

## **EDUCATION**

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**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND – SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY**

*Ph.D., Policy Studies*

*Dissertation: “Diffident Dissident: How Civil Society Influences Armed Intrastate Conflict and Political Violence”*

**COLLEGE PARK, MD**

*Sept. 2014 to Dec. 2020*

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY – SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

*M.A., International Affairs*

**NEW YORK, NY**

*Sept. 2005 to May 2007*

**UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY**

*Certificate, International Cooperation and Development*

**TOKYO, JAPAN**

*May - June 2004*

**REED COLLEGE**

*B.A., History*

**PORTLAND, OR**

*Aug. 1998 to May 2002*

## **PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCE PAPERS**

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**DONOR ASSISTANCE IN THE TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY MOVEMENT**

*USIP PeaceWorks (peer reviewed)*

*September 2019*

**MOBILIZING STRUCTURES AND CONTENTIOUS ACTION: DOES CIVIL SOCIETY INFLUENCE CIVIL CONFLICT ONSET AND METHOD OF DISSIDENCE?**

*American Political Science Association, Annual Conference*

*August 2019*

**TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACTIVISM IN NIGERIA: BRINGING THE PIECES TOGETHER**

*USIP Special Report*

*October 2018*

**INTERNATIONAL DONOR FUNDING FOR ACTIVISM: BOON OR BURDEN?**

*Mobilizing Ideas (Center for the Study of Social Movements at University of Notre Dame)*

*October 2018*

**POLICE-CITIZEN INTERACTION IN AFRICA: AN EXPLORATION OF FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE CITIZENS' REPORTING OF CRIMES**

*Afrobarometer Working Paper 180*

*April 2018*

**CIVIL SOCIETY AND CIVIL WAR: WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP?**

*CISSM Working Paper*

*December 2017*

**SMUGGLING WILDLIFE IN THE AMERICAS: SCALE, METHODS, AND LINKS TO OTHER ORGANISED (CO-AUTHOR)**

*Global Crime*

*May 2016*

**LEGAL HARVEST ILLEGAL TRADE: TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND OPTIONS FOR KHAT PRODUCTION IN ETHIOPIA (CO-AUTHOR)**

*International Journal of Drug Policy*

*February 2016*

**CYCLES OF REGIME CHANGE IN GUINEA-BISSAU**

*Book Chapter in “Democratic Contestation on the Margins”*

*April 2015*

**THE GEOGRAPHY OF BOKO HARAM**

*Security Watch, The International Relations and Security Network*

*February 2015*

**ADVANCING STABILITY & RECONCILIATION IN GUINEA-BISSAU (CO-AUTHOR)** *June 2013*  
*ACSS Special Report No. 2, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

**LESSONS AND LIMITS OF DDR IN AFRICA (GHOST CONTRIBUTOR)** *January 2013*  
*Africa Security Brief No.24, Africa Center for Strategic Studies*

**NARCO-STATES: AFRICA’S NEXT MENACE** *March 2012*  
*New York Times / International Herald Tribune*

## **FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS**

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**CIVIL SOCIETY AND CIVIL WAR: WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP?** *January 2017*  
*Seed Grant Provided by UMD School of Public Policy*

**ALL-STAR GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP** *Spring 2016*  
*Sole Awardee at UMD School of Public Policy*

**POSI PHD FELLOWSHIP (UMD)** *2014-2015*  
*Support supplemental to standard PhD package*

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE** **WASHINGTON, DC**  
*Sr. Program Officer, Nonviolent Action (GS-14)* *May 2017 – July 2019*

- Led development and planning of multi-country (Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Burma, Guatemala, and Ukraine) applied research initiative to assess impact of donor support in influencing local advocacy efforts for transparency and accountability policy reform.
- Crafted and designed research approach and instruments: IRB applications, case selection justifications, interview questionnaires, support staff training, and workshop agenda.
- Solicited, evaluated, and edited all research outlines, policy briefs, and written publications produced by USIP’s program on nonviolent action.
- Liaised with funders (USAID, State/DRL) on substantive research and financial management reports.
- Delivered briefings and presentations in U.S. interagency as well as at various conferences (ISA), events, and other programs.
- Managed research budget, crafted RFPs, assessed bids for research support, oversaw contract execution and deliverables, and disbursed payments.

**CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL & SECURITY STUDIES AT MARYLAND** **COLLEGE PARK, MD**  
*Graduate Research Asst.* *Sept. 2014 – May 2017*

- Implemented “seed” research grant to investigate relationship between civil society strength and civil war onset. Final deliverable: *Civil Society and Civil War: What is the Relationship?* (working paper).
- Supported grant proposal development, including pre-proposals for Army Research Office and USIP.
- Supported development of course syllabi, including core courses on civil conflict and terrorism.
- Conducted independent research as time allowed. Topics included spatial distribution of violence in northern Nigeria and the political effects of organized crime in developing countries.
- Teaching assistance: International Economic Policy, Master’s level macroeconomics course.

**AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES (U.S. DEPT. OF DEFENSE)** **WASHINGTON, DC**  
*Research Associate, Security Clearance — Secret (GS-12)* *Dec. 2008 to Aug. 2014*

- Conducted analysis on stability and conflict challenges in Africa. Examples include good governance, democratization, civil society, violent extremism, SSR, DDR, etc.

- Developed internal research budget and expenditure tracker (~\$200,000 annually), liaised with finance and budget office on external contracts and spending.
- Prepared annual research office performance evaluations. Reported to external oversight bodies (OSD, GAO, etc.).
- Evaluated, contracted, and coordinated with consultants and outside researchers.
- Oversaw translation and quality control of publications into French and Portuguese.
- Managed printing contracts, procedures, distribution needs.
- Represented ACSS research office in inter-agency, across government, and in public relations capacity, including State Dept./DoD, U.S. Senate Staff, foreign embassy reps, BBC, al Jazeera.
- Managed project teams and intern program, including recruitment/vetting of new hires, intra-organizational operations, major public events and conferences.
- Conceptualized, planned, and executed working groups, symposia, and roundtables (i.e., the impact of the Arab Spring in Africa, East Africa's security landscape in 2025, etc.).
- Served as election monitor with U.S. team for presidential race in Guinea-Bissau, May 2014.

**CIVIL-MILITARY INITIATIVE OF THE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY**  
*Program Associate (contractor)*

**WASHINGTON, DC**  
*April to December 2008*

- Aided efforts to engage civilian and military agencies on stabilization and reconstruction planning.
- Designed and executed workshops and seminars for civilian and military practitioners.
- Performed outreach and consultations with UN, USAID, DoD, InterAction, State Department, etc.
- Drafted proposals, concept papers, internal memoranda, and communications materials.

**OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION, AFRICA PROGRAM**  
*Research Assistant to Senior Policy Analyst on Africa*

**WASHINGTON, DC**  
*June to August 2006*

- Contributed to report analyzing U.S. security assistance and interventions in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Attended on- and off-the-record meetings with U.S. officials and briefed OSF senior analysts.
- Drafted briefs that were circulated to congressional staffers, commercial institutions, and others.

**ALL AFRICA GLOBAL MEDIA (ALLAFRICA.COM)**  
*Assistant Managing Editor*

**WASHINGTON, DC**  
*June 2003 to June 2005*

- Wrote features and conducted interviews from Washington, DC and from Africa.
- Managed layout and content of homepage and modules on conflict, environment, and business.
- Read and edited 100+ news stories written by African journalists daily.

**OTHER SKILLS AND INTERESTS**

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Software: R/RStudio, SAS, Stata, ArcGIS, Python (Beginner), NetLogo (Beginner), Microsoft Office Suite.

Additional languages: French (Intermediate)

Relevant Foreign Travel and Field Work: Burma, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Israel, Japan, Liberia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, West Bank/Palestine, Zambia.