

Summer 2016

# Michael Byron Nelson

Assistant Professor of Government

<http://www.michaelnelson.info/>



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## Appointments

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Wesleyan University

Assistant Professor of Government, 2008 – *present*

Chair, African Studies Cluster, 2016 – *present*, 2013 – 2014, 2010 – 2012

Affiliated Faculty, College of the Environment, 2011 - *present*

## Education

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Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley. Political Science, 2008

*Advisers: Steven Weber (chair), Andrew Guzman, Robert Kagan, and David Leonard*

M.A. University of California, Berkeley. Political Science, 2001

*Reviewers: Ernst Haas, Beth Simmons, Vinod Aggarwal*

B.A. University of California, San Diego. High Honors in Political Science, 1997

*Adviser: David Lake*

## Research Under Contract or Under Review

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### Book Manuscript

“African Coalitions and Global Economic Governance.” 323 pp. double spaced. *Forthcoming Summer 2016.*  
Cambridge University Press.

### Articles Under Review

“China and the Telecommunications Revolution in Angola and Nigeria.” (With Roselyn Hsueh.) *Under review with World Development.*

## Published Research

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### Refereed Journal Article

“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.

### Other Research

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#### Conference Papers

“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**

“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: African States in Global Governance Theme**

“Patterns of Participation in Global Governance.”

“African Actions on Multilateral Environmental Agreements.”

### **Works in Progress: Africa’s International Relations Theme**

*The International Relations of West Africa.* (Book Manuscript)

“Balancing South Africa's Domestic, Regional and Global Priorities in the Environment and Trade.”

### **Works in Progress: Africa’s New Partners Theme**

“The Increasing Role of BRICS in Angola.”

“African Hydropower: Does China’s involvement make a difference.”

## Works in Progress: Datasets

*Country Participation in International Organizations, 1980 – present.*

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

## Teaching

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### 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*. Available at <http://govthesis.site.wesleyan.edu/>

### Courses:

#### **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 2016.</i>
Global Environmental Politics.	<i>Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016.</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.</i>
Introduction to International Relations.	<i>Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Fall 2011, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016.</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:

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

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

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

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

Interview on “Poverty and Philanthropy.” How to Change the World (Michael Roth). *Spring 2014*.

### Other Professional and University Experience

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#### Service to the Discipline

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

W.W. Norton & Company

Journals: *African Security Review*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *Journal of Human Rights*.

#### Service at Wesleyan University

##### Government Department Committees

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*.

##### Other Government Department Service

Participant. Government Department Website Update. *2011-2012*.

Co-organizer. Junior faculty and post-graduate research group (with Erika Fowler). *Summer 2010 – 2012*.

- Primary Developer. "User's Guide to Political Science." *An online resource for students writing papers for courses, working on honors theses, or learning research methods. Available at <http://govthesis.site.wesleyan.edu/>. Started in 2010.*
- 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.*

### **African Studies Cluster**

- Panel Moderator. "Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Development." African Studies Cluster's Africanizing Technology Conference. March 6, 2015.
- Chair. African Studies Cluster. *Summer 2010 – Summer 2012; Fall 2013 – Spring 2014.* 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 Cluster website (<http://africa.blogs.wesleyan.edu>).
  - Chair. Charles Brodigan Award Selection Committee. *Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2014.*
- Co-organizer. African Studies Cluster Annual Workshop: Africa's Global Past and Present (with Sarah Croucher, Typhaine Leservot and Lorelle Semeley). *Spring 2010.*
- Member. Charles Brodigan Award Selection Committee. *Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2013, Spring 2014.*

### **Public Lectures at Wesleyan University**

- "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 University Service

- Discussant. "SHOFECO-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 September 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, West Africa. Water and Sanitation/Health Education. 1997 – 1999.

### Media

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- 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.

### Awards

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- 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.



## **Professional Memberships**

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African Studies Association  
African Politics Conference Group  
American Political Science Association  
BISA Africa and International Studies Working Group

## **Foreign Languages**

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