

Michael Byron Nelson



Assistant Professor
Political Science
<http://www.michaelnelson.info/>

Monmouth College
700 East Broadway
Monmouth, IL 61462-1998
(w) 309.457.2422
mbnelson@monmouthcollege.edu

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APPOINTMENTS

Monmouth College, *Illinois*
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2017 - *present*

Wesleyan University, *Connecticut*
Chair, African Studies, 2016 – 2017, 2013 – 2014, 2010 – 2012
Assistant Professor of Government, 2008 – 2017
Affiliated Faculty, College of the Environment, 2011 - 2017

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley. Political Science, 2008
M.A. University of California, Berkeley. Political Science, 2001
B.A. University of California, San Diego. High Honors in Political Science, 1997

TEACHING

Publications on Teaching

“The African Politics Research Paper”. In *Symposium: Teaching African Politics. The African Politics Conference Group Newsletter*, 9(2). September 2013.

Editor. *Symposium: Teaching African Politics. The African Politics Conference Group Newsletter*, 9(2). September 2013.

Presentations on Teaching

Roundtable on Teaching African Politics. African Studies Association. 29 November 2012.

“Teaching the African Politics Research Paper: Challenges and Opportunities,” for *Roundtable: Teaching basic educational goals in teaching African Politics*. African Studies Association. 20 November 2010.

Website

“User’s Guide to Political Science.” (Primary Developer). *An online resource for students writing papers for courses, working on honors theses, or learning research methods. Website received more than 75,000 new visitors between August 2015 and August 2016.* Available at <http://www.politicalscienceguide.com/>. *Currently going through a major update.*

Courses:

Assistant Professor, Political Science, Monmouth College

POLS 375: Environmental Politics	<i>Spring 2018</i>
INTG 210: Global Perspectives: Security in the Age of Globalization	<i>Fall 2017</i>

POLS 270: Introduction to International Relations	<i>Fall 2017</i>
ISTU 100: Introduction to International Studies	<i>Spring 2018</i>
POLS/PHIL 411: Political Philosophy from Plato to the Present	<i>Spring 2018</i>
POLS 415: Senior Seminar	<i>Fall 2017, Spring 2018</i>

Assistant Professor, Government, Wesleyan University

Africa in World Politics.	<i>Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016.</i>
Global Environmental Politics.	<i>Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017.</i>
Honors Thesis Capstone Seminar.	<i>Fall 2010.</i>
International Law.	<i>Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016.</i>
Introduction to International Relations.	<i>Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Fall 2011, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017.</i>

Instructor, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley.

Introduction to International Relations. *Summer 2006.*

Teaching Assistant, Summer Sessions, University of California, Berkeley

Survey of International Organizations. *Summer 2007.* Fribourg, Switzerland.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

American Politics, Ethics and Justice in International Relations, International Law, International Relations, Research Methods. *Summer 2001 - Spring 2008.*

Honors Thesis Advising at Wesleyan:

Olivia Glick. 2015 – 2016. Wesleyan University. “An Unfulfilled Promise: Persistent Inequality in Post-Apartheid South Africa.” Included fieldwork in South Africa. Awarded High Honors in Government.

Aletta Brady. 2014 – 2015. Wesleyan University. “Freshwater Negotiation in the Nile River Basin: What Explains the Patterns of Conflict and Cooperation?” Included fieldwork in Egypt, Ethiopia, and Uganda. Awarded Honors in Government.

Chloe E. Holden. 2014-2015. Wesleyan University. “Don’t Bet the Farm: Insights from Two Cases of Agricultural Policy Adjustment.” Awarded Honors in Government.

Renee Dunn. 2013 – 2014. Wesleyan University. “You Win Some, You Lose Some: The Political Economy of Formal Entrepreneurship in Kampala, Uganda.” Included fieldwork in Uganda. Awarded High Honors in CSS.

Rachel Levenson. 2011-2012. Wesleyan University. “Rational Irrationality: Borrowing from Informal Moneylenders in Uganda.” Included fieldwork in Uganda. Awarded High Honors in Government.

Kathlyn Pattillo. 2011 – 2012. “Quiet Corruption: Teachers Unions and Leadership in South African Township Schools.” Included fieldwork in South Africa. Awarded High Honors in CSS.

Allison Cies. 2010 – 2011. Wesleyan University, “Accounting for Patterns of Fertility in East Asia.” Awarded High Honors in Government.

Miranda Becker. 2010 – 2011. Wesleyan University, “Call and Response: The European Union and China in Assisting African Development.” Included fieldwork in Europe. Awarded Honors in the College of Social Studies.

Julien Burns. 2009 – 2010. Wesleyan University, “Facilitating Development: The Potential of NGOs, Corporations and the U.S. Government to Alleviate Poverty in Kenya.” Included fieldwork in Kenya. Awarded Honors in Government.

Melina Aguilar. 2009 – 2010. Wesleyan University, “The Paradox of the *Cuentos Chinos*: The Future of Sino-Ecuadorian Relations.” Awarded Honors in the College of Social Studies.

Kenton K. Atta-Krah. 2008 – 2009. Wesleyan University, “From Business Usual to Business Unusual: Exceptionalism in Africa’s relationships with France & China.” Included fieldwork in Ghana. Awarded High Honors in Government and French Studies.

Other Research Advising

Janette Trelogan. Fall 2011. *Served as her tutor for an independent research project on “Determinants of State Repression Examined through Internet Filtering Policy in Iran, Egypt, and Jordan.” End product was an 86-page research paper which included original interview research that she carried out.*

Ivan Stoitzev. Summer 2011. *Served as a faculty advisor for his work in the Quantitative Analysis Center’s Summer Program. The title of his independent project, based on our joint research, was “Global Governance.”*

Rachel Levenson. Summer 2010. *Served as a faculty advisor for her research on micro-credit in Uganda, under the auspices of Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA). Included fieldwork in Uganda. Funding was from a Davenport Grant and the IPA.*

Oluwayimika Taiwo-Peters. Summer 2010. *Served as sole faculty advisor for her service and research project on providing water to schools in Nigeria. Included fieldwork in Nigeria.*

Guest Course Lectures

Interview on “Poverty and Philanthropy.” How to Change the World (Online course taught by Wesleyan President Michael Roth). Wesleyan University, *Spring 2014.*

“Research Design & the Case Study: Dam!” Research Methods in Environmental Studies (Barry Chernoff). Wesleyan University, *Spring 2011.*

“China in Africa.” Politics and Political Development in the People's Republic of China (Mary Alice Haddad). Wesleyan University, *Spring 2010.*

“China in Africa.” Economies of Africa in Historical Perspective (Peter Kilby). Wesleyan University, *Spring 2009.*

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

Book

“African Coalitions and Global Economic Governance.” 2016. Cambridge University Press.

Refereed Journal Articles

“Africa’s Regional Powers and Climate Change Negotiations.” *Global Environmental Politics*, 16 No. 2, 2016, pp. 110-229.

“Does Patronage Still Drive Politics for the Rural Poor in the Developing World? A Comparative Perspective from the Livestock Sector.” (With David K. Leonard, Jennifer N. Brass, Sophal Ear, Dan Fahey, Tasha Fairfield, Martha Johnson Gning, Michael Halderman, Brendan McSherry, Devra C. Moehler, Wilson Prichard, Robin Turner, Tuong Vu, and Jeroen Dijkman.) *Development and Change* 41 No. 3, 2010, pp. 475 – 494.

Chapter in Edited Volume

“Will the Common Agricultural Policy be Reformed to Accommodate the Interests of Poor Livestock Producers in the Developing World?” (With Michael Halderman, and David K. Leonard.) 2004. In Vinod Ahuja, ed. *Livestock and Livelihoods: Challenges and Opportunities for Asia in the Emerging Market Environment*. Rome: FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations], 2004, pp. 183 – 218.

Working Papers

“International Rules, Food Safety, & the Poor Developing Country Livestock Producer.” Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Initiative Working Paper No. 25. Rome: FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations], 2005, 66 pages.

“EU Policy-Making: Reform of the CAP and EU Trade in Beef & Dairy with Developing Countries.” 2005. (With Michael Halderman) Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Initiative Working Paper No. 18. Rome: FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations], 2005, 86 pages.

RESEARCH UNDER REVIEW

Articles Under Review

“China and the Telecommunications Revolution in Angola and Nigeria.” (With Roselyn Hsueh.)

OTHER RESEARCH

Conference Papers

“Authoritarianism and African Foreign Policies.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Chicago, IL, November 2017.

“Balancing South Africa's Domestic, Regional and Global Priorities in the Environment and Trade.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, San Diego, CA, November 2015.

“How China is Impacting State-Business Relations in Africa: The Cases of Angola and Nigeria.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, August 30, 2013.

- “Patterns of Participation in Global Governance: African States in Food Safety Governance.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, San Diego, CA, April 2, 2012.
- “Who Wins? China Wires Africa: The cases of Angola and Nigeria.” (With Roselyn Hsueh.) Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, D.C., November 17, 2011.
- “African Hydropower: Does China’s involvement make a difference?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, New Orleans, LA. November 19 – 22, 2009.
- “African States & the Organization of the International Legal System.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of The American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, September 3, 2005.
- “International Rules, Food Safety, & the Poor Developing Country Livestock Producer.” Paper presented at a meeting of the Steering Committee for the Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Initiative (PPLPI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, June 14, 2005.
- “Safe Food and the Politics of International Organizations: the case of developing country influence.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Oakland, CA, March 17, 2005.
- “EU Policy-Making: Reforming the CAP and EU Trade in Beef & Dairy with Developing Countries.” (With Michael Halderman.) Working Paper presented at the Institute of European Studies, University of California, Berkeley, September 14, 2004.
- “The EU, CAP & Developing Countries.” (With Michael Halderman.) Paper presented at the annual meeting of The American Political Science Association, Hilton Chicago and the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, IL, September 2, 2004.
- “Sub-Saharan African States and the International Legal System.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Portland Marriott Hotel, Portland, OR, March 11, 2004.

Invited Colloquia

- “The View from Below: African Coalitions and the Architecture of Global Governance.” Book Talk at Temple University, September 26, 2016.
- “Who Wins? China Wires Africa: The cases of Angola and Nigeria.” (With Roselyn Hsueh.)
Presentation for the UC Berkeley Institute of East Asian Studies, February 4, 2013. *Presentation by Roselyn Hsueh.*
Presentation for the NYU/Giessen Development Finance Conference, NYU School of Law, April, 9, 2013. *Presentation by Roselyn Hsueh.*
- “The Increasing Role of BRICS in Angola.” Presentation for the National Intelligence Council and the U.S. State Department. Washington, D.C., January 17, 2012.
- “Political Floods: Sudan & the Burkina Faso-Ghana Border.” Presentation for “Africa Floods 2007: An Interdisciplinary Roundtable.” Institute of International Studies and Center for African Studies, University of California, Berkeley, November 6, 2007.
- “African Influence: coalitions in global economic governance.” Presentation at the International Relations Colloquium, University of California, Berkeley, March 10, 2007.
- “Sugar & Lint: US Agricultural Trade, Africa, & the Doha Round.” Presentation at the Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley, March 1, 2006.

Works in Progress

The International Relations of West Africa. (Book Manuscript)

“Authoritarianism and African Foreign Policies”

“The Foreign Policies of West Africa’s Small Democracies”

“Africa’s Race for Renewables”

“Africa’s Actions on Multilateral Environmental Agreements”

Dataset: *African Participation in Multilateral Environmental Agreements, 1960 – present.*

SERVICE

General Service at Monmouth College

Advising. *Fall 2017 – present.*

Member. Co-ordinating Committee for International Studies. *2017 – present.*

Member. Committee for Peace Corps Prep. *2017 – present.*

Author. Global Perspectives Quantitative Reasoning Modules. *Summer 2018.*

Participant. ACM Institute on College Futures: “Shared Governance”. *July 2018.*

ISTU/POLS Advisor for Scotts Summer Orientation. *June 2018.*

Member, Search Committee for one year visiting position in Psychology. *Spring 2018.*

Member, Search Committee for one year visiting position in Theater. *Spring 2018.*

Participant. Annual INTG Meeting. (Also made brief presentation on quantitative literacy in the Global Perspectives Program.) *April 2018.*

Presenter. “Tsotsi?”. Public Philosophy and Film Series. *March 2018.*

Organizer and Presenter. Great Decisions, a foreign affairs program. *Spring 2018.*

Manuscript Review. *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research.* *Spring 2018.*

Participant. FLC on Teaching Interdisciplinary Courses. *Fall 2017.*

Various Support for International Students and Intercultural Life, including: Driving/accompanying students to Fun Day at Country Corner Farm in Alpha, IL; to Knox College’s International Fair; to AfroFest at Augustana College.

Attendee. All General Faculty Meetings, 2017 – 2018 academic year.

Attendee. Most HLC Town Halls during 2017-2018 academic year.

Attendee. ACM Strategic Planning Meeting, led by Dean Timmerman. *March 26, 2018.*

Attendee. Doing the Disciplines Faculty Workshop. *January 12, 2018.*

Political Science Department Service at Monmouth College

Prepared and Submitted 8 new course proposals and proposal to change the Political Science Major. *2017-2018.*

Began Review and Revision of Political Science Department Website.

Participated in Revising Assessment Plan. *Spring 2018.*

Service to the Discipline

- Mentor. Pipeline for Emerging African Scholars Writing Workshop, sponsored by *African Studies Review* and Cambridge University Press. African Studies Association. Chicago, IL, November 2017.
- Editor. African Politics Conference Group Newsletter. *December 2010 – Spring 2014*.
- Chair, “The Political Economy of Resource Extraction and Management in Africa.” African Studies Association. New Orleans, LA. November 19 – 22, 2009.
- Chair, “Cultural Politics and Nation-Building in the Americas.” African and African Diaspora Studies Workshop. Wesleyan University. April 24, 2009.
- Discussant, “The Challenge of Natural Resources.” African Studies Association Conference. Philadelphia, PA, November 2012.
- Discussant, “State Role in Society.” Varieties of Democracy Conference. Wesleyan University. May 2, 2009.
- Discussant, “Foreign Policy Across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.” International Studies Association Convention. New York, NY. February 15 – 18, 2009.

Manuscript Review

- Books: Lynne Rienner, Sage, W.W. Norton & Company, and Westview Press.
- Journals: *African Security Review*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *Contexto International*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Human Rights*.

Service at Wesleyan University, 2008 - 2017

Government Department

- Co-organizer. Junior faculty and post-graduate research group (with Erika Fowler). *2010 – 2012*.
- Co-organizer. Honors Thesis Workshop for Comparative and International Relations Subfields (with Erica Chenoweth). *Fall-Spring 2010*.
- Coordinator. Student Applications for Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference. *Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014*.
- Coordinator. International Relations Sub-field Curriculum for 2010-2011. *Fall 2009, Fall 2010*.
- Coordinator. International Relations Sub-field Honors Exam Reading List. *Fall 2009*.
- Coordinator. Applications for Student Conference on United States Affairs at West Point. *Fall 2008, Fall 2011, Fall 2013*.
- Member. Government Department PBK Committee. *Spring 2015*.
- Member. Government Department American Politics Search Committee (Tenure-Track Search). *Fall 2011*.
- Member. Government Department Honors Selection Committee. *Spring 2010*.
- Member. Government Department Skirm Award Selection Committee. *Spring 2010*.
- Participant. Government Department Website Update. *2011-2012*.

African Studies

- Chair. African Studies. *Summer 2010 – Summer 2012; Fall 2013 – Spring 2014; Summer 2016 - 2017*.
This includes numerous activities and student advising, including:
Informal Advisor for African Students Association Event, “AfroGanza”. April 7, 2012.
Co-Organizer. “The North Africa Spring.” A Symposium. March 2, 2012.

Panel Moderator and Advisor for “Wesleyan Forum on International Development.”
February 18, 2012.

Organizer. “Wesleyan Connections with Africa.” November 2010 *and* November 2011.

Created new African Studies website.

Chair. Charles Brodigan Award Selection Committee. *Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2014.*

Co-organizer. African Studies Workshop: Africa’s Global Past and Present. *Spring 2010.*

Panel Moderator. “Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Development.” Africanizing Technology
Conference. March 6, 2015.

Member. Charles Brodigan Award Selection Committee. *2009 – 2017.*

Public Lectures at Wesleyan University

“Climate Change and the 2016 Election.” Presentation and Panel Discussion for Climate
Ambassadors Event, Wesleyan University, November 3, 2016.

“Africa’s Regional Powers.” Presentation for the College of Social Studies, Wesleyan University,
January 25, 2016.

“The International Response to Ebola.” Presentation for African Studies Cluster Event, “Ebola in
the News.” October 6, 2014.

“Ghana’s New Partners.” Presentation for the College of Social Studies, Wesleyan University,
December 9, 2013.

“The International Politics of Water: Africa.” Presentation for World Water Day, Earth House,
Wesleyan University, March 2011.

“China’s Impact on the African State: Angola and Ghana.” Presentation for the African and African
Diaspora Studies Workshop, Wesleyan University, April 23, 2010.

“Arms, Dams & Oil: China’s Role in Sudan.” Presentation for WeSTAND, Wesleyan University,
December 2, 2009.

“President Obama and the World: A Sea Change in U.S. Foreign Policy,” Presentation for Wesfest
Panel, Wesleyan University, April 17, 2009.

“Bush, Obama, and US Africa Policy: Change we can believe in?” Presentation for the College of
Social Studies, Wesleyan University, December 1, 2008.

Other Wesleyan University Service

Advising. *2008 – 2017.*

Discussant. “SHOFCO-Wes Presents Volunteering Abroad: A Discussion on the Roles of
Development.” A WesFest Event. April 16, 2015.

House Advisor for Xi Chapter Psi Upsilon. *Fall 2011 – Fall 2014.*

Member. Davenport Award Selection Committee. *Spring 2009, Spring 2010.*

Presentation. “Software for Managing Academic Workflow: Sente.” Academic (Technology)
Roundtable. 28 November 2011.

Presentation. “Using Websites to Guide Students in Research.” Academic (Technology) Roundtable.
31 March 2011.

Participant. “Midterm Teaching Evaluations.” Academic (Technology) Roundtable. 27 Sept. 2010.

Discussant. Program on Terrorism and Insurgency Research Symposium. 17 September 2010.

Discussion Facilitator. "First Year Matters: Water". 3 September 2009.

Discussant. For Dr. Fotini Christia's presentation, "Inside the Afghan Insurgency." *PTIR Speaker Series*. 8 April 2009.

Other Service & Experience

UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley.
Research Associate. 2003 – 2005.

U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer. Ghana. Water and Sanitation/Health Education. 1997 – 1999.

Chair. UC San Diego Registration Fee Advisory Committee. 1995-1996.

Chair. UC San Diego Student Health Advisory Committee. 1994-1995.

MEDIA

"Africa's Regional Powers are Key to Climate Negotiations – But Will They Cooperate?" *New Security Beat*. August 15, 2016. (<https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2016/08/africas-regional-powers-key-climate-negotiations-cooperate/>).

Program Guest on John Dankosky, host, "China's Power Illusion." *Where We Live*. WNPR. 7 January 2011.

Interview. "African Union Summit." *World News*. KCBS, San Francisco. 21 January 2006.

Personal Blog at <http://www.michaelnelson.info/>

AWARDS

Project Grant. Wesleyan University. 2011-2012; 2012-2014; 2015-2016.

Student-Faculty Research Internship Grant. Wesleyan University. 2011 – 2016.

African Student Association Award. 2012. *Award for support to ASA*.

Caleb T. Winchester Scholar – Teacher 2011. *Award presented by the XI Chapter Psi Upsilon*.

Pedagogical Grant. Wesleyan University. *For developing "User's Guide to Political Science" web resource*.

John L. Simpson Memorial Research Fellowship in International and Comparative Studies, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley. 2005 – 2006.

The Andrew and Mary Thompson Rocca Scholarship in Advanced African Studies. Center for African Studies, UC Berkeley. 2005 – 2006.

Graduate Division Fellowship. UC Berkeley. 2004

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor. UC Berkeley. 2003 – 2004.

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

African Studies Association, African Politics Conference Group, and International Studies Association

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish (excellent reading, fair speaking and writing); French (good reading, fair speaking and writing); Mampruli (good speaking); Mandarin (beginner)