

Curriculum Vitae
Sebastian Elischer, PhD
selischer@ufl.edu

Professional Experience

August 2020 – Present	Associate Professor (with tenure) of Political Science University of Florida, USA
August 2015 – July 2020	Assistant Professor of Political Science University of Florida, USA
October 2012 – July 2015	Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany
	Senior Research Fellow Head of Research Team “Representation and Participation in the Context of Inequalities” German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)/ Institute of African Affairs, Hamburg, Germany
March 2009 – September 2012	Research Fellow German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)/ Institute of African Affairs, Hamburg, Germany
October 2005 – January 2006	Research Assistant to Dr. Susan Rice The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC
April 2004 – July 2004	Research Assistant to Julie Morgan MP, Labour House of Commons, London, UK
September 2002 – May 2003	Executive Officer National Assembly for Wales Government, Cardiff, UK

Education

March 2010	PhD in Integrated Social Sciences: Special Distinction Jacobs University Bremen (Germany)
August 2006	Master (dual degree) in International Studies: The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Master (dual degree) in International Relations: Free University Berlin Final Grade: A
May 2004	Bachelor of Social Sciences and Economics in International Relations: University of Wales/ Aberystwyth (United Kingdom) Final Grade: First Class

Awards (selection)

- 2021-2022: Visiting research fellowship at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame
- 2020: Professor of the Year, Department of Political Science, University of Florida
- 2012: PhD dissertation shortlisted for the Jean Blondel PhD prize of the European Consortium of Political Research
- 2011: Best PhD dissertation in the field of social science of the Leibniz research community
- 2007 – 2009: PhD Scholarship, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Germany
- 2005 – 2006: Scholarship for graduate studies in the United States, German Academic Exchange Service

Books

- 2021: *Salafism and Political Order in Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- 2013: *Political Parties in Africa: Ethnicity and Party Formation*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Journal articles

- 2022: (with Narrelle Gilchrist and Amanda Edgell): Tribeless and Democratic Youth? Political Attitudes of Kenyan University Students toward Ethnicity and Democracy. *Canadian Journal for African Studies/ Revue canadienne des études africaines* 56 (3): 589-615.
- 2019: Governing the Faithful. State Management of Salafi Activity in the Francophone Sahel. *Comparative Politics* 51 (2): 199-218.
- 2019: Trade Union Mobilization and Democratic Institutionalization in the Republic of Niger. *Review of African Political Economy* 46 (160): 204-222.
- 2019: “Partisan Politics Was Making People Angry”: The Rise and Fall of Political Salafism in Kenya. *Journal of the Middle East and Africa* 10 (2): 121-136.
- 2019: (with Lisa Mueller): Niger Falls Back Off Track. *African Affairs* 118 (471): 392-406.
- 2016: (with Matthijs Bogaards): Competitive Authoritarianism in Africa Revisited. *Comparative Governance and Politics* 10 (1): 5-18.
- 2015: Autocratic Legacies and State Management of Islamic Activism in Niger. *African Affairs* 114 (457): 577-597.
- 2013: (with Matthias Basedau): Return to the Barracks? Authoritarian Rule and the Armed Forces in Africa. *Politische Vierteljahresschrift* 47.
- 2012: Measuring and Comparing Party Ideology in Nonindustrialized Societies: Taking Party Manifesto Research to Africa. *Democratization* 19 (4): 642-667.

- 2012: Legitimität von Wahlen in der Transformation. *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* 22 (3): 419-428.
- 2008: Do African Parties Contribute to Democracy? Some Findings from Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria. *Africa Spectrum* 43 (2): 175-201.

Article Manuscript in Progress

“Coups-Makers as Agents of Democracy: How Motivations Influence Outcomes”. The article manuscript examines how the motivations of the military influence military coup outcomes (with Justin Hoyle, University of Florida). To be submitted to *Contemporary Politics* in the fall of 2022.

“How Jihadism Ends. The State, Critical Antecedents, and the Demobilization of Violent Salafism in Africa”. The article manuscript examines the conditions under which weak states in East Africa contain jihadi ideology and recruitment. To be submitted to *Terrorism & Political Violence* in the spring of 2023.

“Extrication from Executive Power versus Electoral Authoritarianism. A Genealogy of Post-Coup Military Behavior After the End of the Cold War”. The manuscript examines the different ways juntas have engaged in post-coup elections since 1990. To be submitted to the *Journal of Democracy* in the spring of 2023.

“Military Coups and Post-Coup Political Orders After 1990. A Global Assessment with Two Empirical Illustrations from Sub-Saharan Africa”. Drawing on the logic of fuzzy-set QCA the manuscript examines various variables that drive military behavior in the aftermath of a military coup. To be submitted to *Comparative Political Studies* in the fall of 2023.

“U.S. Security Sector Assistance and Autocratization: Evidence from Africa”. The mixed-methods article examines the extent to which U.S. security sector assistance has contributed to autocratization processes in Africa (with Rachel Sigman, University of Denver). To be submitted to *International Security* in the fall of 2023.

Book Chapters and Entries

- 2022: Civil-Military Relations in the Republic of Niger, in: Florina Matei and Carolyn Halladay (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Civil-Military Relations* (2nd Edition), London: Routledge, p.76-88.
- 2022: Religious Actors, Democratization and the State in Mali and Niger, in: Mirjam Künkler and Julia Leininger (eds.), *Democratization and Democratic Backsliding: When does Religion Matter?* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press (forthcoming).
- 2019: Burkina Faso: State and Religious Authority in Turbulent Times, in: Haim Malka (ed.), *Faith in the Balance. Regulating Religious Affairs in Africa*, New York: Rowman & Littlefield, p.111-136.
- 2019: The Sahel: Regional Politics and Dynamics. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press, available online: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.765>
- 2017: How Often and Why Do Military Coups Usher in Civilian Rule? Coups, Post-Coup Elections and Autocratic Resilience in the Post-Cold War World. COMPASSS Working Paper 2017-90. <http://compasss.org/wpseries/Elischer2017.pdf>

- 2015: Democratic Reform and Islamic Revival in the Republic of Niger in: Jennifer Cooke and Richard Downie (eds.), *Religious Authority and the State in Africa*, New York: Rowman & Littlefield, p.86-99.
- 2015: West Africa in 2014 in: Sebastian Elischer, Henning Melber, and Andreas Mehler (eds.), *Africa Yearbook*, Boston: Brill Publishers, p. 33-40.
- 2014 (with Matthijs Bogaards and Anika Becher): Ethnic Party Bans in Africa: Can Party Regulation Create National Parties? in: Jacques Bertrand and Oded Haklai (eds.), *Democratization and Ethnic Minorities Conflict or Compromise?*, London: Routledge, p. 39-57.
- 2010: Political Parties, Elections and Ethnicity in Kenya, in: Daniel Branch, Nicholas Cheeseman and Leigh Gardner (eds.), *Our Time to Eat: Kenyan Politics since 1960*, London: LIT.

Edited Volumes

- 2021: (with Leonardo Villalon et al.): *Handbook of the Sahel*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2014-2017: (with Andreas Mehler et al.): *The Africa Yearbook* (three volumes). Chicago: Brill Publishers

Policy-Relevant Publications, Blog Posts, and Public Commentary

I regularly compile the country report Niger for the Bertelsmann Transformation Index. I regularly provide updates for Mali for the Varieties of Democracy Index. I serve as country expert for Guinea for Freedom House. Details available upon request.

- 2022: Populist civil society, the Wagner Group, and post-coup politics in Mali. *West African Paper* No. 36. Paris: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- 2022: Military coups are key to understanding contemporary autocracies. *The Loop. ECPR's Political Science Blog* <https://theloop.ecpr.eu/military-coups-are-key-to-understanding-contemporary-autocracies/>
- 2022: Kenya's young voters have a dilemma: they dislike ethnic politics but feel trapped in it. *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/kenyas-young-voters-have-a-dilemma-they-dislike-ethnic-politics-but-feel-trapped-in-it-186855> (with Narrelle Gilchrist and Amanda Edgell)
- 2021: Why it's a big surprise that the African leadership prize went to Niger's Issoufou. *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/why-its-a-big-surprise-that-the-african-leadership-prize-went-to-nigers-issoufou-157291>
- 2020: Niger's Elections Amid Violence and Authoritarian Backsliding. *Italian Institute for International Political Studies*: <https://www.ispionline.it/en/pubblicazione/nigers-elections-amid-violence-and-authoritarian-backsliding-27967>
- 2019: Contemporary Civil-Military Relations in the Sahel. *West African Papers* No.19. Paris: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.
- 2018: Defying the Odds? Nigerien Responses to Foreign and Domestic Security Challenges. *West African Papers* No. 11. Paris: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

- 2018: Niger's protests are ramping up, *Washington Post*: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/03/26/nigers-protests-are-ramping-up-heres-why/?utm_term=.1aa97ff13208
- 2016: Old habits die hard: Elite behaviour and the 2016 presidential elections in Niger, *Democracy in Africa*: <http://democracyinafrica.org/category/niger/>
- 2015: The EU's Migration Diversion, *Foreign Affairs*: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/niger/2015-09-15/eus-migration-diversion>
- 2015: After this month's attack in Bamako, what do we know about fundamentalist Islam in Mali?, *Washington Post*: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2015/11/30/after-this-months-attack-in-bamako-what-do-we-know-about-fundamentalist-islam-in-mali/?utm_term=.96e44d2a486b
- 2015: Taking Stock of 'Good Coups' in Africa, *Washington Post*: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/05/18/taking-stock-of-good-coups-in-africa/>
- 2015: The Growth of Islamism in Mauritania, *African Arguments*: <http://africanarguments.org/2015/05/20/the-growth-of-islam-in-mauritania-should-western-allies-worry-by-sebastian-elischer/#comment-69328>
- 2015: The Management of Salafi Activity in Africa: African State Strategies and their Consequences in the Sahel. *Africa Research Initiative* 2 (1).

Book Reviews

- 2021: The Caravan: Abdallah Azzam and the Rise of Global Jihad by Thomas Hegghammer; Your Sons Are at Your Service: Tunisia's Missionaries of Jihad by Aaron Zelin; Unmasking Boko Haram: Exploring Global Jihad in Nigeria by Jacob Zenn. *Perspectives on Politics* 19 (2): 664-666
- 2019: When Political Transitions Work: Reconciliation as Interdependence by Fanie du Toit; Performances of Injustice: The Politics of Truth, Justice and Reconciliation in Kenya by Gabrielle Lynch; Truth Without Reconciliation: A Human Rights History of Ghana by Abena Ampofoa Asare. *Perspectives on Politics* 17 (4): 1245-1247.
- 2017: Ethnic Politics and State Power in Africa. The Logic of the Coup-Civil War Trap by Philip Roessler. *Democratization* 25 (5): 940-941.
- 2015: Nation of Outlaws, State of Violence by Meredith Terretta. *Africa Spectrum* 50 (10): 107-109.
- 2013: The Yearning for Relief: A History of the Sawaba Movement in Niger by Klaas van Walraven. *Journal of African History* 54 (3): 459-461.

Presentations at Academic Conferences and Invited Presentations (selection)

- 2022: "Negotiating the Post-Coup Polity? The Armed Forces and Civil Society in Mali and Guinea". Paper accepted for presentation at the African Studies annual conference in Philadelphia.
- 2022: "U.S. Security Sector Assistance and Autocratization: Evidence from Africa". Paper accepted for presentation at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in Montréal.

- 2021: “Salafism and Political Order in Africa”. Book talk at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 11, 2021.
- 2021: “Salafism and Political Order in Africa”. Book talk at the University of California, Berkeley, September 23, 2021.
- 2021: “How Weak States Fight Jihadism: State-led National Islamic Associations and the Demobilization of Violent Salafism in East Africa”. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 14-18.
- 2020: “Post-coup Protest and its Consequences”. African Studies Association, Washington DC, paper presented online.
- 2020: “The State and Salafism in Africa”. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 16-19 (cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic).
- 2020: “Governing the Faithful: Autocratic Legacies, Fundamentalist Islam, and the Struggle for Order in Africa”. Invited presentation at the Kellogg Institute for International Affairs, University of Notre Dame, January 28.
- 2019: “Democracy without Democrats. Explaining Niger’s Unstable Regime Trajectory”. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 4-7.
- 2018: “Partisan Politics Was Making People Angry”. The Rise and Fall of Political Salafism in Kenya. African Studies Association, Atlanta, November 29 to December 1.
- 2018: “Coups-Makers as Agents of Democracy: How Motivations Influence Outcomes”. American Political Science Association, Boston, August 29 to September 1.
- 2018: “How Often and Why Do Military Coups Usher in Civilian Rule? Coups, Post-Coup Elections and Autocratic Resilience in the Post-Cold War World”. Invited presentation at the Central European University, Budapest, February 22.
- 2018: “How Often and Why Do Military Coups Usher in Civilian Rule? Coups, Post-Coup Elections and Autocratic Resilience in the Post-Cold War World”. Visiting Fellow at the Varieties of Democracy Project in Gothenburg, February 12-16.
- 2017: “Coups-Makers as Agents of Democracy: How Motivations Influence Outcomes”. African Studies Association, Chicago, November 16-18.
- 2017: “How Jihadism Ends: Comparing State Strategies Toward Violent Extremism in Kenya and Uganda”. Invited presentation at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington DC, October 20.
- 2017: “How Jihadism Ends: Comparing State Strategies Toward Violent Extremism in Kenya and Uganda”. Invited presentation at Pomona College, April 27.
- 2017: “Governing the Faithful: State Management of Salafi Activity in the Sahel and East Africa”. Invited presentation at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, April 25.

- 2017: “The Democratic Coup Thesis: Evidence from Africa and Beyond”. Invited presentation, University of Bayreuth, Germany, March 8.
- 2017: “Governing the Faithful. State Management of Salafi Activity in Francophone and Anglophone Africa” and “Reassessing the “Democratic Coup Thesis”. A Response to Recent Quantitative Findings with Fuzzy Set QCA”. Papers presented at the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, January 12-14.
- 2016: “Governing the Faithful. State Management of Salafi Activity in Francophone and Anglophone Africa”. African Studies Association, Washington DC, December 1-3.
- 2016: “Reassessing the “Democratic Coup Thesis”. A Response to Recent Quantitative Findings with Fuzzy Set QCA”. Southwest Mixed-Methods Workshop, University of Arizona, Tucson, October 20-21.
- 2016: “Informal Management of Salafi Activity in Areas of Very Limited Statehood: Evidence from the Sahel and East Africa”. Invited presentation at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies, Washington DC, September 29.

Field Research Experience

Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Cameroon (three times), Ghana (five times), Kenya (four times), Mauritania (twice), Mali (five times), Namibia, Niger (six times) Nigeria (twice), Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda.

Language Skills

English	fluent
German	mother tongue
French	professionally proficient
Luxembourgish	medium level

Teaching

Fall 2022	Sabbatical
Spring 2022	Visiting research fellowship at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame
Fall 2021	Visiting research fellowship at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame
Spring 2021	Introduction to Comparative Politics Politics & the Armed Forces
Fall 2020	Violent Islamic Extremism Qualitative and Mixed Methods (graduate seminar)
Spring 2020	Introduction to Comparative Politics
Fall 2019:	Violent Islamic Extremism Qualitative and Mixed Methods (graduate seminar)

Spring 2019:	Introduction to Comparative Politics Politics & the Armed Forces
Fall 2018:	Qualitative & Mixed Methods (graduate seminar) Introduction to African Politics
Spring 2018:	Research Leave
Fall 2017:	Graduate Seminar in African Politics Politics & the Armed Forces
Spring 2017:	Introduction to Comparative Politics Introduction to African Politics
Fall 2016:	Qualitative & Mixed Methods (graduate seminar) Politics & the Armed Forces
Spring 2016:	Introduction to Comparative Politics Introduction to African Politics

Research Grants and Fellowships

March 2021:	Department of Defence. USD 200,000. <i>The Effects of the US-led Counterterrorism Efforts in the Sahel</i> (with Dr. Rachel Sigman).
January 2021:	Kellogg Institute of International Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Visiting Fellowship. USD 65,000.
November 2019:	University of Florida. Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund. USD 9,500. <i>Post-military Coup Protests and its Consequences in Guinea and Ivory Coast</i> .
February 2019:	APSA Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs Grant. USD 2,500. <i>State-Religious Relations in Senegal</i> .
March 2017:	Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Research Grant. USD 2,500. <i>The Rise and Fall of Political Salafism in Kenya</i> .
March 2016:	University of Florida. Award to organize the annual Carter Conference (together with Leonardo Villalon and several colleagues from the Sahel Research Group). USD 20,000.
November 2015:	University of Florida. Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund. USD 11,700. <i>State Management of Islamic Activism in Kenya and Uganda</i> .
February 2013:	Fritz Thyssen Foundation. USD 15,000. International author workshop on competitive authoritarianism in Africa.
December 2013:	Gerda Henkel Foundation. USD 17,000 for research project <i>Salafism in the Sahel: State Strategies and their Consequences</i> .

Service

2022-2023:	Associate Editor of the African Studies Review Editor of the APSA Comparative Politics Newsletter Coordinator of a working group in the Center for African Studies
2021-2022:	Associate Editor of the African Studies Review Coordinator of the Graduate Student Professionalization Seminar Editor of the APSA Comparative Politics Newsletter
2020-2021:	Associate Editor of the African Studies Reviews Coordinator of the Research Seminar in Politics Coordinator of the Graduate Student Professionalization Seminar Graduate Student Placement Coordinator Member of the Chair's Advisory Committee Coordinator of a working group in the Center for African Studies
2019-2020:	Coordinator of the Research Seminar in Politics Coordinator of the Graduate Student Professionalization Seminar Graduate Student Placement Coordinator Member of the Chair's Advisory Committee Coordinator of a working group in the Center for African Studies
2018-2019:	Coordinator of the Research Seminar in Politics Member of the Graduate Admission Committee Member of the Chair's Advisory Committee
2017-2018:	Coordinator of the Research Seminar in Politics Member of the Chair's Advisory Committee Member of Centre for African Studies Advisory Board

Reviewer for Journals and Funding Agencies

American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Democratization, Party Politics, Civil Wars, Comparative Politics, Comparative Governance and Politics, Journal of African History, Journal of Modern African Studies, African Security Review, African Studies Quarterly, African Studies Review, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Africa Spectrum, Thyssen Foundation, German Foundation for Peace Research.

I have served as a book reviewer for Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press.