

# Kristin Michelitch

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

**Assistant Professor**, Vanderbilt University, 6/2013 - present  
**Faculty Affiliate**, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 6/2014 - present  
**Faculty Affiliate**, Latin American Public Opinion Project, 6/2013 - present  
**Visiting Fellow**, Kellogg Institute, 9/2012 - 5/2013

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Politics**, New York University, New York, 2006 - 2013

- Concentrations: Political Behavior, Political Economy of Development (Micro), African Politics, Experimental Methods, Field Research Methods
- Committee: Joshua Tucker, David Stasavage, Rebecca Morton, Adam Przeworski, and Eric Dickson

**B.A. Economics & International Studies**, Emory University, Atlanta, 1999 - 2003

- *Summa Cum Laude*
- Thesis Advisor: Clifford Carrubba

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Grossman, Guy and Kristin Michelitch. forthcoming. “**Information Dissemination, Competitive Pressure, and Politician Performance between Elections: A Field Experiment in Uganda**” *American Political Science Review*.

Bleck, Jaimie and Kristin Michelitch. forthcoming. “**Barriers to Women’s Political Participation: Evidence from Rural Mali**” *World Development*.

Michelitch, Kristin and Stephen Utych. 2018 “**Electoral Cycle Fluctuations in Partisanship: Global Evidence from 86 Countries**” *Journal of Politics* forthcoming

Lupu, Noam and Kristin Michelitch. 2018. “**Survey Research Methods in Developing Countries**” *Annual Review of Political Science*

Bleck, Jaimie and Kristin Michelitch. 2017. “**Capturing the Airwaves, Capturing the Nation? A Field Experiment on State-Run Media Effects in the Wake of the Malian Coup**” *Journal of Politics* 79(3): 873-889.

Grossman, Guy, Kristin Michelitch, and Marta Santamaria Monturiol. 2017. “**Texting Complaints to Politicians: Name Personalization and Politicians’ Encouragement in Citizen Mobilization**” *Comparative Political Studies* 50(10): 1325-1357.

Michelitch, Kristin. 2015. “**Does Electoral Competition Exacerbate Interethnic or Interpartisan Economic Discrimination? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Market Price Bargaining.**” *American Political Science Review* 109(1):

43-61.

Bleck, Jaimie and Kristin Michelitch. 2015. **“The 2012 Crisis in Mali: Ongoing Empirical State Failure”** *African Affairs* 114: 598-623.

Michelitch, Kristin, Marco Morales, Andrew Owen, and Joshua Tucker. 2012. **“Looking to the Future: Prospective Economic Voting in 2008 Presidential Elections”** *Electoral Studies* 31(4): 383-351.

UNDER REVIEW

Michelitch, Kristin and Stephen Utych. **“Does Increased Mobilization and Descriptive Representation Intensify Partisanship Over Election Campaigns? Evidence from 3 US Elections”** *Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions Working Paper 7-2017*

WORKS IN  
PROGRESS

**“Candidate Entry & Vote-Share in the Wake of an Incumbent Performance Transparency Initiative”** with Guy Grossman  
*2017 Paris EGAP*

Michelitch, Kristin and Keith Weghorst. 2017. **“Islam, Christianity, and Attitudes Towards Women’s Political Equality: Evidence from Mixed-Religion Countries in sub-Saharan Africa”** *Kellogg Institute Working Paper Series #418*  
*2015 APSA, 2015 EPSA, 2013 MPSA, 2012 ISA, 2011 APSA, 2011 MPSA*

Harding, Robin and Kristin Michelitch. **“Contextual Determinants and Individual Assets in the Development of Partisanship in Sub-Saharan Africa”**  
*2016 MGAPE, 2017 SEGAP*

**“When Gender Gaps are Good and Bad: Assessing Substantive Representation and Legislative Performance among Ugandan Politicians”** with Ana Garcia and Guy Grossman  
*2017 EPSA*

**“Do Politicians Skew Resource Distribution Towards Cogender or Male Constituents’ Service Delivery Concerns: A Survey Experiment with Ugandan Politicians”** with Sang-Eun Kim and Guy Grossman

**“Electoral Cycle Effects on Political Participation and Attitudes Toward Democracy”**  
*2014 APSA, 2012 Kellogg Institute Africa Working Group, 2013 MGAPE*

RESEARCH  
REPORTS AND  
OP-EDS

Michelitch, Kristin. 2015. **“Rescue Me: The Quest Continues to Reduce Middle Tennessee’s Dog and Cat Overpopulation — and Find Homes for Adoptable Pets”** *The Nashville Scene* Cover Article, [Click Here](#), December 3, 2015, Nashville.

Bleck, Jaimie and Kristin Michelitch. 2015. **“On the Primacy of Weak Public Service Provision in Rural Africa: Malians Redefine ‘State Breakdown’ amidst 2012 Political Crisis”** *Afrobarometer Working Paper* No. 155.

Bleck, Jaimie and Kristin Michelitch. 2013. **“Voices from Contested Territory:**

**531 Messages for President Obama from Northern Mali**” *The Monkey Cage Blog* Syndicated by the [Washington Post](#)

Bleck, Jaimie and Kristin Michelitch. 2013. **“Voices from Fragile States: The Resilient Problem of Human Development”** *United Nations World Institute for Development Economics Research: Wider Angle* March 2013.

Michelitch, Kristin. 2010. **“Innovations in Experimental Design: Lessons from ‘Get Out The (Free And Fair) Vote’ in Africa”** *The Experimental Political Scientist* 1(1): 11-16.

#### POLICY RCT PROJECTS

**“Strengthening Media for Women and Youth Voices in Tanzania”** with Keith Weghorst

*Donors:* USAID (\$500,000)

*NGO Partner:* Internews

**“Information Barriers to Public Service Delivery: Innovations in Strengthening Local Political Accountability in Uganda”** with Guy Grossman

*Donors:* DGF Uganda (\$378,239) and Private Donor<sup>1</sup> (\$402,978)

*NGO Partner:* Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment

**“Good Morning Timbuktu! Traditional Elites and the Impact of Radio in Rural Islamic Africa”** with Jaimie Bleck

*Grants:* NSF Seed Grant (\$25,000), Spencer Foundation Grant (\$40,000), Kellogg Institute Grant (\$9,992), APSA Women in Politics Award (\$1,114), Catt Prize (\$500)

*NGO Partner:* USAID

#### GRANTS AND AWARDS

2017

- Andrew Carnegie Fellowship (\$200,000)
- USAID Democracy, Rights, and Accountability Grant (\$500,000)

2016

- Africa at a Crossroads, Vanderbilt Trans-Institutional Program (\$2,000)

2015

- Littlejohn Faculty Fellow, 2015-2016 Academic Year
- Private Donor<sup>2</sup> (\$113,645)
- Democratic Governance Facility via ACODE (\$25,000)

2014

- Littlejohn Faculty Fellow, 2014-2015 Academic Year
- Private Donor (\$85,553)

2012

- Private Donor (\$203,780)
- Democratic Governance Facility via ACODE (\$348,239)
- Spencer Foundation New Civics (\$40,000)

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<sup>1</sup>This donor does not wish to be listed publicly, but can be revealed for non-public purposes.

<sup>2</sup>This donor does not wish to be listed publicly, but can be revealed for non-public purposes.

- National Science Foundation Seed Grant (\$25,000)
- Catt Prize (\$500)

2011

- Kellogg Institute Grant (\$9,992)
- American Political Science Association Women and Politics Award (\$1,114)
- Visiting Scholarship, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, Spring 2011

2009

- Robert Holmes Grant for Research in Africa (\$2,500)
- American Political Science Association Research in Africa (\$1,000)
- American Political Science Association Women and Politics (\$1,200)
- Center for Experimental Social Sciences (\$750)
- Invitee, Conference for *The Handbook of Experimental Political Science*
- Invitee, American Political Science Association Workshop on African Elections
- Political Science, Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich, Switzerland, Summer 2009

2008

- Ghana Global Fellowship (\$7,000)
- NYU Field Research Grant (\$1,500)

2007

- Center for Experimental Social Sciences (\$1,000)

2006-2012

- New York University Macracken Scholarship (\$23,000 yearly)

2003-2006

- Visiting Scholar in Social Science and Math, Universität Freiburg, Germany, 2002, 2003 - 2006

1999-2003

- Emory Academic Merit Scholarship (\$12,000 yearly)
- Ford Scholarship (\$2,000 yearly)
- HOPE Scholarship (\$5,000 yearly)

## INVITED TALKS

- 2018: Columbia University (Political Science)
- 2017: New York University Abu Dhabi (Social Science), Georgia Tech (Social Science), Emory University (Political Science), Cornell University (African Studies)
- 2016: Washington University St. Louis (Political Science), Yale University (Political Economy), Stanford University (Political Science), Colby College (University), University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Political Science), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Political Science)
- 2015: Cornell University (Political Science), Appalachian State University (Political Science)
- 2013: New York University - Abu Dhabi (Social Science)

- 2012: Vanderbilt University (Political Science), University of Michigan (Political Science), The Ohio State (Political Science), Texas A&M (Policy), Oxford University (Policy), Central European University (Policy), Emory University (Political Science)
- 2011: University of Pittsburgh (Policy)

## TEACHING

### Vanderbilt University

#### *Ph.D. Level*

- Field Research Methods
- Quantitative Methods 2: Causality
- Gender, Institutions, and Behavior

#### *Undergraduate Level*

- Democracy and Democratization
- African Development Portrayed Through Film
- Introduction to African Politics

### University of Notre Dame

#### *Undergraduate/Masters Level*

- Field Research Methods

## SERVICE

African Politics Division co-Chair, **American Political Science Association**, 2018 Annual Meeting

Manages panel allocation for annual conference for African Politics Division

Editorial Board Member, **PS: Political Science & Politics**, 2017-present

Heads up symposia and provides support to editors in comparative politics and experimental methods for the journal

Member, **Evidence in Governance and Policy (EGAP)**, 2012-present

Collaborates with academics, donors and policy makers to discover scientifically and rigorously how politics can be improved to facilitate development in low-income countries

Faculty Presenter, **Vanderbilt International Lens Film Series**, 2015-present

Presented African films, named “Critic’s Pick” in *Nashville Scene*

Organizer, **Working Group for Survey Methods in Low-Income and Post-Conflict Settings**, 2012-2014

Created a working group that meets at major political science conferences to share cutting-edge survey methodology for political science research in difficult settings

Founder, **Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar**, New York University-Columbia University, 2009-2013

Created an intimate semesterly workshop for faculty and Ph.D. students to constructively critique research design and analysis

Co-Founder, **New York Area Graduate Student Experimental Working Group**,  
New York University-Princeton University, 2009-2013

Organized a three times semesterly working group for Ph.D. students to receive  
feedback on experimental design

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*,  
*World Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of*  
*Experimental Political Science*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Con-*  
*flict Resolution*, *Electoral Studies*, *Economics and Politics*, *Journal of Mixed Method*  
*Research*, *Journal of South African Politics*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Research and*  
*Politics*, *African Affairs*, *Africa Today*, *Journal of Elections*, *Public Opinion*, and *Par-*  
*ties*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*

Comparative Politics Field Convener, 2014-2016

Graduate Committee, 2014-2016

Junior Faculty Speaker Series Committee, 2014-2015

Junior Faculty Research Workshop Founder/Organizer, 2014-2015

EMPLOYMENT IN  
DEMOCRATIZATION  
AND HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT

**NORC for USAID**, Consultant, Randomized Control Trial Development, 2017, USA/Tanzania

**NORC for USAID**, Consultant, Randomized Control Trial Development, 2015, USA/Senegal

**World Bank**, Consultant, Social Cohesion and Violence Prevention Group, 2013, USA

**Coalition of Domestic Election Observers**, Election Observer, National Election,  
2008, Ghana

**Baden-Württemberg Agency for Civic Education (LPB)**, Consultant, Wahlomat  
Voter Education Tool, 2004, 2005-2006, Germany

**The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)**, Program  
Assistant, 2005, Washington, D.C

**The Carter Center**, Election Observer and Intern, 2004, Atlanta, Georgia and Jakarta,  
Indonesia

**German Federal Agency for Civic Education (BPB)**, EuroWahlgang, Voter Mo-  
bilization Program for the 2004 European Parliament Election, 2004, Germany

SKILLS

Data Collection Tools

- Field Experiment Design including Policy Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)
- Survey Design and Management
- Open-ended Interviews and Focus Groups
- Laboratory and Survey Experiments

Empirical Tools

- Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Methods

- Applied Econometrics

#### Language Skills

- English (native), German (near native)

#### Field Research Experience

- Ghana, Mali, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Switzerland, Germany, USA

#### REFERENCES

Joshua Tucker  
[joshua.tucker@nyu.edu](mailto:joshua.tucker@nyu.edu)  
 Professor of Politics  
 Department of Politics  
 New York University  
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 Carroll and Milton Petrie Professor  
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Elizabeth Zechmeister  
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