

THALIA GERZSO

Department of Politics and International Relations, University of York
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APPOINTMENTS

2024- **University of York**
Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations

2023-2024 **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)**
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Government

EDUCATION

2018-2023 **Cornell University**
PhD, MA, Government
Fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations
Dissertation: *Judicial Resistance: The Role of Courts in Electoral Disputes*
Committee: Nicolas van de Walle (Chair), Rachel Beatty Riedl, Bryn Rosenfeld, Alexandra Cirone

2016-2017 **Cornell Law School**
LLM, *New York Bar Admission*

2012-2015 **Université Paris 2 Panthéon Assas**
MA, *Cum Laude*, International Law
BA, Law

ACADEMIC WRITING

Articles

2024 Gerzso, Thalia. ["A Two-Headed Creature: Bicameralism in African Autocracies."](#)
Comparative Politics 56.4 (2024): 495-515.

2023 Gerzso, Thalia. ["Judicial resistance during electoral disputes: Evidence from Kenya."](#)
Electoral Studies 85 (2023): 102653.
— Winner of the 2024 [Alexander L. George Article Award](#)
Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section, American Political Science Association
— Honorable Mention for the 2024 [Best Article Award](#)
African Politics Section, American Political Science Association

2022 Gerzso, Thalia, and Nicolas van de Walle. ["The Politics of Legislative Expansion in Africa."](#)
Comparative Political Studies (2022): 00104140221074277.

Chapters

2024 Gerzso, Thalia, & Rachel Beatty Riedl. "The Potential of Mixed Methods for Qualitative Research." *Doing Good Qualitative Research* (2024): 72.

2023 Gloppen, Siri, Thalia Gerzso, and Nicolas van de Walle. *Constitutional, Administrative, Judicial, and Discursive... Democratic Backsliding in Africa?* (2023): 58.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Book project

Judicial Resistance: Can Judges Save Democracy?

Working papers

1. "How does Education affect Public Support for Judicial Power in Hybrid Regimes" (with Sivaram Cheruvu) **Under review**.
2. "How do Domestic Legal Institutions Affect Public Support for Judicial Power?" Evidence from sub-Saharan Africa (with Sivaram Cheruvu) **Under review**.
3. "Democratic Self-Defense: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa (with Rachel Beatty Riedl & Paul Friesen)"

Papers in progress

1. "A Culture of Judicial Resistance: Evidence from Malawi"
2. "Judicial Peacekeeper: How Judicial Behaviour Affects Onsets of Electoral Violence "
3. "The Politics of Parenting in Political Science" (with Tessa Devereaux)
4. "Trajectories of Democratic Backsliding" (with Daphne Halikiopoulou, Sarah Shair-Rosenfield, & Laura Gamboa)
5. "Beyond Positivist Inquiry in Process Tracing" (with Eun A Jo).

PUBLIC WRITING

Public Scholarship

2024 Thalia Gerzso. "African countries are adopting two houses of parliament to boost democracy – but that's not always what happens." *The Conversation*, Sept. 12, 2024.

2023 Thalia Gerzso. "Kenya's courts were under political pressure: how a constitutional reform empowered judges." *The Conversation*, Oct. 31, 2023.

2022 Thalia Gerzso & Nicolas van de Walle. "The expansion of African legislatures threatens to undermine parliaments," *Africa at LSE Blog*, Apr. 27, 2022.

Book Review

2025 Gerzso, Thalia. "Wealth, Power, and Authoritarian Institutions: Comparing Dominant Parties and Parliaments in Tanzania and Uganda: By Michaela Collard Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024, 320 pp., £ 108.00 (hardback), ISBN: 978-0-192-85518-3 (hardback)." (2025): 1-2.

MEDIA INTERVIEW

2024 [DW Africa Link](#), Will Uganda change its law to extend Museveni's presidency?
October 3, 2024.

2024 [Channel Africa](#), African countries adopting two houses of parliament does not necessarily promote democracy, September 17, 2024.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

External

2025 British Academy Leverhulme Small Research Grant (£10,000)
2022 Peace Scholar Fellowship, United States Institute of Peace
2022 Conference Travel Grant, American Political Science Association
2021 Summer Centennial Center Research Grant, American Political Science Association

Internal

2022 Timothy Murray Graduate Travel Grant
2022 Sage Fellowship
2021 CCSS Qualitative and Interpretive Research Institute Small Research Grant
2021 Research Travel Grant
2021 Philip E. Lewis Research Grant in French Studies
2020 Einaudi Center International Research Travel Grant
2019-2022 Conference Travel Grant
2018 Sage Fellowship
2017 Graduate Legal Studies Fellowship
2016 Rudolf B. Schlesinger Fellowship

PRESENTATIONS

Annual Meetings

2025 ECPR
2024 APSA, African Studies Association UK
2023 APSA
2022 APSA, ECPR, IPSA
2021 African Studies Association
2020 African Studies Association
2019 African Studies Association

Invited Roundtables

2025 University of Chicago, "Democratic Solutions"

Invited Talks

2025 University of Bradford, John and Elnora Ferguson Africa Centre
2023 University of Birmingham, CEDAR
2021 University of Bergen, Bergen Exchanges

Invited Workshops

2026 Guardrails of Democracy Conference, American Enterprise Institute, ***Scheduled***
The Legal Complex and Autocratization: Resistance, Cooperation, and Repair, ISLL, ***Scheduled***

2025 Early Career Workshop in Socio-legal Studies, University of Oxford
African Judges Preventing and Responding to Political Attacks Workshop, Queen Mary University of London

2024 Democracy and Political Institutions in Africa Workshop
Politics of the Global South Workshop
Political Science and Political Economy Work-in-Progress Seminar, LSE

2023 African Political Economy Seminar, LSE
Judiciary and Democratisation in Africa Workshop, British Institute in Eastern Africa
Authoritarian Political Systems Group Workshop

2022 African Politics Conference Group Colloquium
APSA Autocracy & Democracy Workshop
Junior Law and Politics Research Community Seminar Series

2021 Junior Law and Politics Research Community Seminar Series

2018 Inter-University Graduate Workshop, Cornell Law School

TEACHING

Instructor

Applied Quantitative Analysis (*Module Convenor*), University of York
Research Design (UG) (*Module Convenor*), University of York
Research Design (PhD) (*Module Convenor*), University of York

Teaching Fellow

Introduction to Political Science, LSE

Teaching Assistant

International Human Rights: Theory and Practice, Cornell Law School
Southeast Asian Politics, Cornell University
African Politics, Cornell University
Introduction to Comparative Politics, Cornell University
Making Sense of the World Politics, Cornell University

SERVICE

External

Current Associate Editor, Political Studies
2025 Co-Section Chair, ECPR Court and Law Section
2025 APSA African Politics Best Book Award Committee
Current Junior Law and Politics Seminar (Co-facilitator)
2023–2025 APSA African Politics Section, Communication Officer

Internal

2025– University of York, Deputy Head of Admission
2024– University of York, Comparative Politics Cluster Convenor
2020–2021 Cornell University, Department of Government, Speaker Series, Graduate Student Coordinator
2019–2020 Cornell University, Government Department, Comparative Politics Graduate Student Representative

Reviewer

Political Research Quarterly, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Modern African Studies, World Development, Electoral Studies, Political Studies, The Journal of Development Studies, Comparative Politics, British Journal of Political Science

SKILLS

Languages French (native), English (fluent), Italian (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)

Software R, L^AT_EX, Qualtrics, Stata

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2024 Postgraduate Certification in Higher Education, Advance Higher Education
2021 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University

REFERENCES

Rachel Beatty Riedl
Professor, Director of the Center
on Global Democracy
Cornell University
rbeattyriedl@cornell.edu

Bryn Rosenfeld
Associate Professor
Cornell University
brr59@cornell.edu

Alexandra Cirone
Assistant Professor
London School of Economics
A.E.Cirone@lse.ac.uk

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