

Robin Harding

Lady Margaret Hall
Norham Gardens
Oxford, OX2 6QA

homepage: www.robinharding.org
email: robin.harding@politics.ox.ac.uk

Academic Positions

Professor of Politics, University of Oxford (2023-present).

Associate Professor of Government (Quantitative Methods), University of Oxford (2015-2023).

Gillian Peele Fellow in Politics, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford (2015-present).

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Rochester (2013-2015).

Prize Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Nuffield College, University of Oxford (2012-13).

Associate Academic Positions

Research Associate, OxCGRT project, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford (2023-present).

Associate Member, Nuffield College, University of Oxford (2018-present).

Education

New York University, Ph.D. in Politics, 2012.

University of Oxford, M.Phil. in Politics: Comparative Government, 2005.

University of Sheffield, B.A. (Hons) in Politics, 2002.

Publications

Book

“Rural Democracy: Elections and Development in Africa”, *Oxford University Press* (2020).

Journal Articles

“Buying a Blind Eye: Campaign Donations, Regulatory Enforcement, and Deforestation in Colombia” (with Mounu Prem, Nelson A. Ruiz and David Vargas), *American Political Science Review*, 118:2 (2024).

“Terrorism, Trust and Identity: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Nigeria” (with Arinze Nwokolo), *American Journal of Political Science* (2023).

“Rallying in fear? Estimating the effect of the UK COVID-19 lockdown with a natural experiment” (with Andrew C. Eggers), *European Journal of Political Research*, 61 (2022).

“Candidate Coethnicity, Rural/Urban Divides, and Partisanship in Africa” (with Kristin Micheltch), *Party Politics*, 24:7 (2021).

“Security in the Absence of a State: Traditional Authority, Livestock Trading, and Maritime Piracy in Northern Somalia” (with Avidit Acharya and Andy Harris), *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 32:4 (2020).

“Who is Democracy Good For? Elections, Rural Bias, and Health and Education Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa”, *Journal of Politics*, 82:1 (2020).

“Attribution and Accountability: Voting for Roads in Ghana”, *World Politics*, 67:4 (2015), pp. 656-689.

“What Democracy Does (and Doesn’t) do for Basic Services: School Fees, School Quality, and African Elections” (with David Stasavage), *Journal of Politics*, 76:1 (2014), pp. 229-245.

“Public Investment in Rural Infrastructure: Some Political Economy Considerations” (with Moussa Blimpo and Leonard Wantchekon), *Journal of African Economies*, 22 (2013), pp. ii57-ii83.

“Freedom to Choose and Democracy: The Empirical Question”, *Economics and Philosophy*, 27:3 (2011) 221-245.

Peer Reviewed Chapters and Papers

“Coups and Social Trust: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Burkina Faso” (with Thomas Brailey and Thomas Isbell), *Afrobarometer Working Paper Series*, WP204 (2024).

“The Democratic Dividend: Public Spending and Education under Multipartyism.” In *Oxford Encyclopedia of African Politics*. Oxford University Press (2019).

“Urban-Rural Differences in Incumbent Support Across Africa.” *Afrobarometer Working Paper Series*, June 2010.

Other Published Papers

Review of “Democratic Contestation on the Margins: Regimes in Small African Countries”, *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 54:2 (2016), p. 173.

“Food Security and Public Investment in Rural Infrastructure: Some Political Economy Considerations” (with Leonard Wantchekon), *UNDP Research Paper*, January 2012.

“The Political Economy of Human Development.” (with Leonard Wantchekon), *UNDP Research Paper*, October 2010.

Work in Progress

“Political Business Cycles and Democratization: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Elliott Green), *R&R*.

“Coups and Social Trust” (with Thomas Brailey and Thomas Isbell), *under review*.

“Putting Property Rights in Context: Colonial Cotton Concessions, Customary Land Tenure, and Development in Mozambique” (with Tugba Bozcaga and Arinze Nwokolo), *in progress*.

“Not Every Cloud has a Silver Lining: Climate-Related Natural Hazards and Campaign Contributions in Colombia” (with Laura Daniela Guerrero Sánchez and Nelson A. Ruiz), *in progress*.

“Do Voters in Local Elections Prefer Campaign Promises About Attributable Policies?” (with Tanushree Goyal), *in progress*.

“Does Information about Attribution Improve Accountability for Education? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Delhi” (with Tanushree Goyal), *in progress*.

“Terrorism and Education Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Arinze Nwokolo), *in progress*.

Grants, Awards, & Fellowships

APSA Formal Theory Section, Elinor Ostrom Award for Best Article published in the Journal of Theoretical Politics for “Security in the Absence of a State: Traditional Authority, Livestock Trading, and Maritime Piracy in Northern Somalia”, 2022.

APSA Democracy and Autocracy Section, Best Article Award (Honorable Mention) for “Who is Democracy Good For? Elections, Rural Bias, and Health and Education Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa”, 2021.

COVID Rebuilding Research Momentum Fund, University of Oxford (£5,000), 2021.

John Fell Fund, “Does Information Influence Democratic Accountability? Evidence from a Field Experiment in India” (£35,000), 2018.

Oxford Martin School, “Governing the African Transitions”, Part of team led by Stefan Dercon and Ricardo Soares de Oliveira (total award £700,000), 2017.

Researcher Mobility Grant, University of Rochester, “Elections and Public Goods in Africa: Evidence from Botswana”, (\$5,000), 2014.

African Politics Conference Group, Best Graduate Student Paper Award for “One for the Road: Voting for Public Goods in Ghana”, 2012.

Invited Presentations

Department of Political Science Research Seminar, University College London, February 2024.

Center for Institutions and Political Behavior Seminar, Durham University, March 2022.

Case for Democracy Conference, Brussels, November 2021.

Comparative Politics and Comparative Political Economy Seminar Series, LSE, November 2020.

Q-Step Research Seminar, University of Warwick, June 2020.

Comparative Politics Seminar Series, European University Institute, February 2019.

Working Group in African Political Economy – UK, March 2017.

African Political Economy Series, Department of Government, LSE, November 2015.

Economics and Politics Symposium, Department of Political Science, University at Buffalo SUNY, May 2015.

Comparative Politics Workshop, Department of Political Science, Stanford University, April 2015.

Department of International Development, The London School of Economics and Political Science, February 2015.

Issues in African Development Seminar, Institute for African Development, Cornell University, November 2013.

Nuffield Political Science Seminar, Nuffield College, University of Oxford, March 2013.

PSPE Work in Progress Seminar, LSE, February 2013.

University & College Service

Director of Research, DPIR, 2024-present.

Course Director, MPhil in Comparative Government, DPIR, 2020–2024.

Chair, Government and Sociology Teaching Panel, DPIR, 2017-2019.

Coordinator, Government Research Network, DPIR, 2017-2019.

Member of LMH Governing Body, 2015–present.

Member of LMH Statutes & Governance Committee, 2023–2025.

Member of LMH Development Committee, 2025–present.

Member of LMH Conference Services Committee, 2022–present.

Member of LMH Finance Committee, 2018–2022.

Service to the Discipline

Reviewer Service: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Economics and Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Politics*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *African Affairs*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*.

Editorial Board member, PS: Political Science and Politics (2020 - 2023).

Committee Chair, APCG Best Graduate Student Paper, 2021.

Committee Member, Mancur Olson Prize for Best Dissertation in Political Economy, APSA Political Economy Section, 2021.

Committee Member, Robert A. Dahl Award, APSA, 2024.

Professional Associations

Member, American Political Science Association, 2010–Present.

Member, Midwest Political Science Association, 2010–Present.

Member, African Politics Conference Group, 2012–Present.

Last updated: November 21, 2025