Anne Meng

Contact Information

University of Virginia
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Academic Appointments

University of Virginia

Associate Professor, Department of Politics, 2022 - present
Senior Fellow, Miller Center for Public Affairs, 2022 - present
Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, 2016 - 2022

University of Texas, Austin

Harrington Faculty Fellow, Department of Government, 2021-2022

Education

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D., Political Science, 2016
M.A., Economics, 2014
M.A., Political Science, 2010
B.A., Political Science, 2009

Research

Book

Constraining Dictatorship: From Personalized Rule to Institutionalized Regimes
Cambridge University Press, 2020.
Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions Series.

Awards: 2021 APSA William H. Riker Prize for the best book on political economy published during the past three years, 2021 Best Book List by *Foreign Affairs*

Reviewed in: *African Studies Review*, APSA *Democracy and Autocracy* section newsletter, *Democratization*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Governance*, *International Public Management Review*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *The Journal of Modern African Studies*

Coverage in: New Books Network podcast, Scope Conditions podcast, Ufahamu Africa podcast, UW Political Economy Forum podcast

Articles

"Rebel Victory and Authoritarian (Dis)Order." 2026. *American Political Science Review.* FirstView. (with Killian Clarke and Jack Paine)
- Coverage in the *New York Times*

"Measuring Democratic Backsliding." 2024. Lead article in a special issue of *PS: Political Science & Politics.* (with Andrew Little)
- "What We Do and Do Not Know about Democratic Backsliding." 2024. (with Andrew Little) Response article in *PS* special issue.

- Coverage in the *New York Times, Washington Post, Economist, Progress Network, Salon, Morgenbladet, Folha de S. Paulo, Estado, Positive News, Real Clear Science, Ufuhamu Africa* podcast, *Not Another Politics* podcast, *The Good Fight* podcast.

"Authoritarian Power Sharing: Concepts, Mechanisms, and Strategies." 2023. *Annual Review of Political Science.* (with Jack Paine and Robert Powell)

"Power Sharing and Authoritarian Stability: How Rebel Regimes Solve the Guardianship Dilemma." 2022. *American Political Science Review* 116(4):1208 - 1225. (with Jack Paine)

"Democratic Subversion: Elite Cooptation and Opposition Fragmentation." 2021. *American Political Science Review* 115(4): 1358-1372. (with Leonardo Arriola and Jed DeVaro)

"Winning the Game of Thrones: Leadership Succession in Modern Autocracies." 2021. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 65(5): 950-981.
- 2021 Best Article Award, African Politics Conference Group Section of the American Political Science Association

"Ruling Parties in Authoritarian Regimes: Rethinking Institutional Strength." 2021. *British Journal of Political Science* 51(2): 526-540.

"The Law and Politics of Presidential Term Limit Evasion." 2020. *Columbia Law Review* 120(1): 1-77. (with Mila Versteeg, Tim Horley, Mauricio Guim, and Marilyn Guirguis)
- Coverage in the *New York Times*

"Accessing the State: Executive Constraints and Credible Commitment in Dictatorship." 2019. *The Journal of Theoretical Politics* 33(4): 568-599.
- 2016 Best Paper Award, Comparative Democratization Section of the American Political Science Association

"Gerrymandering Opposition: Minority-Concentrated Districts and Electoral Competition in Mexico." 2017. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 52:64-86. (with Brian Palmer-Rubin)

Handbook Chapters

"Quantitative Approaches to Study Authoritarianism." 2024. *Oxford Handbook of Authoritarian Politics*, edited by Anne Wolf. Oxford University Press.

"Political Regime Types." In progress. *Oxford Handbook of State Building and State Capacity*, edited by Mark Dincecco and Yuhua Wang. Oxford University Press (with Killian Clarke and Jack Paine)

Work in Progress

Pathways to Dictatorship (Book project with Killian Clarke and Jack Paine)

"Democracy, Dictatorship, and Beyond: Global Data on Regime Spells, 1946–2025." (with Killian Clarke and Jack Paine)

"Democratic Breakdown and Incumbent Takeover Autocracies." (with Killian Clarke and Jack Paine)

"Rules to Live (and Die) By: Introducing the Global Succession Rules Dataset." (with Edward Goldring). *Revise and Resubmit at Political Science Research and Methods.*

"Who Concedes Electoral Defeat? Democratic Norms in Comparative Perspective" (with Andrew Little). *Under review.*

"Won't you be my neighbor? Race, Partisanship, and Affective Polarization" (with Jessica Gottlieb and Damien Kelly)

"Democracy in Their Own Words: How Americans Understand and Evaluate Democracy" (with Jessica Gottlieb)

Other Writing

Book review of *Spin Dictators: The Changing Face of Tyranny in the 21st Century* by Sergei Guriev and Daniel Treisman. 2022. *Perspectives on Politics* 20(4): 1500-1502.

"The Targaryens struggle with a 'crown prince problem,' like all authoritarians." *Washington Post*, The Monkey Cage. August 28, 2022. (with Andrej Kokkonen, Jorgen Moller, and Anders Sundell).

"In Memoriam: Robert L. Powell." *International Organization.* 2022. (with James Fearon, David Lake, and Jack Paine).

"*Democratisation* and dictatorship revisited." Book review of *Shock to the System: Coups, Elections, and War on the Road to Democratization* by Michael K. Miller. 2022. *European Political Science* 21: 479–481.

Author Exchange with Ken Opalo for *Constraining Dictatorship.* 2021. *Democracy and Autocracy.* 19(1): 16-22.

"The World Is Experiencing a New Form of Autocracy." *The Atlantic.* March 1, 2020. (with Tim Horley and Mila Versteeg)

"A Case for Case Studies: A Multi-Method Strategy for Ecological Inference." 2012. *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research* 10(2): 21-26. (with Brian Palmer-Rubin)

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

University of Virginia Quantitative Collaborative Seed Grant, 2026 ($8,000)

Constraining Dictatorship selected by Foreign Affairs as one of the best books in 2021

Best Article Award, African Politics Conference Group Section of the American Political Science Association, 2021

APSA William H. Riker Prize for the best book on political economy published during the past three years, 2021

Harrington Faculty Fellowship, UT Austin, 2021-2022

University of Virginia Democracy Initiative Lab, 2019-2022 (Co-PI with Todd Sechser, David Leblang, and Mila Versteeg, $1,414,000)

University of Virginia Quantitative Collaborative Seed Grant, 2019 ($10,000)

Best Paper Award, Comparative Democratization Section of the American Political

Science Association, 2016

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, 2013

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 2010-2014

UC Berkeley Political Science Departmental Citation Recipient, 2009

Invited Talks and Presentations

2026, including scheduled: UNC Chapel Hill (Authoritarian Politics Lab), Park City Political Economy Conference, University of Iowa (Political Science Department), Juan Linz Institute (Breakdown of Democracies conference), Visions in Methodology (Keynote research address), University of Rochester (Democracy Center and Political Science Department), University of Chicago (Political Economy Conference), LSE (School of Public Policy)

2025: Princeton (Empirical Studies of Conflict), University of Michigan (Conference on Democracy), Stanford (Book conference), University of Rochester (Conference on Democratic Norms), George Washington University (Book conference), Washington University in St Louis (Global Challenges to Peace and Democracy Conference), Princeton (Comparative Politics seminar)

2024: Yale (Political Economy Seminar), Stanford (CDDRL), RAND (Defense and Political Science Department), IE University Madrid (School of Political Science, Economics & Global Affairs), Princeton (Democratic "Frontsliding" Conference), University of Virginia (Quantitative Collaborative Workshop), Cornell (Research Frontiers on Democratic Threats and Resilience Conference), Aspen Political Economy Conference, Penn State (Book conference)

2023: Yale (Comparative Politics Workshop), Brigham Young University (Book conference), MIT (Comparative Politics Speaker Series), King's College London (Comparative Politics Seminar), Columbia University (Political Economy of Democratic Backsliding conference), Georgetown University (Comparative Politics Seminar), UNC Chapel Hill (Public Policy Research Seminar)

2022: Vanderbilt University (Comparative Politics Workshop), Washington State University (Department of Political Science), University of Houston (Political Economy Seminar), US Navel Academy (Africa Forum), Columbia University (Comparative Politics and Political Economy (co-sponsored) Seminar), WZB Berlin Social Science Center (Institutions and Political Inequality Group), Texas A&M, (Department of Political Science), UT Austin (Department of Government)

2021: University of Minnesota (Comparative Politics Colloquium), LSE (African Political Economy Seminar), GIGA Institute Hamburg (Research Program on Accountability and Participation), Boston University (Comparative Politics Workshop), Princeton University (Comparative Politics Speaker Series), George Washington University (Book conference), Catholic University of Portugal (Political Science Department), Gettysburg College (Comparative Politics Series), UC Berkeley (Comparative Politics Colloquium), Stanford (CDDRL), University of Pennsylvania (Comparative Politics Workshop)

2020: CIDE Mexico City (Comparative Politics Seminar), University of Michigan (Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies), NYU Law School (Constitutional Interpretation Seminar), Penn State (Department of Political Science), ITAM Mexico City (Comparative Politics Seminar), UT Austin (Comparative Politics Seminar), Stanford (Comparative Politics Seminar)

2019: Emory (Political Institutions and Methodology Colloquium), University of Notre Dame (Kellogg Institute for International Studies), College of William and Mary (Department of Political Science), University of Chicago (Comparative Politics Seminar), NYU (Comparative Politics Seminar), University of Michigan (Politics and Historical Legacies Mini-Conference), Washington University in St Louis (Comparative Politics Conference), University of Virginia Law School (Law and Economics Workshop), University of Gothenburg (V-Dem Institute), University of Rochester (Department of Political Science)

2018: University of Virginia (LLB Seminar in Global Politics), University of Michigan (Department of Political Science), University of Virginia (Book conference), Cornell (Symposium on Democratic Backsliding in Africa)

2017: Higher School of Economics Moscow (Political Economy Group), University of Maryland (Department of Government and Politics)

2016: University of Virginia (Quantitative Collaborative Workshop), University of Chicago (Harris School of Public Policy), Ohio State University (Comparative Dimensions of Colonialism Workshop)

Teaching

University of Virginia

Graduate

Comparative Politics Core, Authoritarian Regimes, Game Theory, Dissertation Writing Workshop

Undergraduate

Democratic Erosion, Authoritarian Regimes, Game Theory

University of California, Berkeley

Graduate

Math Camp

Undergraduate

Game Theory in the Social Sciences

Awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, 2012-2013

Service

University of Virginia	Comparative Politics Subfield Co-chair (2022 - 2023, 2025 - 2026)
	Co-director, Lansing B. Lee/Bankard Seminar in Global Politics (2016-2018, 2025 - 2026)
	Steering Committee member, Quantitative Collaborative (2016 - present)
	Chair, Faculty Promotion and Tenure Review committee (2025)
	Graduate Admissions (2021, 2023, 2027)
	Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (2023-2025)
	Faculty Hiring Committee (2021, 2023, 2024)
	Chair's Advisory Board (2018-2020, 2022 - 2024)
Discipline	Editorial Board, *American Political Science Review* (2024-present)
	Editorial Board, *European Political Science Review* (2023-present)
	Editorial Board, *American Journal of Political Science* (2023-2025)
	Luebbert Best Article Committee, APSA Comparative Politics Section (2026)
	Organizer, Authoritarian Regimes Mini-Conference (2022, 2026)
	Chair, APSA Democracy and Autocracy Section (2023-2025)
	NSF Accountable Institutions and Behavior Advisor Panel (2022-2024)
	APSA Democracy and Autocracy Section Emerging Scholars Workshop Discussant (2022)
	Riker Best Book Award Committee, APSA Political Economy Section (2022)
	Best Article Award Committee Chair, APSA Formal Theory Section (2022)
	Co-founder and Vice President, APSA Formal Theory Section (2020-2021)
	Co-founder and Co-organizer, Formal Theory Virtual Workshop (2020-2021)
	Section Chair for Formal Modeling, MPSA Annual Meeting (2020)
	Malcolm Jewell Award committee, SPSA (2019)
	Secretary, APSA Democracy and Autocracy Section (2018-2020)
	Co-organizer of "Undemocratic Political Economy" mini-conference, Western Political Science Association Meeting (2018)
	Best Paper Award Committee Chair, APSA Comparative Democratization Section (2017)
	Reviewer for: *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Cambridge University Press, Comparative*

Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Government and Opposition, International Organization, International Security, National Science Foundation, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Theoretical Politics, Oxford University Press, Party Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Political Research Quarterly, Public Choice, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Studies in Comparative International Development, The Journal of Modern African Studies, The Journal of Politics, World Politics