

**Rachel L. Ellett**

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**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

2008-Present      Associate Professor of Political Science  
Beloit College, Beloit, WI, USA

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**EDUCATION**

2008              Ph.D. International Affairs and Public Policy  
*Northeastern University*. Boston, Massachusetts  
Comprehensive exams passed with distinction.  
Dissertation: "Emerging Judicial Power in sub-Saharan Africa: Malawi, Uganda  
and Tanzania"

2004              M.A. Political Science  
*Northeastern University*. Boston, Massachusetts

1998              B.A. (Hons) Social and Political Studies (Dual Major: Politics and Sociology)  
*University of Sheffield*. Sheffield, United Kingdom

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**BOOKS**

*Pathways to Judicial Power in Transitional States: Perspectives from African Courts* Routledge, April 2013

**ARTICLES**

"Rethinking Law and State Building in sub-Saharan Africa" (Review essay) *Law and Social Inquiry* (forthcoming)

"Fostering Interdisciplinary Thinking through an International Development Case Study" with Diep Phan and Jennifer Esperanza, *Journal of Political Science Education*, Vol. 10, 2015 (forthcoming)

“Judicial Independence under the APRM: From Rhetoric to Reality” *South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) Occasional Paper No. 212, March 2015*

“Going off-bench: Protecting Judicial Autonomy in Competitive Clientelist Regimes” with Alexei Trochev, *Journal of Law and Courts* Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring 2014, pp.67-91

“Courts and the emergence of statehood in post-colonial Africa”, *Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly* Special Edition 'Bench and Bar: The (Dis)Appearance of Britain' Autumn 2012

“Reworking Strategic Models of Executive-Judicial Relations: Insights from New African Democracies” with Peter VonDoepp. *Comparative Politics*, January 2011

“Reemergence of the Other: Nationalism in Post-Nyerere Tanzania” *Canadian Review of Studies in Nationalism*, Vol. 32, 2005

### **BOOK CHAPTERS**

“Botswana: Delayed Indigenization and Feminization of the Judiciary” with Gretchen Bauer, in *Gender and the Judiciary in Africa: From Obscurity to Parity?* Routledge 2016 (forthcoming)

### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Active Citation Compilation project (Chapter 6 from *Pathways to Judicial Power in Transitional States*) for the Qualitative Data Repository, Syracuse University, August 2015

*Politics of Judicial Independence in Malawi*, Report prepared for Freedom House. May 2014

*Politics of Judicial Independence in Lesotho*, Report prepared for Freedom House. August 2012

"Stuck in Between: Interviewing Judges and Other Legal Elites in Africa" *Law and Courts*, Vol.21, No.1, (Winter 2011)

“Bringing Study Abroad into the Political Science Classroom” *EDUCAUSE Review*, vol. 45, no. 5 (September/October 2010)

“Internationalizing the Curriculum: Track I” 2009 APSA Teaching and Learning Conference Track Summaries. *PS: Political Science & Politics* (2009), 42:575-587

### **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS**

2015 “Interviewing African Judges: Reflections on Fieldwork and Data Collection in Comparative Judicial Politics” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 3-6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

“Informal Networks and Judicial Autonomy: Explaining Judges’ off-bench mobilization in Zambia and Malawi” European Consortium of Political Research (ECPR) Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, August 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

- 2014 Invited participant in workshop on “African Courts: Actors, Institutional Developments and Governance” in Niamey, Niger, December 4-10<sup>th</sup>
- Invited Speaker at workshop “Establishing Constitutional Courts: Drivers of Democracy or Government of Judges?” Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany, October 24-26<sup>th</sup>
- “Judicial Appointment Reform in Africa” ICON-S, Florence, Italy, June 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2014
- Reader/discussant for Author Meets Readers: Mark Fathi Massoud, "Law's Fragile State: Colonial, Authoritarian, and Humanitarian Legacies in Sudan", Law and Society Association Annual meeting, Minneapolis, May 29<sup>th</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014
- 2013 “Reassessing Judicial Review in a post-Parliamentary Sovereignty Era: Judicial-Parliamentary Relations in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda” European Consortium on African Studies Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, June 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- “Importing Justice? The Politics of Expatriate Judicial Appointments in Southern Africa” with Tererai R. Mafukidze, Advocate of the High Court of SA and Zimbabwe and African Legal Information Institute, South Africa, International Political Science Association RC 09 (Comparative Judicial Studies), Dublin, Ireland, July 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- “Mobilizing Judicial Allies: Courts as Election Monitors in sub-Saharan African and Post-Soviet Hybrid Regimes” with Alexei Trochev, Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 10-13<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- “The Law Society as Counter-Weight to the State? Evidence from Eastern and Southern Africa”, International Studies Association, San Francisco, April 3<sup>rd</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- 2012 “Importing Justice? The Politics of Expatriate Judicial Appointments in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland”, African Studies Association, Philadelphia, November 30<sup>th</sup>-December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012
- “Mobilizing Judicial Allies: Courts as Election Monitors in sub-Saharan African and Post-Soviet Hybrid Regimes” with Alexei Trochev, American Political Science Association, New Orleans, August 30-September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 [CANCELED]
- 2011 “Judicial Supremacy in Regional Courts: A Comparative Analysis of the Caribbean and East African Courts of Justice” International Political Science Association RC 09 (Comparative Judicial Studies), UC Irvine, CA, July 21-23, 2011
- 2010 “The African Lawyer as Political Insider/Outsider” American Political Science Association, Washington D.C. September 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- “Victims, Villains, Heroes or Insurance Providers? Judicial Behavior in Uganda and Ukraine” (with Alexei Trochev, University of Indiana), International Political Science Association RC 09 (Comparative Judicial Studies), Bologna, Italy, June 21-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010
- “Lawyers and Political Change in Southern Africa”, invited paper at UW Madison Law School Conference “Law’s Locations: The Textures of Legality in Developing and Transitional Societies.” April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- Invited talk, "Intersection of Law and Politics in sub-Saharan Africa" UW Madison African Politics Colloquium, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- 2009 "Lawyers and Political Change in Southern Africa", Annual Meeting of African Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, November 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009
- "Bringing Study Abroad into the Political Science Classroom" Conference on Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum, Beloit College, WI, November 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- "Integrating Study Abroad into the Political Science Classroom", NAFSA Regional Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, October 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- "Emergence of Judicial Power in Hybrid African Democracies", Invited talk, Africa Law Forum at Queen Mary Lincoln's Inn Fields, University of London. May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- "Emergence of Judicial Power in Hybrid African Democracies", Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Il, April 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- "Integrating Study Abroad into the Political Science Classroom", Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference, Baltimore, MD, February 6-8, 2009
- 2008 Invited discussant at workshop on "Role of Law in Developing and Transition Countries," University of Madison Law School, Madison, WI. December 5-6, 2008
- "Reworking Strategic Models of Executive-Judicial Relations: Insights from New African Democracies", with Peter VonDoepp (University of Vermont), Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, August 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008
- "Executive-Judicial Tensions in sub-Saharan Africa: Malawi, Uganda, and Tanzania", Annual Meeting of the Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies Montréal, Canada, June 25-26<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- "Emerging Judicial Power in sub-Saharan Africa: Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda." Northeastern Political Science Association, Providence RI, May 2008
- "Emerging Judicial Power in sub-Saharan Africa: Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda." Boston University Graduate African Studies Conference, March 2008
- 2006 "Building Judicial Independence and Rule of Law in sub-Saharan Africa: Malawi, Uganda and Tanzania." Boston University Graduate African Studies Conference, March 2007
- "Building Judicial Independence and Rule of Law in sub-Saharan Africa: Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania." IPSA Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies, Tempe, AZ. January 2006
- 2005 "The Role of the Judiciary in Promoting Democratic Stability in Malawi and Botswana." International Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 2005

“Judicial Protection of Political Rights in a Transitional Democracy: the Courts and Electoral Politics in Malawi” IPSA Research Committee on Comparative Judicial Studies, Naples Italy. January 2005

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## FINANCIAL AWARDS AND GRANTS

Mellon Foundation Liberal Arts in Practice, \$4,500 for development of interdisciplinary teaching case study on land conflict in Vietnam (with Diep Phan)

ACM Phase II FaCE Grant, \$14,987, to support two inter-linked workshops on teaching international development in the liberal arts (co-sponsored by Colorado College).

Keefer Grant, Beloit College, \$6,000 for fieldwork in Botswana and Malawi

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. Law and Social Sciences Division. \$11,441, for dissertation research in Tanzania, Malawi and Uganda.

Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation Fellowship for Higher Education of Present and Prospective Teachers. \$5,941, for dissertation research in Tanzania, Malawi and Uganda.

Northeastern University Department of Political Science Graduate Student Grant. \$2500, for dissertation research in Tanzania, Malawi and Uganda.

International Studies Association. \$300 Graduate Student Travel Grant.

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## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association

African Studies Association

Midwest Political Science Association

African Politics Conference Group

International Political Science Association Research Committee #9 Comparative Law and Courts  
Law and Society Association

Makerere Institute for Social Research, Kampala Uganda (2007)

Centre for Basic Research, Kampala Uganda (2007)

Centre for Social Research, Chancellor College, Malawi (2007)

University of Botswana Faculty of Law (2009)

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## CONSULTING

2015 *Freedom House (Southern Africa)*  
Application of previously developed judicial independence framework to Zambia (ongoing)

2013-2014 *Freedom House (Southern Africa)*  
Application of previously developed judicial independence framework to Malawi (Report Launched September 2014)

*International Commission of Jurists*  
Consult re programming a judicial independence workshop in Lesotho based on  
2011 Freedom House report

2012 *Human Dynamics* Austria  
Consultant to rule of law project EU funding proposal for Lesotho.

2011 *Freedom House (Southern Africa)*  
Development of a comprehensive benchmark framework for assessing judicial  
independence in Southern Africa. This framework is initially being applied to the  
country of Lesotho.

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## **SERVICE**

### ***On-Campus:***

2010-present National Post-Graduate Fellowships campus advisor

2010-2013 Institutional Review Board Committee

2010-present Weissberg Human Rights Advisory Committee

2011 External member of Museum Studies review committee

2012-13 Committee to reformulate Women and Genders Studies Major to Critical Identity  
Studies

2012-13 African Studies Chair

2013-14 Lead Faculty Fellow on Advising

### ***Off-Campus:***

2010 African Politics Conference Group Committee to select ASA papers and panels

2011 African Politics Conference Group Committee to select best article in African Politics

### ***Reviewer for:***

*National Science Foundation (Law and Social Sciences Division)*

*Journal of Political Science Education*

*Comparative Politics*

*Journal of East African Studies*

*Forum on Education Abroad: Undergraduate Research Awards*

*Routledge*

*Journal of Law and Courts*