

# LAURA THAUT VINSON

Lewis & Clark College  
Department of International Affairs  
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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### Lewis & Clark College

Department of International Affairs

Associate Professor of International Affairs (Jan 2022-Present)

Assistant Professor of International Affairs (Aug 2017-Jan 2022)

### Oklahoma State University (Fall 2014 - Spring 2017)

Department of Political Science

Assistant Professor of International Relations and Comparative Politics

### Dartmouth College (2013-2014)

Dickey Center for International Understanding

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, U.S. Foreign Policy & International Security

## EDUCATION

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### 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 PUBLICATIONS

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### 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 (with Peter Rudloff). 2021. Perceptions of Local vs. National Factors in Ethnic Conflict: Evidence From a Survey Experiment in Jos, Nigeria. *Politics & Religion* 14(4): 663-690.

Vinson, Laura Thaut (with Peter Rudloff). [published online Jan 2021]. Surveys in Communities Divided by Ethnicity and Conflict: Challenges, Possible Solutions, and Lessons Learned from a Survey in Jos, Nigeria. *Sociological Methods & Research*.

Vinson, Laura Thaut (with Peter Rudloff). 2022 [published online Jan 2021]. Ethnicities and Conflict: A Survey Experiment on the Effect of Narrative Framing on Perceptions in Jos, Nigeria. *Ethnopolitics* 21(1): 80-101.

Vinson, Laura Thaut. 2020 [published online Oct 2018]. Disaggregating ethnicity and conflict patterns: Evidence from religious and tribal violence in Nigeria. *Ethnopolitics* 19(1): 19-44.

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**

Vinson, Laura Thaut. 2018. “Pastoralism, Ethnicity, and Subnational Conflict Resolution in the Middle Belt.” 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.

### **Research Under Review**

Local Leaders and Peacebuilding: Perceptions of Religious and Traditional Leaders in Resolving Ethnic Conflict in Jos, Nigeria [with Peter Rudloff]

### **Research in Progress**

Local Leaders’ Influence on Ethnic Conflict Attitudes: Evidence From a Survey Experiment in Jos, Nigeria [with Peter Rudloff]

Holy Brokers: The Role and Effectiveness of Religious Leaders in Mediating Intra-State Crises & Conflict [with Ben Gaskins]

### **Book Reviews**

2019. “Pentecostal Republic: Religion and the Struggle for State Power in Nigeria.” by Ebenezer Obadare, Zed Books, *Politics & Religion* 12(4): 779-781.

2018. “The Logic of Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Africa” by John F. McCauley, Cambridge University Press, *Politics & Religion* 11(4): 908-910.

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- African politics and development
- Ethnic conflict/civil war/peacebuilding
- Religion and conflict/mediation
- Humanitarianism politics and development

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

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### **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**

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- 2020 Non-author presenter on author-meets-critic book panel: “Roundtable: Wrestling with God: Ethical Precarity in Christianity and IR” with author Cecilia Lynch. (Virtual) Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- 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**

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### **Lewis & Clark College**

IA-220 THE GLOBAL SOUTH (Spring 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2023)

IA-230 AFRICAN POLITICS: THEMES IN DEMOCRACY, DEVELOPMENT, & CONFLICT (Fall 2017-2022)

IA-362 THE POLITICS OF HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION & VIOLENCE (Fall 2017-2021)

IA-262 RELIGION AND GLOBAL POLITICS (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2022)

IA-430 SENIOR SEMINAR (Spring 2021, Spring 2023)

### **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 (Spring 2015, Spring 2017)

THE POLITICS OF HUMANITARIANISM & GLOBAL SUFFERING (Fall 2016)

#### *Graduate*

PROSEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS (Fall 2015)

CIVIL WAR AND ETHNIC CONFLICT (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**

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### **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, May-July 2016

NIGERIA, Feb-Dec 2011 (dissertation fieldwork)

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

LITHUANIA, Fulbright Student Fellowship research, 2005-2006

**Language:** SPANISH, Intermediate

## **SERVICE**

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### **Discipline**

INVITED PARTICIPANT, Author-Meets-Critics Book Roundtable, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Sept 2020

COMMITTEE MEMBER for Weber Best Conference Paper Award, Religion & Politics Section of the American Political Science Association, Spring 2020

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

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

INVITED BOOK REVIEWER, *Politics & Religion*

## **OTHER**

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

*Aug 2023*