

## **Marshall W. Thompson**

Assistant Professor

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### **Education**

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

- Ph.D. in Political Science, August 2007
- Subfields: Comparative Politics and International Relations
- Dissertation: *Pillars of State Strength in Africa: Party Systems and Interbranch Relations*
  - Committee: Itai Sened (chair), Andrew Sobel, Robert Walker
  - Abstract: I offer explanations for the variance in state strength in sub-Saharan Africa. The primary determinants I identify are political, while I also control for demographic and economic factors. Two large-n quantitative analyses demonstrate the positive effect of horizontal accountability and the negative effect of excessive party fractionalization. Case evidence from Ethiopia and Kenya offers qualitative support for these findings.
- A.M. in Political Science, May 2004

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

- B.A. in International Studies, June 1997

### **Research and Teaching Interests**

Comparative Politics, Party Systems, Political Development, African Politics, Bureaucracy, International Relations, International and Comparative Political Economy

### **Publication**

“Advocating Stronger Legislatures as a Precursor to Stronger States in Africa.” *The OSSREA Bulletin* 3, no. 3: 16-24, 2006.

### **Under Review**

“Do Institutions Really Matter?” With Itai Sened and Robert Walker. Under review at *The Journal of Institutional Economics*.

## **Fellowships, Grants, and Scholarships**

Chancellor's Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis, 2002-2007.

Danforth Scholarship, Washington University in St. Louis, 2002-2005.

Research Grant, Center for New Institutional Social Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, Spring 2006.

Research Grant, International and Area Studies Program, Washington University in St. Louis, Summer 2005.

Research Grant, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, Summer 2004.

Ceny Walker Fellowship, Walker Institute of International Studies, University of South Carolina, 1995-1997.

## **Conference Participation and Invited Talks**

"Partisanship, Patronage, and State Building: Evidence from Kenya." Presented at the 2007 Yale Bouchet Conference on Diversity in Graduate Education, New Haven, CT.

"Regime-Type and State Consolidation in sub-Saharan Africa." Presented at the 2006 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

"Regime-Type and State Consolidation." Presented at the 2005 annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, DC.

"Bureaucratic (In)efficiency in sub-Saharan Africa." Invited talk at Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO, 2004.

## **Teaching Experience**

Professor: *Northeastern Illinois University*

- International Political Economy, Fall 2007.
- Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa, Fall 2007.

Instructor: *Washington University in St. Louis*

- Comparative Institutional Analysis, Summer 2006.

Teaching Assistant: *Washington University in St. Louis*

- Middle East Politics, Spring 2005, with Prof. Victor Le Vine.
- Introduction to Comparative Politics, Fall 2004, with Prof. Brian Crisp.

## **Fieldwork**

Field Research in Ethiopia and Kenya, 2006: Performed archival work on the activity of the national legislatures and their committees (three months).

Field Research in Ethiopia, 2005: Interviewed government bureaucrats and civil society figures (two months).

Field Research in Kenya, 2004: Interviewed members of the business community (two months).

## **Service to Academia**

Member, Chancellor's Fellowship selection committee, 2006-2007.

Graduate Student Peer Mentor, Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, 2006-2007.

Panelist for Washington University Libraries' *National Council* meeting, 2005.

Discussion section leader, *Target Hope* graduate student recruitment workshop, Washington University in St. Louis, 2003.

## **Internships**

South Carolina Governor's Office, working for Don Hottel, Spring 1996.

Connecticut Legislature, working for Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Bob Godfrey, Spring 1995.

## **Prior Work Experience**

Raymond James and Associates, St. Petersburg, FL. Over-the-counter securities trader, July 2000 – July 2002.

## **References**

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