

Salih O. Noor

The University of Chicago · The College · Society of Fellows
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Academic Appointment	The University of Chicago, 2023 – Present Collegiate Assistant Professor, Social Sciences Collegiate Division Harper-Schmidt Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts Northwestern University, Winter 2020 <i>Instructor of Record</i>, Center for International and Area Studies Eritrea Institute of Technology, 2008 – 2011 <i>Lecturer & Department Chair</i>, Dep. of Political Science & International Relations University of Asmara, 2004 – 2006 <i>Graduate Assistant</i>, Department of Political Science
Additional Affiliations	<i>Faculty Affiliate</i>, Center for International Social Science Research (CISSR), University of Chicago, 2025 – Present <i>Affiliated Academic Appointee</i>, Department Sociology, University of Chicago, 2025 – Present <i>Instructional Associate</i>, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, 2023 – Present <i>Visiting Scholar</i>, Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR), University of Cape Town, 2022 <i>Research Fellow</i>, Varieties of Democracy Institute, Un. of Gothenburg, 2015 – 2016
Education	Northwestern University Ph.D., Political Science, 2023 Fields: Comparative Politics & Methodology Northwestern University M.A., Political Science, 2018 University of Osnabruck, Germany M.A., Political Science, 2014 University of Asmara, Eritrea B.A., Political Science, 2004
Book Manuscript	<i>The Legacies of Liberation: Path Dependence, Institutional Change, and Political Development in Southern Africa</i> <i>Book Workshop</i>: Oct. 2025. External reviewers included Evan Lieberman (MIT), Adrienne LeBas (American University), Dan Slater (University of Michigan), and Hillel David Soifer (University of California, Berkeley). <i>Manuscript Status</i>: Under preparation for submission to Cambridge University Press.

Refereed Journal Publications	“Path Dependence and Institutional Change: Explaining the Legacies of Liberation in Southern Africa,” <i>Studies in Comparative International Development</i> (Aug. 2026), DOI: 10.1007/s12116-026-09513-6.
	“Late Colonialism and Postcolonial Development in Africa: A Comparative-Historical Analysis of Former Italian Africa,” <i>International Journal of Comparative Sociology</i> , 66, 2 (2024), 286-319.
	“Abductive Analysis in Qualitative and Multi-Method Political Science,” <i>Qualitative and Multi-Method Research</i> , 22, 2 (Fall 2024): 58-63.
	“Third Wave Democratization in Africa: The Rise of Illiberal Democracy in Comparative Perspective,” <i>CEU Political Science Journal</i> , 10 (2016): 51-83.
	“From SAPs to PRSPs: The Annals of Neoliberal Ideological Dogmatism in Governance & Development Policy,” <i>Critique</i> (Fall 2015): 67-104.
Book Chapters	“Eritrea’s Foreign Policy Explained in Light of the ‘Democratic Peace’ Proposition,” <i>International Journal of Peace & Development Studies</i> , 4 (2013): 76-89.
	“Theory,” in Jean Clipperton et al, <i>Empirical Methods in Political Science: An Introduction</i> (Evanston: Northwestern University, 2022): 17-30.
Book Reviews	“Community Organizing to End Displacement in Eritrea: A Narrative of Community and Institutional Resilience,” with A. Almedom and A. Nayr, in Wade Rathke, ed., <i>Global Grassroots: An Organizing Perspective</i> (New Orleans: Social Policy Press, 2011): 81-91.
	“Legacies of British Rule: Colonialism, Statehood, and Nationalist Civil War by Matthew Lange,” <i>Social Forces</i> , forthcoming.
	“Theorizing in Comparative Politics: Democratization in Africa by Goran Hyden,” <i>Commonwealth and Comparative Politics</i> 63(3): 274–276.
	“Democracy in Africa: Successes, Failures, and the Struggle for Political Reform by Nic Cheeseman,” <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 80 (2018): 19-20.
	“Democratic Trajectories in Africa: Unravelling the Impact of Foreign Aid by D. Resnick and N. van de Walle,” <i>African Affairs</i> 114 (2015): 663-665.
	“The African Garrison State: Human Rights and Political Development in Eritrea, K. Tronvoll & D. R. Mekonnen, & “Eritrea at a Crossroads: A Narrative of Triumph, Betrayal and Hope, A. W. Giorgis,” <i>Africa Spectrum</i> 1 (2015): 99-103.
	“The African Garrison State: Human Rights and Political Development in Eritrea, by K. Tronvoll & D. R. Mekonnen,” <i>African Studies Quarterly</i> 15 (2014): 136-138.
Reports	“Free Access to Information and a Vibrant Civil Society as Cornerstones for Sustainable Development” (with Frida Andersson). <i>Report prepared for the EU Commission</i> , Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, 2016.
Other Writings (select)	“South Africa’s 2024 Elections: Political Change and Democratic Uncertainty,” <i>Democracy in Africa</i> , May 29, 2025.

“Colonialism, Marginality, and Path Dependence in Cabo Delgado,” *Clio Newsletter of Politics & History* (APSA), 30 (2), 2021.

“Eritrea: Why Change Abroad Doesn’t Mean Change at Home,” *African Arguments*, Sep. 12, 2018.

“How Could a Lasting Peace Between Ethiopia and Eritrea Be Achieved?” *Think Africa Press*, April 10, 2013.

Media

VOA Tigrigna program, Guest Analyst, 2022-25
TV Eritrea, Several appearances, 2005-2010

**Working Papers &
Work in Progress**

“Path Dependence and Institutional Change in Historical Explanation,” *working paper*.

“Strategies of Abductive Analysis in Qualitative and Multi-Method Research,” *working paper*.

“The Comparative Method as a Structured Strategy for Causal Explanation: A Review Essay,” *working paper*.

“The Political Economy of Settler States in Africa,” with Alex Dyzenhaus, *working paper*.

“The Colonial Origins of Political Development: Italian Africa in Comparative Perspective,” *working paper*.

“Informal Institutions, Institutional Change, and Comparative Politics in Africa: A Research Agenda,” *work in progress*.

“Critical Junctures, Independence Movements, and Democracy in Africa: A Comparative-Historical Perspective,” *work in progress*.

“Historical Experiments in Social Science Explanation,” *work in progress*.

“Insights and Strategies in Small-N Analysis,” *work in progress*.

**Grants &
Fellowships**

External

Emerging Methodologists Workshop for Qualitative and Multi-Method Explanatory Research, APSA Section for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), 2024

The National Science Foundation-APSA Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2023 (\$13,000)

Semi-finalist for The Academy Scholars Program, The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Harvard University, 2022

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, HFG Emerging Scholar Award, 2022 (\$25,000)

American Political Science Association (APSA), First Generation Scholars in the Profession Grant, 2021

American Political Science Association (APSA), Politics & History Section Travel Grant, 2021

U.S. Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship, 2019 (\$43,000)

American Sociological Association, Sociology of Development Section Travel Grant, 2019

Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, 2018

University of Gothenburg, Swedish Research Council Ph.D. Fellowship, 2015

Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Graduate Internship, 2013

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Public Policy & Good Governance Scholarship for M.A. studies, 2010-2013

Internal

Center for International Social Science Research (CISSR) Faculty Monograph Enhancement Award, 2026

Center for International Social Science Research (CISSR) Faculty Book Workshop Award, 2025

Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University, Conference Travel Award, 2022

Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, funding for methodological training, 2022, 2018, & 2019

The Graduate School, Northwestern University, University Fellowship, 2021-2022

Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, Minar Memorial Award, 2021 and 2019

Program of African studies, Northwestern University, Morris Goodman Award, 2020

The Graduate School, Northwestern University, Graduate Research Grant, 2019

The Graduate School, Northwestern University, Summer Language Grant, 2019

Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, Hans Panofsky Research Award, 2018 & 2017

Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University, Graduate Student Dissertation Research Award, 2017

The Graduate School, Northwestern University, University Fellowship, 2016

**Teaching
Experience**

Collegiate Assistant Professor, S. Sc. Collegiate Division, University of Chicago
Global Society I: World Social Theory (Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)
Global Society II: Population & Society (Winter 2024)
Global Society III: Research Practicum (Spr. 2024), Res. Methods (Spr. 2026)

Instructor of Record, Center for Inter. & Area Studies, Northwestern University
Introduction to International Development, Winter 2020

Graduate Teaching Assistance, Northwestern University
 Politics of the Middle East, Spring 2020
 Global Development, Fall 2019
 Introduction to Comparative Politics, Spring 2019, Fall 2017
 Political Economy of Development, Winter 2019
 Politics of Civil Wars, Fall 2018
 U.S. Foreign Policy, Spring 2018
 Introduction to International Relations, Winter 2018

Lecturer, Eritrea Institute of Technology, Eritrea
 Power and Politics in the Horn of Africa, 2010-2011, 2009-2010
 Postcolonial African Politics, 2010-2011
 Introduction to International Relations, 2009-2010
 International Political Economy, 2009-2010
 Introduction to Political Science, 2008-2009

Undergraduate Teaching Assistance, University of Asmara, Eritrea
 Political Systems of the Middle East, 2004-2006

**Workshops,
 Conferences, &
 Presentations**

Workshop Presentations

Emerging Methodologists Workshop for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Boston, Sep. 2026

African Studies Workshop (ASW), University of Chicago, Feb. 2025

Politics, History, & Society (PHS), University of Chicago, Feb. 2025

Emerging Methodologists Workshop for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Philadelphia, Sep. 2024

Society of Fellows Workshop, University of Chicago, Jan. 2024

Comparative Historical Social Sciences (CHSS), Northwestern University, May 2023

Comparative Politics Workshop, Northwestern University, Oct. 2022

Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Workshop, George Washington University, Oct. 2021

Comparative Politics Workshop, Northwestern University, May 2021

Comparative Historical Social Sciences (CHSS) Workshop, Northwestern University, Oct. 2020

Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, Feb. 2019

Comparative Historical Social Sciences (CHSS) Workshop, Northwestern University, May 2018

Conference Presentations

African Studies Association-United Kingdom Annual Conference, 2026

American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2026, 2025, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2013

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2024, 2023
 American Sociological Association Annual Conference, 2023, 2020
 Social Science History Association (SSHA) Annual Conference, 2025, 2021, 2019
 Chicago Area Comparative Historical Social Sciences Conference, 2019, 2018
 African Studies Association Annual Conference, 2017
 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2016

Invited Talks/Presentations

“Former Liberation Movements as Governments in Southern Africa: Authoritarianism versus Democracy,” European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes, Dec. 17, 2026
 “Securing Funding/Fellowships as a Ph.D. Student,” Graduate Student Commune, Northwestern University, Feb. 16, 2024.
 “Houthis Who? An Insider Look at the Militia Disrupting the Globe,” Institute of Politics, The University of Chicago, Feb. 1, 2024.
 “The Legacies of Radical, Liberal, and Stalled Liberal Reforms in Southern Africa,” Department of Political Science, University of Stellenbosch, August 23, 2023.
 “The Legacies of Liberation in Southern Africa: Between Revolution and Reform,” Department of History, University of Stellenbosch, March 28, 2023.
 “The Legacies of Liberation: Between Revolution and Reform in Southern Africa,” Department of Government and Law, Lafayette College, Nov. 2022.
 “South Africa and its Discontents: Contemporary Politics and Social Mobilization,” Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, 2019.
 “Forum on Democracy and Insecurity in Africa,” Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, 2017.
 “Potentials and Pitfalls of Democracy in a Post-Liberation Context,” in Conference on Eritrea at Silver Jubilee: Stocktaking on the Nation-building Experience of a ‘Newly’ Independent African Country, Geneva, 2016.
 “The Roots of Human Exodus from Eritrea,” Amnesty International Working Group, Hanover, Germany, 2013.
 “International Youth Symposium on Mutual Understanding for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development,” Asmara, Eritrea, 2010.

Profession Service & Membership

Professional service
American Political Science Association (APSA)
 Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs, grant reviewer, 2026
American Sociological Association (ASA)

Comparative-Historical Sociology Section organizer, 2025 ASA Annual Conference

Journal referee: *Perspectives on Politics*; *European Journal of Sociology*; *Theory & Social Inquiry*; *Social Forces*; *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* (x2); *Journal of Development Studies*; *Democracy and Security*

Fellowship & grant referee: National Science Foundation (2026); American Political Science Association (2026)

Service to university & department

Political Science Department Teaching Committee at Northwestern University, Member, 2022 – 2023

Comparative Politics Workshop at Northwestern University, Graduate Student Coordinator, 2019 – 2020

Comparative Historical Social Sciences at Northwestern University (CHSS), Graduate Student Coordinator, 2019 – 2020

First Chicago Area Comparative-Historical Social Sciences Conference, Northwestern University, Co-Organizer, May 10-11, 2018

The Graduate School Diversity Program, Northwestern University, Peer Mentor, 2017 – 2019

Department of Political Science & International Relations, Eritrea Institute of Technology (Eritrea), Department Chair, Fall 2008 – Winter 2011

Professional membership

American Political Science Association (Sections: Comparative Politics, Democracy and Autocracy, African Politics Conference Group, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research)

American Sociological Association (Sections: Comparative and Historical Sociology, Political Sociology, Theory)

Social Science History Association (Sections: State and Society, Macrohistorical Dynamics)

Skills & Training

Software Skills: R, Stata.

Languages: German (Advanced); Portuguese (Beginner); Arabic (Advanced); Amharic (Inter.); Tigrigna (Fluent); Tigre (Fluent); Blin (Fluent).

Methodological Training

Certificate in Comparative-Historical Analysis, Comparative-Historical Social Sciences (CHSS) Cluster, Northwestern University, 2016-2023

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMQ), Syracuse University, 2022

Southern California Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), University of California at Irvine, 2019

ECPR Summer School in Methods & Techniques, University of Ljubljana,
Slovenia, 2012

Last updated: September 2026