

Lisa Mueller
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1600 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of California – Los Angeles, 2014

Dissertation: “Beyond Ethnicity: African Protests in an Age of Inequality”

Committee: Miriam Golden (Chair), Edmond Keller, Daniel Posner, Pierre Englebert

M.A. in Political Science, University of California – Los Angeles, 2009 (with honors)

B.A. in Politics and French, Pomona College, 2006 (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Macalester College, Department of Political Science

Professor (2026-present)

Chair (2024-present)

Associate Professor (2021-2026)

Assistant Professor (2015-2021)

Director of African Studies (2019-2021); Co-Director (2022-present)

Director of International Development Studies (2023-present)

Sciences Po Bordeaux

Fulbright Research Scholar (2021-2022)

Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study

Residential Fellow (2018-2019)

Loyola Marymount University, Department of Political Science

Visiting Assistant Professor (2014-2015)

RELEVANT NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine - Advisor (2021-2022)

USAID and US State Department - Consultant (intermittently 2015-present)

US Intelligence Community - Consultant (intermittently 2017-present)

German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Development - Consultant (2018-2019)

World Bank - Consultant (2018)

YouGov America - Data Analyst (2008)

SCHOLARLY WORKS

Books

Mueller, Lisa. 2024. *The New Science of Social Change: A Modern Handbook for Activists*. Boston: Beacon Press.

- Published separately in the UK and Commonwealth as *Changemaker: A Data-Driven Guide to Being an Effective Activist*. London: Footnote Press.
- Best Book in General Nonfiction, Minnesota Book Awards

Mueller, Lisa. 2018. *Political Protest in Contemporary Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Honorable Mention for Best Book, African Politics Conference Group

Refereed Articles

Mueller, Lisa. 2025. "Lighter Fluid or Flame Retardant? Religious Movements and the Rise of Populism in Contemporary Africa." *African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review* 15(2): 1-42.

Mueller, Lisa and Moumouni Goungoubane. 2025. "Broker Rhetoric and Persuasion in Clientelist Systems." *Studies in Comparative International Development* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12116-024-09452-0>

Mueller, Lisa. 2024. "Crowd Cohesion and Protest Outcomes." *American Journal of Political Science* 68.1: 42-57.

Thaler, Kai, Lisa Mueller, and Eric Mosinger. 2023. "Framing Police Violence: Repression, Reform, and the Power of History in Chile." *Journal of Politics* 85.4: 1198-1213.

Mueller, Lisa. 2023. "Accidental Scientists: How Undergraduate Research in Political Science Can Help to Patch the 'Leaky Pipeline' in STEM Education." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 56.4: 506-511.

Goungoubane, Moumouni and Lisa Mueller. 2022. "Echec ou succès? Les stratégies de subversion et la gouvernance municipale au Niger." *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 57.1: 27-49.

BenYishay, Ariel, Katherine Nolan, Lisa Mueller, and Philip Roessler. 2022. "Testing Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for Better Local Governance in Niger: An Experiment. Can We Talk Our Way Out of Development Problems?" *Development Policy Review* 40.4: e12601.

Mueller, Lisa. 2022. "Do Americans Really Support Black Athletes Who Kneel During the National Anthem? Estimating the True Prevalence and Strength of Sensitive Racial Attitudes in the Context of Sport." *Communication & Sport* 10.6: 1070-1091.

Roberts, Tyson and Lisa Mueller. 2021. "Does Charisma Affect Survival in Office for Leaders Who Take Power via Military Coup?" *Studies in Comparative International Development* 56.4: 485-510.

Mueller, Lisa. 2021. "United We Stand, Divided We Fall? How Signals of Activist Cohesion Affect Attraction to Advocacy Organizations." *Interest Groups & Advocacy* 10: 1-18.

Bhandari, Abhit and Lisa Mueller. 2019. "Nation-State of Nation Family? Nationalism in Marginalised African Societies." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 57.2: 297-322.

Elischer, Sebastian and Lisa Mueller. 2019. "Niger Falls Back Off Track." *African Affairs* 118.471: 392-406.

Mueller, Lisa. 2018. "Personal Politics without Clientelism? Interpreting Citizen-Politician Contact in Africa." *African Studies Review* 61.2: 28-54.

Mueller, Lisa and Lukas Matthews (Macalester '19). 2016. "The National Elections in Niger, February-March 2016." *Electoral Studies* 43: 203-206.

Mueller, Lisa. 2016. "Religious Violence and Democracy in Niger." *African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review* 6.1: 89-104.

Mueller, Lisa. 2013. "Democratic Revolutionaries or Pocketbook Protesters? The Roots of the 2009-2010 Uprisings in Niger." *African Affairs* 112.448: 398-420.

Invited Articles and Chapters in Edited Volumes

Mueller, Lisa. Forthcoming. "Knowing What Works Isn't Enough: The Limits of Evidence in Police Reform Movements." In Sean Joe and Robert O. Motley Jr., eds. *American Policing Through Their Eyes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mueller, Lisa. 2026. "Experimental Research: Measuring and Explaining Public Responses to Black-Led Protest." In Akan Malici and Liz Smith, eds. *Political Science Research in Practice*. New York: Routledge.

Mueller, Lisa. 2021. "What is African about African Protests?" *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 40.2: 65-75.

Mueller, Lisa. 2021. "Niger: Precarious Stability." In Leonardo A. Villalón, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of the African Sahel*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mueller, Lisa. 2019. "Protest and Accountability." In Gabrielle Lynch and Peter VonDoepp, eds. *The Routledge Handbook of Democratization in Africa*. New York: Routledge.

Book Reviews

Mueller, Lisa. 2020. "Klaas van Walraven. *Le désir de calme: L'histoire du mouvement Sawaba au Niger*." *African Studies Review* 63.4: E74-E76.

Mueller, Lisa. 2019. "Insurgent Fragmentation in the Horn of Africa: Rebellion and Its Discontents by Michael Woldemariam." *Perspectives on Politics* 17.1: 209-211.

Mueller, Lisa. 2019. "Women and the Egyptian Revolution: Engagement and Activism during the 2011 Arab Uprisings by Nerim Allam." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 57.1: 164-165.

Mueller, Lisa. 2016. "Muslim Women in Postcolonial Kenya: Leadership, Representation and Social Change by Ousseina D. Alidou and *Bargaining for Women's Rights: Activism in an Aspiring Muslim Democracy* by Alice J. Kang." *African Studies Review* 59.2: 290-292.

Public Articles

Mueller, Lisa. 2024. "Most Protests Fail. What Are Activists Doing Right When They Win?" *Psyche*. 30 September.

Mueller, Lisa. 2024. "Does Online Activism Deserve Its Bad Rap?" *Zócalo Public Square*. 22 August.

Mueller, Lisa. 2020. "Guinea's president claims he won reelection. Thousands of Guineans disagree." *Monkey Cage/Washington Post*. 30 October.

Mueller, Lisa and Abhit Bhandari. 2019. "African countries are opening their borders. What does this mean for security, identity and trade?" *Monkey Cage/Washington Post*. 13 August.

Elischer, Sebastian and Lisa Mueller. 2018. "Niger's protests are ramping up. Here's why." *Monkey Cage/Washington Post*. 26 March.

Mueller, Lisa and Lukas Matthews (Macalester '19). 2016. "4 things you should know about Niger's recent elections." *Monkey Cage/Washington Post*. 17 April.

Mueller, Lisa and Lukas Matthews (Macalester '19). 2016. "The upcoming Niger election and the drama surrounding it, explained." *Monkey Cage/Washington Post*. 17 February.

Mueller, Lisa. 2016. "As Niger prepares for elections, it's concerned about security. Should it be?" *Monkey Cage/Washington Post*. 28 January.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations at National or International Conferences

- "'All Cops Are Bastards!' 'Smash the Patriarchy!' 'Soak the Rich!': Punitive Slogans and Public Reactions to Protests." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (September 2025).
- "Protest Waves and Crime Waves." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (September 2024).
- "More than Vote Buying and Turnout Buying? Verbal Persuasion in Clientelist Systems." Paper presented at the Working Group in African Political Economy international conference, Nairobi (June 2023).
- "Strategic or Authentic? The Bounded Rationality of Activists." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (September 2023) and the African Studies Association (December 2023).
- Roundtable on Undergraduate Research in Political Science. Presentation at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (September 2023).
- "Understanding the Resurgence of Sahelian Coups: A Grounded and Long-Term Interdisciplinary Perspective." Roundtable presentation at the annual meetings of the African Studies Association (December 2023).
- "Lighter Fluid or Flame Retardant? Religious Movements and the Rise of Populism in Contemporary Africa." Paper presented at the Penn State Populism, Piety, and Patriotism conference (October 2023).
- "More than Vote Buying and Turnout Buying? Verbal Persuasion in Clientelist Systems." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (September 2022) and the African Studies Association (November 2022).
- "African Protesters: Troublemakers or Heroes?" Invited talk at the Alison L. Des Forges International Virtual Symposium (October 2020).
- "Can We Talk Our Way Out of Development Problems? An Experimental Test of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues in Niger." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the African Studies Association (November 2019).
- "The Myth of Solidarity: How Diversity within Social Movements Shapes the Power of Protest." Research design presented at the annual meetings of the African Studies Association (November 2018).
- "Coup de Hot: Does Appearance Affect Coup Leader Survival in Office?" Paper presented at the annual meetings of the African Studies Association (December 2017).
- "Familial Nationalism in Weak African States." Paper presented with Abhit Bhandari at the annual meetings of the African Studies Association, December 2016, and the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (September 2017).
- "Generals of the Revolution: Protest Leadership in Africa." Book chapter presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (September 2016).
- "Are the Harms of Artificial States Reversible?" Paper presented with Abhit Bhandari at a special meeting of the Working Group in African Political Economy at NYU-Abu Dhabi (January 2016).

- “Personal Politics Without Clientelism? Interpreting Citizen-Politician Contact in Africa.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (September 2015).

Presentations at Regional or Local Conferences

- “Most Protests Fail. It Doesn’t Need to Be That Way.” Invited talk at Grinnell College (March 2025).
- “Democracy in Africa: Autocrats under Pressure?” Invited presentation at the Africa Board of Experts Spring Conference (a gathering of U.S. intelligence personnel) (May 2019).
- “Democracy without Democrats: Explaining Niger’s Unstable Regime Trajectory.” Paper presented with Sebastian Elischer at the annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association (April 2019).
- “The Myth of Solidarity: How Diversity within Social Movements Shapes the Power of Protest.” Research design presented at the Michigan State University Comparative Politics Workshop (invited lecture) (October 2018).
- “New Modes of Political Protest.” Invited Lecture, Northwestern University Graduate Summer Institute (July 2018).
- “Reframing Mass Violence in Africa: Social Memory and Social Justice.” Invited lecture at the University of Minnesota (April 2018).
- “Familial Nationalism in Weak African States.” Paper presented at a workshop on the African Sahel, Northwestern University (May 2017).
- “Interpretive Pitfalls in West Africa.” Invited presentation at the Africa Board of Experts Spring Conference (a gathering of U.S. intelligence personnel) (May 2017).
- “Familial Nationalism in Weak African States.” Paper presented at a workshop on Researching and Teaching African Politics: Everyday Politics, Power, and Protest in the Digital Age, Smith College (April 2017).
- “Coup de Hot: Does Appearance Affect Coup Leader Survival in Office?” Paper presented at the Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of Minnesota (February 2017).
- “Coup de Hot: Does Appearance Affect Coup Leader Survival in Office?” Paper presented with Tyson Roberts at the annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association (April 2016).
- “A Pitch for a Rapid-Response Protest Research Team.” Presentation at the California Consensus, a summit of scholars and social entrepreneurs hosted by the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, University of San Diego (April 2016).

AWARDS, RECOGNITION, AND GRANTS

Awards

- Best Book in General Nonfiction, Minnesota Book Awards, 2025
- Honorable Mention for Best Book, African Politics Conference Group, 2019

Grants

- Collaborative Summer Research Award, Macalester College (\$4,600 + student and faculty stipends), 2025
- Wallace Scholarly Activities Grant, Macalester College (\$6,000), 2022
- Fulbright Scholar Award, France (\$31,000), 2021
- Wallace Scholarly Activities Grant, Macalester College (\$6,000), 2022
- Wallace Scholarly Activities Grant, Macalester College (\$6,000), 2021
- Wallace Scholarly Activities Grant, Macalester College (\$5,500), 2020
- Wallace Scholarly Activities Grant, Macalester College (\$5,000), 2019
- Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study Residential Fellowship (\$60,000), 2018
- USAID/AidData grant for “Participatory, Responsive Governance in Niger: Impact Evaluation” (~\$772,193), with co-PIs Ariel BenYishay and Philip Roessler (College of William and Mary), 2015 (increased in 2017)

- Collaborative Summer Research Award, Macalester College (\$9,400), 2016
- Wallace Scholarly Activities Grant, Macalester College (\$4,950), 2016
- Wallace Scholarly Activities Grant, Macalester College (\$2,212), 2017
- Center for Teaching Excellence Grant, Loyola Marymount University (\$~2,000), 2015
- Alice Belkin Memorial Scholarship, UCLA (\$~4,500), 2010
- Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA (\$~4,000), 2007 and 2009

Undergraduate Awards, Honors, or Other Recognition

- John A. Vieg Prize in Politics, Pomona College, 2006
- Graduated from Pomona College magna cum laude, 2006
- Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, 2006
- Irvine Foundation Research Fellowship, 2005

SERVICE

Membership in Professional Societies

American Political Science Association, African Politics Conference Group, Midwest Political Science Association, African Studies Association, Working Group in African Political Economy, West African Research Center (Dakar)

Refereeing

American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Studies, Political Studies Review, African Studies Review, African Affairs, African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review, Routledge, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and others.

Professional Service

American Journal of Political Science Editorial Board, June 2025-present
 Best Article Award Committee, Democracy and Autocracy APSA Section, 2024
 “African Politics and Policy” Subtheme Co-Chair, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2023
 Advisor, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2021-2022
 Guest Editor, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 2019
 Best Dissertation Award Committee, African Politics Conference Group, 2019
 Event Coordinator for the African Politics Conference Group, 2017

Macalester College Service

Political Science Chair, fall 2024-present
 Facilitator, weekly reading and mentoring group for pre-Ph.D. students, 2023-2025
 International Development Studies Concentration Director, 2023-present
 African Studies Concentration Director, 2019-2021, and Co-Director, 2022-present
 Naming Committee, 2023-2025
 Math, Stats, & Computer Science Tenure-Track Search Committee, 2025
 Co-Facilitator, “Roots” mentoring group for pre-tenure BIPOC faculty, 2020-2025
 “Connected Colleague” mentor for a new faculty member, 2024-2025
 Co-Facilitator, Social Sciences Brown Bag working group, 2022-present
 Cross Country/Track & Field Faculty Liaison, 2019-present
 Social Sciences IRB, 2019-present (Chair, 2020-2021)
 MacGPT hackathon mentor and judge (2023 & 2024)
 “Multicultural fly-in” lunches with prospective BIPOC students (various years)
 Mitau Lecture Committee Chair, 2022-2024
 Mitau Summer Opportunities Grants Selection Committee, 2024-present
 Political Science Speaker Series Chair, 2022-2024

Political Science Department Coordinator Search Committee, 2022
African Studies Concentration Steering Committee, 2016-present
International Development Studies Concentration Steering Committee, 2016-present
Economics Tenure-Track Search Committee, 2018
Political Science Library Liaison, 2015-2018
Assisted a faculty search for the French and Francophone Studies Department, 2017
Mitau Summer Research Opportunity Grant Selection Committee, 2017 & 2021
Political Science Post-Doctoral Fellow Search Committee, 2016

Relevant Community Service

Board of Directors & Transportation Committee, Union Park District Council (Macalester seat), 2023-2024

TEACHING

Courses Taught

- Revolutions, Macalester College
- Empirical Research Methods, Macalester College
- African Politics, Macalester College
- Comparative Politics, Macalester College
- Political Economy of Development, Macalester College
- Protest Hacking: How the New Science of Social Movements Can Empower Activists, Macalester College
- Chuck Green Civic Engagement Seminar & Fellowship, Macalester College
- Blood, Borders, and Belonging, Macalester College
- Senior Research Seminar, Macalester College
- The Politics of Inequality, Loyola Marymount University
- Advanced Research Methods, Loyola Marymount University
- Intro to Comparative Politics, Loyola Marymount University
- Empirical Approaches, Loyola Marymount University
- U.S. Politics, Loyola Marymount University
- Government and Politics of Developing Areas, Pepperdine University
- The American People and Politics, Pepperdine University
- Foundations of Political Theory, Pepperdine University
- Intro to Development Studies: Economic Development and Cultural Change, UCLA
- American Politics, UCLA

Honors Theses Supervised

- Kyra Layman. 2025. "Courage Under Crisis: Examining Altruistic Resistance in Mass Atrocities."
- Will Pierce. 2024. "How Ballot Measure Wording Affects Preference-Consistent Voting: Experimental Evidence from the United States"
- Anna Sène. 2024. "Which War Stories Get Told? How the Identifiability of Villains and Victims Impacts Media Coverage of Conflicts"
- Lia Pak. 2023. "Who Shapes the Pandemic Response? A Bibliometric and Experimental Analysis of Public COVID-19 Experts"
- Makayla Barker. 2020. "Colonial Legacies and Institutional Legitimacy: Explaining Variation in State-Level Informal Economy Size"
- Lukas Matthews. 2019. "The Political Economy of American Military Aid and Repression Worldwide."
- Jhader Aguad. 2017. "Agro Sí, Mina No: Explaining the Onset of Protest Surrounding Mining Projects in Peru."

- Gabriel S. Barrett. 2017. "Do Weapons Make Warfare? An Instrumental Variables Approach Towards Investigating the Relationship Between Small Arms Abundance, Civil Conflict Onset, and Civil Conflict Intensity."