

Austin S. Matthews

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Professional Appointments

East Carolina University (2022-Present)

2022-. *Assistant Professor*. Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Political Science.

2024-. *Writing Intensive Course Consultant*. University Writing Program.

University of Denver (2018-2020)

2020-2022. *Research Scientist*. Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures.

2018-2020. *Research Associate*. Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures.

External Affiliations

2023-. *Faculty Affiliate*. Triangle Institute for Security Studies.

2022-. *Fellow*. Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society.

2021-2021. *Summer Research Associate*. Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign.

2021-2021. *Open Research Associate*. Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center, University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign.

Education

2018. *Ph.D.* Political Science. Louisiana State University.

2016. *M.A.* Political Science. Louisiana State University.

2013. *M.A.* Political Science. Texas State University.

2011. *B.A.* Psychology. Schreiner University.

Publications

Peer Reviewed Publications

2024. “Elite Retention Strategies in Equatorial Guinea” (with Ana Lúcia Sá). *Democratization*, accepted.

2024 “Bearing Witness: Introducing the Perceived Mass Atrocities Dataset (PMAD)” (with Collin Meisel, Jonathan Moyer, Oliver Kaplan, Ruth Byrnes, Kerent Benjumea, Phoebe Cribb, and Collin Van Son). *Journal of Peace Research*, accepted.

2024. “Elite Threats and Punitive Violence in Autocratic Regimes: Evidence from Communist Eastern Europe.” *Comparative Politics*, OnlineFirst: 1-24.

2023. “Do Safety Expectations Affect the Location Strategies of Large Service Delivery INGOs?” (with Jonathan Moyer, Jen Evans, John McPhee, and Whitney Kettlun). *International Interactions*, OnlineFirst: 1-30.

2023. “Brothers in Arms No Longer: Why Do Regime Change Coup-Entry Dictators Purge?” (with Edward Goldring). *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, OnlineFirst: 1-28.

2023. “The Politburos of Communist Eastern Europe: Introducing New Individual-Level Data on Candidate and Full Members.” *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 56 (2): 159-176.

2023. “If You’ll be my Bodyguard: Presidential Guard Units and Leader Capture during Coups d’état.” *Armed Forces & Society* (OnlineFirst): 1-24.

2023. “To Purge or not to Purge? An Individual-Level Quantitative Analysis of Elite Purges in Dictatorships” (with Edward Goldring). *British Journal of Political Science* 53 (2): 575-593.

2023. “Identifying Patterns in the Structural Drivers of Intrastate Conflict” (with Jonathan D. Moyer, Yutang Xiong, and Mickey Rafa). *British Journal of Political Science* 53 (2): 749-756.

2023. “Measuring and Forecasting the Rise of China” (with Jonathan D. Moyer and Collin J. Meisel). *Journal of Contemporary China*. 32 (140): 191-206.

2022. “Don’t Turn Around, Der Kommissar’s in Town: Political Officers and Coups d’État in Authoritarian Regimes” *Journal of Peace Research* 59 (5): 663-678.

2022. “The Nomination and Electoral Competitiveness of Working Class Candidates in Germany” (with Yann P. Kerevel). *German Politics* 31 (3): 459-475.

2019. “Mixed-Member Electoral Systems, Best Loser Rules, and the Descriptive Representation of Women” (with Yann P. Kerevel and Katsunori Seki). *Electoral Studies* 57 (1): 153-162.

Manuscripts under Review

“Diagonal Purges in Autocratic Parties” (with Fabio Angiolillo). *British Journal of Political Science*, under review.

“When HOGS Fly: Introducing the Country and Organizational Leader Travel (COLT) Dataset” (with Jonathan D. Moyer, Collin J. Meisel, Adam Szymanski-Burgos, Andrew Scott, Matteo C.M. Casiraghi, Alexandra Kurkul, Marianne Hughes, Whitney Doran, and Kylee McKee). *International Studies Quarterly*, under review.

Works in Progress

“Coups Regimes and Civil War Outcomes” (with Marie Olson Lounsbury and Cassandra Jagroop).

“Non-State Security Forces and Coups in Africa” (with Benjamin Tkach).

“Partisan Representation of Working Class Candidates in Moldova” (with Yann P. Kerevel).

“Pathways of Managed Succession in Autocracies” (with Edward Goldring and Peter Ward).

“Networks of Influence in the International System” (with Jonathan D. Moyer, Collin J. Meisel, Adam Szymanski-Burgos, and Caleb Petry).

“Revolutionary Autocracy and Political Purges” (with Edward Goldring).

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

2023. “[Biden Must Immediately Call Niger’s Coup a ‘Coups’](#)” *The Hill*. 16 August.

2023. “[Fixing U.S. Policy Toward Foreign Military Coups](#)” *The Lawfare Institute’s Foreign Policy Essays*. 23 July.

2023. “[Sudan’s Junta Chief Survived the Coup, but Can He Win the War?](#)” *Political Violence at a Glance*. 17 July.

2022. “[Political Purges and their Importance for Dictators](#)” *The Loop: ECPR’s Political Science Blog*. 2 September.

2022. “[The Logic of Autocratic Purges](#)” (with Edward Goldring). *Political Violence at a Glance*. 10 January.

2021. “[How the United States Can Compete with Chinese Influence in Southeast Asia](#)” (with Jonathan D. Moyer, Collin J. Meisel, David K. Bohl, and Mathew J. Burrows). *Lawfare*. 27 June.

2021. “[China-US Competition: Measuring Global Influence](#)” (with Jonathan D. Moyer, Collin J. Meisel, David K. Bohl, and Mathew J. Burrows). *The Atlantic Council*. 16 June.

2021 “Seeking Serenity: A New American Influence Strategy for Southeast Asia and Beyond” (with Collin J. Meisel). *War on the Rocks*. 10 May.

2019 “What happens to Kazakhstan’s dictatorship now that its dictator has quit?” *Washington Post - The Monkey Cage*. 25 April.

Research Appearing in the Media

2023. *Freedom* (Ukrainian state television). Quoted on purges and the recent death of Wagner Group chief Evgeniy Prigozhin. 23 September.

2023. *Meduza*. Interview with outlet correspondent about my research on purges and the recent death of Wagner Group chief Evgeniy Prigozhin. 7 September.

2022. *The Hill*. Summarizes the findings of our peer-reviewed article on forecasting the US-China power balance in coming decades. 17 May.

2022. *Conversation Six*. Podcast interview with co-authors on our peer-reviewed article on forecasting the US-China power balance in coming decades. 16 May.

2021. *Axios*. Describes the release of a co-authored report on US-China influence across the world since 1960. 17 June.

2021. *Politico Playbook*. Highlights the release of a co-authored report on US-China influence across the world since 1960. 16 June.

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

2024. Writing Across the Curriculum Academy Award. \$500. East Carolina University.

2022. Faculty Conference Travel Award. \$500. Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, East Carolina University.

2019. Artinian Travel Award. \$500. Southern Political Science Association.

2017. Graduate Student Travel Grant. \$600. Louisiana State University.

2016. Prestage-Cook Travel Award. \$300. Southern Political Science Association.

2016. Program for Research and Training on Eastern Europe and the States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII) Fellowship. \$5300. United States Department of State.

2016. Graduate Student Travel Grant. \$500. Louisiana State University.

2013. Graduate Student Travel Grant. \$250. Texas State University.

Invited Conferences, Panels, and Workshops

2024. Leaders Professional Development Series, 97th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve. “Modern Great Power Competition in Southeast Asia.” Speaker.

2024. Southern Conference on Slavic Studies. “Social Revolution, Political Purging, and Elite Cohesion in Communist Eastern Europe.” Presenter.

2024. Authoritarian Political Systems Group. “Reviewing the Revo: Applying Comparative Autocracy Concepts to Grenada, 1979-1983.” Presenter.

2024. European Consortium for Political Research Joint Meetings. “Revolutionary Autocracy and Elite Purges.” Presenter (declined).

2024. Southern Political Science Association Conference. “Leadership Councils and Autocratic Personalism.” Presenter.

2023. African Politics Research Group. “Elite Retention Strategies in Equatorial Guinea” (with Ana Lúcia Sá). Co-presenter.

2023. Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society. “When the Generals Talk: Pathways of Elite Institutionalization after Coups d’état.” Presenter.

2023. American Political Science Association Conference. “Diagonal Purges in Party Regimes” (with Fabio Angiolillo). Co-presenter (declined).

2023. European Political Science Association, Mini-Conference on Authoritarian Politics. “Diagonal Purges in Party Regimes.” (with Fabio Angiolillo). Co-presenter.

2023. International Policy Summer Institute. Bridging the Gap. Invited attendee.

2022. American Political Science Association Conference. “State Security Force Types and Micro-Level Coup Outcomes in Dictatorships.” Presenter.

2022. Authoritarian Political Systems Group. Invited panel expert (declined).

2021. Responsible Public Engagement Institute. Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy, University of Denver. Invited attendee.

2021. Midwest Political Science Association Conference. “An Individual-Level Quantitative Analysis of Elite Purges in Dictatorships” (with Edward Goldring). Co-presenter.

2019. International Studies Association ISSS-IS Conference. “Modeling United States Trade Protectionism and Shifting Regional Influence at the National, Sub-National, and Network Levels.” Presenter.

2019. American Political Science Association Conference. “Intergovernmental Organizations: Forecasting Dyadic Membership” (with Jonathan D. Moyer, David K. Bohl, and Collin J. Meisel). Presenter.

2019. Southern Political Science Association Conference. “The Electoral Competitiveness of Working Class Candidates in Germany” (with Yann P. Kerevel). Co-presenter.

2017. Midwest Political Science Association Conference. “Wanted Dead or Alive: Incumbent Detention and Coup d’Etat Success.” Presenter.

2017. Midwest Political Science Association Conference. “Best-Loser Rules, Mixed-Member Electoral Systems, and the Descriptive Representation of Women” (with Yann P. Kerevel). Co-presenter.

2017. Southern Political Science Association Conference. “The Cold War and Domestic Repression in Authoritarian Regimes.” Presenter.

2016. Midwest Political Science Association Conference. “Political Purges in Nascent Authoritarian Regimes.” Presenter.

2014. Southwest Social Sciences Association Conference. “The Many Faces of Walter Ulbricht.” Presenter.

Invited Talks

2023. East Carolina University. TrACE Program. “Decoding Scholarly Writing.”

2023. Louisiana State University. “State-Sanctioned Violence Against Elites in Dictatorships.”

2023. East Carolina University. TrACE Program, Office of Student Affairs. “Decoding Academic Writing.”

2021. University of Reading. Department of Politics and International Relations. “An Individual-Level Quantitative Analysis of Elite Purges after Successful Coups” (with Edward Goldring).

2017. University of Mannheim. Political Economy of Reforms Seminar Series. “Best-Loser Rules, Mixed-Member Electoral Systems, and the Descriptive Representation of Women” (with Yann P. Kerevel).

2014. Schreiner University. Department of Languages. “German Elections and Party Politics.”

Teaching Experience

East Carolina University

Authoritarian Regimes (graduate seminar): Fall 2022, Spring 2024

Introduction to Comparative Politics: Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Introduction to International Relations: Spring 2023

Russian Politics: Fall 2023

Special Topics, Communist Dictatorships: Summer 2023

Special Topics, Political Rebellions: Spring 2024

University of Denver

Introduction to International Relations (co-instructor): Spring 2020

Louisiana State University

Authoritarian Regimes: Spring 2017

Introduction to Comparative Politics: Fall 2016, Spring 2018

Politics of East-Central Europe: Fall 2017

Texas State University

Functions of American Government: Fall 2010

Professional Associations and Memberships

American Political Science Association

APSA Political Forecasting Group

Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society

Midwest Political Science Association

Research Group on the Economic Characteristics of Officeholders

Professional Service

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *Armed Forces & Society*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *German Politics*, *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Polity Books*.

University, College, and Departmental Service

East Carolina University Faculty Senate (departmental alternate): Spring 2024

Methodological and Technical Skills

Languages: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (intermediate); Spanish (advanced)

Methodological Skills: Archival methods; dataset creation; descriptive statistics; quantitative modeling and testing; process-tracing.

Software competencies: International Futures, LaTeX, Stata, NewGene, Microsoft Office Suite.

References

Available upon request.

Last updated: March 12, 2024