Pia J. Raffler

Contact Information	Department of Government Harvard University 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138	+1 617 495 4765 (Office) praffler@gov.harvard.edu www.piaraffler.com

Academic Positions

Assistant Professor, Harvard University since 2017
Department of Government
Faculty Affiliate, Center for African Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Center for European Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Center for International Development
Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science
Faculty Affiliate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs

Research Fellow, Princeton University 2016 – 2017
Center for the Study of Democratic Politics,
Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance

Education

Yale University, New Haven, CT

Ph.D., Political Science 2017
M.A., M.Phil., Political Science
Dissertation: *Information, Accountability, and Political Elite Behavior*
With distinction, APSA Award for Best Dissertation in Experimental Research
Committee: Thad Dunning (chair), Kate Baldwin, Chris Blattman, Ana De La O, Steven Wilkinson

Columbia University, New York, NY

Master in International Affairs 2008

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich

Vordiplom, Sociology, Political Science, and Economics 2004

Publications

Bowles, Jeremy, John Marshall and Pia Raffler. "Access to Social Media and Support for Elected Autocrats. Field Experimental and Observational Evidence from Uganda" *American Political Science Review,* conditionally accepted.

Fujiwara, Thomas, Hanno Hilbig and Pia Raffler. "Biased Party Nominations as a Source of Women's Electoral Underperformance." *American Journal of Political Science,* conditionally accepted.

2026. Raffler, Pia, Daniel N. Posner, Doug Parkerson. "Can Citizen Pressure Be Induced to Improve Public Service Provision?" *The Journal of Politics*, 88(4).

APSA Best Paper Award, Experimental Research Section, 2019

2025. Larreguy, Horacio and Pia Raffler. "Accountability in Developing Democracies. The Impact of the Internet, Social Media, and Polarization" *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 28:413-434.

2022. Raffler, Pia. "Does Political Oversight of the Bureaucracy Increase Accountability? Field Experimental Evidence from an Electoral Autocracy" *American Political Science Review,* 116(4): 1443-1459.

APSA Best Dissertation Award, Experimental Research Section, 2018

APSA Best Fieldwork Award, Comparative Democratization Section, 2016
APSA Best Graduate Student Paper in African Affairs, Honorable Mention, 2016

2021. Martin, Lucy and Pia Raffler. "Fault Lines. The Effects of Bureaucratic Power on Electoral Accountability" *American Journal of Political Science,* 65(1): 210-224.

2021. Platas, Melina and Pia Raffler. "Closing the Gap: Information and Mass Support in a Dominant Party Regime" *The Journal of Politics,* 83(4): 1619-1634.

2019. Dunning, Thad et al. "Voter information campaigns and political accountability: Cumulative findings from a pre-registered meta-analysis of coordinated trials." *Science Advances 5(7)*, p.eaaw2612.

2019. Platas Izama, Melina and Pia Raffler. "Private vs. Public Information and Voting Behavior. A Field Experiment in Ugandan MP Elections." In: *Information, Accountability, and Cumulative Learning: Lessons from Metaketa I.* Edited by Thad Dunning et al. *Cambridge University Press.*

APSA Best Book Award, Experimental Research Section, 2020

2019. Baldwin, Kate and Pia Raffler. "Traditional Leaders, Service Delivery and Electoral Accountability." In: *Decentralized Governance and Accountability.* Edited by Jonathan Rodden and Erik Wibbels *Cambridge University Press.*

2019. Fischer, Greg, Dean Karlan, Margaret McConnell and Pia Raffler. "Short-term Subsidies and Seller Type: A Health Products Experiment in Uganda", *Journal of Development Economics.*

Book Manuscript

"The Broken Link. How Weak Political Oversight of the Bureaucracy Undermines Service Delivery and Electoral Accountability"

Under Review

Little, Andrew T., Melina Platas, and Pia Raffler. "Does Motivated Reasoning Limit Learning About Politics? Evidence from Coordinated Information Experiments"

Works in Progress

Das, Sabya, Gaurav Sabharwal, and Pia Raffler. "Political Alignment and Incentives for Allocating Different Types of Bureaucrats"

Iversen, Torben and Pia Raffler. "Economic Voting"

Bowles, Jeremy, Horacio Larreguy, and Pia Raffler. "Does Debate Participation Matter?"

Policy Papers and Reports

2013. Dunning, Thad, Daniel N. Posner and Pia Raffler. "Political Knowledge and Political Participation. Improving USAID Program Design and Evaluation"

2013. Raffler, Pia. "Randomised Control Trials". Anti-Corruption Research Network

Awards and Fellowships

2020 APSA Best Book Award, Experimental Research Section (contributor)
2019 APSA Best Paper Award, Experimental Research Section
2018 APSA Best Dissertation Award, Experimental Research Section
2016 APSA Best Fieldwork Award, Comparative Democratization Section
2016 APSA Honorable Mention for Best Graduate Student Paper in African Affairs
2016 Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance Fellowship, Princeton
2016 Center for the Study of Democratic Politics Fellowship, Princeton
2015 Darius Thompson Wadhams Fellowship, Yale University
2014 Pierre B.A. Keller Fellowship, Yale University
2012 M. Cox Fellowship, Yale University
2007 Teaching Fellowship, Economic Analysis, Columbia University
2005 Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service

Grants

2025 Weatherhead Center for International Affairs ($19,850)
2021 J-PAL Governance Initiative, with Jeremy Bowles and John Marshall ($35,000)
2018 Dean's Competitive Fund for Promising Research, Harvard ($49,800)
2016 International Republican Institute/USAID, with Melina Platas Izama ($20,000)
2015 Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, with Melina Platas Izama ($10,000)
2015 Hewlett Foundation ($58,000)
2014 EGAP Metaketa Initiative, with Melina Platas Izama ($342,000)
2014 The International Growth Centre ($105,000)
2014 Hewlett Foundation ($323,000)
2013 Research Grant ($200,000)
2012 Research Grant, with Chris Blattman, Dean Karlan and Lucy Martin ($100,000)
2010 Research Grant, with Dean Karlan and Margaret McConnell ($100,000)
2013 Department for International Development (DfID), with Doug Parkerson and Daniel Posner ($1,300,000)

Other Affiliations

Invited Researcher, J-PAL Governance Initiative
Member, Standing Committee on Higher Degrees in Political Economy and Government
Member, Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP)
Research Associate, Center on the Politics of Development, UC Berkeley
Research Network Member, Innovations for Poverty Action
Affiliated Researcher, International Growth Centre

Teaching

Politics of Development in Africa (GOV 1135), Undergraduate Course, Harvard University, Fall 2017 & 2018, Spring 2020 & 2021, Fall 2023, Fall 2025, Spring 2027

Politics and Economics (GOV 2160), Graduate Course, Harvard University, Fall 2018, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Fall 2026 (with Torben Iversen)

Political Economy of Development, Undergraduate Course, Harvard University, Spring 2027

Political Economy of Development (GOV 2129), Graduate Course, Harvard University, Spring 2019, Fall 2020

Comparative Politics Research Workshop, Graduate, Harvard University, 2021/22, 2022/23 (with Melani Cammett/Torben Iversen)

Political Economy Research Workshop, Graduate, Harvard University, 2017/18 (with Robert Bates and Torben Iversen), 2023/24 (with Jeff Frieden)

Teaching Fellow, African Politics, Undergraduate Course, Yale University, Fall 2014

Teaching Fellow, Fundamentals of Modeling II (Game Theory), Graduate Course, Yale University, Spring 2013

Teaching Fellow, Introduction to Statistics, Graduate Course, Yale University, Fall 2012

Teaching Fellow, Advanced Economic Analysis (Macro), Graduate Course, Columbia University, Spring 2007

Teaching Assistant, Demographics & Social Structure, Undergraduate Course, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, 2005

Workshop Instructor, LaTeX, Yale Statistics Lab, Spring 2013

Workshop Instructor, Executive Education, JPAL/IPA, Kampala, 2012

Workshop Instructor, Survey Design, Yale Statistics Lab, Fall 2012

Doctoral Committees, Harvard	(Advisee, year of Ph.D., recent placements): Lucia Mendoza Mora Chinemelu Okafor Rochelle Sun Julio Solis Arce María Ballesteros, 2026, Postdoctoral Fellow, Brown University Molly Hickey, 2026, Country Economist, International Growth Center, Jordan Ahmet Akbiyik, 2025, Quantitative Researcher, Meta Shelby Carvalho, 2025, Postdoc, Stanford King Center; Assistant Professor, BU Akshay Dixit, 2025, Postdoc, Princeton PIIRS; Assistant Professor, Dartmouth Salvador Pastora, 2024, Senior Deputy Director, Altor Jose Ramon Enriquez, 2023, Postdoc, Stanford Natasha Murtaza, 2023, Federal Government Olivia Woldemikael, 2023, Postdoc, The New School Hanno Hilbig, 2022, Postdoc, Princeton CSDP; Assistant Professor, UC Davis Alyssa Huberts, 2022, Social Scientist, Lab@DC Pamela Nwakanma, 2022, Assistant Professor, UC Irvine Jeremy Bowles, 2021, Postdoc, Stanford King Center; Assistant Professor, UCL Julie Weaver, 2020, Research Director, Democratic Erosion Consortium Soeren Henn, 2019, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison Sarah Lockwood, 2019, Lecturer (Assistant Professor), University of Bristol
Field Research	Uganda (47 months total), 2007, 2008-2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Other Work Experience	Country Director, Innovations for Poverty Action, Uganda	2009-2010
	Project Coordinator, Innovations for Poverty Action, Uganda	2008-2009
	Research Assistant, Prof. Chris Blattman	2007
	Consultant, UNDP Regional Center Asia-Pacific, Sri Lanka	2006
	Research Assistant, Prof. Ulrich Beck, University of Munich	2004–2005

Selected Invited Presentations	2027	Comparative Politics Seminar, *Yale University* (planned)
	2027	Political Economy Seminar, *Stanford Graduate School of Business* (planned)
	2027	Comparative Politics Seminar, *London School of Economics* (planned)
	2027	Comparative Politics Seminar, *University College London* (planned)
	2026	Bureaucracy Beyond Boundaries Workshop, *University of Virginia* (planned)
	2025	New Perspectives on Political Economy of Development, *USC*
	2024	Comparative Politics Seminar, *Princeton University*
	2024	Boston Working Group on African Political Economy, *MIT*
	2023	Contemporary Africa Political Economy Research Seminar, *NYU*
	2023	CESifo Venice Summer Institute Workshop
	2023	Development and Political Economy Conference, *Northwestern-U Chicago*
	2023	Methods/Political Economy Seminar, *UW Madison*
	2022	Washington Political Economy Conference (PECO)
	2022	Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP)
	2022	Center for Development Studies, *Cambridge University*
	2022	Political Science Seminar, *Duke University*
	2022	Political Economy Seminar, *UC Berkeley*
	2022	LIEP Seminar, *Harvard University*
	2021	Batten School, *University of Virginia*
	2021	GLIDE Seminar, *World Bank*
	2020	Political Economy Seminar, *Nuffield College, Oxford University*

2019 Political Economy Seminar, *Columbia University*
2019 Comparative Politics Seminar, *Stanford University*
2019 Seminar, *University of California, San Diego*
2019 Political Economy Seminar, *London School of Economics*
2019 DeNEB Seminar, *Berlin Social Science Center*
2018 Political Economy Seminar, *Kellogg School, Northwestern University*
2018 Political Economy Seminar, *Harris School, University of Chicago*
2018 American Politics Conference, *MIT*
2018 Political Economy Workshop, *Emory University*
2018 Bureaucratic Politics Workshop, *Ohio State University*
2018 State Capacity Conference, *Harvard University*
2017 Comparative Politics Seminar, *Boston University*
2017 Comparative Politics Speaker Series, *Harvard University*
2017 American Politics Speaker Series (CSDP), *Princeton University*
2017 Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance Seminar, *Princeton University*
2016 Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS), *NYU*
2016 Comparative Politics Seminar, *Yale University*
2016 Experimental Political Science Graduate Conference, *Harvard University*
2016 National WGAPE Meeting, *World Bank & George Washington University*
2016 Center on the Politics of Development Workshop, *UC Berkeley*
2016 Georg W. Leitner Seminar on Political Economy, *Yale University*
2015 Center on the Politics of Development Workshop, *UC Berkeley*
2015 CAPERS Conference, *Columbia University*
2015 Comparative Politics Workshop, *Yale University*
2014 Research & Innovation in Governance Conference, *Yale University*, Nairobi
2013 Contemporary Africa Political Economy Research Seminar, *Columbia University*

Professional Service

Reviewer: African Affairs, American Economic Journal, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Economic Journal, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, IPA Research Review Committee, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Experimental Political Science, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Economics, National Science Foundation, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Research & Politics, Review of Economic Studies, Stanford Impact Labs, World Development, World Politics

Editorial Board: British Journal of Political Science

Award Committees: APSA Best Experimental Paper Award, APSA Best Paper Award in Political Economy, APSA Public Service Award in Experimental Studies

Co-convener: North-East Workshop on Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS), Boston Working Group on African Political Economy (B-WGAPE), Alberto Alesina Seminar on Political Economy (Harvard)

Officer: Experimental Research Section, APSA 2020-2023

Program co-chair: Political Economy Division, APSA 2020