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Education

- Ph.D., Political Science, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2001
 - Fields: Comparative Politics/African Politics; American Politics; African Studies
- M.A., Political Science, The University of Wisconsin-Madison, June 1996
- J.D., Washington College of Law, The American University, Washington, D.C., June 1995
- B.A., Political Science, University of San Diego, San Diego, California, May 1992

Dissertation

Blurring the Boundaries of "Tradition": The Transformation and Legitimacy of the Chieftaincy in South Africa

Committee

- Professor Michael G. Schatzberg (Chair), University of Wisconsin Department of Political Science
- Professor Crawford Young, University of Wisconsin Department of Political Science
- Professor Aili Tripp, University of Wisconsin Department of Political Science
- Professor Heinz Klug, University of Wisconsin Law School and Department of Political Science
- Professor Herbert Kritzer, University of Wisconsin Department of Political Science

Dissertation Abstract

How does the institution of "traditional" leadership, the supposed puppet of the *apartheid* regime, continue to wield authority and maintain legitimacy in the midst of a decade of democratic political change in South Africa? Contrary to conventional wisdom, I argue that traditional leadership exercises legitimacy in large part due to the extent to which it is capable of using its rule making and rule enforcing functions to promote both institutional change and ideological continuity. Using a comparative case method, I examine three different "tribal authority areas" in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. I find that rural communities demand changes in the configuration of political authority at the local level while also wanting to preserve important community norms that are under threat from "Westernization" and "Democracy." Through extensive interviews, participant observation, and archival research, I specifically explore how traditional leadership applies and interprets the norms and rules associated with local government, development, and democratic elections in light of these contradictory expectations of local communities and how this influences the legitimization process.

Publications

- “Leading from behind: democratic consolidation and the chieftaincy in South Africa.” *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 42: 1, 113-136.
- “Law and Colonialism,” “Zulus,” and “Natal.” In *Encyclopedia of Colonialism*, ed. Melvin Page. New York, N.Y.,: East River Books. Forthcoming 2004.
- “Book Review: Tom Lodge, *Politics in South Africa: From Mandela to Mbeki*.” In *H-Net Reviews*, Peter Limb, ed. March 2003.
- “Book Review: Martin Chanock, *The Making of South African Legal Culture, 1902-1936: Fear, Favour and Prejudice*.” In *H-Net Reviews*, Peter Limb, ed. October 2002.
- “Guinea Bissau,” “Angola,” “Cape Verde,” and “Southern Africa.” In *Country Profiles of Land Tenure: Africa, 1996*, ed. John Bruce. Madison, WI: Land Tenure Center, 1998.
- “Conference: The Death Penalty in the Twenty-First Century” (introduction), *The American University Law Review*, December 1995.

Conference Participation

- “Democrats or Despots?: Making Sense of the Chieftaincy in Post-Apartheid South Africa.” Paper presented at the meeting of the International Political Science Association, Durban, South Africa, June 29 – July 4, 2003.
- “The Consolidation of Democracy in Rural South Africa: Challenges and Opportunities.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, Massachusetts, August 28 - September, 1, 2002.
- “Democratization and the Chieftaincy in South Africa: Local Level Perceptions of Democracy, Politics, and Rights.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Houston, Texas, November 15-18, 2001.
- “Establishing Legitimacy at the Local Level: Chieftaincy in South Africa.” Paper presented in a poster session at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, California, August 30 - September 2, 2001.
- “The Struggle for Social Control in South Africa: Traditional Leaders and the Establishment of the Local State in KwaZulu-Natal.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Nashville, Tennessee, November 16-19, 2000.
- “Two Bulls in One Kraal: The Establishment of Local Government in Rural South Africa.” Paper presented at the African Studies Program Spring Symposium: “Intellectual Pluralism and African Politics: A Gathering in Honor of Crawford Young”, Madison, Wisconsin, April 14-16, 2000.
- “The Dynamics of Social Control in Rural South Africa: Traditional Leaders and the Allocation of Development Resources in KwaZulu-Natal.” Paper presented at the annual conference of the South African Society of Cultural Anthropologists, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, June 23-25, 1999.

J. Michael Williams - Curriculum Vita

- “‘Lights of the Runway’: The South African Constitutional Court’s Role in the Writing of the Post-Apartheid Constitution.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 23-25, 1998.
- “Traditional Leaders and Political Transformation in South Africa: Part of the Past or Part of the Process?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Columbus, Ohio, November 13-16, 1997.
- “Federalism and ‘Customary Law’ in South Africa: Understanding the Construction of a ‘New’ South African ‘State.’” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Graduate Student Conference in African Studies, Urbana, Illinois, March 1-2, 1997.

Invited Lectures

- “These Days with Tom Fudge: Current Events in South Africa.” Special guest on KPBS radio talk show in San Diego, California, January 21, 2000.
- “Democratization in South Africa.” Lecture given at the annual dinner of The Ad Hoc Political Science Association of Southern California, San Diego, California, November 19, 2000.
- “After the Miracle: The Struggle for Social and Political Transformation in South Africa.” Lecture given at The World Affairs Council of San Diego, San Diego, California, November 9, 2000.

Teaching Experience

- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of San Diego, Fall 2003 - present.
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of San Diego, 2001- present.
 - Comparative Politics, African Politics, Urban Politics, American Political Development, American Politics, Introduction to Political Science
- Advisor, Department of Political Science, University of San Diego, Model United Nations Program, 2001- present.
 - International Organizations with specific focus on the United Nations
- Advisor, The Washington Center - Inaugural Seminar, Washington, D.C., 2001-present.
 - American political institutions (media, presidency and courts)
- Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of San Diego, Guadalajara Summer Program, Summer 2001.
 - Comparative Politics
- Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of San Diego, 1999-2001.
 - Comparative Politics, African Politics (both undergraduate and graduate level courses), Introduction to Political Science, American Politics

J. Michael Williams - Curriculum Vita

- Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Fall 1996.
 - Introduction to American Politics

Teaching Interests

- Comparative Politics/International Relations:
 - Comparative Politics; African Politics; Political Culture; Cultural Pluralism; Democratization; Comparative Constitutional Law; International Organizations; International Law.
- American Politics:
 - Presidency, Race and Ethnicity; Urban Politics; American Political Development; Courts and Judicial Process, Law, Politics, and Society; Constitutional and Administrative Law.

Research Experience

- Research Assistant, Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1996-98.
 - Research on land tenure issues in Africa with a specific focus on Mozambique and South Africa for Professor John Bruce.
- Research Assistant, School of Law, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Summer 1996.
 - Research on establishing institutional relationships between law schools in Africa and the United States for Professor Beverly Moran.
- Project Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1995.
 - Organization of the conference "Dilemmas of Democracy in Nigeria" for Professors Crawford Young and Paul Beckett.
- Legal Intern, People for the American Way, Washington, D.C., 1994-95.
 - Researched and drafted legal memoranda addressing First Amendment and other constitutional law issues.
- Research Assistant, Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C., 1994-95.
 - Researched issues related to information theory, equal protection, and tort law issues for Professor James Boyle.
- Summer Associate, Ober, Kaler, Grimes and Shriver, Baltimore, Maryland, Summer 1994.
 - Research and drafted legal memoranda and client opinion letters.

Research Interests

- Institutional change and development at the local level in Africa (especially involving the chieftaincy and local government institutions)
- Cross-national analyses of culture, political culture, and cultural pluralism in Africa
- Intersection of law and politics in South Africa (especially the development of the Constitutional Court)
- Institutional change and development of "traditional" institutions within Native American reservations in the United States

Fellowships, Research Grants, and Honors

- Research Associate, University of San Diego, San Diego, California, 2000-01.
- Fulbright II-E Fellow, United States Information Agency, Washington, D.C., 1998-99 (funded dissertation research in South Africa).
- Global Studies Fellow (formerly known as the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellow), University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1997-98 (funded dissertation writing).
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Summer 1996, Summer and Spring 1997 (Zulu).

Professional Associations

- American Political Science Association
- African Studies Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- The State Bar of California

Foreign Languages

- Zulu