

# Kevin S. Fridy

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Department of Political Science and  
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## POSITIONS HELD:

**Associate Professor** University of Tampa (2013 – Present)

**Assistant Professor** University of Tampa (2007 – 2013)

**Instructor** University of Florida (2002 – 2007)

## EDUCATION:

**Ph.D. in Political Science** University of Florida, Gainesville FL (2007)

Dissertation: ‘We Only Vote but Do Not Know.’ The Social Foundations of Partisanship in Ghana

Dissertation Chair: Goran Hyden

Fields: Comparative (First), International Relations (Second), Theory (Third)

**M.A. in International Relations** American University, Washington DC (2001)

With Honors Graduate

**B.A. in International Relations** The George Washington University, Washington DC (1999)

Magna Cum Laude Graduate

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS:

I have experience and am comfortable teaching courses across a broad range of topics within African Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Methods. Presently I am wrapping up a project on West African political parties and transitioning into projects on multi-level governance and political participation in Ghana. My research interests in general have tended toward the relationship between society and the formal institutions of politics in Africa and this is a nexus which I plan to explore for the foreseeable future.

## PUBLICATIONS:

### *Peer-Reviewed*

Fridy, Kevin S. and William M. Myers. 2019. “Challenges to Decentralisation in Ghana: Where do citizens seek assistance?” *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics* 57(1): forthcoming.

Fridy, Kevin S. 2018. “A Freezing Moment in Ghana’s Party System: How Two Thorns in Nkrumah’s Side Framed Elections in the Fourth Republic.” *Journal of West African History* 4(2): 57-84.

Myers, William M. and Kevin S. Fridy. 2017. “Formal Versus Traditional Institutions: Evidence from Ghana.” *Democratization* 24(2): 367-382.

Fridy, Kevin S. 2016. “Electoral Predictions in Africa: Predicting Winners in Relatively Stable Two-party Systems with Early and Incomplete Results.” *Journal of African Elections* 15(1): 139-156.

- Fridy, Kevin S. 2012. "Where are Ghana's Swing Voters? A Look at the Voters Responsible for Altering Power in One of Africa's Most Successful Democracies." *Africa Review* 4(2):107-121.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Fredline A.O. M'Cormack-Hale. 2011. "Sierra Leone's 2007 Elections: Monumental and More of the Same." *African Studies Quarterly* 12(4): 39-57.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2009. "Africa's Disappearing Election Results: Why Announcing the Winner is Simply not Enough." *Journal of African Elections* 8(2): 88-101.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Victor Brobbey. 2009. "Win the Match and Vote for Me: The Politicization of Ghana's Accra Hearts of Oak and Kumasi Asante Kotoko Football Clubs." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 47(1): 19-39.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2007. "The Elephant, Umbrella, and Quarrelling Cocks: Disaggregating Partisanship in Ghana's Fourth Republic." *African Affairs* 106(423): 281-305
- Wald, Kenneth D., Adam L. Silverman, and Kevin S. Fridy. 2005. "Making Sense of Religion in Political Life." *Annual Review of Political Science* 8: 121-144.

#### *Non-Peer-Reviewed*

- Fridy, Kevin S. 2018. "Review of Cooking Data: Culture and Politics in an African Research World, by Crystal Biruk." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 56(4): forthcoming.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Victor Brobbey. 2016. "Win the Match and Vote for Me." In *The Ghana Reader: History, Culture, Politics*, eds. Kwasi Konadu and Clifford C. Campbell. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 336-340.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2016. "Who Will Stop It? The Conflict in Syria Without an End in Sight." *World View*. 2-3.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2013. "Using VoIP to Connect Students in the US to People in Africa." APCG Newsletter (September): 10-11.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2009. "When Two Continents Meet, It's the Variables That Get Trampled." *PS* 42(4): 828-829.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2009. "Between the Occident and the Orient, One Finds Teranga." *World View*. 4-5.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2006. "The Elephant, Umbrella, and Cocks: Disaggregating Partisanship and Social Cleavages in Ghana's Fourth Republic." *Critical Perspectives* No. 20.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2003. "Review of *Smugglers, Secessionists, and Loyal Citizens on the Ghana-Togo Frontier*, by Paul Nugent." *African Studies Quarterly* 7(4): 58-59.

#### **WORKS IN PROGRESS:**

- Anderson, Mary R. and Kevin S. Fridy. *Currently under review*. "'Poverties' in Africa and political participation: Analysis of multiple poverty measurements' ability to describe villages in Northern Ghana and neighborhoods in Accra."
- Fridy, Kevin S. *Undergoing revisions*. "When Do 'North and South' Translate into 'Us versus Them'? Exploring a Remarkably Consistent West African Social Cleavage that has Remarkably Varied Political Salience."
- Anderson, Mary R. and Kevin S. Fridy. *Several chapters of book manuscript drafted*. "Impact of New District on the Livelihoods and Understandings of Local Government in Upper East, Ghana."
- Bleck, Jaimie, Kevin S. Fridy, and Paul A. Friesen. *Drafting*. "Personality as a Predictor of Values in the African Context."

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- Fridy, Kevin S. and Mary R. Anderson. 2018. "Social, Economic, and Political Impacts of a New District: Survey Data from Before and after the Creation of Ghana's Nabdram District." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2018. "Governance along the Burkina Faso/Ghana Border." Paper presented at the Joint Special Operations University Burkina Faso Applied Research Inquiry conference, Tampa, FL.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Mary R. Anderson. 2018. "The Promises of Decentralization: A Natural Experiment in the new Nabdram District of Ghana." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2017. "Multi-level Governance in Burkina Faso and Ghana Compared." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Chicago, IL.
- Fridy, Kevin S., Mary R. Anderson, and William M. Myers. 2016. "Personality and Political Participation in Ghana." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, DC.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Mary R. Anderson. 2016. "Better understanding poverty in Africa: Results from multi-dimensional poverty survey administered in Northern Ghana and Accra." Paper presented at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference of the University of Ciego de Ávila Máximo Gómez Báez, Cayo Coco, Cuba.
- Fridy, Kevin S., Mary R. Anderson, and William M. Myers. 2016. "Examining the Big Five Personality Traits in Ghana." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Camoratto, Julia (student), Mary R. Anderson, and Kevin S. Fridy. 2016. "Access to Non-Governmental Organizations in Developing Countries." Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2016. "Win the Match and Vote for Me (A Redux): The Impact of Football's Globalization on the Political Salience of Ghana's Domestic League." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies (SERSAS) and the SouthEast Africanist Network (SEAN), Gainesville, FL.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Mary R. Anderson. 2016. "Operationalizing Socio-economic Status in Africa: Results from surveys administered in Northern Ghana and Accra." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2015. "Discord and Harmony between Formal and Informal Political Institutions in Ghana." Invited speaker for the University of Florida's Center for African Studies Baraza Lecture Series, Gainesville, FL.
- Anderson, Mary R. and Kevin S. Fridy. 2015. "The Relationship between Trust and Approval: Results of a panel survey in Northern Ghana." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Hammel, Mollie (student), Mary R. Anderson, and Kevin S. Fridy. 2015. "The Effect of Personality on Political Engagement in Ghana." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2015. "Democratic Development in Ghana's Fourth Republic." Lecture presented to the US Department of State's Foreign Service Institute, Washington, DC.
- Anderson, Mary R. and Kevin S. Fridy. 2015. "Political Knowledge in Ghana." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.

- Baranowski, Rachel (student), Mary R. Anderson, and Kevin S. Fridy. 2015. "Political Participation Differences between Men and Women in Northern Ghana." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Fridy, Kevin S., Mary R. Anderson, and Isaac Yen. 2014. "Competing Measures of Poverty: Results from a Panel Survey from Northern Ghana." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Indianapolis, IN.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2014. "Ethnic Identity in West Africa: Exploring the North/South divide." Invited presentation at the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research and the National Intelligence Council, Washington, DC.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2014. "Between Voting and Results There is Just Waiting: Using incomplete voting results to predict winners and identify cases of likely fraud." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC.
- Anderson, Mary R. and Kevin S. Fridy 2014. "Community Influence on Political Behavior in Rural Ghana: The Cases of Duusi, Nangodi, and Pelungu." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Anderson, Mary R. and Kevin S. Fridy. 2013. "Community Influence on Political Behavior in Rural Ghana: The Cases of Duusi, Nangodi, and Pelungu." Paper presented to the Economic and Social Rights Group of the Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Mary R. Anderson. 2013. "Community Influence on Political Behavior in Rural Ghana: The Cases of Duusi, Nangodi, and Pelungu." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2012. "Teaching African Politics." Roundtable presenter at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2012. "To Whom Does (S)He Turn? Gender and Grievance Resolution in Ghanaian Local Politics." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2011. "What is Bridging the NPP/NDC Divide? Seeking Explanations for Lessening Levels of Electoral Polarization in Ghana's Fourth Republic." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington, DC.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2011. "Multi-level governance in Ghana's Fourth Republic." Invited presentation at Ghana's Center for Democratic Development.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2011. "To Whom Should We Go to for Help? Disentangling the multiple layers in Ghanaian Local Politics." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2010. "The MP, the Mayor, and the Chief: Multi-level Governance in Ghana's Fourth Republic." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2010. "All Aboard the Afrique Occidentale Express: The Orient Express and Europe's West African Trains." Paper presented at a special symposium on The Orient Express at the University of Tampa, Tampa, FL.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2009. "Who are Ghana's Swing Voters? A Closer Look at the People Responsible for Alternating Power in one of Africa's Most Successful Democracies." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2009. "Applying the Most Similar System Design to an Exploration of the North/South Political Cleavage in Five West African Countries." Paper presented at the APSA Workshop on Elections and Democracy, Accra, Ghana.

- Fridy, Kevin S. 2008. "Whither the North? An Exploration of Ghana's Comparatively Latent North/South Political Cleavage." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Chicago, IL.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2008. "When Does 'North and South' Translate into 'Us versus Them'? Exploring a Remarkably Consistent West African Social Cleavage that has Remarkably Varied Political Salience." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Fredline M'Cormack. 2008. "Sierra Leone's 2007 Elections, Monumental and More of the Same." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Florida Political Science Association, St. Petersburg, FL.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Victor Brobbey. 2007. "Fabulous, Phobia, and Political Parties in Ghana: An Exploration of the Nexus between the Culture of Football and the Culture of Politics." Invited paper presentation at the Ghana Day Symposium, University of Florida, Gainesville FL.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Victor Brobbey. 2006. "Win the Match and Vote for Me: The Politicization of Ghana's Accra Hearts of Oak and Kumasi Asante Kotoko Football Clubs." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, San Francisco CA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2006. "The Political Foundations of Contemporary Ghanaian Parties: A Look at the Social Foundations of Ghanaian Parties across Four Republics." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia PA.
- Fridy, Kevin S. 2005. "Has the Political Kingdom Finally Generated a Viable Party System? A Case Study of Ghana's Fourth Republic." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association, Washington DC.
- Fridy, Kevin S. and Daniel A. Smith. 2004. "Elephants, Umbrellas, and Quarrelling Cocks: Disaggregating Party Identification in Ghana's Fourth Republic." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Portland OR.
- Wald, Kenneth D., Adam L. Silverman, and Kevin S. Fridy. 2003. "Comparative Perspectives on Religion and Politics." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia PA.

#### **HONORS AND AWARDS:**

- College of Social Sciences, Math, and Education - University of Tampa Faculty Student Engagement Award recipient (2011)
- Joyce Keller Faculty Volunteer Award recipient (2010) from University of Tampa's P.E.A.C.E. volunteer center
- University of Tampa Faculty International Service Award recipient (2010)
- University of Tampa Quality Enhancement Plan CIEE Summer Scholarship (2008, 2015)
- Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship (Ghana 2004-2005)
- Best Paper Award – American Political Science Association Religion and Politics section (2004)
- FLAS Fellowship for the study of Akan, University of Florida (2001-2004)
- Presidential Scholarship, The George Washington University (1995-1999)

## GRANTS:

- Minerva Research Initiative (2019-2023) – Along with Mary Anderson, William Myers, and George Ofori applied for five-year grant for a panel survey project titled “Longitudinal Polling as a Means of Early Warning Indicators.”
- University of Tampa Research Innovation and Scholarly Excellence Award (2018/19) – Along with Mary Anderson and William Myers awarded \$11,881.41 for a survey project titled “Causes of Ebbing and Flowing Approval Ratings: A Telephone Panel Study in Accra and Nabdum.”
- University of Tampa Professional Development Award (2018/19) – Awarded a one course off-load for Spring 2019 to work on a project titled “R and Ghana Panel Survey.”
- University of Tampa Learning Enrichment Grant (2017/18) – Awarded \$2,400.00 to use a longitudinal survey in Northern Ghana in three classes.
- University of Tampa Dana Grant (2017/18) – Awarded \$1,582.00 for a survey project titled “The Chief, the Assemblyman, and the Development Worker: An Exploration of Multi-Level Governance in Burkina Faso.”
- University of Tampa Delo Grant (2016/17) – Along with Mary Anderson and William Myers awarded \$8,235.00 for a survey project titled “An African Campaign: Monitoring the impact of campaign appeals in real-time in Ghana.”
- University of Tampa Learning Enrichment Grant (2015/16) – Along with my department awarded \$5,000.00 to present group lectures to students enrolled in sections of Introduction to Government and World Affairs.
- University of Tampa Delo Grant (2015/16) – Awarded \$6,000.00 for a survey project titled “Political Knowledge and Participation amongst the Elite, Middle Class, and Lumpenproletariat in Accra, Ghana.”
- AidData Research Award (2015) – Applied for funding for a project titled “Micro-Success: Donors, Governments and Private Operators on the Quest for Social Improvement.” Not awarded.
- University of Tampa Delo Grant (2014/15) – Awarded \$4484.64 for a ballot experiment project titled “Sexism at the Polls: A Ballot Experiment in Ghana.”
- USAID (2013/2014) – Along with Mary Anderson and Victor Brobbey applied for \$118,249.96 for a series of working seminars and a survey on the topic of “Democratic Backsliding: Theories, Measurements, and Solutions.” Not awarded.
- University of Tampa Delo Grant (2013/14) – Along with Mary Anderson awarded \$2050.50 for a survey project titled “Political Knowledge’s Relationship to Political Behavior in Northern Ghana.”
- University of Tampa Dana Grant (2013/14) – Awarded \$1600 for a data gathering exercise titled “Completing West African Election Data Set.”
- University of Tampa Dana Grant (2012/13) – Along with Mary Anderson awarded \$3500 for a survey project titled “Exploring the Impact of a New District Capital on Social Connections in Ghana’s Upper East Region.”
- University of Tampa Dana Grant (2011/12) – Awarded \$2000 for a project titled “Primary Data Research at Ghanaian Archives and Libraries.”
- University of Tampa Dana Grant (2010/11) – Awarded \$1890 for an interview project titled “The Chief, the Assemblyman, and the Development Worker: An Exploration of Multi-Level Governance in Ghana.”
- University of Tampa Delo Grant (2010/11) – Awarded \$498 for a graphical software purchase under a grant titled “Geographical Analysis of Voting Patterns and Demographic Data in West Africa.”

- University of Tampa Professional Development Award (2009/10) – Awarded a one course off-load for Spring 2010 to work on a project titled “The Chief, the Assemblyman, and the Development Worker: An Exploration of Multi-Level Governance in Ghana.”
- University of Tampa Delo Award (2009/10) – Awarded \$5000 to administer a survey titled “The Chief, the Assemblyman, and the Development Worker: An Exploration of Multi-Level Governance in Ghana.”
- University of Tampa Dana Award (2008/09) – Awarded \$2000 to field test a survey titled “The Chief, the Assemblyman, and the Development Worker: An Exploration of Multi-Level Governance in Ghana.”

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

### **Chairman of the Board, Nangodi Institute (2017-Present)**

Founding member of a think tank in Ghana’s rural Upper East region. Over the course of the organization’s first year of existence we provided 47 enumerators for a Catholic Relief Service evaluation project, sent two researchers to R training, and built a small office space in the capital of the Nabdam District.

### **Program Leader, Spartans Academy Abroad at the University of Tampa (2016-Present)**

Co-created a multi-disciplinary program for incoming first-year students. Teach a course in August on environmental politics in Costa Rica.

### **Faculty Senator, University of Tampa (2010-Present)**

CSSME Executive Senator (Spring 2012, Fall 2014 – Spring 2016, 2018/19)

### **Chair of International Programs Committee, University of Tampa (2016-Present)**

#### **Faculty Advisor, University of Tampa**

- African Studies Group (2008-2010)
- Animal Rights Group (2009-2012)
- Ghana Development Project (2010-Present)
- Harvard Model UN Program (2007-2012, 2016-Present)
- Pi Sigma Alpha (2008-Present)
- She’s the First (2013-Present)

### **Consultant and Co-leader, CRS Youth Peace Ambassador Evaluation (2018)**

Along with a professor and graduate student from the University of Notre Dame designed and implemented a program evaluation for Catholic Relief Services Youth Peace Ambassador program in Northern Ghana. This evaluation called for a large survey (N=1500+) as well as qualitative interviews with peace ambassadors and controls (N=60+). Shared responsibility for designing the instrument and lead the research team based in Damongo.

### **Conference within a Conference Organizer, Southern Political Science Association (2016)**

Along with two professors from Vanderbilt University organized and lead a conference within a conference on the topic of data collection in Africa. This conference within a conference included three paper panels and four roundtables designed to introduce participants to innovative data collection techniques and problem solve issues that occur across multiple projects. Twenty-two participants from academia and the policy community participated in this one day workshop.

**Workshop Leader, *American Political Science Association* (2009)**

Organized a Mellon Foundation funded workshop for two dozen African academics and four American graduate students on the topic of elections and democracy. The three week workshop had as its ultimate goal the crosspollination of American and African political science and was written up in the October 2009 edition of *PS*.

**Conference Chair/Discussant**

- American Political Science Association annual meeting discussant (2016)
- Southern Political Science Association annual meeting (2016) – Organized a conference within a conference on the theme of data collection in Africa with three paper panels and four roundtables.
- Midwest Group in African Political Economy annual meeting discussant (2015)
- Southern Political Science Association annual meeting chair (2011)
- International Studies Association annual meeting discussant (2008)

**Reviewer**

- *African Affairs* (2009, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017)
- *African Studies Review* (2018)
- *African Studies Quarterly* (2009, 2011, 2014)
- *American Political Science Review* (2012, 2014, 2015)
- *Canadian Journal of African Studies* (2016)
- *Comparative Political Studies* (2008, 2009, 2010)
- *Comparative Politics* (2011)
- *Ghana Studies Review* (2012)
- *International Studies Perspectives* (2012)
- *Journal of Comparative Politics* (2016)
- *Journal of Modern African Studies* (2009, 2015)
- *Nordic Journal of African Studies* (2013)
- *Online Journal of Education Research* (2013)
- *Political Behavior* (2015)
- *Politics and Governance* (2015)
- *World Politics* (2017)

**Editorial Committee Member, *African Studies Quarterly* (2001 – 2007)**

**Researcher in Residence, *Ghana Center for Democratic Development* (2004-2005)**

Assisted the Center in their election monitoring exercise, parliamentary debates, incumbency abuse monitoring, and analysis of Afrobarometer survey results.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

- African Politics Conference Group (2003 - Present): Chair of Best Graduate Paper Award Committee (2009/2010); Member of Best Article Committee (2016); Member of ASA Panel Selection Committee (2012/2013); Chair of ISA Panel Selection Committee (2015/2016, 2016/2017)
- African Studies Association (2002 - Present)
- American Political Science Association (2002 - Present)

**LANGUAGES:**

Native English speaker. Intermediate French and Asante Twi.



**REFERENCES:**

- Mary R. Anderson (University of Tampa, *Associate Professor of Political Science*) – mranderson@ut.edu
- Goran Hyden (University of Florida, *Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science*) – ghyden@polisci.ufl.edu
- E. Gyimah-Boadi (CDD-Ghana, *Executive Director Emeritus*) - gyimah@cddgh.org