

Lauren Honig

CONTACT INFORMATION

Boston College
Department of Political Science
324 McGuinn Hall
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02647

617-522-8254 (O)
lauren.honig@bc.edu
laurenhonig.com

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023– **Boston College**
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
Faculty Affiliate, African and African Diaspora Studies Program
Faculty Affiliate, Environmental Studies Program
2017–2023 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

FELLOWSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

2022– **University of Gothenburg**
Research Associate, Governance and Local Development Institute
2025– **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
Research Affiliate, Center for International Studies (CIS)
2023 **Toulouse School of Economics**
Visiting Researcher, Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse (IAST)
2016–2017 **University of Notre Dame**
Visiting Research Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies

EDUCATION

2017 **Cornell University, Department of Government**
Ph.D., Government
Fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations
2007 **Northwestern University**
Bachelor of Arts
Majors: Political Science & International Studies

BOOK

2022 *Land Politics*: How Customary Institutions Shape State Building in Zambia and Senegal. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Reviews in *Perspectives on Politics* (Franklin Obeng-Odoom), *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics* (Dominika Koter), *the Journal of Modern African Studies* (Shinichi Takeuchi), *Africa Today* (Lauren MacLean).

ARTICLES

- 2025 “State Reach and Gender Norms: Examining the Uptake of Equitable Land Rights” (with Adam Harris and Ellen Lust). *World Politics*. *forthcoming*
- 2025 “Customary Courts, State Institutions, or Opting Out: Patterns of Forum Pluralism in Three African Countries” (with Patricia Funjika). *World Development* 195: 107113
- 2024 “Legitimising Regimes and Legalising Self-Defence Groups: the Case of Burkina Faso’s VDPs” (with Abdoul Karim Saidou). *Journal of Modern African Studies* 62, 3: 269-289.
- 2023 “Mutual Dependence and Expectations of Cooperation” (with Adam Harris). *The Journal of Politics* 85, 1: 192-208.
- 2023 “Land and Legibility: When do Citizens Expect Secure Property Rights in Weak States?” (with Karen Ferree, Ellen Lust, and Melanie Phillips). *American Political Science Review* 117, 1: 42-58.
- 2022 “The Power of the Pen: Informal Property Rights Documents in Zambia.” *African Affairs* 121, 482: 81-107.
- 2021 “What Stymies Action on Climate Change? Religious Institutions, Marginalization, and Efficacy in Kenya” (with Amy Erica Smith and Jaimie Bleck). *Perspectives on Politics*.
- 2019 “Elite Defection and Grassroots Democracy Under Competitive Authoritarianism: Evidence from Burkina Faso” (with Sarah Andrews). *Democratization* 26, 4: 626-644.
- 2017 “Selecting the State or Choosing the Chief? The Political Determinants of Smallholder Land Titling.” *World Development* 100: 94-107.
- 2016 “Immigrant Political Economies and Exclusionary Policy in Africa.” *Comparative Politics* 48, 4: 517-537.

IN PROGRESS

- “Community Capacity or State Weakness? Customary Institutions and Nonstate Security Provision in Burkina Faso.”
- “Traditional Institutions, Climate Change, and Social Stability” (with Boniface Dulani, Vlad Chlouba, and Amanda Robinson).

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2019 “Traditional Leaders and Development in Africa.” *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press.

OTHER ACADEMIC
PUBLICATIONS

- 2023** Review of The Scarce State. *Perspectives on Politics*.
- 2021** Review of Political Violence in Kenya. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 59, 1: 125-126.
- 2015** “The Status of Customary Land and the Future of Smallholder Farmers Under the Current Land Administration System in Zambia” (with Brian Mulenga). Lusaka, Zambia: *Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) Working Paper 101*.

GRANTS AND
AWARDS

- 2025** Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, Boston College
- 2017** Global Religion Research Initiative, University of Notre Dame (with Amy Erica Smith)
- 2015** African Studies Association Student Travel Award
- 2015** Sage Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2014** Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation
- 2013** International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Sciences Research Council
- 2013** Fulbright Research Fellowship for Zambia
- 2012** Einaudi Center for International Studies International Research Travel Grant, Cornell University
- 2012** Houston I. Flourney Research Grant, Cornell University
- 2012** Departmental Research Grant, Cornell University
- 2011** Institute for the Social Sciences Immigration Project Research Award, Cornell University
- 2011** Sage Fellowship, Cornell University

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS
AND INVITED
TALKS

- 2025** Institute of Public Opinion and Research, University of Malawi
- 2025** Institute for African Development, Cornell University
- 2025** Africa Futures Symposium, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania
- 2025** James Scott Symposium, Department of Economics, New York University
- 2024** World Bank Land Conference
- 2024** West Africa Research Center, Senegal
- 2024** Governance and Local Development Institute Annual Meeting
- 2023** Seminar, Institute of Advanced Studies Toulouse
- 2023** Southern African Institute for Policy and Research, Zambia
- 2023** European Conference of African Studies
- 2023** Governance and Local Development Institute Annual Meeting
- 2022** Comparative Politics Workshop, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2022** American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2022** European Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2021** American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

2021	Governance and Local Development Institute, University of Gothenburg
2021	Boston Working Group in African Political Economy (B-WGAPE), MIT
2021	Faculty Seminar, Oakton Community College
2020	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
2020	Digital Scholarship Research Group, Boston College
2019	African Studies Association Annual Meeting
2018	American Political Science Association
2018	Boston University, African Studies Center
2018	African Studies Association Annual Meeting
2017	Northwestern University, Program of African Studies
2017	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
2017	Varieties of Democracy Conference, University of Notre Dame
2016	African Studies Association Annual Meeting
2016	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
2016	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting
2015	African Studies Association Annual Meeting
2015	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
2013	Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting
2013	Summer Institute on Contested Global Landscapes
2012	Land Deals Politics Initiative Conference
2012	International Studies Association Annual Meeting
2012	Institute for Social Sciences Conference, Cornell University

OTHER
CONFERENCE AND
WORKSHOP
PARTICIPATION
(SELECTED)

Invited Chair or Discussant: Book Workshop, Rachael McLellan (2025), Global Climate Adaptation Workshop, MIT (2025), American Political Science Association Annual Conference (2023, 2021, 2018, 2017), B-WGAPE, Yale University (2023, 2019), European Political Science Association Annual Conference (2022), African Studies Review, Pipeline for Emerging African Studies Scholars Workshop (2019), APSA Research Development Group for African Scholars Workshop (2018), African Politics Conference Group, Online Colloquium (2018), Varieties of Democracy Conference, University of Notre Dame (2017).

TEACHING

Graduate

Political Economy of Development
Field Seminar in Comparative Politics

Undergraduate

African Politics
Democracy and Elections in Africa
Natural Resource Politics
Comparative Politics of Development
Research Methods for Fieldwork in the Developing World

Dissertation Committees

Selene Campion

Innocent Mpoki
Akash Chopra

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE

2020– Mentor, Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN)
2025– Editorial Board, American Journal of Political Science
2025 Chair, APSA Comparative Politics Luebbert Best Book Award Committee
2021 Member, APCG Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee

Reviewer for: *African Affairs, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Cooperation and Conflict, Democratization, Governance, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Legal Pluralism, Journal of Modern African Studies, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Land Use Policy, Media, War, & Conflict, National Science Foundation (NSF), Perspectives on Politics, Peace Research, Survey Review, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Terrorism and Political Violence, The Southern African Journal of Policy and Development, and World Development.*

UNIVERSITY
SERVICE

2017– Member, Undergraduate Fulbright Program Interview Committee
2022– Advisor, Fulbright Program/Africa
2025– Member, Faculty Review Committee
2022 Member, African and African Diaspora Studies Program Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee
2021 Faculty Research Advisor, McNair Summer Program
2021 Member, Graduate Fulbright Program Interview Committee
2020 Member, African and African Diaspora Studies Program Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee
2019-2022 Faculty Mentor, McNair Exploratory Program
2019 Member, Advanced Study Grants Review Committee
2018-2020 Faculty Advisor, Thea Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center Community Research Program

DEPARTMENTAL
SERVICE

2024– Co-Director, Comparative Politics Workshop
2025– Graduate Placement Director
2025– Organizer, African Politics Workshop
2025– Member, Graduate Admissions Committee
2025 Member, Tenure Promotion Committee
2020-2025 Member, Undergraduate Committee
2022 Chair, Faculty Search Committee
2017-2024 Member, Faculty Search Committee (2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2024)
2017-2024 Member, Comparative Politics Exam Committee (2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2024)

LANGUAGES

English: Native speaker

French: Advanced speaking, reading, writing

Mooré/Burkina Faso: Intermediate speaking

Updated: August 25, 2025