abroad: Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP), Puebla, México, 2005

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Book

2020 *Political Violence in Kenya: Land, Elections, and Claim-Making* (Cambridge University Press, May 2020)

- Reviewed in *Foreign Affairs*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *African Studies Review*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Democratization*, *Politique étrangère*, and *Washington Post's the Monkey Cage*,

Journal articles

2025 "Democracy Dismissed: When Leaders and Citizens Choose Violence." With Megan Turnbull. *Journal of Peace Research,* 62(5), 1447-1462. *(Special Issue: Political Violence in Democracies*).

2025 "Land and Politics." With Michael Albertus. *Annual Review of Political Science* (Vol. 28). Link.

2023 "Closing the Gap: The Politics of Land Formalization in Kenya." With Mai Hassan. *World Politics*, 75(3): 233-279. |Link. Summarized in MIT News.

2023 "Demanding Recognition: Citizen Perspectives on Clientelism in Africa." With Jeffrey Paller & Martha Wilfahrt. *African Affairs*, 122(487): 185-327.

2020 "Raising the Stakes: Land Titling and Electoral Stability in Kenya." *Journal of Peace Research* (2020), 57(1): 30-45 | Link.

2018 "Can Politicians Exploit Ethnic Grievances? An Experimental Study of Land Appeals in Kenya," *Political Behavior* (2018), 42, 35–58, with Jeremy Horowitz| Link.

2017 "Defending the City, Defending Votes: Campaign Strategies in Urban Ghana," *Journal of Modern African Studies* (2017), 55(4): 681-708, with Jeffrey Paller | Link.

2017 "Contentious Land Narratives and the Non-escalation of Election Violence: Evidence from Kenya's Coast Region." (2017) *African Studies Review*, 60(2) | Link.

- Winner of the African Studies Association Graduate Student Paper Prize.

2015 "Land Grievances and the Mobilization of Electoral Violence: Evidence from Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya," *Journal of Peace Research* (2015), 52(2): 622-635, with Matthew Mitchell | Link.

POLICY REPORTS

2025 "Land tenure and climate resilience: Household level evidence from Kenya" (EBA Report 2025:02). Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA). With Emma Elfversson | Link.

WORKING PAPERS| *working papers available upon request*

To Defend or Concede? Attitudes Toward Land Conflict and Cooperation in Kenya. With Emma Elfversson (*under review*)

Can Peacebuilding Strengthen Social Resilience to Communal Violence? Survey Evidence from Kenya. With Jana Krause and Marika Miner | OSF pre-prints.

The Social Legacies of Election Violence: Fear, Outgroup Resentment, and Intergroup Engagement in Kenya

Explaining the Gender Gap: Women & Land Titling in Kenya. with Mai Hassan & Fanisi Mbozi.

IN PROGRESS

In the Name of Order: How Citizens Distinguish Legitimate Force from Political Violence. With Megan Turnbull, Hanne Fjelde, and Anne-Katrin Deglow (Pre-analysis plan).

Public Evaluations of Electoral Integrity and Preferences for Security Enforcement in Polarized Societies, with Anne-Katrin Deglow and Hanne Fjelde (Pre-analysis plan).

Agency and Altruism: The Local Politics of Refugee Inclusion in Uganda**.** Pre-analysis plan registered; original household survey (N = 1,400) and qualitative fieldwork completed.

"Kenya." In, *Escaping the Ethnic Trap: Inclusive Governance and Social Cohesion in Diverse Democracies,* edited by Fletcher D. Cox and Timothy D. Sisk (funded by United States Institute of Peace). Project link.

BOOK REVIEWS

2025 Samar Al-Bulushi's *War-Making as world Making: Kenya, the United States, and the War on Terror* (Stanford University Press), *Journal of Modern African Studies* (first view).
2025 Steven Rosenzweig's *Voter Backlash and Elite Misperception: The Logic of Violence in Electoral Competition* (Cambridge University Press). *Political Science Quarterly*, 140(2): 425-426 |Link.
2022 Ambreena Manji's *The Struggle for Land and Justice in Kenya* (James Currey Press), in *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 56(1), 230–232 | Link.
2022 Michael Albertus' *Property without rights: Origins and consequences of the property rights gap* (Cambridge University Press), in *Governance*, 35(1): 341-342 | Link.
2020 Mimmi Soderberg Kovas and Jesper Bjarnesen's *Violence in African Elections: Between Democracy and Big Man Politics* (eds) in *Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute*, 90(2): 424-425 | Link.
2007 Blessings Chinsinga's *Democracy, Decentralization and Poverty Reduction in Malawi* in *African Studies Review*. 52 (1): 201-202.

MAJOR GRANTS

2026 *Co-PI.* Harry Frank Guggenheim Distinguished Scholar Award. "Democracy Dismissed: When Citizens Choose Political Violence." 2026-2027. Co-PI: Megan Turnbull. SEK 583,000 (65,670 USD).

2024 *Principal Investigator.* Swedish Research Council. "Welcome reception? The local sources of refugee inclusion and cooperation." 2025-2027. SEK 5.090.000 (513,000 USD).

2022 *Project leader*. Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA), Government of Sweden. "Land Tenure and Strategies of Climate Resilience." 2023-2024. *Co-leader*: Emma Elfversson. SEK 699.000.

2020 *Project participant*. European Research Council. 'ResilienceBuilding: Social Resilience, Gendered Dynamics, and Local Peace in Protracted Conflicts'. 2020-2026. PI: Jana Krause (University of Oslo).

2011 National Science Foundation (NSF) Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

2026 *Co-applicant* (consortium member), Democratic Institutions and Violence Network in Europe/*DIVINE Doctoral Network* (Grant no. 101312379), Horizon Europe MSCA DN (€3.1M), 2026–2030.

FELLOWSHIPS

2014-2015 Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
2014-2015 Security Studies Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Robert S. Strauss Center, UT-Austin
2015 American Political Science Association Africa Workshop Fellow, Nairobi (July 2015)
2014 Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Fellowship, Madison, WI

2013-2014 United States Institute of Peace, Peace Scholar Dissertation Fellowship
2012-2013 Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship
2010-2011 Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship for Swahili
2009 Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS Summer Fellowship for Swahili
2007-2008 Fulbright Fellowship (Malawi), Institute for International Education
2006 Fox Boornstein International Internship Fellowship, Smith College, MA

AWARDS

2016 Best Field Research Award, APSA Comparative Democratization Section
2016 APCG-Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation in African Politics in 2015 (*Honorable Mention*)
2015 African Studies Association, Graduate Student Paper Prize
2010 International Field Research Award, Division of International Studies, UW-Madison

INTERNAL GRANTS

2018-2021 Faculty Development Grant, University of San Francisco
2017 Manuscript Revision Conference Award, Buffett Institute, Northwestern University
2011 Vilas Research Travel Grant, UW-Madison

OTHER WRITING & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Blog posts & news commentary

- "Kenya protests: Ruto pulling the finance bill is unlikely to satisfy angry young protesters – here's why." *The Conversation*, 7/26/2024. Link.
- "Israel's actions in Gaza play into the hands of Hamas," *Dagens Nyheter*, 11/07/2023. Link.
- "What William Ruto's presidency would mean for Kenya's economy." *The Conversation*, 8/16/22. Link.
- "Three things to know about Kenya's election tomorrow," *The Monkey Cage, Washington Post*, 8/8/22. Link.
- "There's a long, troubling history behind the Capitol attack," *The Monkey Cage, Washington Post*. 1/24/21.
- "Will the US Experience Election Violence? Lessons from Kenya." *Political Violence at a Glance*, 10/29/2020. Link.
- "Why do people participate in election violence? Insights from Kenya's 2007 elections." *The Conversation*, 8/18/2020 | Link.
- What do shifting grass-roots dynamics tell us about the Zimbabwe election?" *The Monkey Cage, Washington Post*, 8/30/2018. Link.
- "Côte d'Ivoire's 2015 elections: Local Interests and Prospects for Peace," *APSA Africa Workshop Newsletter*, November 2015.
- "Can an economic boom ensure peaceful elections in Côte d'Ivoire?" *The Monkey Cage, Washington Post.* 10/20/15 | Link.

Podcasts and virtual roundtables

- "Kenya's 2022 elections: Processes, outcomes, and implications for democracy and governance." State and Institutions in Africa Working Group, University of Florida (Virtual). 9/19/22. Link.
- "Kenya has a new president, but election might not be over yet," Deep Dish on Global Affairs (podcast), 8/18/22. Link.
- "The Road to the 2022 Kenyan Elections," Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa, University of Cape Town & Democracy in Africa Webinar. 6/28/22 | Link.
- New Books Network. Interview with Susan Thompson. 8/5/2020 |Link.
- Ufahamu Africa. Interview with Rachel Riedl (Episode 78), 11/2/2019 | Link.
- Ufahamu Africa. Interview with Kim Yi Dionne (Episode 28), 9/3/2017 | Link.

Other policy-oriented activities

- *Consultant* – USAID: Kenya Voter Turnout Evidence Review (Oct 2024).
- *Contributor*, Expert Working Group: Democracy and Governance After COVID-19, University of Denver's Korbel School Institute for Comparative and Regional Studies (June 2021-January 2022).

Other media interviews

- "Scaled-Back but Determined Protests in Kenya Call for President to Resign," *New York Times*, 27 June 2024. Link.

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

2026 University of Gothenburg, Political Science Research Seminar, (*Scheduled*, 12 November)
2026 King's College London, Political Economy Departmental Seminar, (*Scheduled*, 4 November)
2025 Escaping the Ethnic Trap: Inclusive Governance and Social Cohesion workshop, Geneva (March)
2024 Political Violence in Democracies Workshop, University of Amsterdam (February)
2022 Rokkan Symposium, "Resisting Autocracy," University of Bergen, Norway (October).
2021 UC Berkley, Center for African Studies, Africa Matters Seminar (April).
2019 Cornell University, Institute for African Development (October).
2019 UC Berkeley, ORIAS Summer Institute, Global Rise of National Populism (June).
2018 UC Berkeley, Africa Colloquium (March).
2017 University of Iowa, African Studies Program (March).
2017 University of Florida, Baraza Lecture Series, Center for African Studies (February).
2016 Northwestern University, Comparative Politics Workshop (December).
2016 University of Minnesota, "Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa," (October).
2016 Northwestern University, Buffett Institute for Global Studies (January).
2015 UW-Madison, Land Tenure Center, Nelson Institute (December).
2015 IFPRI, "Strengthening Institutions and Governance" Workshop, Washington D.C
2013 SAIS-John Hopkins University, "Kenya at Fifty," Washington D.C.
2013 University of Nairobi, Institute for Development Studies, Nairobi, Kenya.
2012 Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), Accra, Ghana.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

- Conflict Research Society Conference, Glasgow, UK (Sept 2026)
- 7TH Nordic Development Research Conference, Uppsala, Sweden (Aug 2023)
- Political Violence and Electoral Politics, Online Research Workshop, University of Amsterdam (Oct 2022).
- Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Workshop: Pursuit of Peacefully Polling (Virtual, Dec 2020).
- Peace Science Society Workshop on Elections and Violence (Virtual, November 2020).
- Midwest Working Group in African Political Economy (MGAPE), Minneapolis, MN (Oct, 2016).
- Social Science Research Council Fellows Workshop, Philadelphia, PA (2013)

Annual Professional Conferences

- APSA Annual Meeting (2024, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013)
- African Studies Association Annual Meeting (2023, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2009)
- International Studies Association Annual Convention (2019, 2018)
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (2017, 2016, 2010)

FIELD RESEARCH

- *United States* (Oregon and Georgia): Summer 2026
- *Uganda:* July-August 2019, May 2025, May 2026
- *Kenya*: June 2022, Summer 2017, Summer 2015, May 2012-2013, Summer 2010

- *Ghana:* September 2011-May 2012
- *Malawi:* September 2007-July 2008 (*pre-doctoral fieldwork as Fulbright Fellow studying HIV/AIDS & food security*)

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

- Co-supervisor to PhD Candidate, Juan Diego Salazar (DPCR, Uppsala University). Defended May '25.
- Co-supervisor to PhD candidate, Leonor Toscano (Dept of Political Science, University of Oslo). Defended September 2026
- Master's thesis supervision, DPCR (2022-26).
- Master's thesis supervision, University of San Francisco (2020-21).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Uppsala University

- Lecturer & course convenor, *War & Development* (Master's level)
- Lecturer, *Causes of War* (Master's level)
- Lecturer, *International Conflict Resolution* (Master's level)
- Lecturer & seminar instructor*, Conflict Resolution* (Bachelor's level).
- Lecturer & course convenor: *Theory & Research Methods* (Bachelor's level).
- Lecturer & seminar instructor*; Methods and Thesis* (Bachelor's level).

University of San Francisco (2018-2021)

- Introduction to Politics: Conflict & Change
- Politics Lab: Researching Inequality & Displacement in the Bay Area
- Political Economy of Developing Countries
- Politics of War & Peace
- Security and Terrorism
- African Politics and Development
- Human Rights & Global Change
- Land & Human Rights
- Research Methods
- International Law & Organizations

Wesleyan University (2017-18)

- Democracy and Dictatorship: Politics in the Contemporary World
- Land Rights and Conflict in a Global Perspective
- African Politics

Northwestern University: (2016-17)

- Land Rights and Conflict in a Global Perspective

Participation in book and dissertation manuscript conferences

- Isabel Güiza-Gómez, Tulane University, Book Manuscript Workshop, 19 Feb 2027 (*scheduled).*
- Megan Turnbull, University of Georgia, Book Manuscript Workshop, 21 April 2023.
- Gudlaug Olafsdottir, DPCR, Uppsala University, 31 May 2024.
- Kristina Petrova, DPCR, Uppsala University, 9 November 2022.
- Alexandre Raffoul, DPCR, Uppsala University, 19 September 2022 (Halfway seminar).

Pedagogical training: Teacher Training Course (5 weeks), 2022, Division for Development of Teaching and Learning, Uppsala University

LEADERSHIP

- Director, Speaker Series, Department of Peace & Conflict, Uppsala University (Fall 2023 - present).
- Program Director, International Training on Dialogue and Mediation, Uppsala University & Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (2022).
- Director, University of San Francisco, African Studies Program (2020-2021).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Board Member, Forum for African Studies, Uppsala, Sweden (January 2026 – Present).
- *Coordinator:* Research Development Group, Africa Politics Conference Group (APSA 2017; 2020).
- Selection Committee, African Politics Conference Group (APCG) Best Book Award (2024).
- Selection Committee, African Politics Conference Group (APCG) Best Dissertation Award (2021).
- Selection Committee, APSA QMMR Alexander George best article award (2023)
- Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *African Affairs*, *African Studies Review, British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Peace Research, Political Geography, Perspectives on Politics, World Politics*

AFFILIATIONS & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Research Associate, University of Nairobi, Institute for Development Studies (2012-2013).
- Member: American Political Science Association, African Studies Association, African Politics Conference Group, International Studies Association.

LANGUAGES & OTHER SKILLS

- English (native) Spanish (proficient), Swahili (proficient)
- Stata, R, QGIS, Tableau

PARENTAL LEAVE (13 months)

- August 2020-January 2021 (100%)
- January-July 2023 (100%)