

## A. CARL LEVAN, PhD

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Author



Educator



Analyst

Author, co-author or co-editor of 6 books and 12 academic articles on African politics, civil society, constitution-making, political institutions and security. Senior consultant and writer for projects on democratization, good governance, human rights, and political representation. Effective instructor and community builder with universities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

## Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of California, San Diego (2007)

M.A., Political Science, American University (1998)

B.A. with Special Honors, Political Science, George Washington University (1992)

## Academic Experience

- Professor and Chair, Comparative and Regional Studies, School of International Service, American University. Collaborate with senior staff on course planning, student recruitment and retention, and admissions process (2020-present).
- As Instructor (2006-2007), Assistant Professor (2007-2016) and Associate Professor (2016-2020), designed and taught courses on comparative politics, African politics, political theory, “post-truth” America, international relations research, political representation, and comparative institutions for undergraduate, Master’s and PhD students.
- Additional teaching experience at Ritsumeikan University in Japan, University of California-San Diego, George Washington University, and the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. In 2011, co-led the American Political Science Association’s Africa Workshop at the University of Nairobi for rising African social scientists, funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation.
- As the Placement Officer for the School of International Service, assist PhD candidates with professional development and job placement (2017-2018; fall 2019-present)
- As coordinator of the School’s Africa Research Cluster and its related predecessors, organized more than 50 Africa-related events with policy leaders, activists, and scholars.
- Global and Comparative Governance Thematic Coordinator (2013 – 2014)

## Consulting

- U.S. Department of Justice (2019 – present)
- National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. Co-principal investigator and the research design coordinator for USAID project on Chinese “soft power” in Africa (2020 – 2021). Editor and writer for project on democratization commissioned by the USAID (2017 – 2018), and a principal investigator for a historical impact assessment of USAID legislative strengthening programs on democracy and human rights worldwide (2015).
- Research Coordinator for World Bank Social Protection Unit (2018-2019). Led design of social impact study and assessed marginalized groups’ access to national identification in

Nigeria. Identified, hired and managed team of six African scholars plus local resource persons, and consolidated and edited research products for the final report (2018 –2019).

- Member of U.S. International Election Observation Mission Nigeria (2019, 2015, and 2003).
- Project participant, Constitutional Design and Conflict Management, Climate Change and African Political Stability, University of Texas at Austin, (May 2011).
- U.S. State Department Antiterrorism Assistance Program, Senior Crisis Management Seminar, curriculum development advisory group (2007 – 2009).

## Previous Work Experience

- National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, Abuja, Nigeria (1999 – 2000). Co-directed then directed one of NDI's largest field programs worldwide. Organized and participated in legislative training and capacity building programs for the National Assembly following a transition to civilian rule after 16 years of military dictatorships.
- U.S. Representative John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Washington, D.C. As legislative assistant (1993-96) and then legislative director (1996-99) supervised legislative operations and congressional staff. Drafted legislation, amendments, speeches, press releases and testimony. Organized congressional oversight delegations (CODELs) overseas, briefings for members of congress, and oversight letters to administration officials.
- Research Assistant, Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, D.C. (1992) Conducted research on national security affairs for Marcus Raskin and organized a conference on urban crisis.

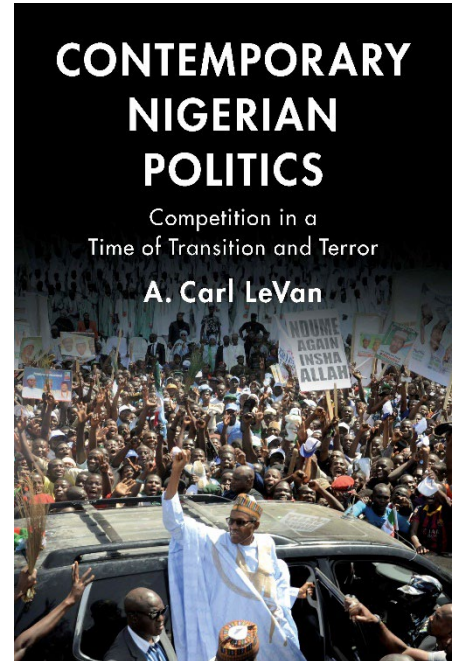
## Professional Service Positions

- Faculty President, School of International Service, American University (2022 – present)
- Chair, African Politics Conference Group officer nomination committee (2022)
- Member, American Political Science Association's Award Committee for the Juan Linz Prize for the Best Dissertation in Comparative Politics (2020 – 2021)
- Chair, Transitions to Democracy Section, Midwest Political Science Association. Reviewed paper proposals and arranged panels and discussants for one of the largest annual meetings of professional political scientists (2019).
- Co-chair, Local Arrangements Committee, African Studies Association. Co-led a yearlong planning process for a conference of 2,000 African studies scholars (2016 and 2011).
- Chair, Peace and Conflict Section, African Studies Association Annual Meeting (2012).
- Board of Advisors, Advancing Investment and Trade in Africa (2014 – 2016)
- Africa Action, Transition Advisory Board. Provided strategic and crisis management advice for largest and oldest human rights organization related to Africa.
- Treasurer, African Politics Conference Group. Doubled this scholarly association's membership to 500 by arranging for sponsorship of Africa-based scholars (2010 – 2012)
- Participate in mentorship programs organized by the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association and other professional associations.

**Media appearances:** PBS NewsHour, *New York Times* video, *New York Times*, National Public Radio's Diane Rehm, BBC World News, Associated Press, *Washington Post*, Al Jazeera, Time Magazine, Amy Goodman's Democracy Now!, CNN and CNN.com, NBC.com, MSNBC.com

## Books

- *In Search of Solidarity: Participation and Knowledge in Post-Truth America* (in progress)
- *Contemporary Nigerian Politics: Competition in a Time of Transition and Terror* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)
- *Oxford Handbook of Nigerian Politics*, co-edited with Patrick Ukata (Oxford University Press, 2018)
- *Constituents before Assembly: Participation, Deliberation, and Representation in the Worldwide Crafting of New Constitutions*, co-authored with Todd Eisenstadt and Tofigh Maboudi (Cambridge University Press, 2017).
- *Dictators and Democracy in African Development: the Political Economy of Good Governance in Nigeria* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).
- *African State Governance: Subnational Politics and National Power*, co-edited with Joseph Olayinka Fashagba and Ned McMahon (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2015).
- *In Democracy's Shadow: the Secret World of National Security*, co-edited with Marcus Raskin (Nation Books, 2005).



## Op-eds and reviews

Reviews of books on Boko Haram, peacebuilding in the Congo, military intervention in Africa, Niger Delta insurgency, and civil society, in *Political Science Quarterly*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, and *H-Diplo*.

Over 20 blog posts and op-eds on democracy, humanitarianism and African politics, published with *The Washington Post*, Oxford University Press, *Christian Science Monitor*, Oxford Analytica, AllAfrica.com, Cambridge Core, *The Hill* and *Africasacountry.com*.

## Peer reviewed articles

- “From Terrorism to Talakawa: Explaining Party Turnover in Nigeria’s 2015 Elections” (with Matthew T. Page and Yoonbin Ha), *Review of African Political Economy*, 45, no. 157 (2018): 432-50.
- “Reciprocal Retaliation and Local Linkage: Federalism as an Instrument of Opposition Organizing in Nigeria.” *African Affairs*, 117, no. 466 (January 2018): 1-20.
- “When Talk Trumps Text: The Democratizing Effects of Deliberation during Constitution-Making, 1974-2011,” (with Todd Eisenstadt and Tofigh Maboudi), *American Political Science Review* 109, 3 (August 2015): 592-612.
- “Parallel Institutionalism and the Future of Representation in Nigeria,” *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 33, 3 (July 2015): 370-90.
- “Parties or Portfolio? The Economic Effects of Africa’s Cumbersome Cabinets, 1971-2006,” (with Assen Assenov) *Government and Opposition* 51, 4 (December 2016): 661-90.
- “‘I am Here until Development Comes:’ Displacement, Demolitions, and Property Rights in Urbanizing Nigeria,” (with Josiah Olubowale) *African Affairs* 113, 452 (July 2014): 387-408.
- “Analytic Authoritarianism and Nigeria,” *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 52, 2 (January 2014): 212-231.
- “Sectarian Rebellions in Post-Transition Nigeria Compared,”

*Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* 7, 3 (May 2013): 335-352.

- “Questioning Tocqueville in Africa: Continuity and Change in Nigeria’s Civil Society during Democratization,” *Democratization* 18, 1 (February 2011): 135-159.
- “Power Sharing and Inclusive Politics in Africa’s Uncertain Democracies,” *Governance: An International Journal of Policy, Administration, and Institutions* 24, 1 (January 2011): 31-53.
- “The Political Economy of African Responses to the U.S. Africa Command,” *Africa Today* 57, 1 (fall 2010): 1-23.
- “Elections in Nigeria: Is the Third Time a Charm?” (with Joyce Pitso and Bodunrin Adebo) in *Journal of African Elections* 2 (October 2003): 30-47.

## Professional Activities and Service

### Professional presentations

U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. State Department, Council on Foreign Relations, Freedom House, British High Commission-Abuja, MacArthur Foundation, International Republican Institute, Center for Strategic and International Relations, National Defense University, Gallup, Center for International Policy, Nigeran Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, U.S. Institute of Peace, Corporate Council on Africa, National Endowment for Democracy, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and private sector

### Invited lectures

Georgetown University, London School of Economics, Ritsumeikan University (Japan), Yale, Stanford, Cornell, University of Cincinnati, American Political Science Association, Rift Valley Institute (Kenya), Centre for Democracy and Development (Nigeria), University of Florida, Naval Postgraduate School, University of Antwerp, Syracuse University, University of Vermont

### Reviewer

Grant proposals for National Science Foundation, U.S. Institute of Peace, Council on Foreign Relations, Institute of African Studies (Ghana). Book proposals for Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Palgrave, and Zed Books. Peer reviewer for 30 academic journals. Editorial board *Governance: An International Journal of Policy, Administration, and Institutions*

## Awards

Co-leader, African Research Development Group, American Political Science Association (2022)  
 Principal or co-principal for grants from the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the American Political Science Association, the National Endowment for Democracy and American University  
 Fulbright grant for dissertation research in Nigeria  
 Darrell Randall Award for Outstanding Service to the American University Community  
 Frank Cass Award for Best Article on Democratization by a Young Scholar  
 Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science National Honor Society