

Noah L. Nathan

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Academic Appointments	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Associate Professor of Political Science	2022–
	University of Michigan Associate Professor of Political Science	2021–2022
	Assistant Professor of Political Science	2016–2021
Education	PhD in Government, Harvard University	2016
	AM in Government, Harvard University	2012
	AB in Government, Harvard College • <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	2009
Books	Noah Nathan, <i>The Scarce State: Inequality and Political Power in the Hinterland</i> , Cambridge University Press. Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics. • Winner, William Riker Award for best book in Political Economy • Honorable Mention, Gregory Luebbert Award for best book in Comparative Politics • A <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Best Book of 2023 • Reviewed in <i>Perspectives on Politics, Governance, Foreign Affairs, Journal of Modern African Studies, Review of Development and Change</i>	2023
	Noah Nathan, <i>Electoral Politics and Africa's Urban Transition: Class and Ethnicity in Ghana</i> , Cambridge University Press. Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics. • Reviewed in <i>African Studies Review</i> (2x), <i>Governance, Foreign Affairs, Washington Post's Monkey Cage</i>	2019
Journal Articles	Noah Nathan, "Do Grids Demobilize? How Street Networks, Social Networks, and Political Networks Intersect," forthcoming, <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>	2024
	Noah Nathan and Melissa Sands, "Context and Contact: Unifying the Study of Environmental Effects on Politics," <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 26(1): 233-252	2023
	Paul Atwell and Noah Nathan, "Channels of Influence or Maps of Behavior? A Field Experiment on Social Networks and Cooperation," <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 66(3): 696-714	2022
	Sarah Brierley and Noah Nathan, "Motivating the Machine: Which Brokers Do Parties Pay?," <i>Journal of Politics</i> 84(3): 1539-1555	2022
	Nahomi Ichino and Noah Nathan, "Democratizing the Party: The Effects of Primary Election Reforms in Ghana," <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>	2022

52(3): 1168-1185

Sarah Brierley and Noah Nathan, "The Connections of Party Brokers: Which Brokers Do Parties Select?," *Journal of Politics* 83(3): 884-901 2021

Allen Hicken and Noah Nathan, "Clientelism's Red Herrings: Dead Ends and New Directions in the Study of Non-Programmatic Politics," *Annual Review of Political Science* 23(1): 277-294 2020

Noah Nathan, "Electoral Consequences of Colonial Invention: Chiefs, Brokers, and Distribution in Northern Ghana." *World Politics* 71(3): 417-456 2019

Noah Nathan, "Does Participation Reinforce Patronage? Policy Preferences, Turnout, and Class in Urban Ghana," *British Journal of Political Science* 49(1): 229-255 2019

Noah Nathan, "Local Ethnic Geography, Expectations of Favoritism, and Voting in Urban Ghana," *Comparative Political Studies* 49 (14): 1896-1929 2016

Ariel White, Noah Nathan, and Julie Faller, "What Do I Need to Vote? Bureaucratic Discretion and Information Provision by Local Election Officials," *American Political Science Review* 109(1): 129-142 2015

- Winner of APSA's Heinz I. Eulau Award for "best article published in the American Political Science Review in the calendar year"

Nahomi Ichino and Noah Nathan, "Crossing the Line: Local Ethnic Geography and Voting in Ghana," *American Political Science Review* 107(2): 344-61 2013

Nahomi Ichino and Noah Nathan, "Do Primaries Improve Electoral Performance? Clientelism and Intra-Party Conflict in Ghana," *American Journal of Political Science* 57(3): 428-41 2013

Nahomi Ichino and Noah Nathan, "Primaries on Demand? Intra-Party Politics and Nominations in Ghana," *British Journal of Political Science*, 42(4): 769-91 2012

Chapters in Edited Volumes

Noah Nathan and Ariel White, "Experiments on and with Street-Level Bureaucrats," in *Advances in Experimental Political Science*, (Cambridge University Press), ed. James Druckman and Donald Green. 2021

Nahomi Ichino and Noah Nathan, "Primary Elections in New Democracies," in the *Routledge Handbook of Primary Elections*, ed. Robert G. Boatright (New York: Routledge Press) 2018

Other Writing and Media

New Books Network podcast, "The Scarce State," March 2 2024

Noah Nathan, "Book Review: Legitimation as Political Practice: Crafting Everyday Authority in Tanzania," *Journal of Modern African Studies* 61(4): 610-612. 2023

Noah Nathan, "Book Review: Precolonial Legacies in Postcolonial Politics: Representation and Redistribution in Decentralized West Africa," *Governance* 35(4): 1262-1264. 2022

	Ufahamu Africa podcast, “Ep. 102: A conversation with Noah Nathan about the Ghanaian election,” December 12	2020
	Noah Nathan, “Book Review: From Pews to Politics: Religious Sermons and Political Participation in Africa,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , May/June issue	2020
	Noah Nathan, “South Africa votes Wednesday. Its urban voters probably won’t turn out the ANC,” <i>Washington Post: The Monkey Cage</i> , May 6.	2019
	Ariel White, Noah Nathan, and Julie Faller, “New evidence shows election officials are biased against Latino voters,” <i>Washington Post: The Monkey Cage</i> , February 18.	2015
	“Institutional Change, Ethnic Identity, and Conflict in Northern Ghana,” Senior Thesis, Harvard College	2009
Fellowships and Grants	MIT Global Seed Fund grant to support Pathways at GDL summer internship program, with Ariel White (\$29,638)	2024
	LSA Social Science Research Award, University of Michigan (\$27,232), with Edgar Franco-Vivanco	2021
	Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) Stanford University, 2019-2020 Fellowship	2019-2020
	National Science Foundation (NSF), RAPID Grant, with Nahomi Ichino (\$100,584)	2017
	Faculty Research Grant, African Studies Center, University of Michigan	2017
	International Growth Centre (UK), with Nahomi Ichino (£89,000)	2016
	University of Michigan Office of Research (UMOR), with Nahomi Ichino (\$15,000)	2016
	Oppenheimer Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Dept. of Government, Harvard University	2015-2016
	National Science Foundation (NSF), Graduate Research Fellowship (GRFP)	2012-2015
	Graduate Student Research Grant, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University	2014, 2015
	Samuel P. Huntington Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University	2013
	Samuels Family Pre-Dissertation Grant, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University	2012
	Rupert Emerson Fellowship, Dept. of Government, Harvard University	2010-2012
	Rogers Family Fellowship, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University	2008

Awards	William Riker Award for best book in Political Economy, APSA Political Economy Section	2024
	Honorable Mention, Gregory Luebbert Award for best book in Comparative Politics, APSA Comparative Politics Section	2024
	Samuel Eldersveld Prize, awarded by the Department of Political Science, University of Michigan	2020
	Extraordinary Reviewer Award, from the Editors of Comparative Political Studies	2020
	Heinz I. Eulau Award, with Julie Faller and Ariel White, awarded by the American Political Science Association for “best article published in the American Political Science Review in the calendar year”	2016
	Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, awarded by the Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard, for undergraduate teaching in Fall 2012	2013
	Thomas T. Hoopes Prize, for the Senior Honors Thesis, Harvard College	2009
	Gerda Richards Crosby Prize, for excellence in the Government concentration, Harvard College	2009
	Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Iota Chapter, Harvard College	2008
Invited and Conference Presentations	Brown, CASBS (Stanford), Columbia, Duke (multiple), Florida, Harvard, Horizons in Historical Political Economy (University of Chicago), Houston Hobby School, MIT, Nuffield College Oxford, Stanford, University of California-Berkeley (multiple), UCLA, UCSD, University of Pennsylvania, University of Virginia, Vanderbilt, APSA (multiple), ASA (multiple), MGAPE, MPSA (multiple), MWEPS (multiple), WGAPE (multiple)	
Teaching and Advising	<p>Courses offered:</p> <p><i>MIT:</i> PS 17.572, “Political Economy of Africa” (graduate) PS 17.526, “Comparative Urban Politics and Development” (graduate) PS 17.577, “Electoral Politics in the Developing World” (undergraduate)</p> <p><i>University of Michigan:</i> POLISCI 688, “Dissertation Development in Comparative Politics” (graduate) POLISCI 688, “Elections and Distribution” (graduate) POLISCI 688, “Comparative Political Behavior” (graduate) POLISCI 489, “Electoral Politics in the Developing World” (undergraduate) POLISCI 497, “Experimental Approaches to the Political Economy of Development” (undergraduate)</p> <p>Dissertation Committees:</p> <p><i>MIT:</i> Jared Kalow Clemente Sanchez Nicole Wilson (co-chair; 2024; Assistant Prof., Northwestern University)</p>	

University of Michigan:

Peter Carroll

Rebecca Wai (co-chair)

Paul Atwell (co-chair; 2023; post-doc, Juan March; Assistant Prof., Ohio State)

Hilary Izatt (2023; Assistant Prof., SUNY-Binghamton)

Eitan Paul (2022; J-PAL)

Deanna Kolberg (2021; Freedom House)

Undergraduate Theses:

Sophie Voltz (Michigan, 2018-2019)

Anna-Kay Richards (Harvard, 2012-2013)

Service

Disciplinary:

Reviewer:

Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, *African Affairs*, *Africa Spectrum*, *African Studies Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Economics & Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Ghana Studies*, *Journal of African Economies*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, *Journal of Historical Political Economy*, *Journal of Law and Economic Organization*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, *Party Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *Research and Politics*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *World Development*, *World Politics*

Executive committees:

Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE) 2021–

Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science (MWEPS); co-founder 2018-2022

Award committees:

Luebbert Best Article Award (APSA) 2022

APCG Best Graduate Student Paper Award 2020

Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (QMMR) Best Paper Award 2018

Mentor positions:

WGAPE Small Grant Program 2022-2023

APSA EPOVB Early Career Fellowship 2021-2022

Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN) 2020-2022

Editorial positions:

Guest editor, *Annual Review of Political Science* (2023 issue) 2021-2022

Conference leadership:

BWGAPE, co-convener 2024

MPSA African Politics Section (co-chair) 2018

University and department:

Labs:

Faculty Associate, MIT Global Diversity Lab (GDL) 2022-

Faculty Associate, MIT GOV/LAB 2022-

Co-director, Pathways at GDL Summer Internship Program 2023-

Co-director, Historical Institutions Lab, University of Michigan 2021-2022

Workshops and conferences:

Faculty co-coordinator, Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Michigan	2017-2019, 2020-2022
Organizing committee, “Emerging Scholars Conference,” University of Michigan	2017
Co-founder, Comparative Politics Speaker Series, Harvard	2013
Student coordinator, Comparative Politics Workshop, Harvard	2011-2012

Admissions committees:

MIT, Political Science	2023
University of Michigan, Political Science (chair in 2022)	2019, 2021, 2022

Other:

Committee on the Library System, MIT	2024–
Department Concentration Adviser, MIT Political Science	2024–
Undergraduate Affairs Committee, MIT Political Science	2024–
SHASS Awards Committee, MIT	2023–
Planning committee, Center for Political Institutions, University of Michigan	2020–2021
Steering Committee, African Social Research Initiative, African Studies Center, University of Michigan	2017-2019
Selection committee, UMAPS Scholars, African Social Research Initiative, University of Michigan	2017-2018
Selection committee, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies (WCED) post-doctoral fellowships, University of Michigan	2017

Field Research	Ghana (repeated trips)	2008-2024
	Zambia	2011

Last updated: June 2024