

LAHRA SMITH, Ph.D.

Walsh School of Foreign Service
African Studies | Department of Government
Georgetown University | Washington, DC 20057
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CURRENT POSITIONS

Georgetown University, Washington, DC

- Associate Professor, Department of Government, 2016-present
- Associate Professor, African Studies, Walsh School of Foreign Service, 2014-present
- Director, African Studies Program, Walsh School of Foreign Service, 2020-2026
- Assistant Professor, African Studies, Walsh School of Foreign Service, 2006-2014

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

Visiting Instructor, Department of Political Science, Spring 2006

Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2005-2006

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Fall 2005

EDUCATION

University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Ph.D. in Political Science, 2005

Masters in African Area Studies, 2000

University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & Anthropology, *magna cum laude*, 1997

PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly Monographs

Refugees without refuge: migration as escape when asylum and refugee protection fail, co-authored with Lauren Carruth, Indiana University Press: Worlds in Crisis: Refugees, Asylum and Forced Migration Series, expected February 2027

African Perspectives on South-South Migration, co-edited with Meron Zeleke, NY: Routledge Press, in Studies on Africa and the Black Diaspora Series, May 2024

Making Citizens in Africa: Ethnicity, Gender and National Identity in Ethiopia, Cambridge University Press, 2013 (finalist for best book in Citizenship given by Wayne State University Press, 2015)

Journal Articles [Peer-Reviewed]

Smith, Lahra and Bethania Michael. 2026. "Critical junctures in the shaping of national identity in Ethiopia," *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, January, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17531055.2026.2613195>

Mitra, Ankushi, Diana Kapiszewski, Thijs Kleinpaste and Lahra Smith. 2023. "Reflections on an Institutional Journey: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Political Science," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, September, doi.org/10.1017/S1049096523000501

Carruth, Lauren and Lahra Smith. 2022. "Building one's own house: power and escape for Ethiopian women through international migration," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 60, 1, 85-109, March, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022278X21000434>

Martinez, Carlos, Lauren Carruth, Hannah Janeway, Lahra Smith, Katharine Donato, Carlos Piñones-Rivera, James Quesada and Seth Holmes. 2022. "How Should Clinicians Express Solidarity with Asylum-Seekers at the US-Mexico Border?" *AMA Journal of Ethics*, 24, 4: E275-282, <https://doi.org/10.1001/amajethics.2022.275>

Opalo, Ken Ochieng' and Lahra Smith. 2021. "Ideology and Succession Politics in Ethiopia: Solving the Problem of Autocratic Leadership Turnover" *Democratization*, May 21, doi.org/10.1080/13510347.2021.1929178

Carruth, Lauren, Carlos Martinez, Lahra Smith, Katharine M. Donato, Carlos Piñones-Rivera, James Quesada, on behalf of the Migration and Health in Social Context Working Group. 2021. "Structural vulnerability: migration and health in social context," *BMJ Global Health*, April 1, 2021 doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-005109

Smith, Lahra, Douglas A. Howard, Mark Giordano, Nili Sarit Yossinger, Lara Kinne, and Susan F. Martin. 2019 "Local Integration and Shared Resource Management in Protracted Refugee Camps: Findings from a Study in the Horn of Africa," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Feb. 28, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fez010>

Mendenhall, Emily, Gitonga Isaiah, Bernadette Nelson, Abednego Musau, Adam D. Koon, Lahra Smith, Victoria Mutiso and David Ndeti. 2018. "Nurses Perceptions of Mental Health Care in Primary Care Settings in Kenya," *Global Public Health: An International Journal for Research Policy, and Practice*, 13, 4, 443-455 doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2016.1207196

Koon, Adam D., Lahra Smith, David Ndeti, Victoria Mutiso and Emily Mendenhall. 2017. "Nurses' Perceptions of Universal Health Coverage and its implications for the Kenyan health sector," *Critical Public Health*, 27, 1, 28-38 doi.org/10.1080/09581596.2016.1208362

Smith, Lahra. 2009. "Explaining Violence after Recent Elections in Ethiopia and Kenya," *Democratization*, 16, 5, October, 867-897

- Smith, Lahra. 2009. "Is Ethnic Federalism Bad for Ethiopian Women?" *The Ethiopian Constitutional Law Series*, Vol. 2, Faculty of Law, Addis Ababa University, May, 301-350
- Smith, Lahra. 2008. "The Politics of Contemporary Language Policy in Ethiopia," *Journal of Developing Societies*, 24, 2, 207-243
- Smith, Lahra. 2007. "Voting for an Ethnic Identity: Procedural and Institutional Responses to Ethnic Conflict in Ethiopia," *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 45, 4, 2007, 565-594
- Smith, Lahra. 2007. "Implications of the 2005 Elections for Ethiopian Citizenship and State Legitimacy," *International Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, III, 1

Book Chapters [in peer reviewed volumes]

- Smith, Lahra. 2026. "Equality, Intersectionality and Constitutionalism in Kenya and Ethiopia," in *Stellenbosch Handbooks in African Constitutional Law*, edited by Charles M. Fombad, Yonatan Fisseha and Nico Steytler, Oxford University Press.
- Kapiszewski, Diana, Lauren Maclean and Lahra Smith. 2024. "Digital Fieldwork: Old and New Opportunities and Challenges," in *Doing Good Qualitative Work*, edited by Jennifer Cyr and Sara Wallace Goodman, Oxford University Press, March.
- Smith, Lahra. 2012. "A Disturbance or a Massacre? The Consequences of Electoral Violence in Ethiopia," in *Voting in Fear: Electoral Violence in sub-Saharan Africa* edited by Dorina Bekoe, Washington, DC: USIP Press Books.
- Keller, Edmond, J. and Lahra Smith. 2005. "Obstacles to Implementing Territorial Decentralization: The First Decade of Ethiopian Federalism," in *Sustainable Peace: Democracy and Power-Dividing Institutions after Civil Wars*, Edited by Philip G. Roeder and Donald Rothchild, NY: Cornell University Press, 2005.

Under Preparation/ Under Review

- "The Politics of Genealogy: Diaspora-State Engagement in Africa." with Claire Hazbun, submission to *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, summer 2026
- "Teaching Citizens in Africa: Civic Education in Two East African Countries," article in preparation, submission to *Citizenship Studies* in fall 2026
- "Imaginations of Home for Eritrean Refugees in Ethiopia," with Alemmaya Mulugeta, in preparation

Reports, Reviews and Encyclopedia Articles

Georgetown University Global Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing Initiative (2025). *Mind Map Africa: Mapping mental health services, stigma, and access to care across six African countries*, lead author, Washington, DC: Georgetown University

Review of *Everyday Practices of State Building in Ethiopia: Power, Scale and Performativity*, by Davide Chinigò, in *Perspectives on Politics*, December 2023

“Many Ethiopians see illegal migration as the only escape from violence,” *Washington Post*, July 19, 2022, with Lauren Carruth

“International Migration for Ethiopian women can mean more than seeking economic security,” Africa at LSE, May 20, 2022 <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2022/05/20/international-migration-for-ethiopian-oromo-women-can-mean-more-than-seeking-economic-security/>, with Lauren Carruth

Review of *Forging African Communities: Mobility, Integration and Belonging*. Edited by Oliver Bakewell and Loren B. Landau, in *Migration Studies*, 8, 2, June 2020

“Environmental Resource Management in Refugee Camps and Surrounding Areas: Lessons Learning and Best Practices,” Susan F. Martin, Douglas Howard, Nili Sarit Yossinger, Lara Kinne, Mark Giordano, for US Department of State, Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, 2017

“Wealthier Nations can learn from how tiny Djibouti welcomes refugees,” *Washington Post*, March 30, 2017, with Lauren Carruth

“A Spark for the Political Imagination”, Symposium on Frederic Charles Schaffer’s *Elucidating Social Science Concepts: An Interpretivist Guide* (2016) in *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*, Spring/Fall 2016, Vol. 14, No. ½, 2016

Review of *The Horn of Africa*, by Kidane Mengisteab, in *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 52, 2014

Smith, Lahra. 2007. “Political Violence and Democratic Uncertainty in Ethiopia since the 2005 Elections,” United States Institute of Peace (USIP) Political Transitions in Africa Series, Special Report No. 192

“Ethiopia,” entry for Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year 2007-2015

“Somalia” and “Mogadishu,” entries for World Book Encyclopedia, 2009

“Djibouti,” entry for Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World, 2009

Review of *Gossip, Markets and Gender: How Dialogue Constructs Moral Value in Post-Socialist Kilimanjaro*, Tuulikki Pietila, Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2007, in *African Studies Review* 51,1

“US Engagement in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa,” CSIS Online Africa Policy Forum, Jan 2008

“Africa in the Political Science Curriculum,” *Journal of Political Science Education*, 3, 2007

“Pluralism,” *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2nd edition, 2007

GRANTS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

Henry Luce Foundation, Africa-China Initiative (ACI) Phase III, \$300,000 Co-Principal Investigator, for the African Studies Program at Georgetown, 2026-2028

National Science Foundation, Award # 2514789, \$49,000, “Political Science Predoctoral Summer Institute,” Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Diana Kapiszewski, June 2025-November 2026

National Science Foundation, Award # 2415889, \$24,400, “Political Science Predoctoral Summer Institute,” Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Diana Kapiszewski, April 2024-March 2025

Henry Luce Foundation, Africa-China Initiative (ACI) Phase II, \$290,000 Co-Principal Investigator, with Dr. Yoon Jung Park, to the African Studies Program at Georgetown, 2023-2026

American Political Science Association (ASPA) Summer Centennial Center Grant, \$8,000, Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Diana Kapiszewski, “Georgetown Political Science Predoctoral Summer Institute and Washington-Area Political Science Summer Institute Consortium,” 2024

American Political Science Association (ASPA) Special Projects, \$25,000, Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Diana Kapiszewski, “Georgetown Political Science Predoctoral Summer Institute and Washington-Area Political Science Summer Institute Consortium,” 2022-2023

American Political Science Association (ASPA) Special Projects, \$15,500, Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Lauren MacLean, “Expanding the Inclusivity and Outreach of the Digital Fieldwork Scholarly Network,” 2022-2023

Henry Luce Foundation, Africa-China Initiative (ACI) Phase I, \$45,000, Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Yoon Jung Park, to the African Studies Program at Georgetown, 2021-2023

National Science Foundation RAPID, SES-1812636, \$45,000, “Teaching Democracy During a Presidential Crisis in Kenya,” Principal Investigator, August 2018-July 2022

Georgetown Environment Initiative (GEI), “Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Protracted and New Refugee Camps in Diverse Ecological Contexts: A Study in Zambia”, Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Douglas Howard, 2018-2019

Georgetown University, Summer Academic Grant, “Educating Citizens in New Democracies: The Kenyan Experience of Civic Education,” Principal Investigator, Summer 2016

Georgetown University International Collaborative Research Grant, “Implementation of Universal Health Coverage in Kenya: The view of Kenyan Nurses,” Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Emily Mendenhall (SFS/STIA), Dr. Adam Koon (SFS/STIA) and colleagues at the African Mental Health Foundation in Nairobi, Kenya, Spring 2015

Georgetown University/ SFS Summer Research Grant, for work in Kenya on “Citizen Education” project, Summer 2013

National Science Foundation (NSF), SES-0960677, \$90,000, “The Political Economy of Localized Communal Conflicts in Ethiopia,” Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Leonardo R. Arriola, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, August 2010-July 2012

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant, development of a new course on the NEH theme of *Enduring Questions*, “The Question of Equality: Literature and Political Theory in the West and Africa,” with Co-Principal Investigator Dr. Samantha Pinto, Department of English, Georgetown University, August 2011-July 2013

RESEARCH AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025	Department of Government, Georgetown University, Collaborative Research Grant
2017-2020	Georgetown University Mortara Center for International Studies, Faculty Fellow
2016-2019	Georgetown University Center for Social Justice (CSJ) Fellow in African Migration
2015-2016	Georgetown University Doyle Diversity Faculty Fellow, Georgetown University
2014	Center for Social Justice, Teaching and Learning (CSJ), Georgetown University, Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) Teaching Fellow
2012-2013	Georgetown University Doyle Diversity Faculty Fellow, CNDLS
2015 & 2013	Georgetown University Initiative on Technology-Enhanced Learning (ITEL), CNDLS
2010	Fulbright (IIE) Visiting Research Chair in Ethnicity and Multicultural Citizenship, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
2008	Best Paper in African Politics, for article “Voting for an Ethnic Identity: Procedural and Institutional Responses to Ethnic Conflict in Ethiopia” from the <i>Journal of Modern African Studies</i> , given by the African Politics Conference Group (APCG)
2009	Georgetown University Junior Faculty Research Fellowship (Spring)
2004-2005	UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship
2003	Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, Department of Education
1998-2002	UCLA & Michigan State University Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Scholar
1995	Ronald E. McNair Minority and First-Generation Fellow

TEACHING AWARDS

2024	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Gerald M. Mara Faculty Mentoring Award
2022	School of Foreign Service Excellence in Mentoring Award
2017	Center for Social Justice, Research and Teaching James Slevin Award for Engaged Scholarship
2017	School of Foreign Service Academic Council Faculty of the Year

INVITED TALKS

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Washington, DC, May 18, 2026

George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs, Humanitarian Action Initiative, Invited Lecture with Dr. Lauren Carruth, “Refugees without Refugee: Migration as Escape when Asylum and Projection Fail,” February 4, 2026

Georgetown – Qatar, Faculty lecture series Invited Talk, “Refugees without Refugee,” GU-Q, Doha, Qatar, October 8, 2025

International Research Centre on the Horn of Africa (IRICA) Invited Talk, “Refugees without Refugee,” Djibouti City, Djibouti, May 27, 2025

The Atlantic Council, “New Trends in African Migration: Case Studies from Morocco and Nigeria,” Roundtable, June 27, 2024

Georgetown University in Qatar, GU-Q, Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) and Gulf Labour Markets, Migration and Population (GLMM) Programme at the Gulf Center (GRC), “Emerging Trends in sub-Saharan African Migration to the GCC,” June 12, 2024, webinar

Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) Annual Conference, Invited Plenary, “Examining Causes of Refugee Crises and Durable Solutions,” May 21, 2024

The Atlantic Council, “The State of Democracy in Africa,” Roundtable, Feb. 29, 2024

Georgetown University, Qatar and Northwestern University, Qatar, Africana Studies Programs, “Violence against Women and Girls in War: the case of Ethiopia-Past and Present,” March 15, 2022

Indiana University, “Digital Fieldwork: Old and New Opportunities,” February 28, 2022

Metropolitan Washington Workshop on Immigration & Race (MWWIR), “Building one’s own house: Power and Escape for Ethiopian Women through International Migration,” November 19, 2021

British East Africa Institute’s Northeast Africa Forum, University of Oxford, “The language and histories of national identity in Ethiopia: charting a path to a future together,” May 26, 2021

American University, School of International Studies (SIS) Symposium on War Crimes & Catastrophe in Today’s Global Crises: Is Anyone Responsible? “The Violence of Women’s Migrations Between Ethiopia and the Gulf States,” with Dr. Lauren Carruth, November, 2020

Pomona College, Invited Talk, “Ethiopian Politics & its impact on the Horn of Africa,” April 2, 2020 (cancelled due to covid-19)

Georgetown University, Ethiopian-Eritrean Studies Association and the African Studies Program,
“Implications of the Nobel Peace Prize for the Horn of Africa,” January 22, 2020

Gallery Opening Talk for *Senait & Nahom/ The Peacemaker and the Comforter*, Solo Exhibition by
Tsedaye Makonnen, Carroll Sq Gallery, October 2019, “Migration in the Horn of Africa”

NYU Florence Center Roundtable/workshop on Ethnic conflict, February 2018

Roundtable “Rethinking Refugee Policy” in Honor of Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Recipient of the Hubert
Humphrey Public Service Award, American Political Science Association (APSA) Sept. 2017

“Women in Armed Resistance: Algeria,” featuring Mme. Zohra Drif, Center for Contemporary Arab
Studies (CCAS)/SFS Roundtable, Sept. 2017

KNOMAD Working Group, The World Bank, “Environmental Resource Management in Refugee
Camps and Surrounding Areas: Lessons Learning and Best Practices,” May 2017

Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies & Howard University African Studies
Center, Teachers Workshop “The Horn of Africa,” guest lecture, October 2015

Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Summer Teachers Institute, “Beyond
Ibn Battuta: The Indian Ocean across time and disciplines” guest lecture, August 7, 2015

U.S. Department of State, INR, “Assessing Ethiopia’s Elections,” June 2015

Johns Hopkins (SAIS), “Civic Education in Kenya and Ethiopia,” Feb. 2015

U.S. Department of State, INR, “Ethiopia Analytic Exchange,” August 23, 2013

Center for International Policy and Innovation (CIPI), Carnegie Mellon University, March 22, 2013

Africa in International Relations Series at the Rosenfield Program for Public Affairs, International
Relations and Human Rights, March 2012

Distinguished Visitors Series at Haverford College, March 2012

Department of Political Science and the African Studies Center, UCLA, April 2011

Queen’s University, Kingston, Canada, November 15, 2010

Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, November 20, 2010

University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, November 26, 2010

United States Institute of Peace (USIP) roundtable on African & post-election Violence, June 2009

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Emerging Issues in Africa Forum, July 17, 2008

Notre Dame University, February 2008

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), July 10, 2026

African Studies Association (ASA), November 2025

African Studies Association (ASA), November 2023

Stellenbosch Annual Conference on Constitutionalism in Africa (SASCA), Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Studies (STIAS), South Africa, September 2023

American Political Science Association (APSA), September 2023

African Studies Association (ASA), November 2022

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), April 8, 2022

International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), July 2021

American Political Science Association (APSA), San Francisco, September 2020

African Studies Association (ASA), Boston, MA, November 2019

African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA), Nairobi, Kenya, October 2019

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting, Toronto, CA, March 2019

African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2018

American Political Science Association (APSA), San Francisco, California, September 2017

International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), Poland, July 12-15, 2016

African Studies Association Annual Meetings (ASA), San Diego, CA, Nov. 19-22, 2015

Wayne State University Annual Conference on Citizenship, March 22, 2015

American Political Science Association (APSA), annual meetings, short course presentation, 2014

African Studies Association (ASA), Baltimore, MD, November 21-23, 2013

American Political Science Association (APSA), Chicago, IL, August 28-Sept. 1, 2013

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, IL, April 11-14, 2013

Gwendolen Carter Conference: Horn of Africa, University of Florida, March 14-15, 2013

Ethnic Politics Workshop, SSRC Research Project of Arizona State University/George Washington University, December 13-16, 2012

Centre of African Studies 50th Anniversary conference, Edinburgh University, Scotland, June 2012

African Studies Association (ASA) annual meeting, Washington, DC, November 2011

International Studies Association annual meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, Feb. 17-20, 2010

African Studies Association (ASA) annual meeting, Chicago, IL, November 13-16, 2008

International Studies Association (ISA) annual meeting, San Francisco, CA, March 25-30, 2008

Immigration, Minorities and Multiculturalism in Democracies (IMMD), Montreal, Canada, October 25-27, 2007

African Studies Association (ASA) annual meeting, New York City, October 17-21, 2007

American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting, Chicago, IL, August 30-Sept. 2, 2007

African Studies Association (ASA) annual meeting, San Francisco, CA, Nov. 16-19, 2006

Oromo Studies Association (OSA) meeting, Minneapolis, MN, July 2006

African Studies Association (ASA) annual meeting, Washington, DC, Nov. 11-14, 2005

American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting, Washington, DC, Sept. 1-4, 2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Carter Center, Medium-Term Observer, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June-July 2005

International Development Studies Interdepartmental Program, UCLA, Program Coordinator,
April 2000-December 2003

Editor-in-Chief, *Ufahamu: Journal of African Activist Association*, UCLA, 2001-2002

U.S. Agency for International Development/Ethiopia (USAID/E) Intern, Office of Human &
Institutional Development (HID), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July-Aug. 2001

Donors Democratic Development Group (DDDG), Election Observer, Nairobi, Kenya, 1997

**U.S. Agency for International Development, Regional Office for East & Southern Africa
(REDSO/ESA)**, Project Assistant, Greater Horn of Africa Initiative, Nairobi, Kenya, 1997-
1998

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Service to the Discipline

Program Chair, Spring Meetings of the Association for African Studies Programs (AASP) of the
African Studies Association (ASA), 2025-2026

Advisory Board member, *Ethiopian Journal of Human Rights* (EJHR), 2024- present

Founder and Co-Director, Political Science Predoctoral Summer Institute (PS-PSI), 2021-present, with
Prof. Diana Kapiszewski and Katy Collin; a one-week training program for undergraduate
students interested in pursuing a PhD in political science, particularly under-represented
minorities, first-generation college students, and improve inclusion and equity in the discipline

American Political Science Association (APSA) Mentor, Diversity & Inclusion Program, 2019-present

2024 American Political Science Association (APSA), Centennial Center Grants Selection Committee,
May 2024

Chair, Citizenship and Migration section, APSA Best Book Award, 2022

Founder, Digital Fieldwork website <http://sigla.georgetown.domains/digitalfieldwork/>

Executive Board Member (elected), African Studies Association (ASA), 2019-2022
Chair, ASA Advocacy Sub-Committee, 2021-2022

Chair, John Harbeson Distinguished Africanist Award Committee, African Politics Conference
Group (APCG-APSA), Fall 2020

Member, John Harbeson Distinguished Africanist Award Committee, African Politics Conference Group (APCG-APSA), 2018

Member, Charles Taylor Book Prize Committee, Interpretive and Mixed Methods, American Political Science Association (IMM-APSA), 2016-2017

Co-Convener, Capital Area Africanists Working Group, with Dr. Kris Inman, 2015-2019

Chair, African Politics Conference Group (APCG) Dissertation Prize Committee, 2014

Chair, African Politics Conference Group (APCG) African Studies Association Program Committee, 2013

Member, African Politics Conference Group (APCG) Best Graduate Student Paper Committee, 2011

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association (APSA)

African Studies Association (ASA-US)

Association of African Studies Programs, Program Chair, EXCO (AASP)

African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA)

African Politics Conference Group (APCG)

Codesria: Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa

Referee

American Political Science Review (APSR), Comparative Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, Journal of Education, Journal of Citizenship Studies, African Affairs, African Identities, Democratization, Journal of Eastern African Studies, Political Geography, Nations and Nationalism, Journal of Asian & African Studies, Publius: the Journal of Federalism, International Studies Quarterly, Terrorism and Political Violence, Africa: Journal of the International Africa Institute, Africa Today, Georgetown University Journal of International Affairs, African Studies Review, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Hubert Humphrey International Scholars Fellowship, Polity Press (manuscript review), Cornell University Press (manuscript review), Routledge Press (manuscript review) Wayne State University Press Citizenship Series (manuscript review), Brill Book series on African Religions (manuscript review)

Service to the University

Director, African Studies Program, School of Foreign Service (SFS), 2020-2026

Member, DCC/ Smithsonian Internship Committee Members, 2026 summer

Member, DC-Doha Collaborative Grant Committee, 2026 spring

SFS Academic Appeals Committee, 2023-2025

Chair, SFS/African International Relations Search committee, TL, 2024-2025

SFS Junior Faculty Mentoring Committee, 2024-present
 Magis Prize Review, Provost's Office, 2024
 Faculty Affiliate, Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development, and Evaluation (gui2de), 2015-Present
 Co-Director, AfSP Alternative Spring Break Program, Rwanda/ Kenya, 2016, 2023, 2024, 2026
 Member, SFS/ African History Search committee, TL, 2022-2023
 Member, Government, Race & Ethnic Politics, PDFF, 2022-2023
 Member, Lannan Program Visiting Chair Search Committee, 2022-2023
 Member, SFS/ African Anthropology Search committee, TL, 2021-2022
 Member, Justice, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Department of Government, 2020-2022
 Field Chair, Comparative Politics, Department of Government, 2019-2021
 Member, Georgetown University Working Group on Slavery, Memory and Reconciliation's Academic and Research Planning Group, 2020-2022
 Member, Harold N. Glassman Distinguished Dissertation Award Committee, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Georgetown University, 2019-2020
 Member, Healy Student Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Georgetown University, 2018-2020
 Chair, Government Department, Admissions & Fellowships (A/F), 2018-2020
 Member, SFS/ Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) TL Faculty Search, Arab Politics, 2019 (fall)
 Member, SFS/ African Studies NTL Search in African Studies, 2018 (fall)
 Co-Chair, Georgetown University First Generation Initiative, 2017-2018
 Member, Government Department Admissions Committee, 2016-2017, 2019-2021
 Chair of the Proseminar Program, BSFS Program of the School of Foreign Service, 2016-2018
 Advisory Board Member, Center for Social Justice (CSJ) Community Based Learning, 2016-2021
 Faculty Advisory Board (FAB), Center for New Designs in Learning & Service (CNDLS), 2017-2021
 Member, Benefits Advisory Committee (BAC), University-wide committee, 2016-2018
 Head, Delegation to the Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) conference at College of the Holy Cross, June 24-26, 2017- 6 students
 Centennial Vision Committee Member, on behalf of the Dean of the School of Foreign Service, 2015-6
 Member, African Studies search committee in African Political Economy, TL, 2014-2015
 Acting Director, African Studies Program, 2014 spring
 African Studies Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee, member 2013-2014
 SFS Faculty Council, Rapporteur, 2012-2013
 Lead, "Closing the Loop" Grant (CNDLS), Spring 2013
 Member, Chinese Politics Search Committee, 2011-2012
 Director, Georgetown University Summer Study Abroad Program in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 (3-6 weeks leading groups of students in Tanzania)
 African Studies selection committees:
 Thesis Prize, Senior Prize, African Studies Program Fellowship, 2006-2026 (except on leaves)
 Senior Honors Thesis prize committee for RCST, 2008, 2011, 2013
 Senior Honors Thesis prize committee for CULP 2012, 2016
 Interviewing for the Rhodes & Marshall Fellowships & the Fulbright International Exchange Program
 Interim Chair, Regional and Comparative Studies (RCST), Spring 2008
 Member, Honor Council Executive Committee, 2007-2008

Member, Honor Council 2007-2010

“Kenya: Themes & Prospects”, annual presentation for the Office of Mission & Ministry’s faculty and staff trip to Kenya, April 2007-2013

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Doctoral Dissertation Advising

Ankushi Mitra, PhD Candidate
Georgetown University

Ciara Silke, PhD Candidate
London School of Economics (LSE), External Member

Jessica Norris, PhD Candidate
Georgetown University

Claire Hazbun, PhD student
Georgetown University

Abrehet Gebremedhin, PhD, 2026
American University, External Member
Adjunct Instructor, Teacher’s College, Columbia University, 2025-present

Endalkachew Mulugeta, PhD, 2026
University of Gondar, Ethiopia, External Member
University of Gondar, Lecturer

Andrew Marshall, PhD, 2022 (CHAIR)
Georgetown University
Baylor University, Full-time renewable Lecturer, 2024- present

Sara Fischer, PhD, 2022 (CHAIR)
Georgetown University
University of Puget Sound, Tenure-track Assistant Professor, 2022-present

Master’s Thesis Advising

Masters in Conflict Resolution, Capstone/Thesis (Fall 2020, Fall 2024)
Masters in German and European Studies, Capstone Advisor (Fall 2020)
Masters in Liberal Studies, Senior Thesis Advisor (Spring 2007)
Masters in Communication, Culture and Technology Program (Spring 2013)

Undergraduate Thesis Advising

African Studies Program supervised 60+ theses (2006- present)
Government Department
International Politics (IPOL)

Culture & Politics (CULP)
Science, Technology & International Affairs (STIA)

TEACHING

Graduate seminars (MA level)

The Politics of African Migration
Theory and Policy in Africa

Undergraduate seminars

Activism in Higher Education, with Andria Wisler
Culture and Politics in the Horn of Africa, with Rogaia Abusharaf, co-taught with SFS-Qatar
African Studies Capstone seminar
African Studies Senior Thesis Colloquium Spring
The Question of Equality: Comparative Perspectives from Political Theory and Literature in
Africa and the West (NEH-funded), with Sam Pinto (English Department)
Women and Politics in Africa
Nationalism and Ethnicity in Africa
Peace and Conflict in East Africa
African Politics and Government
Civil Society and Democracy in Africa

Freshman Proseminar

Race, Justice and Power (required one-credit seminar)- with SFS-Q
Migration In and From Africa
Women and Politics in the Developing World
Women and Politics in Africa

Tutorials

Land, Conflict and Identity (PhD)
Migration and Citizenship Theory (PhD)
Horn of Africa Studies: Conflict (DLS)
Genocide in Africa (undergraduate)

Jesuit Commons: Higher Education at the Margins (JC: HEM); Jesuit World Learning (JWL)

Volunteer Instructor, Political Thought & African History, Spring 2013, Winter 2014, Winter
2016 [online courses through Jesuit World Learning & Regis University for refugees in camps]

Addis Ababa University Department of Political Science and International Relations, Invited Lecturer,
Doctoral student seminar on Comparative Politics (May 2011)

Ministry of Education, Government of Ethiopia, Facilitator/Trainer, Civic and Ethical Education
Training Workshop, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (August 2003)

LANGUAGES

Amharic (Intermediate)
Swahili (Beginner/ Intermediate)