

MELINDA J. ADAMS

College of Arts and Letters
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ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters, James Madison University, 2018-present
Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters, James Madison University, 2017-2018

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Professor, Department of Political Science, James Madison University, 2016-present
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, James Madison University, 2010-2016
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, James Madison University, 2004-2010

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
M.A., Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.A., International Studies and French, *summa cum laude*, Emory University

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- [co-authored with Lotsmart Fonjong] Forthcoming 2023. "Anglophone Conflict, New Institutions, and Women's Access to Political Power in Cameroon." *Africa Today*
- [co-authored with John A. Scherpereel] 2020. "Gendering Gamson's Law." *Politics & Gender* 17 (4): 775-798.
- [co-authored with Kristin Wylie] 2020. "Transnational Organizing, the Boosting Effect, and Women's Legislative Caucuses in Africa." *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 8 (3): 615-626.
- [co-authored with Violet Yigha Fokum and Lotsmart Fonjong] 2020. "Increasing Women's Representation in the Cameroon Parliament: Do Numbers Really Matter?" *Women's Studies International Forum* 80 (May-June)
- [co-authored with John A. Scherpereel and Kristin Wylie] 2019. "The Adoption of Women's Legislative Caucuses Worldwide." *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 21 (2): 249-270.
- [co-authored with John A. Scherpereel and Suraj Jacob] 2018. "Ratchets and See-Saws: Divergent Institutional Patterns in Women's Political Representation." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 4: 1-13.
- [co-authored with Michal Smrek] 2018. "Making Institutions and Context Count: How Useful is Feminist Institutionalism in Explaining Male Dominance in Politics." *Politics & Gender* 14(2): 271-276.
- [co-authored with Suraj Jacob and John A. Scherpereel] 2017. "Will Rising Powers Undermine Global Norms? The Case of Gender-Balanced Decision-Making." *European Journal of International Relations*, 23(4): 780-808.
2016. "Context and Gendered Media Frames: The Case of Liberia." *Politics & Gender* 12(2): 275-295.
- [co-authored with John A. Scherpereel and Suraj Jacob] 2016. "The Representation of Women in African Legislatures and Cabinets: An Examination with Reference to Ghana." *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy* 37(2): 145-167.
- [co-authored with Suraj Jacob and John A. Scherpereel] 2014. "Global Norms and Women's Political Representation: A Global Analysis of Cabinets, 1979-2009." *Governance: An International Journal of Policy, Administration, and Institutions* 27(2): 321-345.
- [co-authored with Gwynn Thomas] 2010. "Breaking the Final Glass Ceiling: The Influence of Gender in the

- Elections of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Michelle Bachelet.” *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy* 32(2): 105-131.
2008. “Women’s Executive Leadership in Africa: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Broader Patterns of Change.” *Politics & Gender* 4(3): 475-484.
- [co-authored with Alice Kang] 2007. “Regional Advocacy Networks and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.” *Politics & Gender* 3(4): 451-474.
2007. “‘National Machineries’ and Authoritarian Politics: The Case of Cameroon.” *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 9(2): 176-197.
- [co-authored with Josh Strozkeski and Jonathan Keller] 2007. “From Benign Neglect to Strategic Interest: The Role of Africa in the Foreign Policies of Bush 41 and 43.” *White House Studies* 7(1): 35-51.
2006. “Colonial Policies and Women’s Participation in Public Life: The Case of British Southern Cameroons.” *African Studies Quarterly* 8(3).

Book Chapters and Other Publications

2019. “African Women’s Movements and the African Union.” In *The Palgrave Handbook of African Women’s Studies*, eds. Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso and Toyin Falola. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
2019. “Women’s Suffrage in Cameroon: Early Mobilization, Limited Impact.” In *Global Handbook of Women’s Political Rights*, eds. Susan Franceschet, Mona Lena Krook, and Netina Tan. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
2017. “Assessing Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s Presidency: Effects on Substantive Representation.” In *Women Presidents and Prime Ministers in Post-Transition Democracies*, ed. Verónica Montecinos. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
2010. “Ma Ellen: Liberia’s Iron Lady.” In *Cracking the Highest Glass Ceiling: A Global Comparison of Women’s Campaigns for Executive Office*, ed. Rainbow Murray. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.
- [co-authored with Gwynn Thomas] 2010. “Transnational Feminist Activism and Globalizing Women’s Movements.” In *The International Studies Compendium Project*, eds. R. Denmark et al. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- [co-authored with Jonathan Keller] 2008. “Rhetoric vs. Reality: U.S. Foreign Assistance to Africa under Bush 41 and Bush 43.” *White House Studies* 8(2): 191-197.
2006. “Regional Networking among African Women’s Organizations: The Case of the African Union.” In *Global Feminism: Transnational Women’s Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights*, eds. Myra Marx Fereee and Aili Mari Tripp, New York: New York University Press.
2003. “Women in Cameroon.” In *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Women’s Issues Worldwide: Sub-Saharan Africa*, ed. Aili Mari Tripp. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Public Scholarship

- [co-authored with John Scherpereel and Suraj Jacob] 2021. “Biden’s Cabinet of many women shows other world leaders that US takes gender equality seriously” *The Conversation* February 22, 2021.
- [co-authored with John Scherpereel] “Why cabinet, rather than parliament, is the centre of power for African women” *The Conversation* April 1, 2019.
- [co-authored with John Scherpereel and Kristin Wylie] 2019. “Women are gaining more legislative seats—why are they forming women’s caucuses once they take those seats?” *IFJP Blog* March 6, 2019.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- [co-authored with Lotsmart Fonjong] “Women’s Political Representation in New Regional and Local Institutions in Cameroon” Paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 2021.
- [co-authored with John A. Scherpereel and Katherine Hayes] “Gendering Gamson’s Law” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, September 2019.
- [co-authored with Kristin Wylie] “Women’s Legislative Caucuses in Africa: The Role of Diffusion and Feminist

Institution-Building in Facilitating Multiscalar Collaboration.” Paper presented at the European Conference on Politics & Gender, Amsterdam, July 2019.

[co-authored with Kristin Wylie] “Transnational Information Sharing the Establishment of Women’s Legislative Caucuses in Africa.” Paper presented at the Transnational Objects, Activist Solidarities, Feminist Analytics symposium at the University of Ottawa, December 5-7, 2018.

“Promoting Gender Equity in Ghana: The Campaign for Affirmative Action Legislation.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

[co-authored with John Scherpereel and Kristin Wylie] “The Adoption of Women’s Caucuses Worldwide” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2018.

“Transforming the Executive Branch: Women’s Cabinet Participation in Ghana.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 2015.

“Candidate Recruitment and Selection in Ghana: Implications for Women’s Political Representation.” Paper presented at the Ghana Studies Association Triennial Conference, Cape Coast, Ghana, July 2016.

[co-authored with Suraj Jacob and John A. Scherpereel] “How Does the Rise of the BRICS Affect Global Gender Norms? Evidence from Women Ambassador Dyads.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, September 2015.

“The Over-Representation of Men in Politics in Ghana.” Paper presented at the Joint Session of the European Consortium for Political Research, Warsaw, Poland, April 2015.

“The Evolution of Gendered Media Frames: Media Portrayals of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in the 2005 and 2011 Liberian Elections.” Paper presented at the School of Politics and Global Studies Working Group Conference on Women, Media, and Politics, April 2014.

[co-authored with John A. Scherpereel and Suraj Jacob] “Ratchets and See-Saws: Exploring Temporal Patterns in Women’s Political Representation.” Paper presented at the Joint Sessions of the European Consortium for Political Research, Salamanca, Spain, April 2014.

[co-authored with John A. Scherpereel and Suraj Jacob] “Democracy, Post-Conflict Recovery, and Women in Sub-Saharan African Cabinets.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 2013.

[co-authored with John A. Scherpereel and Suraj Jacob] “Global Gender Norm Diffusion and Women’s Political Representation.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2013.

[co-authored with Suraj Jacob and John A. Scherpereel] “The Effects of Women’s Ministerial Representation on Governance, Social Expenditure, and Maternity Leave Policies.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2012.

[co-authored with John A. Scherpereel and Suraj Jacob] “A Global Analysis of Variation in Men’s and Women’s Ministerial Careers.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2011.

[co-authored with Suraj Jacob and John A. Scherpereel] “Madame Minister: The Worldwide Rise in the Ranks of Female Ministers.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Montreal, March 2011.

[co-authored with John A. Scherpereel] “Explaining Variation in the Quantity and Quality of Women’s Ministerial Leadership: Which Factors Matter Most?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C. August 2010.

“Do Women Make a Difference? An Initial Assessment of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf’s Presidency.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, February 2009.

“Why Do Women’s Regional Advocacy Networks Succeed or Fail? An Examination of African Women’s Networks.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, March 2008.

“Breaking the Final Glass Ceiling: The Influence of Gender in the Election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

and Michelle Bachelet.” Paper presented at the Women’s Caucus Pre-Conference, Chicago, August 2007.

[co-authored with Gwynn Thomas] “Just Luck or New Opportunities for Women Leaders? The Theoretical Implications of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Michelle Bachelet’s Electoral Victories.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, March 2007.

“Making International Norms Effective: Regional Activism and the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, D.C., November 2005.

“Gender Representation and the African Union.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., September 2005.

“Appropriating International Discourses for Domestic Aims: State Feminism in Cameroon.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, August 2004.

“International Norms and Domestic Organizing: The Case of Cameroon.” Paper presented at the Gender in an International Context Workshop, Minneapolis, April 2004.

“Historical Perspectives on Women’s Participation in Public Life: The Case of West Cameroon.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Boston, November 2003.

“Renegotiating the Boundaries of Political Action: Women’s Organizations and the State in Cameroon.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, August 2003.

“Women’s Associations in Cameroon, 1950-1966.” Paper presented at the Gender in an International Context Workshop, Minneapolis, April 2003.

“Women’s Associations in Cameroon: The Immediate Post-colonial and Contemporary Eras Compared.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2003.

“International Women’s Day: Is it Good for the Women’s Movement in Cameroon?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington D.C., December 2002.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

Byrd Professorship, JMU Department of Political Science, 2016-17

APSA Small Research Grant, American Political Science Association, 2015

Educational Leave, JMU University Studies, 2015

JMU Women of Distinction, Faculty Award, 2013

Byrd Professorship, JMU Department of Political Science, 2010-11

Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Grant, U.S. Department of Education, 2007-2009

APSA Small Research Grant, American Political Science Association, 2005

Summer Research Grant, JMU College of Arts and Letters, 2005

Dissertation Fellowship, American Association of University Women, 2003-2004

Murray Edelman Travel Grant, UW-Madison Department of Political Science, 2003

Hyde Dissertation Research Award, UW-Madison Women’s Studies Research Center, 2003

Vilas Travel Grant, UW-Madison Graduate Student Council, 2002

P.E.O. Scholar Award, P.E.O. Sisterhood, 2002-2003

Scott Kloeck-Jenson Grant, UW-Madison Global Studies Program, 2002

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, UW-Madison African Studies Program, Summer 2001

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, UW-Madison African Studies Program, 2000-2001

Global Studies Fellowship, UW-Madison Global Studies Program, 2000-2001

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, UW-Madison African Studies Program, 1999-2000

University WARF Fellowship, Graduate School of the UW-Madison, 1998-1999

Phi Beta Kappa, 1997

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

African Politics (POSC 353)
Democratization (POSC 361)
Europe and Africa (POSC 371)
Global Politics (POSC 200)
Politics of Development (POSC 340)
Senior Seminar in International Affairs (INTA 489)
Senior Seminar in Political Science (POSC 492)

EXPERIENCE ABROAD

Field Research in Accra, Ghana, June 2018, July 2016, November 2015
Visiting Scholar, China Foreign Affairs University, March 2016
Faculty Member in Residence, JMU in Ghana Program, Accra, June-July 2012 and July 2014
Dissertation Field Research at the University of Buea, Cameroon, October 2001-June 2002
Internship at Baobab for Women's Human Rights, Lagos, Nigeria, September-October 2001
Election Observer, The Carter Center, Monrovia, Liberia, July 1997

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Member, American Political Science Association, African Studies Association, Ghana Studies Association
Manuscripts reviewed for *African Affairs*, *African Studies Quarterly*, *Alternatives*, *Asian Women*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Development in Practice*, *European Journal of Politics and Gender*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Human Rights Review*, *Journal of Women*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Legon Journal of the Humanities*, *Party Politics*, *Politics and Gender*, *Polity Journal*, *Politics and Policy*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Social Forces*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Women's Studies International Forum*
Advisory Member, North American Association of Scholars of Cameroon, 2021-2022
Member, Boahen-Wilks Outstanding Article Committee, Ghana Studies Association, 2018
Section Chair, African Politics Division of the American Political Science Association, 2016
Member, African Politics Conference Group, Best Article Committee, 2014

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

Member, Provost's Task Force on Gender and Sexuality, 2018
Member, Honors College Task Force, 2018
Coordinator, Pre-Law Program, 2017-present
Prestigious Scholarships Coordinator, 2007-2017
Assistant Director of Honors, 2012-2016
Member, Honors Director Search Committee, 2015
Chair, Student Research Center Task Force, 2013-2014
Member, Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship Search Committee, 2013, 2014
Member, Academic Committee, Madison Future Commission, 2012-2013
Chair, Associate Director for Honors Search Committee, 2012, 2013
Chair, Political Science Personnel Advisory Committee, 2010-2011
Treasurer, JMU Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, 2010-2013
Member, Women's Studies Advisory Board, 2007-2013
Member, Africana Studies Committee, 2004-present
Member, Political Science Personnel Advisory Committee, 2005-2007
Freshman Advisor, 2006-2008

EXTERNAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer, Gilman Scholarship, 2016
Reviewer, Critical Language Scholarship, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

Reviewer, African Foreign Language Initiative Proposal Review, 2014
Reviewer, Boren Scholarship, 2011
Reviewer, Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program, 2008, 2010, 2011
Reviewer, Title VI and Foreign Language Area Studies Grants, 2006