

# Margaret (Molly) Ariotti

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Google Scholar: [Molly Ariotti](#)

## Professional Experience

### Academic

University of Georgia

*Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs (2018–2022)*

*Faculty Fellow, Center for International Trade and Security (2019–2022)*

Harvard University

*Visiting Fellow, Center for Geographic Analysis (Summer 2013)*

### Government

Council of Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow

*Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, U.S. Department of State*

## Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Pennsylvania State University, 2018

M.A. Political Science, Pennsylvania State University, 2013

B.A. Political Science and Geography, Binghamton University, 2009, *summa cum laude*

Wolof Language Courses, ACI Baobab Center: Dakar, Senegal, 2016-2017

[African Flagship Languages Initiative](#), University of Florida, *Beginner Wolof Certificate*, 2016

*Cours de Civilisation Française de la Sorbonne, Advanced French Certificate*, 2008

## Research Interests

African politics (Francophone), institutions, government composition and formation, state capacity, local governance and security, bureaucracy, public goods provision

## Publications

### Articles

1. Ariotti Margaret, Simone Dietrich, & Joseph Wright. Forthcoming. "Foreign Aid and Judicial Autonomy." *The Review of International Organizations*.
2. Ariotti, Margaret. 2021. "Government Type and Public Spending in African Democracies." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 46(1): 85-118.
3. Ariotti, Margaret H. & Sona N. Golder. 2018. "Partisan portfolio allocation in African democracies." *Comparative Political Studies* 51(3): 341-379.

4. Ariotti, Margaret. 2016. "Burkina Faso's 2015 Presidential and Legislative Elections." *Electoral Studies* 44(December): 445-448.
5. McNulty, John, Conor Dowling, & Margaret H. Ariotti. 2009. "Driving Saints to Sin: How Increasing the Difficulty of Voting Dissuades Even the Most Motivated Voters" *Political Analysis* 17(4): 435-455.

### Monograph

1. Ariotti, Margaret H. and Kevin S. Fridy. 2020. *Informal Governance as a Force Multiplier in Counterterrorism: Evidence for Burkina Faso*. Joint Special Operations University Press.

### Other Publications

1. Ariotti, Margaret. [Burkina Faso's Elections: Old and New Challenges for Kaboré](#). *Instituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale* (26 October 2020).
2. Ariotti, Margaret (Molly) H. ["Mali's government collapsed. Here's what that tells us about parliamentary coalitions in Africa."](#) *The Monkey Cage Blog; The Washington Post* (June 14, 2019).
3. Book Review: Harsch, Ernest. [Burkina Faso: A History of Power, Protest, and Revolution](#). *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 56(2): 359-360.
4. Ariotti, Margaret & Charles Crabtree. Spring 2016. ["Improving the Interpretability and Research Transparency of Maps."](#) *CP: Newsletter of the Comparative Politics Organized Section of the American Political Science Association*.
5. Ariotti, Margaret (Molly) H. & Naunihal Singh. ["Can Burkina Faso become a stable democracy?"](#) *The Monkey Cage Blog; The Washington Post* (September 21, 2015).
6. Ariotti, Margaret (Molly) H. ["The fall of the hegemon in Burkina Faso,"](#) *The Monkey Cage Blog; The Washington Post* (November 4, 2014).

### Fieldwork and International Experience

South Africa: 2022 (Directed study abroad)

Senegal: 2016–2017

Burkina Faso: 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019

France: 2009–2011

### Awards

#### External Awards

2020-2021 [Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellowship](#)

2019 Joint Special Operations University Research Grant (co-PI with Kevin Fridy, \$17,000)

2016-2017 [David L. Boren Fellowship, National Security Education Program](#) (\$27,250)

2016, 2017 APSA Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Political Science Association

2015-2016 Royal Air Maroc-African Studies Association Student Travel Award (\$4,000)

## University Awards

2020 School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Georgia

2018-2019 Special Collections Libraries Faculty Fellow, University of Georgia

2016-2017 Graduate Student International Research Award, The Graduate School, Pennsylvania State University

2015-2016 Outstanding Political Science Graduate Student Award, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University

2015-2016 [Africana Research Center](#) Research Grant, Pennsylvania State University

2015-2016 RGSO Dissertation Support Grant, College of Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University

2015-2016 African Studies Program Dickerson Endowment Grant, Pennsylvania State University

2015-2016 African Studies Program Travel Grant, Pennsylvania State University

2015-2016 Program in Comparative Politics Fellowship (PiCP), Pennsylvania State University

2015 [Africana Research Center](#) Humanities Dissertation Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University

2015 Political Science Graduate Research Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University

## Relevant Skills

French (native fluency)

Wolof (beginner)

## Teaching Experience

### Undergraduate

- African Politics  
(University of Georgia: [Spring 2020](#), [Spring 2022](#))
- Introduction to Comparative Politics  
(University of Georgia: [Fall 2018](#), [Fall 2019](#), [Fall 2021](#))
- Comparative Political Institutions  
(University of Georgia: [Fall 2018](#), [Spring 2019](#), [Spring 2020](#), [Spring 2022](#))
- Dictators and Their Demise  
(Pennsylvania State University: [Summer Session I 2018](#))

### Graduate

- Comparative Analysis and Method  
(University of Georgia: [Fall 2019](#), [Fall 2021](#))

## Other

- Certificate for Online Teaching, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2015
- Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF), Academie de Créteil, 2009-2010

## Mentoring

### Dissertation Committee Member

- Matthew Bufford (University of Georgia)
- Matthew Kopp (University of Georgia)

### Undergraduate Research Mentees

- Alina Salgado (University of Georgia)
- Lindsey Smith (University of Georgia McNair Scholars Program)
- Emily Gayle (University of Georgia)
- Nathan Outlaw (University of Georgia)
- Oisakhose Aghomo (University of Georgia)
- Carter Best (University of Georgia)
- Olivia Bauer (University of Georgia)

## Professional Activity and Service

Section co-chair, African Politics, 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association

Editorial Board, *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, 2021 –

Editorial Board, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 2019 –

Section Chair, Comparative Political Institutions, 2021 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association

Guest Blogger, *The Monkey Cage*

Reviewer: *Journal of Politics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Government and Opposition*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *Africa Spectrum*, *United States Institute of Peace*, *Oxford University Press*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *Journal of Peace Research*

## University of Georgia

McNair Scholars Program Faculty Mentor

Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of International Affairs (2019-2020, 2021-2022)

Faculty Executive Committee, Department of International Affairs (2020-present)

## Community

2021: Expert consultant (pro bono), political asylum case for Burkinabè national, United States

2020: Expert consultant, political asylum case for Burkinabè national, United States

2019: Expert consultant (pro bono), political asylum case for Burkinabè national, United States

2019: Expert consultant (pro bono), political asylum case for Burkinabè national, United States

## Invited Talks

1. University of Florida. April 2021 (*Canceled 2020, rescheduled*)
2. Old Dominion University. March 2020. *Canceled, pandemic*
3. Lead Plenary Speaker, "Terrorism, Identity Politics, and Africa's Development in the 21st Century." Lagos State University. Lagos, Nigeria: July 21-25, 2019
4. "State Capacity, Bureaucracy, and Legitimacy: Evidence from West Africa." 2017 Boren Career Seminar FED Talks. Washington, D.C.: September 6, 2017
5. "L'allocation partisane des portefeuilles ministériels: Les démocraties africaines" [Partisan Portfolio Allocation in African Democracies]. Presented at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar. Dakar, Senegal: March 2, 2017

## Workshops

1. "Workshop on Dissident Organizations and Peace Processes." University of Arizona (Virtual). December 2020.
2. "Atelier sur les mobilisations politiques au Burkina Faso." University of Ottawa (Virtual). November 2020.
3. China Applied Research Series. Joint Special Operations University. Kingstown, RI: January 14-16, 2020.
4. "Coalition Governments in African Democracies." African Legislatures Working Group Online Workshop. October 25, 2019.
5. "The Political Economic Implications of Legislative Institutions." Texas A & M University. College Station, TX: February 22-23, 2019
6. Burkina Faso Applied Research Inquiry. Joint Special Operations University. Tampa, FL: July 31-August 2, 2018.
7. "Mini-workshop on Funding and Conducting Fieldwork." University of Arizona School of Government and Public Policy. Tucson, Arizona: February 2, 2018

## Conference Presentations

1. "Governance and Violent Extremism." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. Boston, MA, USA: November 21-23, 2019.
2. "Coalition Governments in African Democracies." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Washington, D.C., USA: August 29-September 1, 2019.
3. "Government Type and Public Spending in Africa." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Washington, D.C., USA: August 29-September 1, 2019.
4. "Coalition Governments in African Democracies." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL, USA: April 4-7, 2019
5. "Coalition Governments in African Democracies." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. Atlanta, GA, USA: November 29-December 1, 2018
6. "Government Type and Public Spending in Africa." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. Chicago, IL, USA: November 16-18, 2017
7. "Government Type and Public Spending in Africa." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. San Francisco, CA, USA: August 31-September 3, 2017
8. "State Capacity and Public Goods Provision: Evidence from Burkina Faso." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA, USA: September 1-4, 2016
9. "Government Type and Public Spending in Africa." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL, USA: April 6-10, 2016
10. "Local Administration and Public Goods Provision in Francophone Africa." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico, USA: January 7-9, 2016
11. "Portfolio Allocation in African Democracies," with Sona N. Golder. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL, USA: April 16-19, 2015
12. "The Pennsylvania State Legislative Speech Project," with Burt Monroe. Presented at the Open Legislative Data Conference. Paris, France: July 6-7, 2012