

# Margaret (Molly) Ariotti

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## Education

Ph.D. Political Science (*expected 2018*), Pennsylvania State University

*Dissertation: "Parties and Coalitions: Executive-Legislative Relations in African Democracies"*

*Committee:*

- Sona N. Golder (Chair, Political Science)
- Jennifer Boittin (French & Francophone Studies and History)
- Matt Golder (Political Science)
- Doug Lemke (Political Science and African Studies)

*Fields:* Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, and Geography

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

## Academic Experience

Visiting Fellow at the [Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis](#) (Summer 2013)

## Research Interests

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

## Publications

### Articles

1. Margaret H. Ariotti & Sona N. Golder. Forthcoming. "Partisan portfolio allocation in African democracies." *Comparative Political Studies*.
2. Ariotti, Margaret. 2016. "Burkina Faso's 2015 Presidential and Legislative Elections." *Electoral Studies* 44(December): 445-448.
3. 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.

## Other Publications

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).

## Current Projects

### Under Review

- "Foreign aid and judicial independence" (with Joseph Wright and Simone Dietrich)

### Working Papers

- "Coalition Governments in African Democracies"
- "Government Type and Public Spending in Africa"

### Works in Progress

- "State Capacity and Public Goods Provision: Evidence from Burkina Faso"
- "Ethnicity, Electoral Support, and Public Goods Provision in Francophone Africa"

## Fieldwork and International Experience

Senegal: September 2016–April 2017

Burkina Faso: June–July 2014; February–March, May 2016, February 2017

France: September 2009–July 2011

## Awards

### External Awards

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)

## Internal Awards

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

2014 Summer Graduate Research Award, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University

2012-2013 [Big Data Social Science IGERT Fellow](#) (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program); National Science Foundation and Pennsylvania State University (NSF award DGE-1144860)

2011-2016 Graduate Assistantship, Pennsylvania State University

## Relevant Skills

French (native fluency)

Wolof (intermediate)

Geographic Information System (GIS)

## Teaching Experience

### Instructor

- Dictators and Their Demise  
(Pennsylvania State University, *Scheduled Summer Session I 2018*)

### Teaching Assistant

- International Relations  
(Doug Lemke, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2018)
- Modern African History  
(Clemente Abrokwa, African Studies Program, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2015)
- Introduction to Contemporary Africa (online course)  
(Sibusiwé Dube-Makoni, African Studies Program, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2015)
- Introduction to Comparative Politics  
(Matt Golder, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2014)

### **Guest Lectures**

- African Health and Development: 7 November 2017  
(Dana Naughton, Department of Biobehavioral Health, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2017)
- Issues in Global Health: 3 October 2017  
(Dana Naughton, Department of Biobehavioral Health, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2017)
- Modern African History: 13 October 2015  
(Clemente Abrokwa, African Studies Program, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2015)
- Introduction to Contemporary Africa: 20 and 22 January 2015  
(Elizabeth Carlson, African Studies Program, Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2015)

### **Certificate for Online Teaching, Pennsylvania State University**

- Coursework in online teaching and learning: Fall 2015

### **English Language Assistant (Aubervilliers, France)**

- [Teaching Assistant Program in France \(TAPIF\)](#), French Embassy: 2009-2010

### **Invited Talks**

1. "State Capacity, Bureaucracy, and Legitimacy: Evidence from West Africa." Presented at the 2017 Boren Career Seminar FED Talks. Washington, D.C., USA: September 6, 2017
2. "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

### **Conference Presentations**

1. "Government Type and Public Spending in Africa." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association. Chicago, IL, USA: November 16-18, 2017
2. "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
3. "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
4. "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
5. "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
6. "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
7. "The Pennsylvania State Legislative Speech Project," with Burt Monroe. Presented at the Open Legislative Data Conference. Paris, France: July 6-7, 2012

## References

[Sona N. Golder](#)  
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