

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

Associate Senior Lecturer (*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

Causes & consequences of political violence, elections and democratic erosion, land rights, African politics, peacebuilding and resilience, refugees, climate change, field research 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 Elfverson | [Link](#).

WORKING PAPERS

- Can Peacebuilding Strengthen Social Resilience to Communal Violence? Survey Evidence from Kenya. With Jana Krause and Marika Miner | [OSF pre-prints](#).
- To Defend or Concede? Attitudes Toward Land Conflict and Cooperation in Kenya. With Emma Elfverson
- 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
- 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.
- 2022 *Project member*. Swedish Research Council. “Strengthening social capital in conflict areas by improving mental health – Evaluating the effects of a randomized controlled trial in northeastern Nigeria.” 2023-2026. SEK 4,754,000. *Project leader*: Jonathan Hall (DPCR).
- 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 (<i>Honorable Mention</i>)
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

- 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

- *Kenya*: June 2022, Summer 2017, Summer 2015, May 2012-2013, Summer 2010

- *Uganda*: July-August 2019, May 2025, May 2026
- *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)
- Master's thesis supervision, DPCR (2022-24).
- 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

- 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

- *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, ArcGIS, Tableau

PARENTAL LEAVE (13 months)

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