



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

RESEARCH SERIES

Tonya Dodez

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, IU

Wednesday, November 4, 2020: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



Voting Against Violence: The Role of Civic Engagement in African Elections

Voters, as the targets of violence, make up half of the equation when studying electoral violence, yet little is understood about the reactions of these targeted citizens. How do voters respond to electoral violence and intimidation? This project examines the impact of electoral violence on voting behavior in sub-Saharan African elections. Specifically, I suggest that civic engagement, and the social capital it generates, mediates how electoral violence is perceived by African voters. I argue that politically engaged voters, are more likely to turnout when threatened with violence, and less likely to be intimidated into voting for a repressive incumbent. I posit that this relationship exists due to the political efficacy and interpersonal trust that citizens derive from various forms of political behavior. Using Afrobarometer survey data, I find some initial evidence that violence does result in an electoral backlash for incumbents, with this effect being heightened by active civic engagement.

Tonya K. Dodez is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Political Science at Indiana University, Bloomington with specializations in comparative politics and research methods. Her research focuses on electoral violence and voting behavior in sub-Saharan Africa. She uses mixed-methods research to examine the consequences of political violence for democratic citizens and institutions of accountability. Her dissertation project, more specifically, seeks to understand how election violence effects African voters.

Ostrom Workshop
513 N. Park Ave
Bloomington, IN 47408

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Ostrom workshop presentations will be virtual until further notice. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu)