

# LAURA THAUT VINSON

Lewis & Clark College  
Department of International Affairs  
307 Howard Hall  
Portland, OR 97219  
(503)768-7720  
lvinson@lclark.edu  
<http://lauravinson.org>

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

**Lewis & Clark College** (Fall 2017 - present)  
Assistant Professor of International Affairs  
Department of International Affairs

**Oklahoma State University** (Fall 2014 - Spring 2017)  
Assistant Professor of International Relations and Comparative Politics  
Department of Political Science

**Dartmouth College** (2013-2014)  
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, U.S. Foreign Policy & International Security  
Dickey Center for International Understanding

## EDUCATION

---

**University of Minnesota**  
Ph.D. in Political Science, 2013  
M.A. in Political Science, 2009

*Fields of Study:* Comparative Politics, International Relations

**Whitworth University**  
B.A. in Political Science (*Magna Cum Laude*), 2005

## RESEARCH

---

### **Books – Peer reviewed**

Vinson, Laura Thaut. 2017. *Religion, Violence, and Local Power-Sharing in Nigeria*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **Articles – Peer reviewed**

Vinson, Laura Thaut. (forthcoming). Disaggregating ethnicity and conflict patterns: Evidence from religious and tribal violence in Nigeria. *Ethnopolitics*.

Vinson, Laura Thaut (with Jonas Bunte). 2016. "Local Power-Sharing Institutions and Inter-Religious Violence in Nigeria." *Journal of Peace Research* 53(1): 49-65.

Thaut, Laura. 2009. "The Role of Faith in Christian Faith-Based Humanitarian Agencies: Constructing the Taxonomy." *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Non-Profit Agencies*. 20(4): 319-350.

Thaut, Laura. 2009. "European Union Integration and the Emigration Consequences: The Case of Lithuania." *International Migration*. 47(1): 191-233.

### **Book Chapters - Peer reviewed**

Thaut, Laura, Michael Barnett, Janice Gross-Stein. 2012. "In Defense of Virtue: Credibility, Legitimacy Dilemmas, and the Case of Islamic Relief." in Peter Gourevitch, David Lake, and Janice Gross-Stein, eds. *The Credibility of Transnational NGOs*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 137-164.

### **Book Chapters - Editor reviewed**

"Pastoralism, Ethnicity, and Subnational Conflict Resolution in the Middle Belt." (forthcoming 2018). In Carl LeVan and Patrick Ukata, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Nigerian Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Thaut, Laura and Carla Reyes. 2012. "Immigration to the U.S. and Welfare Policy, 1945-2010." in Michael LeMay ed., *Transforming America: Perspectives on U.S. Immigration*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.

Khan, Ajaz Ahmed and Laura Thaut. 2011. "The Opportunities and Challenges of Islamic Microfinance." In Gerrie ter Haar, ed., *Religion and Development: Ways of Transforming the World*. New York: Columbia University Press. 183-206.

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

---

#### **Articles**

Ethnicities and Conflict: A Survey Experiment on the Effect of Narrative Framing on Perceptions in Jos, Nigeria. (with Peter Rudloff)

Perceptions of Local vs. National Factors in Ethnic Conflict: Evidence From a Survey Experiment in Jos, Nigeria. (with Peter Rudloff)

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

---

- African Politics
- Ethnic conflict/Civil war/Peacebuilding
- Religious change/resurgence, politics, and conflict
- Religion and humanitarianism
- International migration politics

### **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS**

---

#### **PEACE RESEARCH GRANT**

IPRA Foundation, 2016 – Amount: \$5,000

#### **DEAN'S INCENTIVE GRANT**

College of Arts and Sciences, Oklahoma State University, 2015-2016 & 2016-2017

#### **SPRING TRAVEL AWARD**

College of Arts and Sciences, Oklahoma State University, 2014

#### **U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY RESEARCH FELLOW (POST-DOCTORAL)**

Dartmouth College, Dickey Center for International Understanding, 2013-2014

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

The Graduate School, University of Minnesota, 2012-2013

GRADUATE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, 2012

APSA AFRICA WORKSHOP FELLOW

American Political Science Association – Nairobi, Kenya, Jul 23-Aug 6, 2011

TRANS-ATLANTIC SUMMER INSTITUTE FELLOW

Center for German & European Studies, University of Minnesota, June 9-21, 2008

HUMANITARIANISM AND RELIGION WORKSHOP FELLOW

American University Cairo in collaboration with the University of Minnesota and the Luce Foundation, June 3-5, 2008

U.S. FULBRIGHT STUDENT ACADEMIC FELLOW, LITHUANIA

U.S. Department of State, Institute for International Education, 2005-2006

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS**

---

- 2017 “Ethnicity, Conflict, & Views of Peacebuilding: A Survey Experiment on the Effect of Narrative Framing on Perceptions in Jos, Nigeria.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Peter Rudloff.
- 2017 “Ethnicities and Conflict: A Survey Experiment on the Effect of Narrative Framing on Perceptions in Jos, Nigeria.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association. With Peter Rudloff.
- 2016 “When Religion Becomes a Source of Violence: Insights from Muslim-Christian Communal Violence in Northern Nigeria.” Invited talk, Whitworth University, Spokane, WA.
- 2015 “Constructing Conflict When Ethnicities Coincide: Preliminary Evidence From a Pilot Study in Jos, Nigeria.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- 2015 “The ‘Ethnic’ in Ethnic Conflict: Disaggregating the Role of Religious and Tribal Identity in Nigeria’s Communal Violence.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association.
- 2014 “The Pattern and Politics of Inter-Religious Violence in Nigeria.” Invited to present at the “Nigeria Workshop” Geostrategic Intelligence Seminar, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington D.C.
- 2014 “Local Institutions and Inter-religious Violence.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Jonas Bunte.
- 2013 “Averting the Inevitable Clash: Inter-Religious Violence and Local Power-Sharing in Nigeria,” Presented at the Boston-Area Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE) organized by Nahomi Ichino and Horacio Larreguy Arbesu, Harvard University.
- 2013 “Fighting for Faith or Tribe? Parsing Apart the Role of Ethnic Identities in Nigeria’s Communal Violence.” Paper presented in the Conflict Consortium Virtual Workshop (CCVW) organized by Christian Davenport and Will Moore.

- 2013 “The Clash of Civilizations? Inter-religious Violence and Local Power-sharing in Nigeria.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association.
- 2012 “The Flourishing of Religion and Violence: Local Power-Sharing Institutions and Patterns of Inter-religious Violence in Nigeria,” Accepted for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. (Cancelled Event)
- 2010 “Politics & Pentecostalism: Theorizing Ethnic and Religious Violence.” Presented at the conference on African Spiritualities: Politics, Poverty, and Prayer. Evangelical Graduate School of Theology/African International University, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2009 “In Defense of Virtue: Credibility, Legitimacy Dilemmas, and the Case of Islamic Relief.” Prepared for authors’ workshop on “Beyond Virtue.” With Michael Barnett and Janice Gross Stein.
- 2009 “The Role of Faith in Christian Faith-based Humanitarian Agencies: Constructing the Taxonomy.” Paper presented at the World Conference of Humanitarian Studies, Groningen, Netherlands.
- 2009 “The Challenges & Opportunities for Islamic Humanitarian Agencies in Post-9/11 Humanitarianism: The Case of Islamic Relief.” Presented at the World Conference of Humanitarian Studies, Groningen, Netherlands.
- 2009 “The Migrant Workers Convention: Explaining Obstacles to Commitment.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association Conference.
- 2008 “The Role of Faith in Christian Faith-based Humanitarian Agencies: Constructing the Taxonomy.” Paper presented at the Religion and Humanitarianism Conference, Cairo University, Egypt.

## **TEACHING**

---

### **Lewis & Clark College**

RELIGION AND GLOBAL POLITICS (Spring 2018)

THE GLOBAL SOUTH (Spring 2018)

AFRICAN POLITICS: THEMES IN DEMOCRACY, DEVELOPMENT, & CONFLICT (Fall 2017, 2018)

THE POLITICS OF HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION & VIOLENCE (Fall 2017, 2018)

### **Oklahoma State University**

#### *Undergraduate*

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS (Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016)

RELIGION AND GLOBAL POLITICS (Fall 2014, Fall 2015)

THE POLITICS OF AFRICA, Oklahoma State University (Spring 2015, Spring 2017)

THE POLITICS OF HUMANITARIANISM & GLOBAL SUFFERING (Fall 2016)

## *Graduate*

PROSEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS, Oklahoma State University (Fall 2015)

CIVIL WAR AND ETHNIC CONFLICT, Oklahoma State University (Spring 2016)

## **Other**

METHODOLOGIES OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS, University of Jos, Nigeria (Spring 2011, co-instructor)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, University of Minnesota (Fall 2009, Fall 2010 – TA/Section instructor)

## **OTHER RELEVANT RESEARCH/INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**

---

### **Internships**

ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE, Research Intern  
Birmingham, UK, Jul-Aug 2008

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE), Intern  
Mission to Serbia in Belgrade, Serbia, Democratization Department, Jan-Jun 2007

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, EMBASSY TO LITHUANIA, Intern  
Political Affairs section, Vilnius, Lithuania, Jun-Aug, 2004

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Intern  
Bureau of European Affairs, Washington, D.C., Jun-Aug 2003

### **Fieldwork**

NIGERIA, Feb-Dec 2011 (dissertation fieldwork), May-July 2016,

KENYA, Jul-Aug 2010 (pre-dissertation fieldwork)

LITHUANIA, Fulbright Student Fellowship research, 2005-2006

**Language:** SPANISH, Intermediate

## **STUDENT ADVISING**

---

### **Oklahoma State University**

MA COMMITTEE MEMBER: Joseph Manilafasha, Conner Alford, Jori Solt, Rolla Abdeljaweed

MA COMMITTEE MEMBER (CHAIR): Abdel Darou-Salim

PhD COMMITTEE MEMBER: Sam LaSala (History)

## **SERVICE**

---

### **Discipline**

PANEL CHAIR, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2015

INVITED REVIEWER, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *American Political Science Review*, *International Studies Review*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations*, *Journal of Comparative Politics*

### **University Service**

*Oklahoma State University*

MEMBER, Wentz Research Grant Review Committee, Social & Behavioral Science Subcommittee, 2015-17

FACULTY ADVISOR, Pi Sigma Alpha, Spring 2015-2017, Political Science

MEMBER, Graduate Committee, 2014-2017, Political Science

Subcommittees: Admissions/Recruitment, Internships, Department Activities, 2014-2015

Subcommittees: Admissions/Recruitment, Internships, Curriculum, Department Activities, 2015-2016

MEMBER, Undergraduate Committee, 2014-2015, Political Science

MEMBER, Hannah Atkins Endowed Chair Search Committee, 2014 Fall, Political Science

MEMBER, American Politics Search Committee, 2015 Fall, Political Science

### **OTHER**

---

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS: African Studies Association, American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association

*Sept 2018*