

KEN OCHIENG' OPALO

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APPOINTMENTS

Georgetown University Assistant Professor	<i>August 2015 - Present</i>
Center for Global Development Non-Resident Fellow	<i>May 2020 - Present</i>
Stanford University Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law	<i>Sept. 2014 - June 2015</i>
Northwestern University Visiting Scholar, Buffett Institute and the Program for African Studies	<i>Sept. 2013 - June 2014</i>

EDUCATION

Stanford University PhD Political Science	<i>June 2015</i>
Yale University B.A. Political Science (with honors in the major)	<i>May 2009</i>

BOOK

Legislative Development in Africa: Politics and Postcolonial Legacies
(Cambridge University Press, 2019)

Award: Co-Recipient, 2020 African Politics Conference Group (APCG) Best Book Award.

Book Reviews: [Foreign Affairs](#) (Nicolas van de Walle), [Perspectives on Politics](#) (Adrienne LeBas), [Commonwealth & Comparative Politics](#) (Moses Khisa), [Journal of Modern African Studies](#) (Michaela Collord), [Democracy and Autocracy Newsletter, University of Michigan](#) (with Anne Meng), [Washington Post's Monkey Cage Blog](#) (Kim Yi Dionne), [African Studies Review](#) (Ana Lúcia Sá).

Podcast Appearances: [Scope Conditions](#) with Alan Jacobs and Yang-Yang Zhou, [New Books Network](#) with Esperanza Brizuela-Garcia, [CSIS Into Africa](#), with Judd Devermont, [Ufahamu Africa](#) with Rachel Riedl, [Rocking Our Priors](#) with Alice Evans, [In Pursuit of Development](#) with Dan Banik.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. *Accepted*. "Colonialism and Institutional Persistence: Mixed Legislative Legacies in Ghana and Kenya," *Journal of Historical Political Economy*.

8. Herman, Biz D., Amma Panin, Elizabeth Iams Wellman, Graeme Blair, Lindsey D. Pruett, **Ken O. Opalo**, Hannah M. Alarian, Allison N. Grossman, Yvonne Tan, Alex P. Dyzenhaus, and Nicholas Owsley. *Accepted*. "Field Experiments in the Global South: Assessing Risks, Localizing Benefits, and Addressing Positionality." *PS: Political Science and Politics*
7. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. *Forthcoming*. "Leveraging Legislative Power: Distributive Politics and Committee Work in Kenya's National Assembly," *Journal of Legislative Studies*
6. Opalo, Ken Ochieng' and Lahra Smith. *Forthcoming*. "Ideology and Succession Politics in Ethiopia: Autocratic Leadership Turnover and Political Instability," *Democratization*
5. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2021. "Partisanship and Public Opinion on Cash Transfers: Survey Evidence from Kenya," *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*
4. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2020. "Citizen Political Knowledge and Accountability: Survey Evidence on Devolution in Kenya," *Governance*, Vol. 33, No. 4, p. 849-869
3. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2019. "Constrained Presidential Power in Africa? The Politics of Executive Rule-Making in Kenya, 1963-2013," *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 50, No. 4 p. 1341-1358
2. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2014. "The Long Road to Institutionalization: The Kenyan Legislature and the 2013 Elections," *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, Vol. 8, No. 1, p. 63-77
1. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2012. "Elections in Africa: Two Divergent Trends," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 23, No. 3, p. 80-93

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. The Cyclical Electoral Impacts of Programmatic Policies: Evidence from Education Reforms in Tanzania (with James Habyarimana and Youdi Schipper)
2. What do Kenyans Know About Devolution? Decentralization, Political Knowledge, and Public Opinion
3. The Effects of Campaigns in Multi-Ethnic Societies: Experimental Evidence from Kenya (With Leonardo Arriola, Danny Choi, and Matthew Gichohi)
4. Electricity Provision and Tax Mobilization in Africa (With Moussa Blimpo, Justice Mensah, and Ruifan Shi) – *World Bank Research Working Paper*
5. Administrative Unit Changes, Effort, and Public Goods Outcomes: Evidence from Tanzania (with Jacobus Cilliers and James Habyarimana) – Working Paper
6. Researching African Legislatures (invited review at African Affairs)

BOOK CHAPTERS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2020. "The Institutional Evolution of the Kenyan Legislature" – [Oxford Handbook of Kenyan Politics](#); Nicholas Cheeseman, Karuti Kanyinga, Gabrielle Lynch (eds), Chapter 17
2. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2020. "The Politics of Legislative Development in Africa" – [Routledge Handbook of Democratization in Africa](#); Peter VonDoepp, Gabrielle Lynch (eds), Chapter 9.
3. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2019. Legislatures on the Rise? – [Oxford Encyclopedia of African Politics](#); Nic Cheeseman (ed).
4. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2017. "The Contingent Role of Political Parties in Transitional Justice Processes," In Duthie, Roger and Paul Seils (eds) [Justice Mosaics: How Context Shapes Transitional Justice in Fractured Societies](#), New York, NY: *International Center for Transitional Justice*

5. Isik, Gozde, Ken Ochieng' Opalo and Perrine Toledano. 2016. [Breaking Out of Enclaves: Leveraging Opportunities from Regional Integration in Africa to Promote Resource-Driven Diversification](#), Washington, DC: *World Bank Group*
6. The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon: Possible Solutions, *Foreign Policy* (with Claire Hazbun, 2019)
7. The Power of Demonstration: To Increase Resilience, Democracy Must be Shown to Work, *Brookings Institution*, 2019
8. Why are Kenyans Protesting Their Government? *Washington Post* (Monkey Cage Blog, 2019)
9. "Institutions and the 2017 Elections in Kenya," *Current History*, Vol. 117, No. 2 (2018)
10. Five Things You Need to Know About the Political Crisis in Burundi, *Washington Post* (Monkey Cage Blog, 2015)
11. Opalo, Ken Ochieng'. 2015. "Constitutional Protections of Electoral Democracy in Africa: A Review of Key Challenges and Prospects," in Sumit Bisarya (ed) *Annual Review of Constitution-Building Processes: 2015*, Stockholm, Sweden: *International IDEA*
12. The Politics of Term Limits in Africa, *Washington Post* (Monkey Cage Blog, 2014)
13. Silver Lining in Burkina Faso Coup, *Foreign Policy*, 2014
14. Kenya's Contentious Factional Politics, *Foreign Policy* (with Ngala Chome, 2014)
15. [The Ogaden Region: A Fragile Path to Peace](#), Africa Portal, 2014

GRANTS AND HONORS

14. Mortara Center Research Award (2021)
13. Mortara Center Research Fellowship (2020)
12. Emerging Scholar Award, American Political Studies Association, Legislative Studies Section (2021)
11. School of Foreign Service Teaching and Mentorship Award, 2020
10. DFID: Delivery Unit Approaches to Education Reform
9. Omidyar Network: Kenya Devolution Study
8. Georgetown Competitive Grant in Aid Award
7. Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Grant (Big Results Now! Research on Education System Reform in Tanzania (With James Habyarimana et al.)
6. HIVOS People Unlimited Grant (County Government Healthcare Sector Data for Policy)
5. The Stanford Center for African Studies Susan Ford Dorsey Fellowship for Dissertation Field Research in Africa
4. Stanford Center for African Studies Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship
3. Yale University Frank M. Patterson Research Prize in Political Science
2. Auerbach Grayson/Leitner International Summer Internship Grant
1. Third best student in the Republic, the Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) national examination

SERVICE ROLES

1. Member of the MCEF Steering Committee and African Studies Representative on the MCEF
2. Faculty Lead: SFS Fellows Program (African Studies)
3. Senior Thesis Advisor (African Studies)
4. Faculty Director: SFS Summer Program in Tanzania
5. Editorial Board – Africa Spectrum Journal
6. Board Member – Mzalendo (Parliamentary Watchdog Group)
7. Member – Pan-African Research Council
8. Executive Board Member – the African Politics Conference Group (APSA Section)

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

40. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA (October 2, 2021)
39. RISE Education Conference, Washington, DC (September 21, 2021)
38. Stanford University, Center for African Studies (April 21, 2021)
37. British Institute of East Africa – Annual Lecture (April 14, 2021)
36. NOVA Africa (University of Lisbon) – Seminar Series (April 7, 2021)
35. University of Rochester, Comparative Politics Seminar (March 26, 2020)
34. William & Mary, Comparative Politics Seminar (March 12, 2021)
33. Stanford University, Center for Democracy Development and Rule of Law (March 11, 2021)
32. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Seminar Series (December 2, 2020)
31. Yale University Comparative Politics Seminar (November 4, 2020)
30. New York University Comparative Politics Seminar (November 3, 2020)
29. Conference on Clientelism at the United Nations University – WIDER (October 15-16, 2020)
28. University of Virginia Comparative Politics Workshop (October 7, 2020)
27. Economics Seminar at the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), September 21, 2020
26. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (September 2020)
25. University of California, Merced, Political Science Department (February 12, 2020)
24. Oxford University – Blavatnik School (January 27, 2020)
23. University of Florida, African Studies (November 4, 2019)
22. American Political Science Association, Washington, DC (August 2019)
21. University of Edinburgh, Center for African Studies Seminar (March 6, 2019)
20. University of Oxford, Department of Politics and International Relations (March 1, 2019)
19. London School of Economics, Comparative Politics Seminar (February 28, 2019)
18. World Bank Research Group, Washington, DC (September 12, 2018)
17. Institute for African Development, Cornell University (April 2018)
16. The Ohio State University, Comparative Politics Seminar (April 2018)

15. Center for the Study of African Economics, Oxford University (March 2018)
14. Annual Conference of the Comparative & International Education Society Conference, Mexico City (March 2018)
13. African Economic History Network Annual Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa (October 2017)
12. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (September 2017)
11. Institute of African Development, Cornell University (March 2017)
10. Center for Global Development, Washington, DC (January 2016)
9. Yale Council of African Studies Seminar Series (December 2015)
8. Capital Area Africanists Research Workshop (October 2015)
7. Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (April 2015)
6. Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association (April 2015)
5. Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (April 2014)
4. Center for the Study of African Economics, Oxford University (March 2014)
3. Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi (June 2013)
2. Workshop on Corruption, Accountability and Governance in Africa, Yale University (February 2013)
1. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (August 2012)