

# RACHEL E. FINNELL

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE – UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS – 1541 LILAC LANE, LAWRENCE KS – RACHELFINNELL@KU.EDU

## EDUCATION

- PhD** Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, University of Kansas, Projected: May 2020  
Major Field I: Comparative Politics, Major Field II: International Relations,  
Minor Field: Research Methods
- MA** Master of Arts in Political Science, University of Kansas, May 2018  
Primary Field: Comparative Politics and International Relations,  
Secondary Field: Research Methods
- BS** Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, *Magna Cum Laude*  
University of Central Missouri, December 2015  
Minor: Political Science

## DISSERTATION

*Some Rules Are Meant To Be Broke:  
Constitutions in the Authoritarian State*

My doctoral dissertation examines whether or not authoritarian regimes are following the functions outlined in their constitution. Specifically, I examine what I call the functional effectiveness of these constitutions—that is how closely and effectively these regimes follow the functions laid out in their constitution. I theorize that most authoritarian regimes are following their constitutions, but differences will occur with respect to the type of authoritarian regime the constitution is operating within. To test my theory, I conduct in-depth case studies and create a dataset that will measure whether the constitution is being followed within each respective country from 1990 to 2010. This dataset will include indexes measuring the functional effectiveness of executive authority, executive tenure, legislative authority, legislative autonomy, and legislative tenure. These measurements will be from twenty-five countries across the world in multiple regions including Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and others.

Committee: John James Kennedy (Chair), Mark R. Joslyn, Robert Rohrschneider, F. Michael Wuthrich, Eric A. Hanley

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2020                      Adjunct Instructor, Wichita State University (Spring, Summer)
- *POLS 220: Introduction to International Relations*
  - *Online Format*
- 2016 - 2020              Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science University of Kansas; Lawrence, Kansas (supervisor Dr. Mark Joslyn and Dr. Nazli Avdan)
- *2019-2020 POLS 110: Introduction to U.S. Politics*
  - *2018-2019 POLS 306: Political Science Methods of Inquiry*
  - *2017-2018 POLS 170: Introduction to International Politics*
  - *2016-2017 POLS 150: Introduction to Comparative Politics*

- 2019-2020      Instructor, Highland Community College (Summer, Fall, Spring)
- *POLS 100: American Government*
  - *In-person, hybrid, distance learning, and online format*
- 2019-2020      Instructor, Highland Community College (Spring)
- *POLS 115: State and Local Government*
  - *In-person, distance learning*
- Summer 2019    Instructor, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science University of Kansas; Lawrence, Kansas (supervisor Dr. Nazli Avdan)
- *POLS 150: Introduction to Comparative Politics*
  - *Online format*
- Summer 2018    Instructor, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science University of Kansas; Lawrence, Kansas (supervisor Dr. Mark Joslyn)
- *POLS 150: Introduction to Comparative Politics*
  - *Online format*

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING**

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Authoritarian Regime Constitutions, Competitive Authoritarian Regimes, Authoritarian Institutions, Authoritarian Regimes, Authoritarian Attitudes, Research Methods, Comparative Institutions

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- *“Rubber Stamps, Window Dressings, or Blueprints: Legislative Autonomy and Authority in Authoritarian Constitutions”*. Presenting at the Southern Political Science Association Conference, January 2020
- *“Do Autocrats Follow the Rules? A New Measure of Functional Effectiveness of Constitutions in Authoritarian Regimes”*. Presenting at the Great Plains Political Science Association Conference, October 2019
- *“How Authoritarian Are We?: Non-Democratic Institutions and Public Opinion in the American Context”* with Alexandra T. Middlewood. Presenting at the Midwestern Political Science Association Conference, April 2019
- *“The Role of Elections on Repression Levels in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes”*. Presenting at the Southern Political Science Association Conference, January 2019
- *“Party Behavior in Authoritarian Regimes”* with Holly Rains and Haruka Nagao. Presenting at the Southern Political Science Association Conference, January 2019
- *“American Authoritarianism: Attitudes as Determinants of Support of Authoritarian Regimes”* with Alexandra T. Middlewood. Presenting at the Southern Political Science Association Conference, January 2019

- *“Repression, Elections, and Competitiveness in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes”*. Presenting at the Great Plains Political Science Association Conference, October 2018
- *“Economic Motives, Strategic Behavior, and Chinese Construction of Artificial Islands in the South China Sea”* with John Crooker. Presenting at the Southern Political Science Association Conference, January 2018
- *“Strategic Behavior in the South China Sea: Do economic interests motivate China’s construction of artificial islands”* with John Crooker. Presenting at the Southern Economics Association Conference, November 2017

## RESEARCH AWARDS

- 2019 Thompson Scholar Summer Research Award, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas, \$3000
- 2019 Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund, University of Kansas, \$500
- 2018 Thompson Scholar Summer Research Award, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas, \$3000
- 2018 Southern Political Science Association Travel Grant Award, \$300
- 2017 Thompson Scholar Summer Research Award, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas, \$3000

## METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

- Research Software
  - *R, Stata*
- Quantitative Methods
- Qualitative Methods

## LMS TRAINING

- Moodle Training
- Blackboard Training
- Canvas Training

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020 Member, Millett Best Paper in Political Science Award Selection Committee. Wichita State University
- 2020 Allan J. Cigler Academic Enrichment Fund Award with Dr. John J. Kennedy and undergraduate Aylar Atadurdyeva, “Constitutions and How They Function in Central Asia”
- 2019 Moderator at the Great Plains Political Science Association Conference. Panel-Kansas Politics Roundtable

- 2019 Member, Luzatti Internship Scholarship Selection Committee. Wichita State University
- 2019 Discussant at the Southern Political Science Association Conference. Panel-Comparative Politics: Electoral Systems
- 2019-2020 Secretariat Member, American Model United Nations International, Chicago, IL
- *American Model United Nations (AMUN) is a non-profit, educational organization founded in 1989 to provide students with the highest quality, most professionally run simulation of the United Nations available. AMUN strives to combine educational quality with highly realistic simulations of the United Nations to give students an unparalleled Model UN learning experience.*
  - *Extensive Training in Socratic Method and conflict resolution (GRIPI)*

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2018 - 2019 President, Political Science Graduate Student Association
- 2018 - 2019 President, Pi Sigma Alpha
- 2018 - 2019 Faculty Committee Graduate Ambassador, KU Department of Political Science
- 2017 - 2018 Vice President, Political Science Graduate Student Association
- 2017 - 2018 Vice President, Pi Sigma Alpha
- 2017 - 2018 Faculty Committee Graduate Ambassador, KU Department of Political Science
- 2017 - 2018 Advisory Committee Graduate Ambassador, KU Department of Political Science
- 2017 “Zotero 101: An Introduction to the Basics” with Alexandra Middlewood, Brownbag Lecture Series, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas, November 2017
- 2016 - 2017 First Year Representative, Political Science Graduate Student Association

## INVITED LECTURES, SPEECHES

- March 2019 Feminist Ethics in International Relations, University of Kansas
- October 2019 Why Bad Governments Fail, University of Kansas

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association  
 Midwest Political Science Association  
 Southern Political Science Association  
 Great Plains Political Science Association

**ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**