

KATHLEEN F. KLAUS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden (Jan 2022-present)
Associate Senior Lecturer (*Docent*), Department of Peace and Conflict Research

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

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

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

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

University of Texas-Austin, Austin, TX (2014-2015)
Security Studies Pre-doctoral Fellow, Robert S. Strauss Center for International Law and Security

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* (Special Issue: Political Violence in Democracies). [Online First](#).
- 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 (*Under review*) | [OSF pre-prints](#).

To Defend or Concede? Attitudes Toward Land Conflict and Cooperation in Kenya. With Emma Elfverson

Does Violence Beget Violence? The Enduring Effects of Election Violence on Peacebuilding.

IN PROGRESS

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

“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](#).

Agency and Altruism: The Local Politics of Refugee inclusion.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2025 Samar Al-Bulushi's *War-Making as world Making: Kenya, the United States, and the War on Terror* (Stanford University Press), forthcoming, *Journal of Modern African Studies*.
- 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

- 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

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

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

- 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
- *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, R, ArcGIS, Tableau

PARENTAL LEAVE (13 months)

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