

Curriculum Vitae
Sebastian Elischer, PhD
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Professional Experience

- Since August 2020 Associate Professor 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 Intern 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, DC
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)

- 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

2020/2021: *Salafism and Order in Africa*. Advance contract with Cambridge University Press.

2013: *Political Parties in Africa: Ethnicity and Party Formation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Journal articles

- 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* (forthcoming).
- 2019: “Partisan Politics Was Making People Angry.” The Rise and Fall of Political Salafism in Kenya. *Journal of the Middle East and Africa* 10 (1): Forthcoming
- 2019: (with Lisa Mueller): Niger Falls Back Off track. *African Affairs* online first.
- 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: Legitimität von Wahlen in der Transformation. *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* 22 (3): 419-428.
- 2012: Measuring and Comparing Party Ideology in Nonindustrialized Societies: Taking Party Manifesto Research to Africa. *Democratization* 19 (4): 642-667.
- 2008: Do African Parties Contribute to Democracy? Some Findings from Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria, *Africa Spectrum* 43 (2): 175-201.

Articles in Progress

“How Jihadism Ends. The State, Critical Antecedents, and the Demobilization of Violent Salafism in Africa”. The manuscript examines the conditions under which weak states contain jihadi ideology and recruitment. *Under review with Comparative Political Studies*

“How Often and Why Do Military Coups Usher in Civilian Rule? Coups, Post-Coup Elections and Autocratic Resilience in the Post-Cold War World”. The manuscript examines the political consequences of all post-1989 coups. It applies fuzzy-set qualitative comparative methods. The manuscript recently was accepted by the COMPASS Working Papers series.

“Coups-Makers as Agents of Democracy: How Motivations Influence Outcomes”. The manuscript examines how motivations influence coup outcomes (with Justin Hoyle, University of Florida). The article received an R&R from *Armed Forces & Society*.

Book Chapters and Entries

2019/ forthcoming: Religious Actors, Democratization and the State in Mali and Niger in: Kuenkler, Mirjam and Leininger Julia (eds.). University of Michigan Press.

2019: The Sahel: Regional Politics and Dynamics. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press.

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 and Nicholas Cheeseman (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

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).

Policy Advice

I regularly compile the country report Niger for the Bertelsmann Transformation Index.

I regularly compile country briefings for the German Foreign Ministry and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation. Details available on request.

Book Reviews

- 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)

- 2019: "Democracy without Democrats. Explaining Niger's Unstable Regime Trajectory". Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 4-7 (accepted for oral presentation).
- 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.
- 2018: "Coups-Makers as Agents of Democracy: How Motivations Influence Outcomes". American Political Science Association, Boston, August 29 to September 1, 2018.
- 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". 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: "Coup-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". Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington DC, October 20.
- 2017: "How Jihadism Ends: Comparing State Strategies Toward Violent Extremism in Kenya and Uganda". Pomona College, April 27.
- 2017: "Governing the Faithful: State Management of Salafi Activity in the Sahel and East Africa". Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, April 25.
- 2017: "The Democratic Coup Thesis: Evidence from Africa and Beyond". University of Bayreuth, Germany, March 8, 2017.
- 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, October 20-21 2016, University of Arizona, Tucson.
- 2016: "Informal Management of Salafi Activity in Areas of Very Limited Statehood: Evidence from the Sahel and East Africa". Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies, Washington DC, September 29, 2016.
- 2015: "Religious Regulation in Areas of Limited Statehood". African Studies Association, San Diego, November 19-22.
- 2015: "Religious Regulation and the Management of Salafi Activity in the Sahel". American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September 3-6.
- 2014: "Autocratic Legacies, Organizational Adaptation and the Management of Islamic Activity in the Republic of Niger". African Studies Association, Indianapolis, November 20 -23.
- 2014: "New Directions in African Party Research". American Political Science Association, Washington DC, August 28-30.
- 2014: "Organizational Adaptation, Autocratic Legacies and Fundamentalist Islam in the Republic of Niger". Mid-Western Political Science Association, Chicago, April 5.

Field Research Experience

Algeria, Chad, Ghana (five times), Cameroon (three times), Mauritania, Mali, Niger (five times) Nigeria (twice), Kenya (four times), Uganda, Sierra Leone, Namibia, Togo, Mali.

Language Skills

English	fluent
German	mother tongue
French	professionally proficient

Teaching

Fall 2019:	Islamic Radicalization 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
Fall 2015:	Graduate Seminar in African Politics Civil-Military Relations in Unconsolidated Democracies

Research Grants

March 2017:	Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Research Grant. USD 2 500.
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 *Salafism in the Sahel: State Strategies and their Consequences*

Reviewer for Journals and Funding Agencies

American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Democratization, Party Politics, Comparative Politics, Comparative Governance and Politics, Journal of African History, Journal of Modern African Studies, African Security Review, African Studies Quarterly, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Africa Spectrum, Thyssen Foundation, German Foundation for Peace Research. I have also served as a book reviewer for Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press.