

# CHRISTIANA BUGRI

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs  
300 Eggers Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244  
[cbugri@syr.edu](mailto:cbugri@syr.edu)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Researcher, Campbell Public Affairs Institute, Syracuse University, 2024-

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, West Virginia University (Expected Fall 2024)

Fields: Public Policy and Comparative Politics

Dissertation: *Policy Dynamics in Young Democracies: Attention, Electoral Change, and Responsiveness in Ghana and South Africa* (Committee: Herschel Thomas (chair),

John Kilwein, Erik Herron, Samuel Workman, and Tamba Mbayo)

M.A. Political Science, West Virginia University, 2021

M.A. Development Studies, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, 2014

B.A. Political Science, University of Ghana, 2011

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

African politics, comparative politics, public policy, policy implementation, agenda-setting

## RESEARCH

### *Dissertation*

*My dissertation explores the nature and dynamics of policy change in young African democracies. I assess the dynamics of government attention to problems, the effects of elections on policy change, and finally, the extent to which governments in young democracies are responsive to public priorities. I argue that the neopatrimonial nature of politics in young democracies makes institutions less adaptive and responsive to problems relative to institutions in Western democracies. I also argue that competitive elections in young democracies can serve as a motivation for major policy changes as governments seek to secure and expand winning coalitions. I measure government attention using budget data and parliamentary hearings. I compile budget data for Ghana (2008-2020), and South Africa (1993-2020). I also collect and topic code 14,890 parliamentary hearings according to the Comparative Agenda's Project (CAP) codebook for both countries. Additionally, I topic code responses to the "Most Important Problem" question in Afrobarometer surveys from 2005 to 2020 to measure public priorities in both countries. I find that punctuations in both budgets and parliamentary hearings in Ghana are less than those found in authoritarian regimes but more than those in Western democracies. South Africa on the other hand has budget punctuations that are higher than those found in both autocracies and democracies and legislative punctuations that are within the range found in Western democracies. Additionally, I find moderate levels of congruence between legislative priorities and public priorities in both Ghana and South Africa. Finally, my analysis shows that in Ghana where elections are very*

*competitive, government attention to public goods increases during election years. In South Africa which has less competitive elections, I find that legislators do not pay additional attention to public goods provision in election years.*

### ***Research in Progress***

Agenda Dynamics in Young Democracies: Findings from Ghana and South Africa (presented at APSA 2024)

Responsiveness of Party Agendas to Citizen Priorities in Ghana

### **AWARDS**

APSA Travel Grant, American Political Science Association, 2024

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, West Virginia University, 2024

Commonwealth Shared Scholar, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 2013

### **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

\*Midwest Political Science Association, 2025 (scheduled)

American Political Science Association, 2024

Midwest Political Science Association, 2024

Midwest Political Science Association, 2023

International IDEA Roundtable, 2016

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

#### ***West Virginia University***

Research Assistant for Trisha Phillips: Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Research Assistant for William Franko: Spring 2019

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### ***Instructor of Record, West Virginia University***

Law and the Legal System: Fall 2024

Introduction to Public Administration: Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Introduction to Comparative Politics: Fall 2021, Spring 2022

#### ***Teaching Assistant, West Virginia University***

Introduction to Public Administration: Fall 2022

Introduction to American Government: Fall 2019, Spring 2020

***Teaching Assistant, University of Ghana***

Politics of International Economic Relations: Fall 2011, Spring 2012

**SERVICE**

***West Virginia University***

Judge, 6th Annual Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium, Spring 2022

Secretary, Political Science Graduate Students Association, Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Vice President, Political Science Graduate Students Association, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

**MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Political Science Association (APSA)

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

**REFERENCES**

Herschel Thomas

Associate Professor of Political Science

LBJ School of Public Affairs

University of Texas at Austin

2315 Red River

[herschel.thomas@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:herschel.thomas@austin.utexas.edu)

Erik Herron

Professor of Political Science

West Virginia University

Department of Political Science

316 Woodburn Hall

[Erik.Herron@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Erik.Herron@mail.wvu.edu)

Matthew Jacobsmeier

Associate Professor of Political Science

West Virginia University

Department of Political Science

316 Woodburn Hall

[Matthew.Jacobsmeier@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Matthew.Jacobsmeier@mail.wvu.edu)