



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

RESEARCH SERIES

Tonya K. Dodez

Department of Political Science, IU, Ostrom Fellow

Wednesday, February 9: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

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

Fight or Flight? Examining the Electoral Consequences of Violence in Senegal



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 and what electoral outcomes result from such responses? While some research suggests that electoral violence discourages turnout and tilts the electoral playing field in the incumbent's favor, others contend that it mobilizes voters and hurts incumbents at the polls. This project seeks to resolve this disagreement by suggesting that different tactics of state violence and intimidation will provoke different emotional responses from voters. Distinguishing between these tactics based on the primary targets they are employed against, I suggest that more overt, citizen-targeted forms of violence from the state tend to discourage turnout yet hurt incumbents at the polls, while opposition elite-targeted violence does not depress turnout yet helps incumbents make some electoral gains. I assess the effects of this variation in violent tactics, through a comparative analysis of presidential elections in Senegal.

Tonya K. Dodez is a fellow at the Ostrom Workshop and a Ph.D. Candidate at the Indiana University-Bloomington Department of Political Science. Her dissertation research examines how different tactics of state violence and intimidation impact voting behavior and electoral outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa. She makes use of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies in her research, with a particular focus on elections in Senegal. She has both in-person and virtual fieldwork experience, with advanced proficiency in French and Wolof.

Ostrom Workshop
513 N. Park Ave
Bloomington, IN 47408

ostromworkshop.indiana.edu

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)