

# NICHOLAS RUSH SMITH

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## EMPLOYMENT

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – CITY COLLEGE Assistant Professor of Political Science	2014-PRESENT
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Preceptor, Masters of the Arts Program in the Social Sciences	2011-2013

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## EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PhD, Political Science	2013
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MA, Social Sciences	2004
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MA, International Development Studies	2003
COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY BA, Government & History	2001

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## OTHER TRAINING AND AFFILIATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA) Senior Research Associate, Department of Sociology	2019-2021
CARNEGIE NEW LEADERS PROGRAM Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs	2020
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research	2011
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL (SOUTH AFRICA) Visiting Scholar, Centre for Civil Society	2008, 2009-2010
UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX (UNITED KINGDOM) Programme in Ideology and Discourse Analysis, Government Department	2004-2005

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## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

### BOOKS

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith (eds.). Forthcoming. *Rethinking Comparison: Innovative Methods for Qualitative Political Research*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2019. *Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa*. New York: Oxford University Press (Oxford Studies in Culture and Politics Series)

### JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith. Forthcoming. "Comparisons with an Ethnographic Sensibility: Studies of Protest and Vigilantism." In *Rethinking Comparison: Innovative Methods for Qualitative Political Research*, Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith (eds.). New York: Cambridge University Press.

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith with Lisa Wedeen. Forthcoming. "Theory and Imagination in Comparative Politics: An Interview with Lisa Wedeen." In *Rethinking Comparison: Innovative Methods for Qualitative Political Research*, Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith (eds.). New York: Cambridge University Press.

Tim Büthe, Jacobs, Alan M., with 48 others. Forthcoming. "Transparency in Qualitative Research: An Overview of Key Findings and Recommendations." *Perspectives on Politics*.

Schwedler, Jillian, Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith. Forthcoming. "Ethnography and Participant Observation: Summary of the Final Report of QTD Working Group III.3." *Perspectives on Politics*.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2020. "Member Checking: Lessons from the Dead." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 17-18 (1): 60-65.

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2019. "The Case for Comparative Ethnography." *Comparative Politics* 51 (3): 341-359.

Simmons, Erica S., Nicholas Rush Smith, and Rachel Schwartz. 2018. "Rethinking Comparison in the Social Sciences." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 16 (1): 1-7.

- Co-Organizer of symposium on "Rethinking Comparisons"

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2017. "The Rule of Rights: Comparative Lessons from Twenty Years of South African Democracy." *Comparative Politics* 50 (1): 123-141.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2017. "New Situations Demand Old Magic: Necklacing Past and Present." In *Global Lynching and Collective Violence: Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. Michael Pfeifer, Ed. Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Press.

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2017. "Comparison with an Ethnographic Sensibility." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 50 (1): 126-130.

Slater, Dan and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2016. "The Power of Counterrevolution: Elitist Origins of Political Order in Postcolonial Asia and Africa." *American Journal of Sociology* 121 (5): 1472-1516.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2015. "Rejecting Rights: Vigilantism and Violence in Post-Apartheid South Africa." *African Affairs* 114 (456): 341-360. (Lead Article)

### *BOOK REVIEWS*

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2020. "'Township Violence and the End of Apartheid: War on the Reef' by Gary Kynoch." *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 52 (3): 485-486.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2018. "'Bodies of Truth: Law, Memory, and Emancipation in Post-Apartheid South Africa' by Rita Kesselring." *Anthropological Quarterly* 91 (2): 841-845.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2017. "'Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa' by Stephanie M. Burchard and 'The Limits of Democratic Governance in South Africa' by Louis A. Picard and Thomas Mogale." *Perspectives on Politics* 15 (1): 261-262.

### *OTHER PUBLICATIONS*

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2020. "What Thirty Percent Unemployment Looks Like." *Boston Review*. May 14. <http://bostonreview.net/class-inequality-global-justice/nicholas-rush-what-30-percent-unemployment-looks>.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2019. "Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa." *Democracy in Africa*. 20 May. <http://democracyinafrica.org/contradictions-democracy-vigilantism-rights-post-apartheid-south-africa/>. (Invited)

Schwedler, Jillian M., Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2019. "Ethnography and Participant Observation." American Political Science Association Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Qualitative Transparency Deliberations, Working Group Final Reports, Report III.3 (August 2018). <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3333465>.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2018. "Apartheid." In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Surveillance*,

*Security, and Privacy*. Bruce Arrigo, Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2018. "South Africa." In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Surveillance, Security, and Privacy*. Bruce Arrigo, Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2015. "The Case for Comparative Ethnography." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research: Newsletter of the American Political Science Association Organized Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 13 (2): 13-18. (Invited)

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2014. "Beyond Pistorius: The Politics of South African Justice." *African Arguments*. September 12. <http://africanarguments.org/2014/09/12/beyond-pistorius-the-politics-of-south-african-justice-by-nicholas-rush-smith/>.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2013. "The Struggle Continues: Mandela and His Legacies." *Five Rupees*. July 1. <http://fiverupees.com/2013/07/01/guest-post-the-struggle-continues-mandela-and-his-legacies/>. (Invited)

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2008. "The Wonga Coup: Transparency and Conspiracy in Equatorial Guinea." *CSIS Online Africa Policy Forum*. January 23: <http://forums.csis.org/africa>. (Invited)

#### WORKS IN PROGRESS AND ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

Smith, Nicholas Rush. *The Tradition of All Dead Generations: Crisis and Reproduction after Democratic State Violence in South Africa* (Book Project in Development)

Smith, Nicholas Rush. *Method of the Damned: Political Ethnography and Its Contradictions* (Book Project in Development)

Smith, Nicholas Rush. "The Emotional Turn in Political Violence Research." (Rewrite and Resubmit at *World Politics*)

Smith, Nicholas Rush. "Seen Like a State." (Submitted to *Polity*)

Smith, Nicholas Rush. "The State as Golem: Police Violence in Democratic South Africa." (Chapter Under Review for Edited Volume, *Everyday State and Democracy in Africa: Ethnographic Encounters*, Wale Adebani (ed.))

Smith, Nicholas Rush. "A Ghostly Presence in the Life of Civilized States: Young Men and the Police amidst Democratic Change in South Africa." (Working Paper)

Smith, Nicholas Rush. "Mobilization, State Violence, and the Decline of Vigilantism: Comparative Lessons from the United States for Africa." (Working Paper)

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## EXTERNAL AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section (For <i>Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa</i> )	2020
HONORABLE MENTION, CHARLES TAYLOR BOOK AWARD American Political Science Association, Interpretative Methods and Methodologies Related Group (For <i>Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa</i> )	2020
GRANT FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH: ROBUST AND RELIABLE RESEARCH WORKSHOP PROPOSAL: RETHINKING COMPARISON IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES National Science Foundation, Award #1713769, \$49,950 (CUNY: \$8,309) (Co-PI with Erica S. Simmons)	2017-2018
FINALIST, ANDREW CARNEGIE FELLOWS PROGRAM Carnegie Corporation of New York (City College of New York Junior Faculty Nominee)	2016
SAGE PAPER AWARD FOR BEST PAPER PRESENTED AT APSA ANNUAL MEETING American Political Science Association, Qualitative and Multi-Method Organized Section (Joint Winner with Erica S. Simmons)	2016
HAYWARD ALKER STUDENT PAPER AWARD FOR BEST PAPER PRESENTED AT APSA ANNUAL MEETING American Political Science Association, Interpretive Methodologies And Methods Conference Group	2014
INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP Social Science Research Council, \$28,000	2009-2010
FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES (FLAS) SUMMER FELLOWSHIP Michigan State University, \$2500	2009
FULBRIGHT-HAYS ZULU GROUP PROJECT ABROAD FELLOWSHIP University of Pennsylvania	2007
FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES (FLAS) SUMMER FELLOWSHIP Indiana University, \$2500	2006

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**INTERNAL AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS (CUNY)**

COLIN POWELL SCHOOL FACULTY TEACHING AWARD City University of New York – City College, \$500	2020
PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$6000	2020
PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$6000	2019
PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$6000	2018
PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$5967.65	2017
BOOK COMPLETION AWARD City University of New York, \$1000 (Runner-Up Award)	2017
FACULTY FELLOWSHIP PUBLICATION PROGRAM FELLOWSHIP City University of New York	2016

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**CONFERENCES AND EVENTS ORGANIZED**

WORKSHOP ON RETHINKING COMPARISON IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES City University of New York – City College Co-Organizer, Erica S. Simmons Funder: National Science Foundation	2017
ELECTIONS IN VOLATILE STATES Human Rights Forum Panel, City University of New York – City College Funder: Dean’s Office of the Colin Powell School	2015

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**CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS (SINCE 2014)**

CONTRADICTIONS OF DEMOCRACY: VIGILANTISM AND RIGHTS IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA Cambridge University, Department of Political Science, Date Pending Covid-19 (Invited) Sciences-Po, Vigilantism Research Group, Date Pending Covid-19 (Invited) Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Author-Meets-Readers Roundtable, June 2020 Colgate University, Department of Political Science, March 2020 (Invited)	
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LYNCHING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Leibniz University Hannover, Dealing with Violence – Resolving Conflicts in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, Date Pending Covid-19 (Invited)

STATE VIOLENCE AND THE DECLINE OF VIGILANTISM: UNCOMFORTABLE LESSONS FOR AFRICA FROM THE UNITED STATES

Harvard University, Workshop on The Political Science of Lynching in Global Comparative Perspective, July 2020 (Invited)

DEMOCRATIC DEATH: SOUTH AFRICA'S KILLING STATE

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2019  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2019  
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, June 2018.  
Boston University, Comparative Politics Workshop, October 2018 (Invited)

THE GOLEM STATE: POLICE VIOLENCE OLD AND NEW IN SOUTH AFRICA

Violence and the End(s) Of Colonialism Conference, Southern Methodist University, September 2019 (Invited)

THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF VIGILANTISM

Violent States, States of Violence Colloquium, University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), August 2019 (Invited)  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2016  
CUNY–John Jay College, Department of Political Science, September 2015 (Invited)  
University of Florida, Center for African Studies, Baraza Lecture Series, April 2015 (Invited)  
Bates College, Departments of Political Science and Anthropology, April 2015 (Invited)  
New York Law School, Twenty Years of South African Constitutionalism Conference, November 2014

THE FUNERAL STATE: SEEING SOUTH AFRICAN STATE FORMATION THROUGH FUNERALS

Northeastern Workshop on Southern Africa, April 2019

COMMENT ON TIMOTHY PACHIRAT, *AMONG WOLVES: ETHNOGRAPHY AND THE IMMERSIVE STUDY OF POWER*

Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, April 2019

TAKING CHARGE: THE PLEASURES OF CITIZEN CRIME FIGHTING

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, April 2019 (Invited)  
Vassar College, Department of Political Science, April 2016 (Invited)

AGAINST VIGILANTISM: CONTRADICTIONS OF CITIZEN AND STATE ACTION TO COMBAT VIGILANTISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2018  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2018

THE EMOTIONAL TURN IN POLITICAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH  
CUNY–Graduate Center, Comparative Politics Workshop, September 2018 (Invited)

COMPARISONS WITH AN ETHNOGRAPHIC SENSIBILITY: STUDIES OF PROTEST AND  
VIGILANTISM (w/ Erica s. Simmons)  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2018

LAW MAKING AND STATE MAKING AS VIGILANTISM  
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, June 2018  
University of Witwatersrand, WISER, April 2018  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2017  
African Studies Association Annual Meeting, December 2016

THE POLITICS OF DEATH: YOUNG MEN AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA  
City University of New York, Politics and Protest Workshop, April 2018

CONTRADICTIONS OF DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA  
University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, February 2018 (Invited)

A GHOSTLY PRESENCE IN THE LIFE OF CIVILIZED STATES: YOUNG MEN AND THE POLICE  
AMIDST DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA  
African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2017  
Northeastern Workshop on Southern Africa, October 2017

POLITICAL PASTS AND CRIMINAL FUTURES: THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION  
COMMISSION AND POST-APARTHEID STATE BUILDING  
Law and Society Association of Africa Conference, University of Cape Town,  
December 2016  
University of Florida, African Studies Center, April 2016 (Invited)

ELECTIONS IN VOLATILE STATES: THE CASE OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
CUNY – City College, Human Rights Forum, December 2015 (Moderator and  
Organizer)

THE PEOPLE’S JUSTICE: HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS OF CONTEMPORARY VIGILANTISM IN  
SOUTH AFRICA  
African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2015  
New York Law School, South Africa Reading Group, October 2015 (Invited)  
CUNY – Graduate Center, Politics and Protest Workshop, February 2015

CONCEPTUALIZING VIGILANTISM: POSSIBILITIES FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE  
CUNY – Graduate Center, Comparative Politics Workshop, October 2015 (Invited)  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2014

COMPARISON AND ETHNOGRAPHY: WHAT EACH CAN LEARN FROM THE OTHER

Princeton University, Qualitative Methods Workshop, October 2016 (Invited)  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2015  
CUNY - City College, Department of Political Science, February 2015

THE POWER OF COUNTERREVOLUTION: ELITIST ORIGINS OF POLITICAL ORDER IN  
POSTCOLONIAL ASIA AND AFRICA (WITH DAN SLATER)  
Yale University, Comparative Politics Workshop, April 2015

NEW VOICES IN POLITICAL ETHNOGRAPHY, ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANT  
Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2015

BEYOND MILL'S METHODS: NEW APPROACHES TO COMPARISON, ROUNDTABLE  
PARTICIPANT  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2014

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### *CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – CITY COLLEGE*

#### *GRADUATE*

RESEARCH METHODS Spring 2018  
AFRICA IN WORLD AFFAIRS Spring 2014, 2015, 2017

#### *UNDERGRADUATE*

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS Fall 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020  
POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF AFRICA Spring 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019  
THE POLITICS OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT Fall 2014, 2015, Spring 2018  
SENIOR THESIS Fall 2015, Spring 2016  
ARGUMENTS AND EVIDENCE Fall 2014

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## THESIS ADVISING

### *PHD DISSERTATIONS*

KIRA TAIT – IN PROGRESS – POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS-  
AMHERST (EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBER)

### *MA THESES*

KIIRU GICHURU – 2020 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
JOSEPH STEWARD – 2020 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AMADOU KONTEYE – 2019 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (WINNER, AWARD FOR  
OUTSTANDING THESIS RESEARCH)  
ISLAM GOHER MOHAMMED – 2019 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
LUKE SCARPA – 2018 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
FOUSSENI NAMORO – 2017 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (WINNER, BEST THESIS AWARD)  
RAHMA MASSOUD – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
LYNNE SCOTT JACKSON – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DANIELLE HAMILTON – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
MONICA ORELLANA – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
ELIZABETH GARCIA – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
CHARLETTE LOPEZ – 2016 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
MARTA DIAZ – 2015 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
KOFI AFFUL – 2014 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### *BA THESES*

JESSICA JORGE – 2018 – INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (WINNER, ALLEN F. AND BARBARA S. ISAACMAN FELLOWSHIP IN AFRICAN STUDIES)  
SUPRITA DATTA – 2017 – INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
MAWULE AGBAHEY – 2015 – INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
NAZRRETH YEMANE – 2014 – INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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### **FIELDWORK**

SOUTH AFRICA: ~21 Months (June-September 2008, October 2009-October 2010, February-April 2011, July-August 2015, December 2016-January 2017, January 2019, August 2019)

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### **LANGUAGES**

ISIZULU - Speaking Advanced, Reading Intermediate  
FRENCH - Speaking Intermediate, Reading Advanced

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### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

#### *SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION*

MEMBER, Editorial Committee, *Comparative Politics*, 2019-Present

INVITED INSTRUCTOR, Advanced Research on Conflict Workshop, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Service, 2019

PROGRAM CHAIR, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Section, 2019, 2020

MEMBER, APCG Best Book Award Committee, African Politics Conference Group, American Political Science Association, 2018

REVIEWER, Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2017, 2018, 2019

MODERATOR, Ethnographic and Participant Observation Methods Discussion, Qualitative Transparency Deliberations, American Political Science Association, 2016-17

MEMBER, Hayward R. Alker Student Paper Award Committee, Interpretive Methods and Methodologies Conference Group, American Political Science Association, 2015

ETHNOGRAPHY INSTRUCTOR, Methods Café, Western Political Science Association, April 2015; American Political Science Association, September 2015

REVIEWER, Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, November 2014

STUDENT PARTICIPANT, Planning Workshop for National Science Foundation Funded Qualitative Data Repository, Syracuse University, March 2009

REVIEWER, *Oxford University Press; Cambridge University Press; Columbia University Press; University of Virginia Press; American Journal of Political Science; World Politics; Comparative Political Studies; Comparative Politics; Perspectives on Politics; Journal of Peace Research; Theory and Society; African Studies Review; Journal of Modern African Studies; Antipode; Qualitative Research; Conflict and Society: Advances in Research*

MEMBER, American Political Science Association

MEMBER, American Sociological Association

MEMBER, African Studies Association

Member, Law and Society Association

#### *SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY (CUNY)*

SENATOR FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE, FACULTY SENATE, CUNY – CITY COLLEGE, 2020-2021

MEMBER, Faculty Council of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, CUNY – City College, 2018-Present

MEMBER, Faculty Council of the Colin Powell School, CUNY – City College, 2017-Present

MEMBER, Student Elections Review Committee, CUNY – City College, 2017-Present

FACULTY SPONSOR, Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, CUNY – City College, 2014-Present

WEBMASTER, CUNY – City College, Department of Political Science, 2014-2019

MEMBER, MA in International Relations Admissions Committee, 2018, 2019

REVIEWER, CUNY Book Completion Award Competition, 2018, 2019, 2020

MEMBER, Search Committee for the Dean of the Colin Powell School of Civic and Global Leadership, 2018

CHAIR, Departmental Awards Committee, CUNY – City College, Department of Political Science, 2014-2018

MEMBER, Comparative Politics Search Committee, CUNY – City College Department of Political Science, Fall 2017

MEMBER, Political Theory Search Committee, CUNY – City College Department of Political Science, Fall 2014

FACULTY SPEAKER, “Know Your Rights” Event, New York Civil Liberties Union Student Chapter, CUNY - City College, November 2014

(Updated September 2020)