

JENNIFER A. WIDNER

Professor of Politics and International Affairs
Director, Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace & Justice
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Contact

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Education

Non-degree, 1996-1999, University of Michigan Law School
Ph.D., 1987, Yale University, Department of Political Science
M.A., 1984, Yale University, International Relations/School of Organization and Management
B.A., 1980, Harvard College

Professional Experience

Princeton University, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, 2004-present
University of Michigan, Professor of Political Science, 2002-2004
University of Michigan, Associate Professor of Political Science, 1995-2002
Harvard University, Associate Professor of Government, 1991-1994
Harvard University, Assistant Professor of Government, 1987-1991
Duke University, Assistant Professor of Public Policy, 1986-1987

Awards and Fellowships:

2003, Bellagio Scholar Award
2000, LS&A Award for Excellence in Research
2000 January-July, Visiting Fellow, World Bank
1999, University of Michigan Career Development Award
1997-8, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research and Writing Award
1995-6, Fulbright Senior Research Scholar
1990, The World Bank, McNamara Fellowship

Grants:

2011, Smith Richardson Foundation, \$300,000 for Innovations for Successful Societies
2009, Smith Richardson Foundation, \$500,000 for project on governance traps
2003, Smith Richardson Foundation, \$36,000 for database on constitutional provisions
2002, U.S. Institute of Peace \$40,000 for database on constitution writing (supplemental grant in 2003)
1998, The Ford Foundation, \$150,000 for Enhancing African Studies (university)
1997, U.S. Institute of Peace Writing Grant
1992, The Ford Foundation, \$10,000 for conference on political change in Africa
1989, Milton Fund Grant, Harvard University

1988, Social Science Research Council
1985, National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant

Languages:

English, French

Work in Progress:

Widner, J. *Making Government Work in Challenging Settings*. In progress

Widner, J., *Founding Moments: Process & Politics in Constitution Building*. In progress

Publications, Books:

Widner, J., *Building the Rule of Law*, 2001, New York: W. W. Norton (French translation, 2003 with Nouveaux Horizons, Paris)

Widner, J., ed., *Economic Change and Political Liberalization in Sub-Saharan Africa*, 1994, Johns Hopkins University Press

Widner, J., *The Rise of the Party State in Kenya*, 1992, University of California Press

Publications, Journals:

Widner, J. "Constitution Writing in Post-Conflict Settings," *William & Mary Law Review*, forthcoming 2007.

Widner, J. "Constitution Writing and Conflict Resolution," *Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs (Roundtable)*, 94, 381 (September 2005): 503-518.

Widner, J. "Africa's Democratization: A Work in Progress," *Current History*. 104, 682 (May 2005): 216-221.

Widner, J. "How Reflection on the American Experience May Inform African Efforts to Build Court Systems and The Rule of Law," *Democratization*, 7, 4 (winter 2003).

Widner, J. "Courts and Democracy in Postconflict Transitions: A Social Scientist's Perspective on the African Case," *American Journal of International Law*, 95, 1 (January 2001): 64-75.

Widner, J. "Comparative Politics and Comparative Law," *American Journal of Comparative Law*, XLVI, 4, Fall 1998: 739-750.

Widner, J. "Researching Social Capital in Africa," *Africa (London)*, 68, 1(1998): 1-24.

Widner, J. "States and Statelessness in Late Twentieth-Century Africa," *Daedalus*, 124, 3 (Summer 1995), pp. 129-153.

Widner, J. "Two Leadership Styles in a Period of Political Liberalization: Houphouet and Moi," *African Studies Review*, 37, 1 (1994): 151-174.

- Widner, J. "The Origins of Agricultural Policy in Cote d'Ivoire," *Journal of Development Studies*, 29, 4 (1993), pp. 25-59 (reprinted in Ashutosh Varshney, ed., *Beyond Urban Bias* (London: Frank Cass, 1993)).
- Widner, J. "Single Party States and Agricultural Policies: The Cases of Cote d'Ivoire and Kenya," *Comparative Politics*, 26, 2 (January 1994): 127-148.
- Widner, J. "The 1990 Elections in Cote d'Ivoire," *Issue*, Winter 1992.
- Widner, J. "Political Reform in Kenya," *Current History*, Spring 1992.
- Widner, J. "Interest Formation in the Informal Sector: Cultural Despair or a Politics of Multiple Allegiances?" *Comparative Political Studies*, Spring 1991.

Publications, Book Chapters:

- Widner, J. "Building Independent Courts in Semi-Democracies, Africa Comparisons," in Tamir Moustafa and Thomas Ginsburg, eds., *Rule by Law*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Widner, J. "Building Effective Trust in the Aftermath of Severe Conflict," pp. 222-236 in Robert Rotberg, ed., *When States Fail*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.
- Widner, J., 2001, "Are Specialized Courts the Right Approach to Effective Adjudication of Commercial Disputes in Developing Countries?," in Gudrun Kochendorfer-Lucius and Boris Pleskovic, eds., *The Institutional Foundations of a Market Economy*. (Berlin and Washington, D.C.: Deutsche Stiftung fur Internationale Entwicklung/The World Bank, April 2001).
- Widner, J., 1999, "The Courts as a Restraint: The Experience of Tanzania, Uganda, and Botswana," in Paul Collier, ed., *Investment and Risk in Africa*. London: MacMillan.
- Widner, J., 1999, "Building Judicial Independence in Africa," in Andreas Schedler and Larry Diamond, eds., *The Self-Restraining State*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999.
- Widner, J., "Political Parties and Civil Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa," in I. William Zartman and Marina Ottaway, eds., *Democratization in Africa: The Second Phase*, Lynne Rienner, 1997.
- Widner, J., "Reform Bargains: The Politics of Change," in David Lindauer and Michael Roemer, eds., *Development in Asia and Africa: Legacies and Opportunities*. San Francisco: ICEG, 1994, pp. 59-97.
- Widner, J., "The Rise of Civic Associations Among Farmers in Cote D'Ivoire," in John Harbeson, Donald Rothchild, and Naomi Chazan, eds., *Civil Society in Africa*, Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1994.

- Widner, J., "Political Reform in Anglophone and Francophone African Countries," in Jennifer Widner, ed., *Economic Change and Political Liberalization in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994, pp. 49-79.
- Widner, J. "The Discovery of 'Politics': Smallholder Reactions to the Cocoa Crisis of 1989-90 in Cote D'Ivoire," in Thomas Callaghy and John Ravenhill, eds., *Hemmed In: Responses to Africa's Economic Decline*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993: 279-231.
- Widner, J. "The OAU and Southern African Liberation," with William J. Foltz, in Yassin el-Ayouty and I. William Zartman, *The OAU After Twenty Years*, New York: Praeger, 1985.

Research Reports, Reviews, Commentaries:

- Widner, J., "When are Constitutions Effective?" paper prepared for conference on constitutions in honor of Walter Murphy, Center for Human Values, Princeton University, February 2008 (part of a conference book)
- Widner, J., "Thresholds and Ripe Moments in the Construction of Independent Judiciaries," paper prepared for the Sawyer Seminar, Boalt Hall Law School, University of California, Berkeley, February 2008 (part of a conference book)
- "Crossing (Sub-Field) Borders," *Journal of the International Institute*, University of Michigan, 8, 2, Winter 2001: 2 and 23.
- "Anglophone Africa," in Sandra Colliver and Aleksandra Braginski, eds., *A Guide to Judicial Independence*. (Washington, D.C.: United States Agency for International Development and International Foundation for Electoral Systems, October 26, 2000).
- "Reflections on Judicial Reform," Paper prepared for background discussion, World Development Report 2001, World Bank, July 2000.
- "An Impending Literary Drought," Essay printed as part of a series on publishing in comparative politics; Comparative Politics Section Newsletter, American Political Science Association, Summer 2000.
- "The Impact of Political Science Trends on Our Knowledge Base," Comparative Politics Section Newsletter, American Political Science Association, Summer 1999.
- "Comment: Diversity, Democratization, and Economic Growth," *World Bank Research Observer*, 1998 :406-409.
- "Democracy in Kenya: Implications for U.S. Policy," co-authored with Judith Geist and Gary Hansen, United States Agency for International Development, November 1995.

“Report of the U.S.-Africa Judicial Exchange,” report prepared on behalf of the American Bar Association, the District of Columbia Superior Court, and the National Judicial College, June 1995.

“Social Capital and Development Policy,” Paper prepared for the World Bank, June 1994.

“Evaluating the Influence of Socio-Cultural Variables on the Performance of Local Governments,” Issue Paper prepared for the World Bank, May 1994.

Selected Papers Presented and Invited Colloquia (since 1995):

“Tradeoffs Between Accountability and Goodwill,” presentation at conference on “Challenges of Government: The Innovation Imperative,” Oxford University, December 6-7, 2011.

“Institution Building in Challenging Contexts: What We are Learning,” Overseas Development Institute, London, December 5, 2011.

“Interactions Between Democracy & Institutional Capacity,” London School of Economics, Department of International Development Conference in International Development, September 7-10, 2011.

“Managing Institutional Reform” and related smaller talks, Symposium on Public Sector Reform, Public Affairs Research Institute, University of Witwatersrand, January 20, 2011.

“Governance Traps & Reform Leadership,” World Bank Institute, Washington, D.C., October 27, 2010.

“Building Institutions in Fragile States,” Conference on Building Institutions in Fragile States, Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School and Bobst Center for Peace & Justice, October 4, 2010.

“Does the Choice of Deliberative Body Influence Choice of Constitutional Terms?” Conference on Institutions and Processes in Constitution Building, March 4-7, 2008, Princeton University (Bobst conference)

“Constitutional Checks on Executive Abuse of Power,” Paper presented at the 2007 Annual meeting of the African Studies Association, New York, October 2007.

Overview presentation, Workshop on Constitution Building Processes, May 2007, Princeton University (Bobst conference)

“Constitution Writing & Conflict Resolution: Analytical Challenges,” Stanford University Comparative Politics Seminar, January 22, 2007 and a related paper, William & Mary Law School, February 15-16, 2007.

“Things Fall Apart: Sources of State Collapse in Ivory Coast and Lessons for Academic Analysis of Civil Wars,” Yale University, Conference on Africa In International Affairs, MacMillan Center, December 2006.

- “Building Judicial Independence in Semi-Democracies, Africa Comparisons,” for Edited volume and conference on Courts in Authoritarian Systems, meeting Held at the University of Pennsylvania Law School/APSA, September 2006.
- “What Do We Know About Building the Rule of Law?” Wye Conference Center, Aspen Institute, government session
- “Turning to the Government for Help: Who Uses Public Services in Africa?” Analysis of Afrobarometer data for the World Bank Conference on “Development in a Globalizing World: New Frontiers of Social Policy,” Arusha, Tanzania, December 12-15, 2005.
- “Constitution Writing in Africa,” Presentation to Conference on Constitution Writing, University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, Wisconsin, October 2005.
- “Constitution Drafting and Conflict Resolution,” Presentation to a workshop organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies on behalf of the Department of Defense, July 2003.
- “Learning from the American Experience: Judicial Reform in the United States,” Conference on Judicial Reform, Christien Michelson Institute, Bergen, Norway, November 2002.
- Colloquium on Security Issues in Africa, Africa Institute for Strategic Studies and the National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., May 9-10, 2001.
- “Crafting Institutions,” Short paper on research frontiers, Yale Department of Political Science, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, March 30, 2001.
- “Reconstructing Political Institutions after Severe Conflict,” Paper presented to a Conference on Post-Conflict Reconstruction, World Peace Foundation and Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, January 19-21, 2001.
- “Judicial Independence in African Contexts,” Paper prepared for a book on judicial independence, to be published under the auspices of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington, D.C., October 27-28, 2000.
- “Thinking About Institutional Change in Comparative Perspective,” Paper prepared for Conference on the Scientific Study of Judicial Politics, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, October 21, 2000.
- Response to paper by Rodger Haines, “Fiji, Coups, and the Rule of Law,” Hot Topics in International Law, University of Michigan Law School, October 16, 2000.
- “Legal Pluralism, Judicial Accountability, and the Rule of Law,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., August 30-September 3, 2000

- Discussant, "Economics of Political Violence Conference, Princeton University (co-sponsored with the Development Research Group, the World Bank) March 18-19, 2000.
- "Judicial Reform in the United States," Paper prepared for the second conference on the 2001 World Development Report, *Institutional Framework for Market Economies*, Washington, D.C., July 17, 2000.
- "Are Specialized Courts the Right Approach to Effective Adjudication of Commercial Disputes in Developing Areas?," Paper presented to a meeting of the World Bank and German Development Cooperation in preparation for the 2001 World Development Report, February 2000, Berlin.
- "What Comparative Politics Can Tell Us About the Study of Comparative Judicial Systems," Position paper presented to the Conference on the Scientific Study of Judicial Politics, October 20, 1999, Texas A&M
- "Building Judicial Independence," Yale University Department of Political Science and Program in African Studies, October 1999.
- "Globalization and Its Effects on Africa," Keynote Address, African Society for International and Comparative Law, Annual Meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, Aug. 1999, to be published in the *African Journal of International and Comparative Law*.
- "'Muddling Through' and Regional Differences in the Process of Reform," Paper prepared for conference on the Efficacious State in Africa and Eurasia, University of Wisconsin, March 1999
- "Community Effects on Political Participation," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, September 1998.
- "Building Judicial Independence," University of Michigan Law School, Hot Topics in International Law Series and Princeton University, April 1998.
- "Building Judicial Independence in Common Law Africa," Paper presented to the conference on "Institutionalizing Horizontal Accountability: How Democracies Can Fight Corruption and Abuse of Power," National Endowment for Democracy and Austrian Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna, June 26-29, 1997.
- "Social Capital and Investment," Paper presented at the Conference on Risk and Investment in Africa, Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford, April 1997.
- "Social Capital and Government Effectiveness," Paper presented at the African Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, November 1996.
- "Comparative Politics and Comparative Law," Paper prepared for Conference on Comparative Law in the United States, University of Michigan Law School, September 1996

“Judicial Independence in Common Law Africa,” American Bar Foundation, Chicago, October 1996.

“Courts as Restraints,” Conference on Risk and Restraint in Africa, Harvard University (Sponsored by the Social Science Research Council), September 1996.

“State-Building and Community: Social Capital and Local Government Effectiveness in Africa,” American Political Science Association, San Francisco, August 1996.

National Intelligence Council, Discussant, “African in the Year 2010,” National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., 1996.

United States Information Service, Workshops for Tanzanian Journalists on “What is Good Government?,” May 1996

“Structural Adjustment in Africa,” Paper presented to the New York City Bar Association, Theodore Sorenson, discussant, November 1995.

“Cleavage Systems in Africa’s New Multiparty States,” Conference on Democracy in Africa: The Road Ahead, Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C., May 1995.

“Social Learning and Politics,” Workshop on Rational Choice Theory and the Study of Developing Areas,” Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, April 1995.

“Cross-National Comparison in Africa: Studying the Spread of Democratic Institutions, Midwest Political Science Association, April 1995.

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association
African Studies Association

Internal Service

University

2005- Director, Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Princeton University
2001, ICPSR Africa Workshop, Lecturer, University of Michigan
2000-2002, International Institute Executive Committee
2001 winter term, Rackham School of Graduate Studies Executive Board (substitute)
2001 winter term, LS&A Nominating Committee
1999-2000, Interim Co-Chair, African Studies, Ctr for Afroamerican & African Studies
1998-1999, Law and Development Speakers Series
1996-97, Institute for Social Research Planning Committee
1996-97, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, Fellowships
1993-94, Harvard Center for International Affairs, Administrative Committee

1988-95, Harvard Center for International Affairs, Africa Seminar Coordinator

Departmental

2004-2011, multiple committee positions, Princeton University
2003-2004, Comparative Sub-Field coordinator, University of Michigan
2000-2002, Associate Chair, University of Michigan
2000-2001, Recruitment Committees (3) for Chairs, South Asia, Advanced Industrial
2000-2004, Sub-field Coordinator, Comparative Politics
1999-2000, Recruitment Committee for Middle East Search and Advanced Industrial
1999-2000, Coordinated strategic planning exercise for comparative politics subfield
1998-1999, Graduate Affairs Committee
1998-1999, Third Year Reviews
1998-1999, Middle East Politics Recruitment Committee
1997-1998, on leave
1996-1997, Executive Committee
1996-1997, Comparative Political Development Search
1996-1997, Sub-field Coordinator, Comparative Politics
1995-1996, on leave

Extra-Mural Service

2001-2 United Nations, occasional assistance
2001-3 United States Institute of Peace, Working Group on Constitution-Making, Peace Building, and National Reconciliation
2001-3 American Political Science Association, Chair, Gabriel Almond Prize
2001-2 Editorial Board, *Comparative Studies in International Development*
1997-2000, American Political Science Association, Comparative Politics Section Executive Committee
1999-2000, American Political Science Association, Chair, Prize for Best Data Set in Comparative Politics
1998-99, Review panel, U.S. Institute of Peace
1997-98, American Political Science Association, Division Chair, Comparative Politics of Developing Countries and Comparative Politics Section Book Prize Committee
1996, United States Information Service, review panel for democracy and human rights programs in Africa
1995-1998, Herskovits Prize Committee, African Studies Association
1994-95, Social Science Research Council, Screening Committee, Africa