




Fiona Feiang Shen-Bayh

Department of Government and Politics
3140 Tydings Hall
University of Maryland

@feiyonah 
shenbayh@umd.edu 
www.fionashenbayh.com 

Appointments

University of Maryland, College Park, 2023 – present.
Assistant Professor of Government and Politics
Joint appointment in the College of Information Studies

William & Mary, 2019 – 2023.
Assistant Professor of Government
Faculty Affiliate of Data Science and the Global Research Institute

University of Michigan, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, 2018 – 2019.
Postdoctoral Fellow

Affiliations

Faculty Affiliate, Interdisciplinary Lab for Computational Social Science (iLCSS),
University of Maryland, 2023–present.
Co-Founder and Co-Director, Digital Inclusion and Governance Lab, 2021 – 2023.
Centre for Law and Social Transformations, University of Bergen, 2017 – present.

Education

Ph.D, Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 2018.
Dissertation: *Autocratic Courts in Africa*.
+ Honorable Mention (2019) for the Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation Award from
the African Politics Conference Group, an organized section of the American
Political Science Association (APSA) and the African Studies Association (ASA).
M.A., Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 2012.
B.A. Economics with Honors, Vassar College, 2011.

Book

Shen-Bayh, F. (2022). **Undue Process: Persecution and Punishment in Autocratic Courts**. Cambridge University Press, Studies in Law and Society Series.

Awards:

- + Theodore J. Lowi First Book Award (2023) jointly awarded by APSA and International Political Science Association (IPSA).
- + Giovanni Sartori Book Award (2023) awarded by the Qualitative and Mixed-Methods Research Section of APSA.
- + Juan Linz Best Book Prize (2023) awarded by the Democracy & Autocracy Section of APSA.

Featured in:

- + Scope Conditions Podcast, [Episode 3.2: Trial and Terror](#).

+ London School of Economics Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, [When persecution becomes prosecution](#).

Articles

Kitagawa, R. and Shen-Bayh, F. (2023). [Measuring Political Narratives in African News Media: A Word Embeddings Approach](#). *The Journal of Politics*.

Choi, D., Harris, J., and Shen-Bayh, F. (2022). [Ethnic Bias in Judicial Decision Making: Evidence from Criminal Appeals in Kenya](#). *American Political Science Review*, 1-14.

+ Fiona McGillivray Award (2020) for the Best Political Economy Paper presented at the APSA annual meeting.

Shen-Bayh, F. (2018). [Strategies of Repression: Judicial and Extrajudicial Methods of Autocratic Survival](#). *World Politics*, 70(3), 321-357.

+ Best Article Award (2019) from the Democracy and Autocracy Section of APSA.

Selected works in progress

Shen-Bayh, F. "Justice for Whom? Judicial Populism as Window Dressing in Authoritarian Regimes."

Kitagawa, R. and Shen-Bayh, F. "The Politics of Colonial Responsibility: Evidence from British, French, and Japanese Parliamentary Debates."

Esberg, J. and Shen-Bayh, F. "Agents of Judicial Repression: Prosecutors and Judges in Autocratic Courts."

Shen-Bayh, F. "Autocratic Legalism." To be featured in the *Handbook of Authoritarian Politics*, Oxford University Press.

Choi, D. and Shen-Bayh, F. "Democratic Backsliding on the Legislative Floor: Evidence from Zambia."

Arriola, L. and Shen-Bayh, F. "Combating Corruption in African Countries: Foreign Creditors and Domestic Institutions."

+ Featured in "[The Calculus of Corruption Reform in Autocratic Regimes](#)." *Democracy and Autocracy Newsletter*.

Franco Vivanco, E. and Shen-Bayh, F. "Imperial Legal Systems: Spanish and British Colonies in Comparative Perspective."

Shen-Bayh, F. "The Political Economy of Prosecution in Colonial Africa."

Shen-Bayh, F. "Attorney Generals in Autocratic Regimes."

Book chapters

Shen-Bayh, F., S. Gloppen, V. Wang, and E. Kanyongolo. (2022), "Malawi: Democratic Fits and Starts" In [Democratic Backsliding in Africa? Autocratization, Resilience, and Contention](#), eds. L. Arriola, L. Rakner, and N. van de Walle, Oxford University Press.

Other
publications

- LSE Firoz Lalji Institute, [Does ethnicity influence judicial decisions in Kenya?](#)
- Democracy in Africa Blog, [Unpacking Judicial Bias in Africa](#).
- Shen-Bayh, Fiona. 2023. "Activist Origins of Political Ambition: Opposition Candidacy in Africa's Electoral Authoritarian Regimes. By Keith Weghorst. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022. 300p. \$120.00 Cloth." *Perspectives on Politics* 21 (3): 1101–2.
- Shen-Bayh, F. (2022), Reimagining the judiciary: Women's representation on high courts worldwide. By Escobar-Lemmon, Maria C., Hoekstra, Valerie J., Kang, Alice J., and Kittilson, Miki Caul, New York: Oxford University Press. 2021. pp. 201. *Governance*.
- Shen-Bayh, F. (2021), Regime threats and state solutions: Bureaucratic loyalty and embeddedness in Kenya, Hassan, Mai, Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, 2020. 308 pp. *Governance*.
- Arriola, L., Dow, D., and Shen-Bayh, F. (2017), "Regional Responses to Human Rights Violations." Featured in Amnesty International, "Africa: Counting Gains, Filling Gaps: Strengthening African Union's Response to Human Rights Violations Committed in Conflict Situations."

Invited talks

- African Studies Institute, The University of Oklahoma, 2023.
- Northeastern University, 2023.
- Government Department Speaker Series, American University, 2023.
- Author Meets Critics, University of Bergen, 2023.
- Law and Development Colloquium, New York University Law School, 2023.
- Comparative Politics Speaker Series, University of Texas, Austin, 2023.
- African Studies Program, Georgetown University, 2023.
- Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2022.
- Bergen Exchanges on Law and Social Transformation, Chr Michelsen Institute, 2022.
- Utafiti Wetu ("Our Research") Virtual Seminar, Tanzania, 2022.
- Economics and Data Science Virtual Seminar, ETH Zurich, 2022.
- Historical Institutions Lab, University of Michigan, 2021.
- Author Meets Critics, Bergen Exchanges, University of Bergen, 2021.
- African Politics Reading Group, University of Michigan, 2021.
- Oxford Programme in Comparative Media Law & Policy Seminar, 2021.
- Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan, 2021.
- MIT Governance Lab Political Behavior Workshop, 2020.
- Bergen Exchanges on Law & Social Transformation, 2019.
- University of Nairobi, School of Law, 2017.
- Digital Social Science Core Lab, University of Bergen, 2017.

Conference
presentations

- APSA Annual Meeting, 2023.

Law and Society Annual Meeting, 2023.
 Autocratic Politics Mini-Conference, Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2023.
 Women in Legislative Studies Conference, Rice University, 2022.
 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2022.
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2022.
 Justice and Injustice Conference, Yale University (accepted not attended), 2022.
 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2021.
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2021.
 Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science, 2021.
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2020.
 Global Law and Politics Workshop, 2020.
 Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan, postponed due to COVID, 2020.
 MIT Governance Lab Political Behavior of Development Conference, 2019.
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2019.
 Autocratic Politics Mini-Conference, Western Political Science Association, 2019.
 Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science, WUSTL, 2018.
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2018.
 Bergen Exchanges on Law & Social Transformation, 2018.
 Visions in Methodology Conference, 2018.
 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2018.
 Computational Tools for Social Research Course, UC, Berkeley, 2018.
 African Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2017.
 UC, Berkeley, Comparative Politics Colloquium, 2017.
 UC, Berkeley, Center for African Studies Colloquium, 2017.
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2017.
 Bergen Exchanges on Law Social Transformation, 2017.
 Association of Computational Linguistics, Empirical Methods on Natural Language Processing Meeting, Doctoral Consortium on Natural Language Processing and Computational Social Science, 2016.
 UC, Berkeley, Center for African Studies Colloquium, 2016.
 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2016.
 Western Empirical Legal Studies, UCLA, 2016.
 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2016.
 International Relations Colloquium, UC, Berkeley, 2016.

**Fellowships
& awards**

The Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS), Summer Institute on Organizations and Their Effectiveness, Stanford University, 2023.
 Theodore J. Lowi First Book Award, APSA and IPSA, 2023.
 Giovanni Sartori Book Award, APSA, 2023.

Juan Linz Best Book Prize, APSA, 2023.
 Fiona McGillivray Award for the Best Political Economy Paper, APSA, 2020.
 Best Article Award from Democracy and Autocracy, APSA, 2019.
 Honorable Mention, Lynne Rienner Best Dissertation Award, APCG, 2019.
 William & Mary Provost Faculty Research Grant, 2020, 2021.
 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Grant SES-1535721, 2016.
 African Studies Fellowship, Center for African Studies, UC, Berkeley, 2016.
 Dean's Completion Fellowship, Graduate Division, UC, Berkeley, 2016.
 Reinhard Bendix Memorial Fellowship, Institute of International Studies, UC, Berkeley,
 2015.
 Department Fellowship, Political Science, UC, Berkeley, 2011–2016.
 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Graduate Division, UC, Berkeley
 (Awarded to 9% of Graduate Student Instructors), 2018.

Professional
Service

Executive Committee, Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE),
 2021–present.
 Discussant, Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes Series, 2023.
 Lead Discussant, Authoritarian Political Systems Group Seminar Series, 2023.
 Lead Discussant, Public Law Seminar Series, 2022.
 Co-Lead Discussant, African Political Conference Group, 2022.
 Fiona McGillivray Best Paper Award Committee, Political Economy Section, APSA, 2021.
 Lead Discussant, Asian Politics Online Seminar Series, 2021.
 Research Development Group for African Scholars at APSA, African Politics Conference
 Group, 2019.
 Empirical Natural Language Processing Paper Selection Committee, Association of
 Computational Linguistics, 2018.
 Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *The
 Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*,
Governance, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of Political Economy*,
Perspectives on Politics, *Political Research Quarterly*, *World Politics*, *National Science
 Foundation*.

University
Service

William & Mary
 Evaluation and Merit Committee, 2022–2023.
 External speaker series, Global Research Institute, 2022.
 Data Science Awards and Scholarship Committee, Chair, 2021–2022.
 Executive Board Member of the Center for African Development, 2020–2023.
 Pi Sigma Alpha Faculty Advisor, 2021–2022.
 Pre-major and major advising, 2020–present.
 Global Research Institute, Research in Progress Seminar, Lead Discussant.
 Data Science Commencement Co-Organizer, 2022.

Data Science Faculty Search Committee, 2020–2021.
Africa Network Conference, 2021.
Co-convener, Demanding Democracy in Africa Panel, 2020.
Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, 2019–2021.
Panelist on research in autocracies, Social Science Research Methods Center, 2019.

Teaching

University of Maryland (Instructor of Record)

GVPT 429J: Digital Dictatorship

GVPT 888P: Comparative Institutions

William & Mary (Instructor of Record)

GOVT 403/DATA 404: Digital Dictatorship

GOVT 301: Research Methods

GOVT 391: How to be an Autocrat

GOVT 403: Legal Text-as-Data

Honors Thesis Advising

Helena Buckman (Chair), 2022-2023

Giselle Figueroa (Chair, Charles Center Honors Fellowship Supervisor), 2022-2023

Elizabeth Rosen, 2019-2020

Additional skills

Python, R, LaTeX, Markdown

English (native), Mandarin (fluent), French (conversational)