

NICHOLAS RUSH SMITH

EMPLOYMENT

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – CITY COLLEGE	2014-PRESENT
Associate Professor of Political Science	2021-Present
Assistant Professor of Political Science	2014-2021
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	2011-2013
Preceptor, Masters of the Arts Program in the Social Sciences	

EDUCATION

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

OTHER TRAINING AND AFFILIATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA)	2019-2024
Senior Research Associate, Department of Sociology	
CARNEGIE NEW LEADERS PROGRAM	2020
Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs	
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY	2011
Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research	
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL (SOUTH AFRICA)	2008, 2009-2010
Visiting Scholar, Centre for Civil Society	
UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX (UNITED KINGDOM)	2004-2005
Programme in Ideology and Discourse Analysis, Government Department	

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

BOOKS

Simmons, Erica S. and Nicholas Rush Smith (eds.). 2021. *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

Smith, Nicholas Rush. Forthcoming. "The State as Golem: Police Violence in Democratic South Africa." *Everyday State and Democracy in Africa: Ethnographic Encounters*, Wale Adebani (ed.). Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.

Smith, Nicholas Rush. 2021. "Seen Like a State." *Polity* 53 (3): 485-491.

Simmons, Erica and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2021. "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. 2021. "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. 2021. "Transparency in Qualitative Research: An Overview of Key Findings and Recommendations." *Perspectives on Politics* 19 (1): 171-208.

Schwedler, Jillian, Erica S. Simmons and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2021. "Ethnography and Participant Observation (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. 2021. "'The Terrorist Album: Apartheid's Insurgents, Collaborators, and the Security Police' by Jacob Dlamini." *Africa Spectrum* 0 (0): 1-3.

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)

EXTERNAL AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

BEST BOOK AWARD (CO-WINNER) 2020
American Political Science Association, African Politics Conference Group
(For *Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa*)

DISTINGUISHED BOOK AWARD 2020
American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section
(For *Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa*)

HONORABLE MENTION, CHARLES TAYLOR BOOK AWARD 2020
American Political Science Association, Interpretative Methods and Methodologies Related Group
(For *Contradictions of Democracy: Vigilantism and Rights in Post-Apartheid South Africa*)

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

INTERNAL AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS (CUNY)

PSC-CUNY RESEARCH AWARD (TRADITIONAL B) City University of New York, \$6000	2021
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)	2019

City University of New York, \$6000	
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

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

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS (SINCE 2014)

CONTRADICTIONS OF DEMOCRACY: VIGILANTISM AND RIGHTS IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Author-Meets-Readers Roundtable, June 2020 Colgate University, Department of Political Science, March 2020 (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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – CITY COLLEGE

GRADUATE

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

UNDERGRADUATE

CONTEMPORARY COMPARATIVE POLITICS Fall 2021
INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS Fall 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF AFRICA Spring 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021
THE POLITICS OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT Fall 2014, 2015, Spring 2018, 2021
SENIOR THESIS Fall 2015, Spring 2016
ARGUMENTS AND EVIDENCE Fall 2014

THESIS ADVISING

PHD DISSERTATIONS

KIRA TAIT – 2021 – POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS-AMHERST
(EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBER)

MA THESES

AYOUBA DOUMBIA – IN PROGRESS – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
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

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)

LANGUAGES

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

MEMBER, GIOVANI SARTORI Book Award Committee, Qualitative Methods Section, American Political Science Association, 2021

CHAIR, Distinguished Book Award Committee, Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association, 2021

MEMBER, Executive Committee, Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Related Group, American Political Science Association, 2020-Present

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, 2020

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

MEMBER, African Studies Association

MEMBER, American Political Science Association

MEMBER, American Sociological Association

Member, Law and Society Association

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY (CUNY)

MEMBER, Department of Political Science Executive Committee, CUNY – City College, 2021

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 October 2021)