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Education

Ph.D. Temple University; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (December 2016)

Dissertation: Bastions Against the Fourth Wave: Toward a Theory of Authoritarian International Organizations

Committee: Mark A. Pollack (chair), K. Orfeo Fioretos, Richard Deeg,
Amelia Hoover Green (Drexel University, External Examiner)

Abstract: I theorize that a sub-set of states build and maintain authoritarian organizations (AOs) that exist to protect and reinforce authoritarian practices and values.

First, I offer a logic for understanding AOs and their contributions to their member states. Second, I develop a framework that hypothesizes a range of benefits that an AO might offer its member states, identifying both material benefits (that contribute to repression and co-optation behaviors) and ideational benefits (that legitimize autocratic behavior) that an AO might provide. Finally, I assess three potential contemporary AOs: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Qualitative evidence shows that AOs most successfully contribute to legitimizing authoritarian rule, particularly by co-opting civil society and distorting authoritarian practices at the domestic level, bandwagoning mutual support at the international level, and challenging democracy as a norm of governance, chipping away at the Third and Fourth Waves of democratization. My research challenges the dominant understanding of IOs as generally democratizing actors, by identifying a subset of IOs that deliberately perform against this expectation. This research agenda also furthers our understanding the dictator's toolkit, by adding an international component to explanations of how non-democratic governments survive and counter democratizing pressures at home and abroad.

M.A. Temple University; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2009)

Fields: International Relations; American politics

B.A. Temple University; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2007)

Political science, French minor; *summa cum laude*

Research and Teaching Interests

International Relations, International Organizations, International Law, Democratization, Internal Politics of Authoritarian Regimes, Food Politics, Research Methods and Design

Teaching Service

Visiting Lecturer, Swarthmore College

- Introduction to International Politics (Writing Intensive): Fall 2012; Spring 2013
- Upper Level Seminar: Democracy, Autocracy, and Regime Change: Spring 2013
- Student Research Supervisor: Summer 2013

Instructor, Temple University:

- Introduction to International Relations: Spring 2012; Summer 2011; Spring 2011; Fall 2010; Summer 2009
- Introduction to American Political System: Fall 2013; Summer 2012; Summer 2010
- History and Significance of Race in America: Fall 2011

Teaching Assistant and Course Administrator, Temple University:

- American Foreign Policy: Spring 2010
- Introduction to International Relations: Spring 2010
- World Affairs: Fall 2008

Teaching Assistant, Temple University:

- World Affairs: Fall 2009
- Introduction to International Relations: Fall 2007

Working Papers

- “Bastions Against the Fourth Wave: Toward a Theory of Authoritarian Organizations.”
- “All Unhappy Families: Critical Junctures and the Limits of Authoritarian Backlash”
- “What is Dead May Never Die: The Many Fates of Decaying International Organizations.” co-authored project with Danielle K. Scherer
- “Regimes in Transition and Human Rights Law.”

Workshop Participation

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University, *Summer 2011.*

“International Organizations and the End of Revolution.” *Paper presented at 2009 Dictators and Democrats Symposium, Council for Foreign Relations, Washington D.C.*

Conference Participation

“All Unhappy Families: Critical Junctures and the Limits of Authoritarian Backlash.” *Paper presented at the 2017 International Studies Association Annual Conference: Baltimore, Maryland.*

“Fear the Walking Dead: Authoritarian States and the Selective Use of “Zombie” Election Monitors.” *Paper presented at the 2017 International Studies Association Annual Conference: Baltimore, Maryland.*

“Sowing Fields With Salt: Authoritarian Organizations and Diminished Contestation.” *Paper presented at the 2016 International Studies Association Conference; Atlanta, Georgia.*

“What Is Dead May Never Die: The Many Fates of Decaying International Organizations.” *Co-authored paper presented at the 2016 International Studies Association; Atlanta, Georgia.*

“Bastions Against the Fourth Wave: Toward a Theory of Authoritarian Organizations.” *Paper presented at the 2015 International Studies Association Conference; New Orleans, Louisiana.*

“Regimes in Transition and Human Rights.” *Paper presented at the 2012 Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference; New Orleans, Louisiana.*

“Regimes in Transition and Human Rights.” *Paper presented at the 2011 Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Conference; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

Research Assistance Service

Editorial Assistant, Policy-Making in the European Union (5th edition); Spring and Summer, 2009 (Dr. Mark A. Pollack, supervising editor).

Research Assistant, Temple University

- Dr. Kevin Arceneaux, Spring 2008
- Dr. Mark Pollack, Fall 2007

University Service

Academic Advisor and Program Coordinator, Drexel University Department of History and Politics, December 2013 to present

Vice-President, Temple University Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2009-2011

Graduate Student Representative to Temple University Faculty Search Committee, Fall 2011

Undergraduate Advisor and Internship Coordinator, Temple University Department of Political Science, Spring 2011

References

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