Curriculum Vitae

Sebastian Elischer, PhD selischer@ufl.edu

**Professional Experience**

Since August 2015 Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics

University of Florida, USA

October 2012 - Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics

July 2015 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 - Research Fellow

September 2012 German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)/ Institute of

African Affairs, Hamburg, Germany

October 2005 - Research Assistant to Dr. Susan Rice

January 2006 The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

April 2004 - Research Intern to Julie Morgan MP, Labour

July 2004 House of Commons, London, UK

September 2002 - Executive Officer

Mai 2003 National Assembly for Wales Government, Cardiff, UK

**Education**

March 2010 Ph.D in Political Science: 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

**Honors and 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: Scholarship for graduate studies in the United States, German Academic Exchange Service

**Books**

My book prospectus *Governing the Faithful. Autocratic Legacies, Salafism and the Struggle for Order in Africa* is currently under review with Cambridge University Press. If I receive a book contract I intend to submit the book manuscript by the first quarter of 2019.

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

University Press.

**Journal articles**

2018: Governing the Faithful. State Management of Salafi Activity in the Francophone Sahel. *Comparative Politics* (forthcoming; scheduled to appear in print in October 2018)

2016: 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? The Military and Authoritarian Rule in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Politische Vierteljahresschrift Sonderheft* 47.

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 under Review**

Legacy and Regime Developments in Africa. Insights from Niger. The manuscript received an R&R from the *Review of African Political Economy*. The revisions are due at the end of February.

How Jihadism Ends. The State, Critical Antecedents, and the Demobilization of Violent Salafism in East Africa. The manuscript is currently under review with *International Studies Quarterly*.

“Partisan Politics Was Making People Angry”. The Rise and Fall of Political Salafism in Kenya. The manuscript is under review with the *Journal of the Middle East and Africa*.

**Work in Progress**

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 COMPASSS Working Papers series. I intend to submit the manuscript to a journal during the first quarter of 2018.

**Book chapters**

2018: Together with Leonardo Villalon and other colleagues from the Sahel Research Group I am working towards the *Handbook of the African Sahel*. The handbook contains comparative thematic chapters. We secured a contract with Oxford University Press.

2017: Religious Actors, Democratization and the State in Mali and Niger in: Kuenkler, Mirjam and Leininger Julia (eds.). The edited volume is under review with Notre Dame 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.

**Other Publications**

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: 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).

2013: *Contingent Democrats in Action: Organized Labour and Regime Change in Niger*. Hamburg: GIGA Working Paper 231.

**Policy Advice/ Other Publications**

I am drafting two briefing papers for the OECD West Africa Paper Series. The first paper covers the security challenges for the Republic of Niger. The second paper examines the role of the armed forces in contemporary Sahelian politics. Details available on request.

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* (forthcoming).

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.

**Other Research Activities**

Co-editor of the Africa Yearbook between 2014 and 2017 (three edited volumes in total)

**Presentations at Academic Conferences and Invited Presentations (selection)**

2018 (invited talk): “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 (invited talk): “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: “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. Paper accepted for oral presentation.

**Field Research Experience**

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

**Language Skills**

English fluent

German mother tongue

French professionally proficient

**Teaching**

Fall 2017: Graduate Seminar in African Politics

Politics & the Armed Forces

Spring 2017: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Introduction to African Politcs

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

Summer Semester 2015 MA module (lecture): Challenges to Democratization in Post-Third Wave Societies

BA module (seminar): Civil-Military Relations in Established and Young Democracies

Winter Semester 2014/15 MA module (seminar): Methods of Comparative Politics and International Relations

BA module (seminar): Comparing Political Systems in Non-Westers Democracies

Summer Semester 2014 MA module (lecture): Challenges to Democratization in Post-Third Wave Societies

BA module (seminar): Civil-Military Relations in Established and Young Democracies

Winter Semester 2013/14: MA module (lecture): Methods of Comparative Politics and International Relations

BA module (seminar): Comparing Political Systems in Non-Western Democracies

**Research Grants**

March 2017: Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa research Grant. USD 2500.

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. *State Management of Islamic Activism in Kenya and Uganda.*

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, 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 also served as book reviewer for Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press.