

ALESHA PORISKY

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science, Northern Illinois University Zulaff Hall, 1425 Lincoln Highway DeKalb, Illinois, USA	+1-630-945-0854 aporisky@niu.edu aleshaporisky.com
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Comparative social policy, service provision, citizenship, citizen-state relations, state-building, qualitative methods, development, African politics, research ethics, fieldwork ethics	
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Assistant Professor , Department of Political Science, Northern Illinois University Doctoral Fellow , Ryerson University Research Fellow , Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Centre, University of Manchester Visiting Scholar , Program of African Studies, Northwestern University Course Instructor , Department of Political Science, University of Toronto	2021 2020 2018-2020 2018-2019 2018
EDUCATION	Ph.D., Political Science , University of Toronto (Direct Entry, M.A. Achieved 2014) Thesis: <i>The State at the Margins: The Politics of State Social Assistance and Citizenship in Rural Kenya and Tanzania</i> Committee: Joseph Wong, Antoinette Handley and Courtney Jung B.A., Economics and Political Science , University of British Columbia Thesis: <i>The Determinants of Childhood Immunization in India: A Study of Immunization Patterns and Missing Vaccinations</i>	<i>In Progress</i> 2010
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	Dreier, Sarah, Milli Lake, Arthur Alix LeGrange and Alesha Porisky. 2021. "Social Protection and the Social Contract." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> . Mohamed, Tahira Shariff, Alesha Porisky and Patrick Mutinda. 2020. "The Politics of Social Protection in Kenya: State Capacity, Political Competition and Social Pension Registration in Marsabit County." <i>ESID Working Paper Series</i> , No. 166. Porisky, Alesha. 2020. "The Distributive Politics of Social Transfers in Kenya." <i>ESID Working Paper Series</i> , No. 155. Davidson, Adrienne, Matthew Lesch, Maxime Héroux-Legault, Tanya White, Alesha Porisky, Karol Czuba & Zain Asaf. (2017). "Advancing the Study of Political Cleavages through Experimentation: Revisiting Regionalism and Redistributive Preferences in Canada." <i>Regional & Federal Studies</i> , 27(2).	
UNDER REVIEW	Porisky, Alesha. (<i>Under Review</i>). "From Program to Policy: The Adoption and Localization of the Community-Based Conditional Cash Transfer in Tanzania." Mohamed, Tahira Shariff, Alesha Porisky and Patrick Mutinda Muthui. (<i>Revise & Resubmit</i>). "The Politics of Universalizing Cash Transfers: A Case Study from Marsabit County, Kenya."	
POLICY REPORTS	Porisky, Alesha. (<i>Forthcoming</i>). "The Impacts of the Community-Based Conditional Cash Transfers on Citizens' Engagement with the State: Evidence from the Mara Region." ESRF Policy Briefs. Economic and Social Research Foundation: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Porisky, Alesha and Erin Hall. (2015). "Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure: GCI Policy Snapshot No.3." Global Cities Institute: Toronto, Canada.	
WORKING PAPERS	(With Lauren Maclean). "Showing Appreciation, Giving Motivation or Bribery?: The Ethics of Compensation in Field Research." In circulation (With Rachael McLellan). "The Distributional Politics of Cash Transfers in Tanzania." In preparation.	

**SELECT
CONFERENCE
PAPERS**

- Porisky, Alesha. (2020, September). "The State at the Margins: Cash Transfers and Citizenship in Western Kenya." Paper presented at the 2020 *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. Virtual Conference.
- Porisky, Alesha. (2019, November). "'Tuko Pamoja': Cash Transfers and Citizenship in the Mara Region of Tanzania." Paper presented at the 2019 *African Studies Association Annual Meeting*. Boston, US
- Porisky, Alesha. (2019, September). "The State at the Margins: The Impact of Cash Transfer Programmes on Citizen-State Relations in Rural Kenya and Tanzania." Paper presented at the 2019 *Effective States and Inclusive Development Conference*. Manchester, UK.
- Porisky, Alesha. (2019, August). "Redistribution and Citizenship in Western Kenya: The Transformation of Citizen-State Relations Through Cash Transfers." Paper presented at the 2019 *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. Washington, USA.
- Porisky, Alesha. (2019, May). "From Program to Policy: The Adoption and Localization of the Community-Based Conditional Cash Transfer in Tanzania." Paper presented at the *African Politics Online Colloquium*.
- Porisky, Alesha (2018, December). "Social Protection in Tanzania: Impacts, Influences and International Pressures," Paper presented at the 2018 *African Studies Association Annual Meeting*. Atlanta, USA.
- Porisky, Alesha. (2017, September). "The Impacts of State versus Non-State Cash Transfers on Citizenship in Kenya," Paper presented at the 2017 *American Political Science Association Annual Convention*. San Francisco, USA.
- Porisky, Alesha. (2016, October). "Natural experiments in Political Science: Using African Borders to Control for Temporality." Paper presented at the 2016 *British Institute in Eastern Africa Annual PhD Conference*. Nairobi, Kenya.
- Porisky, Alesha. (2016, September). "The Rise of Social Protection in Tanzania: Impacts, Influences and International Pressures." Paper presented at the 2016 *American Political Science Association Annual Convention*. Philadelphia, USA.
- Porisky, Alesha and Emily Scott. (2015, February). "Contestation and Counterstories: Bringing Identity Theories into Studies of Norm Diffusion." Paper presented at the 2015 *International Studies Association Annual Convention*. New Orleans, USA.
- Porisky, Alesha. (2014, March). "New Dynamics of Political Power and Social Change: An Examination of Brazil's Social Democratic Project." Paper presented at the 2014 *International Studies Association Annual Convention*. Toronto, Canada.

INVITED TALKS

- Guest Lecture. (2021). "Social Policy at the Margins: Cash Transfers and Citizenship in Rural Kenya and Tanzania. Qualitative Inquiry Collaborative Speaker Series. Northern Illinois University. DeKalb, USA.
- Guest Lecture. (2018). "The Politics of Social Protection in Kenya: The Impacts of Subnational Variation on the Implementation of Cash Transfer Programmes." British Institute of Eastern Africa. Nairobi, Kenya.
- Discussant. (2016). "Women in the Field: An Informal Conversation with Lisa Wedeen." Women's Caucus Seminar Series. University of Toronto. Toronto, Canada.
- Guest Lecture. (2011). "Gender and Social Activism in Canada." School of Business, Simon Fraser University. Burnaby, Canada.

**SELECT
FELLOWSHIPS
AND AWARDS**

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| Academy Scholars Semi-finalist, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies | 2019 |
| Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Finalist, University of Toronto | 2019 |
| Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000) | 2017-2018 |
| Stefan Dupre/Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000) | 2016-2017 |
| Social Science and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Scholarship (\$40,000) | 2014-2016 |
| UofT Michael W. Donnelly Graduate Fellowship in Political Economy (\$4,500) | 2015 |

	UofT Noah Blackstein Graduate Fellowship in Political Economy (\$1,500)	2015
	UofT Vincent Tovell Graduate Scholarship in International Relations (\$1,500)	2015
	Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario (\$30,000)	2012-2014
SELECT PROFESSIONAL AWARDS	Emerging Director Grant for <i>Conversations for Change</i> National Film Board of Canada	2011
	Film Award (2 nd Place) for MDG-F Youth Employment in Serbia Documentary United Nations MDG Fund International Conference	2011
GRANTS	SSHRC Insight Grant – Collaborator (\$226,475)	2020 to Present
	APSA Conference Travel Grant (\$300)	2019
	UofT School of Graduate Studies Research Grant (\$3,500)	2016
	APSA Conference Travel Grant (\$250)	2016
	UofT School of Graduate Studies Research Grant (\$6,400)	2015
	UofT SGS Study of Less Commonly Taught Languages Grant (\$7,500)	2015
	ISA Conference Travel Grant	2012
TEACHING	Course Instructor	
	NIU – POLS260: Introduction to Comparative Politics	2021
	NIU – POLS: 373: Women and Politics	2021
	UofT – POL380: The Politics of Aid and Humanitarianism	2018
	Head Teaching Assistant	2014-2015
	POL201: Politics of Development	2019-2020
	Teaching Assistant	2011-2020
	POL101: Power and Politics	
	POL201: Politics of Development	
	POL301: Government of Politics in Africa	
	POL304: Politics of South Asia	
	POL329: Experiences of Conflict	
	PCJ360: Topics in Peace Justice and Conflict - Fairness	
	PCJ460: Causes and Consequences of Civil Conflict and Wars	
	Course Organization and Facilitation	2009-2010
	POL429: The Role of Women in Latin American Development (Co-taught with Dr. Max Cameron)	
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	SSHRC Insight Grant – Collaborator (2020 – Present)	
	Collaborator on a SSHRC Insight Grant with Christopher Gore (Ryerson), Lauren Maclean (Indiana University, Bloomington), Jennifer Brass (Indiana University, Bloomington), Liz Baldwin (University of Arizona) and Winne Mitullah (University of Nairobi). The project examines the impacts of electricity provision on political participation in Kenya and includes both a multi-year survey and qualitative research, including key informant interviews and focus group discussions.	
	Research Fellow , ESID Research Centre, University of Manchester (2018 – 2020)	
	The Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Centre is running a multi-county research programme on the politics of social protection in developing countries. I am the lead researcher for the Kenya research, which examines how the sub-national variation in state-society relations impacts the implementation of cash transfer programs. I developed the research protocols and methodologies; hired, trained and managed eight researchers in Kenya; managed the grant; and analyzed and reported data through a series of academic articles.	

Research Fellow, Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania (2016 – 2018)
Research regarding social protection policies in Tanzania, including editing and data analysis.

Research Assistant, University of Toronto, Dr. Courtney Jung (2014 – 2017)
Prepared and delivered select lectures for the course “Politics of Development” and assisted with the editing of an original research articles.

Program Officer, Global Cities Institute, University of Toronto (2013 – 2015)
Provided data analysis and the writing and editing of policy reports related to urban competitiveness, infrastructure mobility, and health and ageing. Constructed indices, including the *UNICEF-GCIF Urban Child Development Index*, and designed and produced relevant frameworks, data standardizations, multivariate analyses, and data visualization to this end.

Research Assistant, University of Toronto, Dr. Joseph Wong (2014 – 2015)
Conducted multi-methods research on the comparative politics of cash transfer policies and NGO social welfare delivery in the global south.

Research Assistant, University of Toronto, Dr. Andrea Olive (2012 – 2015)
Co-authored a paper on immigrants’ perceptions of environmental conservation policies in Canada and provided statistical modeling and analysis for a series of projects concerning the attitudes of urban residents towards environmental conservation policies.

Research Assistant, University of Toronto, Dr. Sylvia Bashevkin (2012 – 2013)
Contributed primary and theoretical research for a research on comparative electoral systems, with a focus on the Israeli system and the case of the 2013 legislative election.

Policy Consultation (Internship), Senate of Canada, Senator Mobina Jaffer (2011 – 2012)
Contributed to research and the development of Canadian policy on women, children and poverty in Canada.

Research Assistant, University of British Columbia, Dr. Benjamin Nyblade (2009 – 2010)
Engaged in research for a series of comparative politics studies on electoral systems, including the compilation of data sets, writing research reports, and compiling an online archival database.

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Nairobi and Eldoret, Kenya (March 2020)
Together with Chris Gore and Jenn Brass set up a survey in Kenya on electricity and political participation. Conducted interviews (n=20) with policy-makers on electricity provision in Nairobi.

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (September – October 2018)
Follow-up interviews (n=12) with government officials (TASAF and Ministry of Finance) and development partners (UNICEF, World Bank, DfID and SIDA).

Homa Bay, Nyeri, Nakuru and Marsabit Counties, Kenya (March – September 2018)
Hired and worked with eight researchers across four counties in Kenya to collect qualitative data on the government cash transfers through community mapping, focus group discussions (n=64) with citizens and semi-structured interviews (n=192) with government representatives, politicians and committee members.

Rorya District, Mara Region, Tanzania (October 2017 – May 2018)
Interviews (n=34) with local government officials (TASAF officers, community development workers, Village Executive Officers, Village Chairmen and Hamlet Leaders). Surveys and interviews with beneficiaries (n=180) and non-beneficiaries (n=180) of the government cash transfers.

Homa Bay, Siaya and Nyeri Counties, Kenya (January – September 2017)
Interviews (n=40) with local government officials (Children’s Officers, Social Development Officers, Chiefs and Village Elders). Surveys and interviews with beneficiaries (n=181) and non-

beneficiaries (n=183) of government cash transfer programs, including the CT-OVC, OPCT and PWSD-CT. Interviews with beneficiaries of Give Directly cash transfer programs (n=52).

Nairobi, Kenya (August – December 2017)

Interviews (n=35) with government officials (Social Protection Secretariat, MIS officials, Department of Children Services and Department for Social Protection, among others), development partners (UNICEF, World Bank, DfID and WFP), and NGOs (Help Age International, and Plan International, among others).

Longido, Tanzania (June – July 2016)

Interviews (n=19) with local government officials (TASAF officers and elders)

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (August – December 2015)

Interviews (n=38) with government officials (TASAF, Ministry of Finance and Social Security Regulatory Authority), development partners (UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, DfID, SIDA and ILO), and NGOs (Help Age International and ESRF, among others).

SELECT UNIVERSITY SERVICE	African Politics Conference Group, Online Colloquium Organizer	2019-Present
	Reviewer, ESID Working Paper Series, University of Manchester	2018
	Co-Chair, Women’s Caucus, University of Toronto	2016-2017
	Co-Chair, Graduate Association of Students in Political Science, University of Toronto	2014-2015
	Mentor, Global Ideas Institute, University of Toronto	2013-2015
	Area Representative for Development Studies, Graduate Association of Students in Political Science, University of Toronto	2013-2014
	Editor-in-Chief, UBC Journal of Political Studies	2009-2010
	Assistant Editor-in-Chief, UBC Journal of Political Studies	2008-2009
Editorial Board Member, UBC Journal of Political Studies	2007-2008	
SELECT COMMUNITY SERVICE	Vice-Curator , Global Shapers Toronto Hub, World Economic Forum	2016-2017
	Mentor , Parkdale Mentorship Program	2016-2017
	Global Shaper , Global Shapers Toronto Hub, World Economic Forum	2011-2016
	Board of Directors , Keela	2012-2014
	Director , Conversations for Change	2010-2014
	Filmmaker , United Nations Development Program, Egypt	2011
	Intern , United Nations Development Program, Serbia	2011
PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING	Association of College and University Educators Effective Teaching Practices Course	2021
	Online Course Design Academy, Centre for Teaching and Learning Innovation, NIU	2020
	Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University	2017
	Qualitative Analysis for Political Scientists, University of Toronto	2014
	Experimental Research Design for Political Scientists, University of Toronto	2013
	Quantitative Analysis for Political Scientists, University of Toronto	2012
	Econometrics Levels I & II, University of British Columbia	2008
AFFILIATIONS	American Political Science Association, African Politics Conference Group, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association, British Institute of Eastern Africa	
LANGUAGES	Swahili , intermediate proficiency in speaking, reading and writing Intensive Intermediate Swahili, State University of Zanzibar, 2015	
	French , intermediate proficiency in reading and writing	
	Dholuo , basic proficiency in speaking learned through daily use in 2016-2018	

REFERENCES

Dr. Joseph Wong

Professor, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
Vice Provost, International Student Experience
University of Toronto
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Dr. Rachel Beatty Riedl

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