

SIDAK G. YNTISO

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Politics, New York University (Expected 2021)
Committee: Sanford Gordon (chair); Anna Harvey; David Stasavage
Additional training: Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (2019)

M.A. in Politics, New York University (2018)

B.A. in Economics, New York University Abu Dhabi (2014)

DISSERTATION

TITLE: “Essays on the Political Economy of Criminal Prosecutions”

ABSTRACT: How do electoral, policy-related, and racial considerations influence the behavior of elected prosecutors and judges? The first chapter of my dissertation leverages a simple formal model to investigate how voters attain accountability despite known ideological disagreement with their prosecutor. This work clarifies how candidate preferences and electoral concerns shape a prosecutor’s charging behavior. The second chapter applies insights from this framework to a newly constructed data-set of 5.9 million felony cases. Regression Discontinuity Design estimates suggest that electoral incentives exacerbate the charging severity of Republican prosecutors on cases involving African American defendants. The final chapter (co-written with Sanford Gordon) provides the first estimates of the incentive effects of recall elections on the behavior of elected officials.

PUBLICATIONS

“Judicial Accountability and Racial Disparity in Criminal Appeals,” with Anna Harvey. Forthcoming, *Journal of Legal Studies*.

“Democratic Reversals and the Size of Government,” with Jeffrey Jensen. *European Journal of Political Economy* 58 (2019): 21-49.

REVISE & RESUBMIT

“Incentive Effects of Recall Elections: Evidence from California Superior Court Judges,” with Sanford Gordon. *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Politics*.

“Bridging the Grade Gap: Reducing Assessment Bias in a Multi-Grader Class,” with Sean Kates, Tine Paulsen and Joshua Tucker. *Conditionally Accepted, Political Analysis*.

Mario Chacón, Jeffrey Jensen and Sidak Yntiso. “Minority Representation and Democratization by Force: Evidence from Black Enfranchisement during Reconstruction.” *Forthcoming, Journal of Historical Political Economy*.

WORKING PAPERS

“Detecting Partisan and Racial Gerrymandering,” with Sanford Gordon.

TEACHING

New York University (2018-21)

Power and Politics in America (Spring 2021) with Sanford Gordon

Thinking, Learning, and Consciousness in Humans and Machines (Fall 2020) with David Stasavage

Causal Inference (Spring 2020) with Anton Strezhnev

Senior Honors (Fall 2019) with Anna Harvey

Data Assistant for Politics Department (Spring 2019)

Teaching Assistant for Comparative Politics, with Joshua Tucker (Fall 2018)

New York University Abu Dhabi (2014-15)

Economic Development, with Robert Buckley (Winter 2015); Yaw Nyarko (Spring 2015)

Principles of Microeconomics, with Christopher Paik (Fall 2014), Lucas Siga (Spring 2015) and Nikos Nikiforakis (Summer 2015)

AWARDS & GRANTS

Dean’s Dissertation Grant (2021-22)

Prestage-Cook Travel Award (2020)

George Downs Grant (2018)

Dean’s Student Travel Grant (2017, 2018)

NYU Henry H. MacCracken Fellowship (2016-21)

NYU Abu Dhabi Global Academic Fellowship (2014 -15)

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

2021: Southern Political Science Association (SPSA); UT Public Law Conference; Slavey and Its Legacies Symposium, USC Bedrosian Center.

2020: Southern Political Science Association (SPSA); Conference on Institutions and Law Making (CLSS), Emory; Western Political Science Association (WPSA); Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA).

2019: American Political Science Association (APSA); Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA); NYU Race, Crime, and Policing Workshop; Princeton Political Economy and Public Law (PEPL); 14th Annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (CELS).

2018: American Political Science Association (APSA); Midwest Political Science Association

(MPSA); International Studies Association.

2017: American Political Science Association (APSA); Politics and History at Columbia-Harvard-NYU-Princeton-Yale; Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA); International Studies Association; European Political Science Association (MPSA)

SERVICE

Internal: Co-Organizer of CAPERS (2019); Graduate Political Economy Seminar (2018-2019)

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Computing: ArcGIS, Python, R, RStan, Stata,

Languages: English, Amharic