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University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506
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Jonathan M. Powell, Ph.D.

Education

University of Kentucky | Lexington, KY | Ph.D., Political Science, 2013

Testing Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics

Dissertation: *Coups and Conflict: The Paradox of Political Survival*

Eastern Kentucky University | Richmond, KY | M.A., Government, 2007

Western Kentucky University | Bowling Green, KY | B.A., Anthropology, 2005

Academic Positions

University of Kentucky | Lexington, KY

2024 - | Visiting Assistant Professor | Patterson School for Diplomacy and International Commerce

2024- | PT Instructor | Department of Political Science

University of Central Florida | Orlando, FL

2018-2023 | Associate Professor | School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs

2014-2018 | Assistant Professor | School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs

2018-2019 | M.A. Program Director | School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs

2014-2023 | Affiliated Faculty | Africana Studies

2016-2023 | Affiliated Faculty | Women's and Gender Studies

Nazarbayev University | Astana, Kazakhstan

2012-2014 | Assistant Professor | School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Research Interests

Politics and History of Africa and the Middle East, civil-military relations, foreign policy, security assistance, political instability, human security

Publications (* denotes student)

*Ben Hammou, Salah, **Jonathan Powell**, and *Bailey Sellers. 2023. Sourcing and Bias in the Study of Coups: Lessons from the Middle East. *International Studies Review*.

*Ali, Hager, *Salah Ben Hammou, and **Jonathan Powell**. 2022. Between Coups and Elections: Constitutional Engineering and Military Entrenchment in Sudan. *Africa Spectrum* 57(3): 327-339.

Powell, Jonathan, *Salah Ben Hammou, Amy Erica Smith, Lucas Borba, Drew Holland Kinney, Mwita Chacha, and Erica De Bruin. 2022. Forum: A Coup at the Capitol? Conceptualizing Coups and Other Antidemocratic Actions. *International Studies Review* 24(1).

Powell, Jonathan, *Abigail Reynolds, and Mwita Chacha. 2022. A New Coup Era for Africa? *Conflict Trends*.

- Powell, Jonathan**, Rebecca Schiel, and *Salah Ben Hammou. 2021. Oil Wealth, Risk Acceptance, and the Seizure of Power. *Journal of Global Security Studies* 6(4).
- Schiel, Rebecca, **Jonathan Powell**, and Chris Faulkner. 2021. Mutiny in Africa, 1950-2018. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 38(4): 481-499.
- *Banini, Daniel, **Jonathan Powell**, and *Michael Yekple. 2020. Peacekeeping as Coup Avoidance: Lessons from Ghana. *African Security* 13(3): 235-259.
- *Schiel, Rebecca, **Jonathan Powell**, and Ursula Daxecker. 2020. Peacekeeping and Mutinies in African Sending States. *Foreign Policy Analysis* 16(3): 251-271.
- Vasquez, Paul, and **Jonathan Powell**. 2019. Institutional Arsenals for Democracy? Conscription, Coups, and Democracy. *Armed Forces & Society* 47(2): 298-318.
- *Christopher Faulkner, **Jonathan Powell**, and Trace Lasley. 2019. Creed versus Deed: Illicit Financing, Rebel Goals, and the Use of Child Soldiers. *Third World Quarterly* 40(6): 1017-1039.
- Powell, Jonathan**, Mwita Chacha, and *Gary Smith. 2019. Opening Up or Digging in? Failed Coups, Democratization, and Authoritarian Entrenchment. *African Affairs* 118(471): 238-258.
- Powell, Jonathan**, and Mwita Chacha. 2019. Closing the Book on Africa's First-Generation Coups. *African Studies Quarterly* 18(2): 87-94.
- *Faulkner, Christopher, *Joshua Lambert, and **Jonathan Powell**. 2019. Reassessing Private Military and Security Company (PMSC) 'Competition' in Civil War: Lessons from Sierra Leone. *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 30(3): 641-659.
- Powell, Jonathan**. 2019. Leader Survival Strategies and the Onset of Civil Conflict: The Paradox of Coup-Proofing. *Armed Forces & Society* 45(1): 27-44.
- Powell, Jonathan**, and *Karina Mukazhanova. 2019. Demonstrating Credentials? Female Executives, Women's Status, and the Use of Force. *Journal of Women, Politics, & Policy* 40(2): 241-262.
- Powell, Jonathan**. 2019. Of Strong Men and Straw Men: Appraising Post-Coup Political Developments. *Military Review* July-August: 47-53.
- Thyne, Clayton, and **Jonathan Powell**. 2019. Coup Research. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*.
- Besaw, Clayton, Matthew Frank, Eric Keels, Jay Benson, John Filitz, and **Jonathan Powell**. 2019. Annual Risk of Coup Report. One Earth Future. OEF Research. April.
- Thyne, Clayton, **Jonathan Powell**, *Sarah Parrott, and *Emily VanMeter. 2018. The Influence of Post-Coup Signals on Regime Survival. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 62(7): 1406-1432.
- Powell, Jonathan**, *Christopher Faulkner, *William Dean, and *Kyle Romano. 2018. Give them Toys?: Military Allocations and Regime Stability in Transitional Democracies. *Democratization* 25(7): 1153-1172.
- Schroeder, Theresa, and **Jonathan Powell**. 2018. The Right Man for the Job: Gender as a Source of Civil-Military Friction. *Armed Forces & Society* 44(3): 460-475.
- Chacha, Mwita, and **Jonathan Powell**. 2017. Economic Interdependence and Post-Coup Democratization. *Democratization* 24(5): 819-838.
- *Reprinted in In Kuehn, David (editor). *The Military's Impact on Democratic Development: Midwives or Gravediggers of Democracy?* New York, NY: Routledge.
- *Schiel, Rebecca, *Christopher Faulkner, and **Jonathan Powell**. 2017. Mutiny in Côte d'Ivoire. *Africa Spectrum* 52(2): 103-115.
- Powell, Jonathan**, and Mwita Chacha. 2016. Investing in Stability: Economic Interdependence, the Capitalist Peace, and Coups d'état. *Journal of Peace Research* 53(4): 525-538.

- Powell, Jonathan**, Trace Lasley, and *Rebecca Schiel. 2016. Combating Coups d'état in Africa, 1950-2014. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 51(4): 482-502.
- Powell, Jonathan**, and Theresa Schroeder. 2016. Friends in Low Places?: The Conditional Effect of Trade on Women's Status. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 51(2): 169-188.
- Thyne, Clayton, and **Jonathan Powell**. 2016. Coup d'état or Coup d'Autocracy? The Impact of Coups on Democratization, 1950-2008. *Foreign Policy Analysis* 12(2): 192-213.
- Powell, Jonathan**. 2014. Trading Coups for Civil War: The Strategic Logic of Tolerating Rebellion in Africa, 1971-2000. *African Security Review* 23(4): 329-338.
- Powell, Jonathan**. 2014. An Assessment of the 'Democratic' Coup Theory: Democratic Trajectories in Africa, 1961-2012. *African Security Review* 23(3): 213-224.
- Powell, Jonathan**. 2014. Regime Vulnerability and the Diversionary Threat of Force. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58(1): 169-196.
- Powell, Jonathan**. 2012. Determinants of the Attempting and Outcome of Coups d'état. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56(6): 1017-1040.
- *InCites Highly Cited Article (top 1% of social sciences)
- Powell, Jonathan**, and Clayton Thyne. 2011. Global Instances of Coups from 1950-2010: A New Dataset. *Journal of Peace Research* 48(2): 249-259.
- *InCites Highly Cited Article (top 1% of social sciences)

Data Projects

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2009- | Global Instances of Coups, with Clayton Thyne |
| 2020- | Mutiny in Africa |
| 2021-2023 | Rulers, Elections, and Irregular Governance (REIGN) |
| 2021-2023 | CoupCast (machine learning project aimed at assessing political instability) |

Commentaries

- Norms at home, norms abroad: Security Force Assistance and Civil-Military Relations. With Jaelyn Johnson and Christopher Faulkner. Modern War Institute. September 18, 2023.
- The credibility crisis of African regional organizations in the face of coups. With Mwita Chacha. *Democracy in Africa*. September 10, 2023.
- Brazil's 8 January insurrection: distinguishing coup advocacy from coup attempt. With Salah Ben Hammou. *The Loop*.
- Electoral origins of the Santomean coup. With *Julia Oldershaw. *Political Violence at a Glance*. December 5, 2022.
- The International Community, Coups, and Electoral 'Attaboys. With *Salah Ben Hammou. *Political Violence at a Glance*." February 9, 2022.
- Burkina Faso coup: latest sign of a rise in the ballot box being traded for bullets. *The Conversation*. January 25, 2022. French version.
- Are coups really contagious. With *Salah Ben Hammou. *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*. November 22, 2021.

Failed coup but successful transition? Contextualizing Sudan's latest coup plot. With *Salah Ben Hammou. *Cairo Review of Global Affairs*. October 12, 2021.

Another mutiny turned coup: Mali is no stranger to military unrest. With Christopher Faulkner, Jaclyn Johnson, and Rebecca Schiel. *The Conversation*. August 21, 2020.

Population size does not explain the high number of COVID-19 Cases in the United States. With Christopher Faulkner. *Cairo Review of Global Affairs*. April 4, 2020.

Flattening the curve. (on Covid19). With Christopher Faulkner. *Duck of Minerva*. March 16, 2020.

Guinea Bissau election inspires optimism – but there are still big risks. With Clayton Besaw. *The Conversation*. February 16, 2020.

Bissau-Guineans hold their breath – again – as uncertainty deepens. With Clayton Besaw. *The Conversation*. November 3, 2019. Republished in *All Africa, African Eye Report*, etc.

Essebsi is Gone: Tunisia's young democracy faces its toughest test. With Clayton Besaw. *The Conversation*. August 15, 2019. Republished by *All Africa, The Wire* (India), *Premium Times* (Nigeria), etc.

Peeling back the layers on the role of private military and security companies in Africa. With *Chris Faulkner and *Joshua Lambert. *The Conversation*. August 4, 2019. Republished by *The Africa Report, Quartz, StarFM* (Ghana), etc.

Rivalries ahead of Guinea-Bissau's Election Raise Questions about Stability. *The Conversation*. With Clayton Besaw and *Devyn Escalanti. July 14, 2019. Reposted in *All Africa, Middle East and North Africa Financial Network*, etc.

Understanding Coup Risk in Guinea-Bissau. With Clayton Besaw. *Political Violence @ a Glance*. March 25, 2019.

Did the Zimbabwe Coup Encourage Gabon's Plotters? With Mwita Chacha. *Political Violence @ a Glance*. January 24, 2019. Republished by *This Week in Africa*.

The coup in Gabon surprised everyone. Why forecasts, and the plot, failed. With Clayton Besaw. *The Conversation*. January 15, 2019. Republished by *All Africa, Polity* (South Africa), *The Rwandan, WorldNews* (WN) Network, *Business Times Africa*, etc.

It's been one year since Zimbabwe toppled Mugabe. Why isn't it a democracy yet? With Mwita Chacha. *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*. November 17, 2018. Republished by *The Zimbabwean, New Zimbabwe, The Observer* (Zimbabwe), etc.

Elections and Coup Risk in Zimbabwe One Year after the Coup d'état. With Clayton Besaw." *Political Violence @ a Glance*. November 7, 2018.

Silent Guns: Examining the Two-Year Absence of Coups in Africa. With *Rebecca Schiel. *Political Violence @ a Glance*. September 18, 2017.

Will Turkey's coup attempt prompt others nearby? With Curtis Bell. *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*. July 30, 2016.

Turkey's coup attempt was unusual, but not for the reasons you expect. With Curtis Bell. *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*. July 22, 2016.

The Military in Politics: Complications in Counting. *Lawyers, Guns, & Money*. May 20, 2014.

Will Thailand's Coup Actually Fix Anything. *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*. May 29, 2014.

Conflict, Self-interest, and Disaggregating the Pointy End of the State. *Lawyers Guns & Money*. November 26, 2012.

Invited Talks and Appearances

Speaker. “Military Coups and the Disorganization of African Unity.” Western Kentucky University. Bowling Green, KY. November 10, 2022.

Speaker. Supporting Constitution-Building Processes after Coups. *Fragility Forum*. Organized by the World Bank and the International Institute for Democracy and Election Assistance (International IDEA). March 11, 2022.

Expert Interview. Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the U.S. Capitol. March 9, 2022.

Speaker. UCF Life. March 7, 2022.

Guest. *Global Perspectives* (TV show). WUCF/PBS. Aired March 6, 2022.

Guest. The Scholar’s Circle. February 20, 2022.

Guest. Coups Rise as Democracy Declines. Chicago Council on Global Affairs. February 17, 2022.

Speaker. Kellogg Center (Democracy Cluster). University of Notre Dame. May 1-2, 2020. (Canceled due to Covid-19).

Speaker. “Ghost Soldiers and Zombie Stats.” Centre College. January 17, 2020.

Speaker. “Military Coups in the Developing World.” Centre College. October 11, 2019.

Speaker. U.S. Department of State Bureau of Intelligence and Research – National Intelligence Council Joint Event. April 30, 2019.

Panelist. Atlantic Council. Fellow panelists included U.S. Special Representative for Venezuela Elliot Abrams, Venezuelan Ambassador Carlos Vecchio. April 25, 2019.

Speaker. National Intelligence Council (Near East) event. April 23, 2019.

Speaker. “Assessing U.S. Military Assistance.” College of Central Florida. April 12, 2019.

Speaker. “Despots, Deployments, and Disobedience.” Science Café. University of Central Florida. April 19, 2018.

Speaker. “U.S. Military Assistance and Democratization in the Shadow of Coups.” Invited talk. Department of Political Science, University of Florida. Gainesville, FL. November 18, 2016.

Speaker. “American Military Assistance and Democratization in the Shadow of Coups.” Future University, Cairo, Egypt. September 12, 2015.

Co-Chair. “Coups and Constitutions.” *Student Conference on United States Affairs (SCUSA)*. United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. November 12-15, 2014.

Speaker. “Women and Politics.” *Women Lead*. Astana, Kazakhstan. September 9, 2013.

Foreign Policy of Kazakhstan Roundtable. Panelist with Dr. Suleimenov Tuleutai (Former Foreign Minister), Dr. Majidenova Darico (Presidential Adviser), and Dr. Mwita Chacha (Nazarbayev University). Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan. November 8, 2012.

Speaker. “The AU: The First Ten Years.” Expert Roundtable with the African Conflict Prevention Programme and Peace and Security Council of the Institute for Security Studies (Addis Ababa Office). Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. October 11-13, 2011.

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate

UCF:

INR 3253: International Politics of Africa

CPO 3403H: Middle East Politics (Honors)

CPO 4710: Women in Comparative Politics

POS 3703: Scope and Methods in Political Science

INR 4008: Global Perspectives

Nazarbayev University:

Intro International Relations, Quantitative Methods,
Civil-Military Relations

University of Kentucky:

Intro to American Government

Intro to Comparative Politics

Cultures and Politics of the Third World

Research Methods

Democratization

Regime Change

Graduate

UCF:

POS 6736: Conduct of Political Inquiry

CPO 6091: Seminar in Comparative Politics

CPO 6206: Comparative Politics of Africa

INR 6257: International Relations of Africa

CPO 6058: Revolution and Political Violence

INR 7139: Issues in Domestic Security

Department Service

2022-2023	Internship Coordinator
2022-2023	Workload Committee
2020-2021	Undergraduate Awards Committee
2020-2021	Study Abroad Committee (Chair, previous 2015-6)
2020-2021	Diversity Committee (previous 2017-8)
2021	Cumulative Progress Evaluation Committee (chair)
2018-2019	M.A. Program Director
2018-2019	M.A. Committee (Chair, previous 2014-2016)
2017-2021	Senior Scholars Advisor
2017	Cyber Security Hiring Cluster Political Science Advisory Committee
2016-2021	Ph.D. Committee
2015-2021	Peer Evaluation Committee
2015-2016	Instructor/Lecturer Promotion Committee
2015	Search Committee, TT Security Studies
2014-2015	Methods Committee

University Service

2016-2021	Undergraduate Research Council
2019-2020	Research Incentive Award Committee
2017	Teaching Incentive Program Committee
2018-2019	President's/Dean's Doctoral Fellowships Committee
2019-2020	Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship reviewer
2017-2021	Office of Undergraduate Research Student Grants Reviewer
2017-2019	Faculty Judge, UCF Libraries Annual Award for Excellence in Undergrad Research
2017-2018	Women and Gender Studies Scholarship Selection Committee
2016-2017	Faculty Judge, Showcase for Undergraduate Research Excellence

Student Supervision

Ph.D. Supervision (chair)

Salah Ben Hammou (2024).

Current position: Post-Doctoral Scholar, Rice University

Michael Yekple (2023). *Drones, Peacekeeping, and Civilian Protection in Armed Conflict*.

Current position: Visiting Assistant Professor, Bowdoin College

Santosh Sapkota (2023). *Peacekeeping for Peace: Effectiveness and Impacts*.

Current position: Major in Nepalese armed forces

Daniel Banini (2021). *Security Dynamics in West Africa: The Interplay of Ecology, State Legitimacy, and Corruption*.

Current position: Assistant Professor (TT), University of Providence

Joshua Lambert (2020). *Food, Familiarity, and Forecasting: Modeling Coups with Computational Methods*.

Current position: Senior Machine Learning Engineer, FactSet

Christopher Faulkner (2019). *The Causes, Dynamics, and Implications of Child Soldiering*.

Current position: Assistant Professor, U.S. Naval War College

Rebecca Schiel (2018). *The Conditionality of Vulnerability: Three Analyses of Risk and Opportunity in Civil-Military Relations*.

Current position: Director of Academic Development, Full Sail University

Other committees served (as non-chair): Devyn Escalanti (expected 2025), Gus Larmin (2023), Jennifer Joel (2022), Sandor Fabian (2020), T.J. Spolizino (2021), David Raugh (2019), Gary Smith (2018).

Masters Thesis Supervision (Chair)

Gabriella Cuber (2021). Winner of best SPSIA thesis.

Devyn Escalanti (2020).

Salah Ben Hammou (2019).

Lorena Kcomt (2019).

Ailbhe Rice (2018).

Other committees served (as non-chair): Bryan Rojas (2023), Jeremie Canton (2019), Courtney Templeton (2018), Ajara Boulebekova (2019), Jennifer Hudson (2017), Monica Mayer (2016), Bailey Robb (2016), Dexter Wilborn (2016), Brandon Burmeister (2016), Candace Compton (2015).

Undergraduate Honors Thesis (Chair)

Abigail Reynolds (2021).

Siera Himmerch (2020).

Vincenzo Cibra (2018).

Kellan Ritter (2017).

Other committees served (as non-chair): Payton Kuenzli (2018), Robert Vogan (2016), Amy Crawford (2015)

Peer Reviewer

African Affairs	International J. of Comparative Sociology
Am. J. of Political Science	International Peacekeeping
Am. Political Science Review	International Political Science Review
Applied Economic Letters	International Security
Armed Forces & Society	International Studies Quarterly
British J. of International Relations	International Studies Review,
British J. of Political Science	J. of Conflict Resolution
Canadian Review of Sociology	J. of Economics and Politics
Children & Society	J. of Global Security Studies
Civil Wars	J. of International Organizations Studies
Comparative Political Studies	J. of Peace Research
Comparative Politics	J. of Political Science Education
Conflict & Cooperation	J. of Politics
Conflict & Society	J. of Women, Politics, & Policy
Conflict Management and Peace Science	Political Research Quarterly
Contemporary Politics	Political Geography
Defence & Peace Economics	Political Science Research and Methods
Democracy and Security	Political Studies
Democratization	Politics & Policy
European J. of Comparative Economics	Public Choice
European J. of International Relations	Research and Politics
European Political Studies	Security Studies
Foreign Policy Analysis	Social Science Research
International History Review	South African Journal of International Affairs
International Interactions	Third World Quarterly
	World Politics

National Science Foundation
Oxford Research Encyclopedia
Grawemeyer Award for Improving World Order
Lewis and Clark Fund, American Philosophical Society
Lynne Rienner Publishers
Zed Books

Organizational Service

2020-	<i>Armed Forces & Society</i> Editorial Board
2021-	<i>International Interactions</i> Editorial Board
2018	Governing Council, International Studies Association
2017-2018	President, International Studies Association – South Region
2017	Vice President, International Studies Association – South Region
2015-2021	Executive Committee, International Studies Association – South Region

Awards

2022	Outstanding Research Award. \$500. School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs.
2020-2022	UCF Mid-Career Refresh Grant. \$76,000. Funds research assistant to aid with data collection.
2019	UCF Research Incentive Award. (for contributions to UCF's key goal of achieving international prominence in research and creative activities; \$5000/year pay increase)
2017	UCF Luminary Award. (exceptional faculty whose work is advancing their discipline and making a difference)

2017	Conference Support, UCF College of Graduate Studies, “Assessing the Consequences of U.S. Military Assistance,” Organized with Andrew Boutton. (\$4350)
2016	Conference Support, UCF College of Graduate Studies, “Gender Dynamics of International Security,” Organized with Gunes Murat Tezcur. (\$3340)
2016	In-House Research Grant, Office of Research and Commercialization (UCF) (\$7500)
2015	Department Research Grant, UCF (\$2000)

Conference Papers

2023	Florida Political Science Association (Stetson University)
2022	Peace Science Society – International (Denver)
	Eurasian Peace Science Society (virtual)
2021	Inter-University Seminar on the Armed Forces and Society (Reston, VA)
2019	Inter-University Seminar on the Armed Forces and Society (Reston, VA)
	Florida Political Science Association (University of Tampa)
2018	International Studies Association (San Francisco)
	Florida Political Science Association (Florida Gulf Coast University)
2017	International Studies Association – South (Orlando)
	Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans)
2016	International Studies Association (Atlanta)
	International Studies Association – South (Shepherd University)
	Southern Political Science Association (San Juan)
	Peace Science Society – International (Notre Dame University)
	Florida Political Science Association (Florida Southern College)
2015	International Studies Association – South (Tampa)
	Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans)
	American Political Science Association (San Francisco)
2014	International Studies Association (Toronto)
	International Studies Association – South (St. Petersburg, FL)
	Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans)
2013	Southern Political Science Association (Orlando)
	Peace Science Society – International (Knoxville)
2012	Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans)
2010	Peace Science Society – International (Denton, TX)
2009	International Studies Association (New York)
	International Studies Association – South (Nashville)
	Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans)
	American Political Science Association (Toronto)
2008	International Studies Association – South (South Ashland, VA)

References

Clayton Thyne, Ph.D.
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