

# Yonatan L. Morse

Department of Political Science  
University of Connecticut  
Phone: (203)-251-9528

yonatan.morse@uconn.edu  
[www.yonatanmorse.com](http://www.yonatanmorse.com)

---

## Academic Appointments

2016- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Connecticut  
2013-2016 Assistant Professor of Teaching and Associate Director of the Democracy and Governance Program, Department of Government, Georgetown University

## Education

2013 Ph.D., Government, Georgetown University  
Dissertation: *Party Matters: The Institutional Origins of Competitiveness and Hegemony in Post-Cold War Africa* (Chair: Marc Morjé Howard)  
Winner of the Harold N. Glassman Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences)

2009 M.A., Government, Georgetown University

2006 B.A., Politics/Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Brandeis University  
*Summa cum laude*, Highest Honors

## Research

### ACADEMIC BOOKS

2019 Morse, Yonatan L. *How Autocrats Compete: Parties, Patrons, and Unfair Elections in Africa*, New York, NY: Cambridge University Press  
Reviewed in *Democratization*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *African Studies Review*

### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

2021 “The Legislature as Political Control: Change and Continuity in Cameroon’s National Assembly, 1973-2019” *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 59, 4 (Forthcoming).

2021 “Pathways to Power in an Authoritarian Regime: Civil Service, Multipartyism, and Legislative Selection in Cameroon” (FirstView, *Government & Opposition*).

2020 “Rebuilding, Rebranding, and Competitive Landscapes: A Set Theoretic Analysis of Authoritarian Successor Parties” *Democratization* 27 (8): 1477-1495.

2019 Morse, Yonatan L. “Elite Interviews in the Developing World: Finding Anchors in Informal Settings” *Qualitative Research* 19 (3): 277-291.

2018 Morse, Yonatan L. “Presidential Power and Democratization by Elections in Africa” *Democratization* 25 (8): 709-727.

2018 Morse, Yonatan L. “Electoral Authoritarianism and Weak States in Africa: Parties vs. Presidents in Tanzania and Cameroon” *International Political Science Review* 38 (1): 114-129.

2015 Morse, Yonatan L. “From Single-Parties to Electoral Authoritarian Regimes: Party Capacity and the Sources of Electoral Hegemony and Competitiveness in Post-Cold War Africa” *Comparative Politics* 48 (1): 126-151.

2014 Morse, Yonatan L. “Party Matters: The Institutional Origins of Tanzania’s Competitive Hegemony” *Democratization* 21 (4): 655-677.

2012 Morse, Yonatan L. “The Era of Electoral Authoritarianism” *World Politics* 64 (1): 161-198.

## IN PROGRESS

- 2021 w/ Fru Norbert, Suh, “Why Run for Office in an Authoritarian Regime? Motivations and Role Orientations in Cameroon’s Legislature” (Under Review)
- 2021 “Pathways to Pension Reform in Africa: Trade Union Activism in Ghana and Malawi” (Working Paper)
- 2020 “Institutional Legacies, Democracy, and Welfare: The Changing Landscape of Social Protection in Africa” (Working Paper)
- TBD w/ Natalie Letsa “Hybrid Institutions and the Cultivation of Core Support in Autocracies: Evidence from Cameroon (Survey in Progress)
- TBD “Who Cares About Welfare? Evidence from Malawi” (Survey in Progress)
- TBD “Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Factual Standards for Process Tracing Research” (Data Collection)

## BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2020 Morse, Yonatan L. “Cameroon” *IISS Armed Conflict Survey 2020*, Routledge, London
- 2019 Morse, Yonatan L. “Cameroon” *IISS Armed Conflict Survey 2019*, Routledge, London

## BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 Review of Nic Cheeseman and Jonathan Fisher, *Authoritarian Africa*, Oxford University Press, Oxford (2020), in *Journal of Modern African Studies* (Forthcoming)
- 2015 Review of Andreas Schedler. *The Politics of Uncertainty: Sustaining and Subverting Electoral Authoritarianism*, Oxford University Press, Oxford (2013), in *Acta Politica* 50, (2): p.246-248

## OTHER WRITING (NON-PEER REVIEWED)

- 2022 Morse, Yonatan L. “Bertelsmann Transformation Index: Cameroon” *Bertelsmann Stiftung*, Berlin, Germany.
- 2020 Morse, Yonatan L. “Bertelsmann Transformation Index: Cameroon” *Bertelsmann Stiftung*, Berlin, Germany.

## PUBLISHED DATASETS

- TBD Structure of Social Welfare in Africa Dataset, SSWA (indicators of eight welfare dimensions across 44 countries between 1960 and 2017).
- 2020 Biographical Dataset of Cameroonian Legislators, 1973-2019
- 2018 Constituency Level Electoral Data (Cameroon 1992-2013, Kenya 1992-2002, Tanzania 1995-2010).

## OP-EDS AND SELECTED BLOG POSTS

- 2021 Morse, Yonatan L. “Unexpected Turnover: President Samia Suluhu and the Future of CCM” *Presidential Power Blog* (7/19)
- 2021 Morse, Yonatan L. “Can the CPDM Revitalize? Youth Pressure and the Challenge of Political Recruitment?” *Presidential Power Blog* (5/19)
- 2021 Morse, Yonatan L. “Cameroon – Should we Take Decentralization Seriously?” *Presidential Power Blog* (2/10)
- 2020 Morse, Yonatan L. “Is There a COVID-19 Crisis in Cameroon?” *Presidential Power Blog* (5/12)

- 2020 Morse, Yonatan L. “All the President’s Men: Legislative Reshuffling in Cameroon” *Presidential Power Blog* (1/29)
- 2019 Morse, Yonatan L. “Acting with Impunity: Who Can Force Biya’s Hand?” *Presidential Power Blog* (7/22)
- 2019 Morse, Yonatan L. “New Research: Dynamics of Electoral Authoritarianism in Africa” *Presidential Power Blog* (6/19)
- 2019 Morse, Yonatan L. “A Reversion to Type in Cameroon” *Presidential Power Blog* (2/27)
- 2019 Morse, Yonatan L. “How do Dictators Keep Power in Africa” *Democracy in Africa* (2/27)
- 2018 Morse, Yonatan L. “No Real Surprises, Only Drama in Cameroon’s Presidential Election” *Presidential Power Blog* (10/30)
- 2018 Morse, Yonatan L. “Cameroon has an Election Sunday - and everyone already knows the winner” *Washington Post’s Monkey Cage Blog* (10/6)
- 2018 Morse, Yonatan L. “The Men Who Will Never be King: Cameroon’s October 2018 Presidential Election” *Presidential Power Blog* (9/10)
- 2018 Morse, Yonatan L. “Crisis, Opposition Primaries, and Senatorial Elections” *Presidential Power Blog* (6/5)
- 2018 Morse, Yonatan L. “Coercive Legacies and Innovations in Cameroon” *Presidential Power Blog* (2/26)
- 2017 Morse, Yonatan L. “Exploring the Anglophone Crisis: A Conversation with Felix Agbor-Balla” *Presidential Power Blog* (11/8)
- 2017 Morse, Yonatan L. “The African State, Presidential Power, and Electoral Authoritarianism in Cameroon” *Presidential Power Blog* (7/9)
- 2017 Morse, Yonatan L. “Cameroon has been in Crisis for Six Months: Here’s What you Need to Know” *Washington Post’s Monkey Cage Blog* (6/2)
- 2015 Morse, Yonatan L. “The Party Rules and the 2015 Mainland Election in Tanzania” *Democracy in Africa Blog* (11/16)

## Awards and Grants

- 2020-22 Andrew Carnegie Fellow (\$200,000, Andrew Carnegie Foundation)
- 2021-22 Alan. R Bennett Award for Excellence in Honors Advising (\$2,000 University of Connecticut)
- 2020-21 Research Excellence Program Award (\$22,000, University of Connecticut)
- 2019 Scholarship Facilitation Award (\$2,000, University of Connecticut)
- 2018 Scholarship Facilitation Award (\$2,000, University of Connecticut)
- 2016-17 Collaborative Research Grant (\$1,500, Department of Political Science, University of Connecticut)
- 2016 Book Incubator Grant (\$5,000 Department of Government, Georgetown University)
- 2015 Center for Democracy and Civil Society Faculty Research Support (\$5,000, Georgetown University)
- 2015 Harold N. Glassman Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences (Georgetown University)
- 2011 Graduate School Dissertation Research Travel Grant (Georgetown University)
- 2010 Government Department Pro-Seminar Fellowship (Georgetown University)
- 2010 Government Department Summer Research Grant (Georgetown University)
- 2009 Government Department Graduate Student Paper Award (Georgetown University)
- 2008-13 Government Department Fellowship (Georgetown University)
- 2006 The Fechter Family Prize in Political Science (Brandeis University)
- 2005 Circle on Democracy and Cultural Pluralism Research Grant (Brandies University)

## Conferences and Invited Presentations

(P=PRESENTATION; O=ORGANIZOR; C=CHAIR; D=DISUSSANT; F=FORUM/ROUNDTABLE)

2021	Institute for Democracy, Citizenship, and Public Policy in Africa, University of Cape Town (P, 6/15)
2019	African Legislatures Working Group (O); American Political Science Association (P/C/D); African Studies Association (P/C/D); Boston University Comparative Politics Workshop (P, 10/15), Parliaments and Democracy in Africa Workshop, CREPOS Dakar, Senegal (P/F); African Political Science Group Online Colloquium (D)
2018	Northwestern University (P), American Political Science Association (P/C/D); African Legislatures Working Group (O)
2017	American Political Science Association (D); African Studies Association (D)
2016	U.S. State Department (P); American Political Science Association (P/D); Beijing Foreign Studies University (P); Mid-West Political Science Association (P/D)
2015	International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management, Washington D.C. (P); Mid-West Political Science Association (P/D)
2014	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (P/D)
2013	PITF Workshop, Washington D.C. (P); African Studies Association (P), Mid-West Political Science Association (P)
2012	American Political Science Association (P)
2011	African Studies Association (P); American Political Science Association (P)
2010	Mid-West Political Science Association (P)
2009	Mid-West Political Science Association (P)
2008	Mid-West Political Science Association (P)

## Teaching Experience

### UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

POLS 1212: Introduction to Comparative Politics  
 POLS 2998: Political Issues: Democracy and Democratization  
 POLS 3202W: Comparative Parties and Party Systems  
 POLS 3252: Politics in Africa  
 POLS 5615: Qualitative Research (PhD Seminar)

### GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

GOVT 558: Democracy and Governance in Africa (MA Level Class)  
 GOVT 559: Hybrid Regimes and Contemporary Authoritarianism (MA Level Class)  
 GOVT 541: Research Methods in Democracy and Development (MA Level Class)  
 GOVT 543: Political Parties in the Developing World (MA Level Class)

## Service, Activities, and Affiliations

### UNIVERSITY

2017- Present) Faculty Coordinating Committee, Stamford Campus, University of Connecticut (Fall 2017-

### DEPARTMENTAL

2018- Stamford Campus Political Science Coordinator, University of Connecticut  
 2019 Search Committee, Political Science Department, University of Connecticut  
 2017 Merit Committee, Political Science Department, University of Connecticut  
 2016 Search Committee, Political Science Department, University of Connecticut  
 2013-2016 Associate Director, Democracy and Governance Program, Georgetown University

2016 Member, Provost's "Future of the University" Initiative at Georgetown University  
2012 Resident Director, Georgetown Kiswahili Study Abroad Program

## PROFESSIONAL

2021 Best Dissertation Award Committee, African Political Science Conference Group  
2018- Co-founder, African Legislatures Working Group (ALWG)  
2017 Nominations Committee, African Political Science Conference Group  
2016 Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, African Political Science Conference Group

Reviewer for *Acta Politica*, *African Affairs*, *African Identities*, *African Security Review*, *Africa Spectrum*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Cambridge University Press*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *Comparative Politics Comparative Political Studies*, *Democratization*, *European Political Science Review*, *Government & Opposition*, *International Interactions*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, *Michigan University Press*, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, *Oxford University Press*, *Palgrave Macmillan*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Representation*, *South African Review of Sociology*, *University of Michigan Press*, *World Politics*, *Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft*

## COMMUNITY

2018- Expert Witness (pro bono), political asylum cases for Cameroonian nationals, United States

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

AY 2020-2021 Alan. R. Bennett Award for Excellence in Honors Advising (\$2,000)  
AY 2019-2020 Bennett RA (Michael Hernandez); UConn-Stamford POLS Honors Coordinator  
AY 2018-2019 Advised on creation of Undergraduate Political Science Association; UConn-Stamford POLS Honors Coordinator  
AY 2017-2018 Bennett RA (Pierre-Alexander Aguirre); Collaborative Research Fund (Youssef Bellamy)

## CONSULTANCIES AND ADVISING

2019- Country Expert (Cameroon), Political Violence Early-Warning System (ViEWS)  
2018- Country Expert (Cameroon), Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index (BTI)  
2018-2020 Country Expert, IISS Armed Conflict Survey (ACS)  
2015- Country Expert (Cameroon, Tanzania, Zanzibar), Varieties of Democracy (V-DEM)  
2017-2018 Advisor, U.S. Department of State/CSO (Cameroon related)  
2014 Country Expert (Tanzania), Freedom House  
2012-2013 Contributor (Kenya), Political Instability Task Force (PITF-DoD)

## MEDIA APPEARANCES AND RESEARCH MENTIONS

2021 "Electoral Autocracy": The Downgrading of India's Democracy *BBC News* (3/16)  
2020 "A Conversation About the 3 Crises in Cameroon" *Ufahamu Podcast* (10/10)  
2020 "Where is President Paul Biya? COVID-19 in Cameroon" *African Arguments* (5/19)  
2018 Focus on Africa, *BBC World Service* (2/7)  
2018 "A Crisis in Cameroon is Forcing English Speakers to Flee in Alarming Numbers" *Global Dispatches Podcast* (1/25)

2016 “Cult of Personality: How Trump Uses the Playbook of Europe’s Far Right” *Newsweek* (5/10)

## Skills

Computer Methods STATA, Arc GIS/QGIS, qGIS, fs/QCA, NVivo  
Graduate-level coursework in Qualitative and Quantitative Methodology (Attended IQMR, Summer 2011)

Language Advanced literary Arabic - Certificate in Literary Arabic, Level 6 (University of Jordan, 2005); Fluent Hebrew; Conversational Kiswahili

Fieldwork Jordan (2005); Tanzania (2010, 2012); Kenya (2012); Cameroon (2015, 2017, 2018, 2019); Ghana (2018); Malawi (2018); Senegal (2019)

## Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association (APSA)  
African Studies Association (ASA)  
African Politics Conference Group APSA Section  
Democracy and Autocracy APSA Section  
Comparative Politics APSA Section  
Qualitative and Multi-Methods APSA Section