

Erin Accampo Hern

Political Science Department
The Maxwell School
Syracuse, NY 13244-1020

eherm@syr.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, 2019 - Syracuse, NY

Associate Professor, Political Science Department, 2022-present
Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, 2019-2022

COLLEGE OF IDAHO, 2015 - 2019 Caldwell, ID

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Economy

EDUCATION

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, 2010 - 2015 Ithaca, NY

Ph.D., Department of Government, August 2015
Master of Arts, Department of Government, May 2013

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, 2005-2009 Los Angeles, CA

Bachelor of Arts, International Relations

BOOKS

Exp July 2026. *Inside African Politics, 3rd Edition*. Lynne Rienner Publishers. With Kevin Dunn and Pierre Englebert.

2023. *Explaining Successes in Africa: Things Don't Always Fall Apart*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

- Awarded “Outstanding Academic Title” for 2023 from *Choice*, the journal of the American Library Association
- [Shepherd](#) “Favorite Read” of 2023
- [This Week in Africa](#) “Favorite Reads of 2023”
- Reviews in [African Studies Review](#) and [Canadian Journal of African Studies](#)

2019. *Developing States, Shaping Citizenship: Service Delivery and Political Behavior in Zambia*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

- Review in [African Studies Review](#)
- Review in [Monkey Cage](#)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming. “Partisanship, Party Systems, and Understandings of Democracy Across Africa,” *Party Politics*

2025. “Visibility of Autocratization and Election Outcomes,” *European Political Science Review*. 17(4): 691-710.

2024. “Voting Out Autocrats: Evidence from Zambia,” *Democratization* 31(4):807-830.

2023. "Comparing Renewalist Christians' Political Orientations in Latin America and Africa," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 62(2):260-277. with Elizabeth Sperber.
2022. "When do Women Win in Legally Plural Systems? Evidence from Ghana and Senegal." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 60(4): 527-546.
2021. "Colonial Education and Women's Political Behavior in Ghana and Senegal," *African Studies Review* 64(1): 217-241.
2020. "Infrastructure and Perceptions of Democracy in Zambia: Democracy Off the Rails." *African Affairs* 119(447): 604-632.
2020. "Gender and Participation in Africa's Electoral Regimes: An Analysis of Variation in the Gender Gap." *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. 8(2): 293-315.
2019. "Taking to the Streets: Protest as an Expression of Political Preference in Africa." *Comparative Political Studies* 52(8): 1169-1199. With Adam Harris.
2018. "Pentecostal Identity & Citizen Engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa: New Evidence from Zambia." *Politics and Religion* 11(4): 830-862. With Elizabeth Sperber.
2017. "The Trouble with Institutions: How Women's Policy Machineries Can Undermine Women's Mass Participation." *Politics & Gender* 13(3): 405-431.
2017. "Better than Nothing: How Policies Influence Political Participation in Low-Capacity Democracies." *Governance* 30(4): 583-600.
2017. "In the Gap the State Left: Policy Feedback, Collective Behavior, and Political Participation in Zambia." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 52(4): 510-531.
2015. "Plus Ça Change: Rural Development Policy and the Persistence of Rural Poverty in Zambia." *Afrique e Orienti, Special Issue: Rural Development and Poverty Reduction in Southern Africa: Experiences from Zambia and Malawi*.
2013. "Perspectives on the Power and Persistence of States in Africa and Beyond." *Comparative Politics* 45(4):476-496.

PEER REVIEWED CHAPTERS

2020. "Pentecostalism, Party Politics, and Civic Engagement," in M. Hinfelaar and C. Kaunda, Eds. *Competing for Caesar: Religion and Politics in Post-Colonial Zambia*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress. With Elizabeth Sperber.
2020. "Preferences without Platforms: How Voters make Choices in Zambia's Elections," in Banda, Tinenengi, O'Brien Kaaba, Marja Hinfelaar, and Muna Ndulo, Eds. *Democracy and Electoral Politics in Zambia*. Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Publishers.

NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

2026. Review. *Teraanga Republic: Women's Authority and Politics in Senegal*, by Emily Jenan Riley. *Journal of Development Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/00220388.2026.2617676

2025. Review. *Theorizing in Comparative Politics: Democratization in Africa*, by Goran Hyden. *Political Science Quarterly* 140(1): 214-15

May 23, 2023. "How Women Win in Complex African Legal Systems," *Africa at LSE Blog*, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/2023/05/23/how-women-win-in-complex-african-legal-systems/>

April 25, 2023. "Democracy Off the Rails: Infrastructure and Perceptions of Democracy in Africa," *Democracy in Africa Blog* <http://democracyinafrica.org/democracy-off-the-rails-infrastructure-and-perceptions-of-democracy-in-zambia/>

2023. Review: *The Changing Face of Colonial Education: Education, Science, and Development*, by Peter Kallaway. *African Studies Review* 66(1): 237-239.

2022. Review: *Living for the City: Social Change and Knowledge Production in the Central African Copperbelt*, by Miles Larmer. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 53(2):373-375.

June 7, 2018. "Why African women are more active in politics in some countries than in others," *The Conversation*

2013. Review: Larmer, Miles. 2011. *Rethinking African Politics: A History of Opposition in Zambia*. Farnham Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing. *Zambian Social Science Journal* 3(2).

UNDER REVIEW

"Senegal," invited chapter for the edited volume *Women's Mobilizations in Africa* (Oxford)

"When Do Autocratizing Incumbents Lose Elections? An Analysis of the Universe of Cases." With Marc Jacob.

IN PROGRESS

Working Paper. "When Does Affective Polarization Lead to Democratic Decline?"

Working Paper. "Transparency Reforms in Mineral Exporting Countries: Why do Leaders Tie Their Hands?"

Data Collection. "The Green Energy Transition and the Politics of Resource Governance in Africa."

PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Lead Discussant, OECD Expert Working Group Meeting in preparation for the 6th edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (November 2025)

Oxford Explains Short Video Series (exp. 2026): "African Renaissance," "Why is Africa Still So Poor?" "Is Africa Still Experiencing Neocolonialism?"

HONORS AND AWARDS

Outstanding Academic Title awarded to *Explaining Successes in Africa*, Choice Journal, 2023

Appleby-Mosher Grant (Syracuse University), 2021

Middle East Studies Program Grant (Syracuse University, with Yael Zeira), 2021

Syracuse University Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence Small Research Grant, 2020

Ted G. Jelen Award for Best Article in *Politics and Religion*, 2019

NEH Research Grant, College of Idaho, 2017

Houston I. Flournoy Fellowship, Cornell University, 2014

Fulbright US Student Award, Zambia, 2013-2014

Dean's Prize for Distinguished Teaching, Cornell University, 2013

Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, 2012

Cornell University Graduate School Summer Research Funding, 2012

Department of Government, Cornell University, Graduate Fellowship, 2010-2016

University of Southern California Global Scholar, 2009

University of Southern California Discovery Scholar, 2009

Phi Beta Kappa, 2009

University of Southern California, Summer Undergraduate Research Fund, 2008

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Conference Presentation. "Transparency Reforms in Mineral Exporting Countries: Why do Leaders Tie Their Hands?" African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 22, 2025.

Politics, Markets, and Governance in Africa (Conference), "Partisanship, Party Systems, and Understandings of Democracy across Africa," Cornell University, May 9, 2025

Invited seminar, "Explaining Successes in Africa: Things Don't Always Fall Apart," Northern Illinois University, November 13, 2024

Invited lecture, "Current State of African Politics," North-West University (South Africa), August 16, 2024

Global Affairs Canada, Africa Branch. "Book Club: Explaining Successes in Africa: Things Don't Always Fall Apart." May 17, 2024.

Global Reads Series, "Explaining Successes in Africa: Things Don't Always Fall Apart." Aga Khan Foundation of Canada. April 4, 2023.

Conversations in Conflict Studies Speaker Series, Syracuse University. "Visibility of Autocratization, Election Outcomes, and Voter Behavior." October 12, 2023

Study of Global Politics Speaker Series, Syracuse University. “Explaining Successes in Africa: Things Don’t Always Fall Apart” (Book talk). September 15, 2023.

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, (2025, 2022, 2020, 2018, 2017)

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2021, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2012)

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2024, 2022, 2021, 2014)

University of Mary Washington. “Developing States, Shaping Citizenship.” April 2022

Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania. “Developing States, Shaping Citizenship.” February 2022

Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania. “Africa Symposium: Bridging Profit and Purpose.” March 2021

Institute for African Development, Cornell University, Spring Symposium: Restricted Spaces: Civil Society and Authoritarianism in Africa, April 2019. “Democracy Off the Rails: Proximity to Infrastructure and Perceptions of Democracy.”

Institute for Democracy, Citizenship, and Public Policy in Africa (University of Cape Town), January 2018. “Pentecostalism and Political Participation in Zambia (and Beyond).”

Zambian Governance Foundation Seminar, March 2014. “I Have Built You a Bridge: Perceptions of Service Provision and Political Behavior in Southern, Central, and Northwestern Provinces.”

The New School UPSS Graduate Student Conference, April 2013, “The Imperatives of Governance: How Public Policy Affects Political Participation among Zambian Women.”

TEACHING

Undergraduate

Comparative Government & Politics
Political Economy of Development
Introduction to Original Research
Distinction Thesis Seminar

Graduate

African Politics
Qualitative Political Analysis
Politics of the Developing World

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Manuscript Review (Journals)

African Affairs, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Africa Today, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Contemporary Journal of African Studies, Journal of Modern African Studies, Journal of the Middle East and Africa, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Policy, Journal of Women, Nationalism and Ethnic Politics, Politics, & Policy, Law & Policy, Peace and Conflict Studies, Perspectives on Politics, Politics & Gender, Women’s Studies International Forum, World Development

Manuscript/Proposal Review (Book and Book Chapter)

Bloomsbury Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Palgrave McMillan, University of Johannesburg Press

Other

Mentor, Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN), 2020 - 2024

Secretary, African Politics Conference Group, 2021-2023

APSA Centennial Grant Review, 2023

CAMPUS SERVICE AND COMMITTEE WORK

Study of Global Politics Speaker Series, Coordinator, 2024-present

Maxwell African Scholars Union, Steering Committee Member, 2024-present

Graduate Placement Director, 2024 - present

Political Science Distinction Program Director, 2023-present

Junior Faculty Mentoring Committee, FA 2022-present

Field Coordinator, Comparative Politics, 2020-2022; 2024-present

Ad hoc committee, Methods Minor 2023-2024

Undergraduate Studies Committee, FA 2022 – 2023

Member, Search Committee for Faculty Positions in IR (2), 2021

Faculty Liaison, NEW Leadership Idaho, 2018 – 2019

Advisor to Gender Studies Minor, College of Idaho, AY 2018-2019

Faculty Co-Chair. Admissions Committee, College of Idaho, AY 2017-2019

Member. Search Committee for Faculty Position in Speech and Debate, AY 2017-2018

Faculty Mentor to First Year Students, College of Idaho, AY 2017-2018

Member. Digital Liberal Arts Task Force, College of Idaho, AY 2017-2018

Member. Search Committee for the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, College of Idaho, AY 2016-2017

Member. Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee, College of Idaho, AY 2016-2017