

Jeffrey W. Paller

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Academic Appointments

Uppsala University, Department of Government

- 2024- Researcher

University of San Francisco

- 2021- Associate Professor of Politics (with tenure)
- 2016-2021 Assistant Professor of Politics and Director of African Studies

Governance and Local Development Institute, University of Gothenburg

- 2022-24 Researcher

Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study

- 2022-23 Fellow

Earth Institute, Columbia University

- 2015-2016 Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Bates College

- 2014-2015 Lecturer of Politics

Education

Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Political Science, August 2014

M.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison, Political Science, Spring 2009

B.A., Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, Political Science (Honors), March 2006

Chilean Universities Program, Santiago, Chile, Study abroad

Research Interests

Urban Politics, African Politics, Democratization, Human Rights, Research Methods, Public Goods

Book

2019 *Democracy in Ghana: Everyday Politics in Urban Africa*. Cambridge University Press.

- Blogs/media coverage: *Africa is a Country*, *The Conversation*, *Cambridge Blog*, *Citi FM*, *Ufahamu Africa*, *GLD Governance Uncovered Podcast*, *Neither Free Nor Fair? Podcast*
- Reviewed in: *African Studies Review* (x2), *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *Politics Science Quarterly*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Ghana Studies*, *Washington Post's The Monkey Cage*
- Dennis Judd Book Award (APSA Urban and Local Politics), honorable mention
- African Politics Conference Group (APCG) Best Book Award, honorable mention

Peer-reviewed articles ([Google Scholar Profile](#))

2023 "Urbanization and Political Change in Africa." With Kristian Hoelscher, Nicholas Dorward, Sean Fox, Taibat Lawanson, and Melanie Philips *African Affairs* 122 (488): 353-376.

2023 "The social embeddedness of elections: Ghana's 2016 and 2020 campaigns." With George Bob-Millar. *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics* 61 (3): 293-314.

- 2023 “Practical reflections on conducting survey research in cities in low and middle-income countries.” With Felix Agyemang, Saeed Ahmed, Sean Fox, Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Hussain Bux Mallah, Rashid Memon, and Levi John Wolf. *ODI Working Paper Series*. Available: <https://odi.org/en/publications/practical-reflections-on-conducting-survey-research-in-cities-in-low-and-middle-income-countries/>.
- 2023 “Demanding Recognition: A New Framework for the Study of Political Clientelism.” With Kathleen Klaus and Martha Wilfahrt. *African Affairs* 122 (487): 185-203.
- GLD Policy Brief: “[Rethinking Clientelism for Development](#).”
- 2023 “Sustainability Politics and Housing Development in Urban Brazil and Ghana.” With Maureen Donaghy. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* 36: 329-347.
- 2021 “Everyday politics and sustainable urban development in the Global South.” *Area Development and Policy* 6 (3): 319-336.
- 2019 “Dignified public expression: A new logic of political accountability.” *Comparative Politics* 52 (1): 85-116.
- 2019 “Building permanence: Fire outbreaks and emergent tenure security in urban Ghana.” *Africa: International African Institute* 89 (3): 437-456.
- 2019 “Ethnographies of Emergence: Everyday Politics and their Origins across Africa Special Section Introduction.” With Joshua D. Rubin and Susanna Fioratta. *Africa: International African Institute* 89 (3): 429-436.
- 2018 “Democratic Ruptures and Electoral Outcomes in Africa: Ghana’s 2016 Election.” With George Bob-Milliar. *Africa Spectrum* 53 (1): 5-35.
- 2017 “Defending the City, Defending Votes: Strategies of Political Mobilization in Urban Ghana.” With Kathleen Klaus. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 55 (4): 681-708.
- 2015 “Informal Networks and Access to Power to Obtain Housing in Urban Slums in Ghana.” *Africa Today* 62 (1): 31-55.
- 2014 “Informal Institutions and Personal Rule in Urban Ghana.” *African Studies Review* 57 (3): 123-142.
- Featured in *ASR* virtual issue “Ghana, or Filtering the 21st Century Through the Ordinary.”
- 2013 “Political Struggle to Political Sting: A Theory of Democratic Disillusionment.” *Polity* 45 (4): 580-603.

Book chapters, scholarly newsletters, and encyclopedia entries

- 2023 “How housing policies affect urban claim-making and local resistance in African cities.” In *A Framework for Urban Policy Analysis* edited by David Kaufmann and Mara Sidney. University of Michigan Press. Submitted.
- 2023 “The NBA’s Partnership with Rwanda.” With Michael M. Goldman. In *The Geopolitical Economy of Sport: Politics, Money, and the State* edited by Simon Chadwick, Paul Widdop, and Michael M. Goldman. Routledge.
- 2020 “The contentious politics of urbanization: Insights from Africa.” *APSA Comparative Politics* 30 (1): 57-65.
- 2020 “Population and Urbanization.” In *Understanding Contemporary Africa* (6th edition), edited by Peter J. Schraeder. Lynne Rienner Publishers, pp. 187-215.

- 2019 “Slum Politics in Africa.” With Jacqueline M. Klopp. In *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African Politics*, edited by Nic Cheeseman. Oxford University Press.
- 2017 “From Urban Crisis to Political Opportunity: African Slums.” In *Africa Under Neoliberalism*, edited by Nana Poku and Jim Whitman. Routledge, pp. 92-110.
- 2017 “The contentious politics of African urbanization.” *Current History* 116 (790): 163-169.
- 2016 “The informal practice of accountability in urban Africa.” *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*, edited by L. Sandy Maisel. Oxford University Press.
- 2013 “Uncovering Informal Networks and Spontaneous Decision-Making: Field Research in African Slums.” *African Politics Conference Group Newsletter* 9 (1): 5-7.

Book reviews

2023. *Everyday State and Democracy in Africa: Ethnographic Encounters* edited by Wale Adebani in *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*. Forthcoming.
2020. *The Political Life of an Epidemic: Cholera, crisis, and citizenship in Zimbabwe* by Simukai Chigudu in *Journal of Modern African Studies* 58 (3): 483-484.
- 2019 *Living Politics in South Africa’s Urban Shacklands* by Kerry Ryan Chance and *Garbage Citizenship: Vital Infrastructures of Labor in Dakar, Senegal* by Rosalind Fredericks in *Peace Review* 31(3): 401-404.
- 2019 *Democratizing urban development: Community organizations for housing across the United States and Brazil* by Maureen Donaghy in *Journal of Urban Affairs* 41(7): 1048-1050.
- 2018 *Monrovia Modern: Urban Form and Political Imagination in Liberia* by Danny Hoffman in *Journal of Modern African Studies* 56(4): 706-708.
- 2018 *The African Affairs Reader: Key Texts in Politics and International Relations* edited by Nic Cheeseman, Lindsey Whitfield, and Carl Death in *African Studies Review* 61(1): 257-259.

Works in Progress

The contentious politics of African urbanization. Book Manuscript.

“Contradictions of contention: The control of urban space in Accra, Ghana.”

Research Notes and Policy Briefings

- 2023 “Ghana’s ruling party faces an uphill electoral battle.” *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*. Jun 13.
- 2022 “Ghana debt crisis will undermine government.” *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*. Sep 2.
 “E-Levy may buy Ghana some fiscal space.” *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*. April 22.
- 2021 “[How Is China Impacting African Cities?](#)” *Management and Organization Review* 17 (3): 636-640.
- 2021 “Ghana’s president will struggle with strong opposition.” *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*. Sep 23.
- 2020 “Ghana’s COVID-19 Response Faces Growing Scrutiny.” *Oxford Analytica Daily Brief*. June 3.
- 2016 “[Who Really Governs Urban Ghana?](#)” With Mohammed Awal. *Africa Research Institute Counterpoints*. January 27.
- 2014 “[Political Accountability in Ghana: Evidence from Afrobarometer Round 5 Survey.](#)” With Daniel Armah-Attoh and Edward Ampratwum. *Afrobarometer Briefing Paper* No. 136: 1-9.

2012 “[Political Accountability in Ghanaian Slums: Evidence from the Grassroots.](#)” *Ghana Center for Democratic Development Briefing Paper* 11 (1): 1-12.

Public Scholarship

- 2020 [This Week in Africa.](#)
- Editor and founder (2015-24) of weekly news bulletin on democracy and development in Africa.
- 2023 “[Five Trends That Will Shape Urban Africa in 2023.](#)” *Democracy in Africa*. January 13.
- 2020 “[A longtime leader has died. Jerry John Rawlings leaves a complicated legacy.](#)” *Monkey Cage*, Washington Post. With George Bob-Milliar. November 15.
- 2020 “[Understanding informal norms: Politics and community in Ghana.](#)” *Center for Strategic and International Studies* “Talking Urban Futures in Africa.” October 2.
- 2019 “[The meaning of party politics in Ghana’s urban neighborhoods.](#)” *Africa is a Country*. April 19.
- 2019 “[How everyday politics shape how African cities are run.](#)” *The Conversation*. April 2.
- 2018 “[What do shifting grass-roots dynamics tell us about the Zimbabwe election?](#)” *Monkey Cage*, Washington Post. With George Bob-Milliar and Kathleen Klaus. August 3.
- 2017 “[Introduction to Research Symposium: Africa in today’s world.](#)” *APSA Africa Workshop Newsletter* 4 (2): 3. With George Bob-Milliar.
- 2017 “[The practice of accountability in Ghana’s poor urban neighborhoods.](#)” CRASE Blog at USF. April 18.
- 2016 “[Introduction to Research Symposium: The politics of urbanization in Africa.](#)” *APSA Africa Workshop Newsletter* 4 (1): 3. With George Bob-Milliar.
- 2016 “[7 things to understand about elections in Ghana.](#)” *Africa Research Institute*. With George Bob-Milliar. December 2.
- 2016 “[How to build better cities of tomorrow? It takes careful planning – and political science research.](#)” *Monkey Cage*, Washington Post. October 20.
- 2016 “[How elites and corruption have played havoc with Nairobi’s housing.](#)” *The Conversation*. With Jacqueline Klopp. June 14.
- 2016 “[Introduction to Research Symposium: The Politics of Higher Education in Africa.](#)” *APSA Africa Workshop Newsletter* 3 (2): 3-6. With George Bob-Milliar.
- 2015 “[Introduction to Research Symposium: Grassroots politics in African elections: A look at Tanzania, Cote d’Ivoire, and Burkina Faso.](#)” *APSA Africa Workshop Newsletter* 3 (1): 4-7. With George Bob-Milliar.
- 2015 “[How Africa can build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities.](#)” *The Conversation*. With Jacqueline Klopp. October 8.
- 2015 “[Do public goods have to be public? Not in some African countries.](#)” *Monkey Cage*, Washington Post. With Danielle Carter Kushner and Lauren M. MacLean. September 23.
- 2015 “[Rising through cities? A look at Ghana.](#)” *Africa Research Institute* June 9. With Muhammad Awal.
- 2014 “[What clean sewers tell us about development in African slums.](#)” *Africa at LSE and Favelas at LSE*. December 1.
- 2013 “[Five Simple Points to Take Away From the 2013 Kenyan Elections.](#)” *African Arguments*. Mar 9.

Awards and Honors

- 2023 PI: FORMAS Grant “Building Sustainable Neighborhoods in African Cities” (3 million SEK)
- 2022 PI: Swedish Research Council Grant “Political Change and Local Governance in Emerging Cities” (12 million SEK)
- 2021 Co-I: Research Council of Norway Grant “Political Transformation in African Cities”
- 2020 African Politics Conference Group (APCG) Best Book Award, honorable mention
Dennis Judd Book Award (APSA Urban and Local Politics), honorable mention
Clarence Stone Scholar Award (APSA Urban and Local Politics), honorable mention
- 2018 Co-I: ESRC Transformative Research Grant “Quantifying Cities for Sustainable Development”
- 2015 African Politics Conference Group-Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation in African Politics Award
- 2014 Bates Faculty Development Fund Award
UW-Madison Vilas Research Travel Award
Oxford Bibliographies Graduate Student Award
- 2013 Mellon Wisconsin Summer Fellowship
Mildred Potter Hovland Journal Article Prize (University of Wisconsin)
- 2012 UW-Madison Vilas Research Travel Award
National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant
APSA Africa Workshops Fellow, “Local Communities and the State,” Gaborone, Botswana
- 2011 Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship
Honored Instructor Award [Teaching], UW-Madison Housing
- 2010 Summer Initiative, Department of Political Science (University of Wisconsin): Kenya
- 2009 International Field Research Award (University of Wisconsin): Accra, Ghana
Political Science Department TA Award (University of Wisconsin)
- 2008 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellow: Akan-Twi
- 2006 Kenneth Janda Prize for best political science undergraduate honors thesis (Northwestern)
- 2005 Undergraduate Research Grant (Northwestern University): South Africa