

# Thalia Gerzso

Cornell University  
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**Research Interests** Political institutions; regime change; democratic backsliding; African politics.

## Education

### Cornell University

Ph.D., Government 2018-2023

Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations

Dissertation: *Judicial Resistance: The Role of Courts in Electoral Disputes*

Committee: Nicolas van de Walle (Chair), Rachel Beatty Riedl, Bryn Rosenfeld, and Alexandra E. Cirone

M.A., Government 2021

### Cornell Law School

LL.M. 2017

New York Bar Admission

### Université Paris 2 Panthéon Assas

Master of International Law, *Cum Laude* 2016

Bachelor of Law 2015

### Classe Préparatoire Hélène Boucher

Major: History and Geography 2012

*Summa Cum Laude, Sous-Admissible à l'Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS)*

## Publications

### PEER-REVIEWED

The Politics of Legislative Expansion (with Nicolas van de Walle). *Comparative Political Studies* (2022).

### EDITOR-REVIEWED

“The Potential of Mixed-Methods for Qualitative Research,” in Cyr and Goodman (eds), *Doing Good Qualitative Research* (with Rachel Beatty Riedl). – *Forthcoming at Oxford University Press*

“Legal Strategies: Constitutional, Administrative, Judicial and Discursive Lawfare,” in Leonardo Arriola et al. (eds), *Democratic Backsliding in Africa? Autocratization, Resilience, and Contention* (with Siri Gloppen and Nicolas van de Walle). – *Forthcoming at Oxford University Press*

### SHORT ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY

“The expansion of African legislatures threatens to undermine parliaments” (with Nicolas van de Walle), Africa at LSE Blog, Apr. 27, 2022.

WORKING PAPERS	A Two-Headed Creature: Bicameralism in African Autocracies – <i>Preparing for Submission</i>	
	Judicial Resistance and Electoral Disputes: Evidence from Kenya – <i>Manuscript in Progress</i>	
	How do Domestic Legal Institutions Affect Public Support for Judicial Power? Evidence from sub-Saharan Africa (with Sivaram Cheruvu) – <i>Manuscript in Progress</i>	
WORK IN PROGRESS	Institutional Trust in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from the Zimbabwean Electoral Commission – <i>Data Collection in Progress</i>	
	The Resurgence of African Constitutional Court – <i>Data Collection in Progress</i>	
<b>Awards and Fellowships</b>		
EXTERNAL	Peace Scholar Fellowship, United States Institute of Peace	2022
	Conference Travel Grant, APSA	2022
	Summer Centennial Center Research Grant, APSA	2021
INTERNAL	Timothy Murray Graduate Travel Grant	2022
	CCSS Qualitative and Interpretive Research Institute Small Research Grant	2021
	Research Travel Grant	2021
	Philip E. Lewis Research Grant in French Studies	2021
	Einaudi Center International Research Travel Grant	2020
	Conference Travel Grant	2019; 2022
	Sage Fellowship	2018-2019
	Graduate Legal Studies Fellowship	2017
	Rudolf B. Schlesinger Fellowship	2016-2017
<b>Teaching</b>		
INSTRUCTOR	<b>Department of Government, Cornell University</b> FREN 3020: Making Sense of World Politics, <i>taught in French</i> FREN 3020: Introduction to Comparative Politics, <i>taught in French</i>	
TEACHING ASSISTANT	<b>Cornell Law School</b> LAW 3887: International Human Rights in Theory and Practice  <b>Department of Government, Cornell University</b> GOVT 1313: Introduction to Comparative Politics GOVT 1817: Making Sense of World Politics GOVT 3443: Southeast Asian Politics	
GRADER	<b>Department of Government, Cornell University</b> GOVT 3353: African Politics	

## Presentations

INVITED TALKS	<i>Autocratic Lawfare in Africa</i> , University of Bergen	2021
ANNUAL MEETINGS	American Political Science Association ( <i>Scheduled</i> )	2022
	European Consortium for Political Research	2022
	African Studies Association	2019, 2020, 2021
WORKSHOP AND OTHER CONFERENCES	African Politics Conference Group Colloquium ( <i>Scheduled</i> )	2022
	APSA Autocracy & Democracy Workshop ( <i>Scheduled</i> )	2022
	Interim Meeting R09, International Political Science Association	2022
	Junior Law and Politics Research Community Seminar Series	2021; 2022
	Inter-University Graduate Conference, Cornell Law School	2018

## Research Assistance

Gender and the Security Sector Lab (PI: Professor Sabrina Karim)	2022
Professor Alexandra E. Cirone	2021
Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide	2017

## Additional Training

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (virtual) Syracuse University	2021
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## Service

PSAC (Weekly Workshop), Graduate Student Coordinator	2020-2021
First and Second-Year Colloquium, Student Representative	2019-2020
Reviewer: <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> (PQR), <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> (CPS)	

## Fieldwork

Malawi (2016), Kenya (2022), Senegal (2022 - *scheduled*)

## Languages and Skills

French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (proficient), Italian (Pre-intermediate)  
Stata, R, Qualtrics, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## References

**Dr. Nicolas van de Walle** (Chair)  
Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Govern-  
ment  
Cornell University  
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**Dr. Bryn Rosenfeld**  
Assistant Professor  
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**Dr. Rachel Beatty Riedl**  
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