

# Annette Alfina LaRocco, PhD

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## Education

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### PhD, Politics and International Studies

Trinity College, University of Cambridge, June 2016

Thesis: *The politics of land, conservation and the state in postcolonial Botswana*

Committee: Dr. Sharath Srinivasan (chair), Professor Christopher Clapham, Professor Jocelyn Alexander, Dr. Elizabeth Watson

Cambridge Overseas Trust Scholar

### MSc, African Studies with Distinction

St Anne's College, University of Oxford, July 2011

Supervisor: Professor William Beinart, Grade: First Class, Distinction  
Clarendon Scholar

### BA, Political Science and English

Barnard College, Columbia University, May 2010

Supervisor: Dr. Séverine Autesserre, GPA: 4.02, Summa cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

## Academic Positions

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### Florida Atlantic University, Department of Political Science

Assistant Professor, August 2016-present

## Publications

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### Refereed Journal Articles

LaRocco, A. A. (2019) "Infrastructure, Wildlife Tourism, (Il)legible Populations: A Comparative Study of Two Districts in Contemporary Botswana" *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2514848619877083>

LaRocco, A. A., Shinn, J. E., Madise, K. (2019). "Reflections on Positionalities on Social Science Fieldwork in Northern Botswana: A call for Decolonizing research" *Politics and Gender*

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X19000059>

## Refereed Book Chapters

LaRocco, A. A. (2019). “The Biodiversity for Life (B4L) flagship initiative: The EU, Africa, and biodiversity conservation” in Thiel, M., Maier, S., and Beringer, S. L. (eds.) *EU Development Policies: Between Norms and Geopolitics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 55-75.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-01307-3>

LaRocco, A. A. (2016). “The comprehensive hunting ban: strengthening the state through participatory conservation in contemporary Botswana” in Ramutsindela, M., Miescher, G., and Boehi, M. (eds.) *The Politics of Nature and Science in Southern Africa*. Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, pp. 179-207.

## Invited Publications

LaRocco, A. A. (2018). “Memory as claim-making in Kalahari socio-environments” in Lakhani, V. and de Smalen, E. (eds.), *Sites of Remembering: Landscapes, Lessons, Policies, RCC Perspectives: Transformations in Environment and Society*, no. 3, pp. 27-32. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5282/rcc/8483>

## Works In Press

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### Refereed Journal Articles

“Botswana’s hunting ban and the transformation of game meat cultures, economies, and ecologies”, forthcoming in 2020 at *Journal of Southern African Studies*

## Works In Progress

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### Book Manuscript

*The Nature of Politics: State-building and the Conservation Estate in Postcolonial Botswana*

### Journal Articles

“Fall from Grace or Back Down to Earth?: Conservation and Political Conflict in Africa’s ‘Miracle’ State”, in preparation for the Political Ecology Network Biennial Conference, June 2020 [conference postponed due to COVID-19]

“Walking on Eggshells: Tensions between Conservation and Development in rural Botswana”

“Copenhagen in the Kalahari: The Securitization of Environmental Politics in Botswana”

“‘These Elephants Belong to the World’: The impact of the global conservation movement on conservation policy in Botswana”

## Refereed Presentations and Proceedings

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### International

“Walking on Eggshells: Tensions between Conservation and Development in rural Botswana” European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, June 2019

“The hunting ban and the transformation of game meat cultures, economies, and ecologies in contemporary Botswana” Political Ecology Network (POLLEN) Biennial Conference, Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway, June 2018

**\*\*Currently forthcoming at *Journal of Southern African Studies***

“Memory as claim-making in Kalahari socio-environments” Sites of Remembering: Landscapes – Lessons – Policies, ENHANCE ITN, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, April 2018.

**\*\*Resulted in publication of invited journal article, “Memory as claim-making in Kalahari socio-environments” *Sites of Remembering: Landscapes, Lessons, Policies, RCC Perspectives: Transformations in Environment and Society*, no. 3, pp. 27-32.**

“We’ve stopped this killing’: The Hunting Ban and Postcolonial Shifts in Botswana’s Wildlife Regime” Decolonization and the Politics of Wildlife in Africa, Point Sud Programme, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies, Stellenbosch, South Africa, September 2017.

“State infrastructure provision across Botswana’s rural tourism areas – a study in contradictions” European Conference on African Studies, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland, July 2017.

**\*\*Resulted in publication of refereed journal article, “Infrastructure, Wildlife Tourism, (Il)legible Populations: A Comparative Study of Two Districts in Contemporary Botswana” *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.**

“The Politics of Nature: Conservation as State-Building in Postcolonial Botswana” European Conference on African Studies, Paris Sorbonne University, Paris, France, July 2015.

“The comprehensive hunting ban: the reassertion of the State in the processes of ‘participatory’ conservation in contemporary Botswana” African History Workshop – The Politics of Nature and Science in African History, Centre for African Studies, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland, May 2014.

**\*\*Resulted in publication of refereed book chapter “The comprehensive hunting ban: strengthening the state through participatory conservation in contemporary Botswana” *The Politics of Nature and Science in Southern Africa*. Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, pp. 179-207.**

## **National**

“Elephants and Accountability in Botswana: Making Sense of the Hunting Ban and the 2019 Elections” African Studies Association of the US Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, November 2019.

“Race, Gender and Class Positionalities in Social Science Fieldwork in Northern Botswana” African Studies Association of the US Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2018.

**\*\*Resulted in publication of refereed journal article “Reflections on Positionalities on Social Science Fieldwork in Northern Botswana: A call for Decolonizing research” *Politics and Gender***

“Shifting Global Representations of African Landscapes and Wildlife: The Case of Environmental Politics in Botswana” African Studies Association of the US Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 2016.

“The Comprehensive Hunting Ban: Conservation as State-Building in Postcolonial Botswana” African Studies Association of the US Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2014.

“Rural incorporation, neglect and contestation: An examination of the strategic use of conservation policy in postcolonial Botswana” African Studies Association of the United Kingdom Biennial Conference, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom, September 2014.

## **Regional/Local**

“The Politics of Land, Conservation, and the State in Postcolonial Botswana: Doctoral Research Findings” Research Seminar, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, June 2017.

“The Politics of Land, Conservation, and the State in Postcolonial Botswana: Doctoral Research Findings” Research Seminar, Okavango Research Institute, Maun, Botswana, May 2017.

“Is there welfare in conservation? Locating everyday lives in a global movement” Researching Africa Day, African Studies Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom, March 2015.

“Authority and rural space: Conservation as State-Building in Postcolonial Botswana” Africa Research Forum PhD Students’ Workshop, Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, February 2015.

“Conservation Politics in Botswana: Presentation of Preliminary Findings” Research Seminar, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, August 2014.

## **Regional/Local (Continued)**

“Conservation Politics in Botswana: Presentation of Preliminary Findings” Research Seminar, Okavango Research Institute, Maun, Botswana, August 2014.

“The comprehensive hunting ban: conservation, resource-use, and contestation in postcolonial Botswana” Resources of Resistance: The Postcolonial Studies Association Postgraduate Conference, University of York, York, United Kingdom, July 2014.

“Postcolonial conservation—crisis of opportunity?: resource rights, state-building and rural contestation in Botswana” POLIS Annual PhD Conference, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, June 2014.

## **Non-Refereed Presentations and Proceedings**

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### **Invited Talks**

“Women, Conflict and Inequality in the World” *Current Topics 2019 – A Series of Panel Lectures Presented by FAU Faculty*  
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, February 2019

“The Nature of Politics: State-building and the Conservation Estate in Postcolonial Botswana” *Turning a Doctoral Dissertation into a Book*  
ENHANCE ITN and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, October 2018.

“EU Securitization of Conservation Policy in Africa” *Transatlantic Security Coordination in a New International Order*  
Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, Florida International University, Miami, FL, February 2018.

“American Perceptions of African Wildlife” *Speaker Series*  
Myrtle Beach Humanists and Freethinkers, Myrtle Beach, SC, February 2018.

## **Grants and Funding**

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### **External – Funded**

Dissertation-into-Book ENHANCE ITN Workshop Participant, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, €1,500, October 2018

Sites of Remembering ENHANCE ITN Conference Participant, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, €2,000, April 2018

Decolonization and the Politics of Wildlife Point Sud Programme Conference Participant, *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG), €4,500, September 2017

### **External – Not Funded**

Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program – FAU Junior Scholar Nominee, Carnegie Corporation of New York, \$200,000, Applied November 2019

Project title: *“Mothers’ Nature?: What All-Female Conservation Initiatives Can Tell Us About Gender, the Environment, and Power”*

**\*\*Rated as Finalist**

NSF CAREER Grant – Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Directorate of Social and Political Sciences, \$386,987, Applied July 2019

Project title: *“CAREER: Social Environments and Identities in an Era of Biodiversity Crisis – Generating Knowledge from the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area”*

Crisis Conservation Writeshop, Applied March 2019

Project Title: *“Elephant Poaching in Botswana – Crisis of Just ‘Fake News’?”*

Rachel Carson Center Residential Fellowship, Applied January 2019

Project Title: *“Buying Wilderness, Saving Nature? Locating Competing Notions of Conservation in the Ecotourism Industry in Southern Africa”*

Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program – FAU Junior Scholar Nominee, Carnegie Corporation of New York, \$200,000, Applied November 2018

Project title: *“The elephants are political refugees”: Human and animal rights in southern African biodiversity conservation”*

### **Internal – Funded**

Distinguished Lecture Series Faculty Research Support Award, College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University, \$1,500, 2019-2020

Morrow Fund Travel Grant, College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University, \$1,700, 2019-2020

Scholarly and Creative Achievement Fellowship, College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University, two-course release, PI, Spring 2019

Project title: *The Nature of Politics: State-building and the Conservation Estate in Postcolonial Botswana* (Book Manuscript)

Morrow Fund Travel Grant, College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University, \$1,200, 2018-2019

Distinguished Lecture Series Faculty Research Support Award, College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University, \$1,000, 2017-2018

Morrow Fund Travel Grant, College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University, \$1,200, 2017-2018

Morrow Fund Travel Grant, College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University,  
\$1,200, 2016-2017

## **Courses Taught at FAU**

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### **Undergraduate**

INR 2002: Introduction to World Politics  
(Spring & Fall 2017; Spring, Summer, & Fall 2018; Summer & Fall 2019; Summer 2020)  
CPO 4033: Global Development and Inequality of Nations (Spring 2020)

*Developed and taught the following new courses:*

CPO 4932: African Politics (Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018)  
CPO 4932: Environmental Politics (Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2018)  
INR 4054: Comparative Environmental Politics (Spring 2020)

### **Graduate**

*Developed and taught the following new course:*

POS 6934: African Politics (Spring 2018, Spring 2020)  
Directed Independent Study: Marx's *Capital* (Summer 2020)

### **Supervision of Undergraduate Students**

Honors Compact Supervision, Megan Gastineau, Environmental Politics, Spring 2017

## **Service to the Institution**

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### **Department**

Faculty Assembly Representative, 2016-present.

Member, Honors Program Committee, 2018-present

Writing Enriched Curriculum: New Course Development Committee, 2019-present

Morrow Committee Representative, 2019-present

Representative, Prospective Students' Open Houses, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018,  
Spring 2019

### **College**

Faculty Affiliate, Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Initiative, 2017-present

Member, Faculty Learning Community: Advocating Across the Disciplines, 2018-2019

Undergraduate Marshal, College of Arts and Letter Commencement Ceremonies, Fall  
2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

## **University**

Associate Director, Leon Charney Diplomacy Program, 2018-Present

Guest Lecturer, College CLASS 101, First Year SOAR New Student Orientation,  
Spring 2019, Spring 2020

## **Service to the Discipline / Profession**

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### **Peer Reviewer**

*Society and Natural Resources*

*Human Rights Review*

*Cambridge Review of International Affairs*

### **Conference Participation – National and International**

Panel Co-Organizer, “Decolonization and Pedagogy – Disruptions and Connections in the Classroom” European Conference on African Studies, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, June 2019

Panel Co-Organizer, “Exploring Researcher Positionality in Social Science Fieldwork in Africa” African Studies Association of the US, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, November 2018

Panel Co-Organizer and Discussant, “Futures of nature in African rural and urban spaces in the post-independence era” European Conference on African Studies, Basel, Switzerland, July 2017

Panel Co-Organizer, “Experiencing the State: Constructing the Post-Colonial State in Non-Dominant Spaces” African Studies Association of the United Kingdom Biennial Conference, Brighton, United Kingdom, September 2014

## **Other Professional Experience**

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### **Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge**

Associate Editor, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 2012-2016

Research Assistant for Dr. Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, 2014-2015

### **Centre of Governance and Human Rights, University of Cambridge**

Convenor, CGHR Research Group, 2014-2016

Coordinator, CGHR Student Group, 2012-2013

### **Professional Organization Memberships**

African Studies Association of the United States

African Studies Association of the United Kingdom

### **Research Skills**

Qualitative data analysis (MaxQDA and NVivo); fieldwork experience in rural settings; focus groups; elite interviews; management of team of research assistants



## **Honors and Awards**

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### **Scholarly Awards and Research Funding**

Cambridge International Trust Scholarship and Trinity College Overseas Bursary,  
University of Cambridge, approximately £27,000 annually, 2012-2016

\*Major Competitive Award

Clarendon Scholarship, University of Oxford, approximately £33,000, 2010-2011

\*Major Competitive Award

Research Grant, Cambridge Political Economy Society Trust, £2,000, 2015

Institutional Visit Award, University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute,  
£1,500, 2014

Research Grant, Smuts Commonwealth Fund, £1,500, 2014

Walter D. Head Graduate Fellowship, Rotary District 7490, \$10,000, 2013

Graduate Fellowship, Alumnae Association of Barnard College, \$5,000, 2013

Distinction Prize, St. Anne's College, University of Oxford, 2011

George Welwood Murray Prize, Barnard College, Columbia University, \$4,200, 2010

W. Cabell Greet Prize for Excellence in English, Barnard College, Columbia University,  
2010

Erica Mann Jong '63 Writing Fellows Award, Barnard College, Columbia University,  
2010

Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society – Junior Election, Columbia University Chapter,  
Barnard Section, 2009

Eleanor Thomas Elliot Prize, Barnard College, Columbia University, \$1,500, 2009

### **Travel and Conference Grants**

Rouse Ball Conference Fund, Trinity College, Cambridge, £500, 2014

POLIS PhD Conference, University of Cambridge, £500, 2014

UAC of Nigeria Travel Grant, Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge,  
£450, 2014

Rouse Ball Research Fund, Trinity College, Cambridge, £1,300, 2013

POLIS PhD Travel Grant, University of Cambridge, £500, 2013

African Studies Graduate Research Grant, University of Oxford, £500, 2011

St. Anne's College Travel/Research Grant, University of Oxford, £250, 2011