

# Alexandra Scacco

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science  
Columbia University  
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Wilf Family Department of Politics, New York University  
beginning September 2010

Post-doctoral Prize Research Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford University  
September 2009–August 2010

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Program in Political Science, August 2003–Present  
Columbia University, New York, NY  
Dissertation: “Who Riots? Explaining Individual Participation  
in Ethnic Violence in Nigeria”  
(Winner of APSA 2009 Best Fieldwork Award)  
Advisors: Jack Snyder, Macartan Humphreys, Andrew Gelman

M.Phil, Political Science, May 2007  
Columbia University  
Examination Fields: Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methods

M.Sc., *summa cum laude*, International Relations, July 2000  
London School of Economics  
Awarded distinction for master’s thesis

A.B., *magna cum laude*, Princeton University, June 1999  
Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs  
Awarded highest honors for senior thesis

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Micro-dynamics of violence  
Ethnic politics  
African political economy  
Field research methods

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

American Political Science Association, Comparative Democratization Section, Best  
Fieldwork Award for dissertation research, 2009

Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, Post-doctoral  
Fellowship in International Security, 2009–2010 (declined).

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, Post-doctoral  
Fellowship in Intra-State Conflict, 2009–2010 (declined).

Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Ohio State University,  
Post-doctoral Fellowship, 2009–2010 (declined).

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2008–2009

Mellon Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Columbia University, 2008–2009

Qualitative Research Methods Fellowship, Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University, 2008

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship, Columbia University, 2006–2008

Saltzman Institute Summer Travel Grant, Columbia University, 2006–2007

Leitner Family Summer Travel Grant, Institute of African Studies, Columbia University, 2006

Faculty Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2003–2008

Derek Bok Distinction in Teaching Award, Harvard University, three-time recipient, 2002–2003

Research Fellow, Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, 2001–2003

WORKING  
PAPERS

“What the Numbers Say: A Digit-Based Test for Election Fraud Using New Data from Nigeria” (with Bernd Beber), Under Review

“A Snowball’s Chance in Nigeria: Finding Rioters using Respondent-Driven Sampling” (with Rachel Schutt)

“Individual Participation in Violent Demonstrations in Nigeria”

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS  
AND INVITED  
TALKS

International Studies Association, New York, February 2009

“Explaining Participation in Violence,” Guest Lecture, Barnard College, October 2008

International Politics Seminar (CUIPS), Columbia University, October 2008

American Political Science Association, Boston, August 2008

Joint Statistical Meetings Annual Conference, Denver, August 2008

“Choosing Violence,” Stanford University, June 2008

Midwest Political Science Association, April 2008

Comparative Politics Workshop, Columbia University, March 2008

American Political Science Association, Chicago, August 2007

Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2007

Comparative Politics Seminar, Columbia University, March 2007

African Studies Association, San Francisco, November 2006

Yale University Program on Order, Conflict and Violence, April 2006

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, April 2005

PUBLICATIONS

“Fine-Tuning Minority Policy in Romania,” with Istvan Horvath, in *Diversity in Action: Local Public Management of Multi-Ethnic Communities*. Budapest, LGI Books, 2001

“Combating Corruption Digitally,” *Transition: The World Bank Newsletter*, 14:1, 2003

“The Governance of Globalism,” with Joseph S. Nye, *La Vanguardia Dossier*, 2002

ACADEMIC  
EXPERIENCE

Institute of Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Arizona State University, 2008

Russell Sage Foundation, Research assistant for Kanchan Chandra, 2005–2006

- Helped design measures for Constructivist Dataset on Ethnicity and Institutions

Columbia University, Research assistant for Tanisha Fazal, 2005–2006

- Researched duration and intensity of civil wars for new civil wars dataset

Columbia University, Research assistant for Macartan Humphreys, 2005

- Conducted surveys and field experiments on ethnicity and collective action in Uganda

TEACHING

Columbia University: Teaching Fellow, Department of Political Science, 2004–2008

- Nationalism and World Politics, Contemporary African Politics, Analysis of Political Data, Introduction to Human Rights

Harvard University: Teaching Fellow, Department of Government, 2002–2003

- Introduction to Political Thought, Sophomore Tutorial, Globalization and Governance (Kennedy School of Government)

FIELD RESEARCH

Uganda: Survey and Experimental Research on Ethnic Politics, May–August, 2005

Nigeria: Pre-Dissertation Archival Research and Elite Interviews, June–August, 2006

Nigeria: Survey and Ethnographic Research for Dissertation, October–December, 2007, and July–August, 2008

LANGUAGES AND  
OTHER SKILLS

Foreign Languages: French (advanced), Japanese (proficient), Hausa (basic)

Statistical Software: Stata, R

SERVICE

Ph.D. Admissions Committee

Graduate student reader for the comparative politics subfield, 2006

Undergraduate Political Science Advising, 2003–2004

REFERENCES

Jack L. Snyder  
Department of Political Science  
Columbia University  
212-864-1686  
jls6@columbia.edu

Andrew Gelman  
Departments of Political Science  
and Statistics  
Columbia University  
212-854-7075  
gelman@stat.columbia.edu

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212-854-7431  
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Kimuli Kasara  
Department of Political Science  
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