

# Erica Frantz

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## Professional Appointments

Associate Professor, Political Science Department, Michigan State University, 2020-present

Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Michigan State University, 2015-2020

Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, Bridgewater State University, 2011-2015

Political Analyst, Institute for Physical Sciences, McLean, VA, 2008-2011

Visiting Scholar, Political Science Department, UNC, Chapel Hill, 2007-2008

## Education

Ph.D. Political Science, UCLA, 2008

Certificate of Completion, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM), Washington University, St. Louis, 2007

B.A. Political Science and English, UC Santa Barbara, 2000, *Highest Honors*

Certificate of Completion, UC Education Abroad Program, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile, 2000

## Awards

MSU College of Social Science Outstanding Teacher, 2020

Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Comparative Politics Dataset Award (with Barbara Geddes and Joseph Wright), 2015

UC Santa Barbara Outstanding Graduate, 2000

National Hispanic Scholar, 1995

## Grants

Luminate Foundation, *Technology and the Personalization of Politics* (with Andrea Kendall-Taylor and Joseph Wright, \$34,000 external; \$314,649 total budget), 2020-2022

Charles Koch Foundation, *Personalist Parties: How Parties Undermine Democracy and Individual Liberties* (with Andrea Kendall-Taylor and Joseph Wright, \$17,792 external; \$69,463 total budget), 2020-2021

USAID, *Phase II: Paths Away from Authoritarianism* (with Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz, \$120,000 external), 2016-2017

UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2007-2008

UC Cota Robles Fellow, 2002-2006

UC Regents Scholar, 1996-2000

## Books

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Natasha Lindstaedt, and **Erica Frantz**. 2019. *Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes* (Oxford University Press).

**Erica Frantz**. 2018. *Authoritarianism: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford University Press).

\*\*\* Reviewed in *Foreign Affairs*, 2019, January/February.

Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and **Erica Frantz**. 2018. *How Dictatorships Work: Power, Personalization, and Collapse* (Cambridge University Press).

\*\*\* Reviewed in: *Perspectives on Politics*, 2019, Vol. 17, No. 2; *Democratization*, 2020, Vol. 27, No. 1; *Foreign Affairs*, 2020, January/February

Natasha Ezrow, **Erica Frantz**, and Andrea Kendall-Taylor. 2015. *Development and the State in the 21st Century: Tackling the Challenges Facing the Developing World* (Palgrave MacMillan).

Natasha Ezrow and **Erica Frantz**. 2013. *Failed States and Institutional Decay: Understanding Instability and Poverty in the Developing World* (Bloomsbury Publishing).

**Erica Frantz** and Natasha Ezrow. 2011. *The Politics of Dictatorship: Institutions and Outcomes in Authoritarian Regimes* (Lynne Rienner Publishers).

\*\*\* Reviewed in *Choice*, 2012, Vol. 49, No. 6.

Natasha Ezrow and **Erica Frantz**. 2011. *Dictators and Dictatorships: Understanding Authoritarian Regimes and Their Leaders* (Continuum Publishers).

\*\*\* Reviewed in *Journal of Peace Research*, 2013, Vol. 50, No. 4.

## Journal Articles

**Erica Frantz**, Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Jia Li, and Joseph Wright. Forthcoming. "Personalist Ruling Parties in Democracies." *Democratization*.

**Erica Frantz**, Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Carisa Nietzsche, and Joseph Wright. 2021. "How Personalist Politics is Changing Democracies." *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 32, No. 3.

**Erica Frantz**, Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Joseph Wright, and Xu Xu. 2020. "Personalization of Power and Repression in Dictatorships." *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 82, No. 1.

**Erica Frantz**. 2020. "Elections and Capital Flight: A Response to Goldsmith." *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 64, No. 1.

**Erica Frantz**. 2019. "The Legacy of Military Dictatorship: Explaining Violent Crime in Democracies." *International Political Science Review* Vol. 40, No. 3.

**Erica Frantz.** 2018. “Voter Turnout and Opposition Performance in Competitive Authoritarian Elections.” *Electoral Studies* Vol. 54.

**Erica Frantz.** 2018. “Elections and Capital Flight: Evidence from Africa.” *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 62, No. 1.

**Erica Frantz** and Elizabeth Stein. 2017. “Countering Coups: Leadership Succession Rules in Dictatorships.” *Comparative Political Studies* Vol. 50, No. 7.

**Erica Frantz** and Andrea Kendall-Taylor. 2017. “Pathways to Democratization in Personalist Dictatorships.” *Democratization* Vol. 24, No. 1.

Joseph Wright and **Erica Frantz.** 2017. “How Oil Income and Missing Hydrocarbon Rents Data Influence Autocratic Survival: A Response to Lucas and Richter (2016).” *Research and Politics* Vol. 4, No. 3.

George Derpanopoulos, **Erica Frantz**, Barbara Geddes, and Joseph Wright. 2017. “Are Coups Good for Democracy? A Response to Miller (2016).” *Research and Politics* Vol. 4, No. 2.

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz.** 2016. “When Dictators Die.” *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 27, No. 4.

**Erica Frantz** and Barbara Geddes. 2016. “The Legacy of Dictatorship for Democratic Parties in Latin America.” *Journal of Politics in Latin America* Vol. 8, No. 1.

George Derpanopoulos, **Erica Frantz**, Barbara Geddes, and Joseph Wright. 2016. “Are Coups Good for Democracy?” *Research and Politics* Vol. 3, No. 1.

Joseph Wright, **Erica Frantz**, and Barbara Geddes. 2015. “Oil and Autocratic Regime Survival.” *British Journal of Political Science* Vol. 45, No. 2.

**Erica Frantz** and Andrea Kendall-Taylor. 2014. “A Dictator’s Toolkit: Understanding How Cooptation Affects Repression in Autocracies.” *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 51, No. 3.

Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and **Erica Frantz.** 2014. “Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set.” *Perspectives on Politics* Vol. 12, No. 2.

\*\*\* Top ten most cited articles ever in *Perspectives on Politics*

Barbara Geddes, **Erica Frantz**, and Joseph Wright. 2014. “Military Rule.” *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 17, No. 1.

Natasha Ezrow and **Erica Frantz.** 2013. “Revisiting the Concept of the Failed State: Bringing the State Back In.” *Third World Quarterly* Vol. 34, No. 8.

## Other Publications

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz.** 2022. “After Putin: Lessons from Autocratic Leadership Transitions.” *The Washington Quarterly* Vol. 45, No. 1.

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz.** 2022. “The Beginning of the End for Putin? Dictatorships Look Stable – Until They Aren’t.” *Foreign Affairs* (March 02).

**Erica Frantz** and Andrea Kendall-Taylor. 2021. “Digitized Autocracy Literature Review:

Final Report.” *DRG Center Working Paper*, U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Erica Frantz.** 2021. “Contemporary Challenges to Global Democracy.” *Brown Journal of World Affairs* Vol. 26, No. 2.

**Erica Frantz.** 2021. “Autocracy.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics* (originally published in 2016; updated in 2021).

**Erica Frantz, Andrea Kendall-Taylor, and Joseph Wright.** 2021. “Personalism in Democracies: A New Index.” *Working Paper*, Luminare (May).

**Erica Frantz.** 2021. “The Future of Democracy.” *International Affairs Forum* (February).

**Erica Frantz and Joseph Wright.** 2020. “Democracy in Crisis: The Role of Personalist Political Parties.” *APSA Comparative Politics Newsletter* Vol. 30, No. 2.

**Erica Frantz, Andrea Kendall-Taylor, and Joseph Wright.** 2020. “Digital Repression in Autocracies.” *V-Dem Users Working Paper*, The Varieties of Democracy Institute, No. 27.

Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz and **Erica Frantz.** 2020. “What We Know - and Don’t - About Democratization, and Why it Matters for Democracy Promotion.” *Democracy and Autocracy* Vol. 18, No. 1.

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, **Erica Frantz,** and Joseph Wright. 2020. “The Digital Dictators: How Technology Strengthens Autocracy.” *Foreign Affairs*, March/April.

\*\*\* Editors’ pick as one of the top ten best articles in print in 2020 in *Foreign Affairs*.

**Erica Frantz and Joseph Wright.** 2019. “Contemporary Democratic Breakdown and the Rise of Personalist Rule.” *The Annals of Comparative Democratization* Vol. 17, No. 1.

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz.** 2018. “Putin’s Succession Conundrum: How Authoritarians Navigate the Challenge.” *Foreign Affairs* (March 21).

**Erica Frantz.** 2018. “Authoritarian Politics: Trends and Debates.” *Politics and Governance* Vol. 6, No. 2.

Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz and **Erica Frantz.** 2017. “Theories of Democratic Change Phase II: Paths Away from Authoritarianism.” *DRG Center Working Paper*, U.S. Agency for International Development.

**Erica Frantz and Andrea Kendall-Taylor.** 2017. “The Evolution of Autocracy: Why Authoritarianism is Becoming More Formidable.” *Survival* Vol. 59, No. 5.

\*\*\* Editors’ pick as one of the top ten best articles in 2017 in *Survival*.

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, **Erica Frantz,** and Joseph Wright. 2017. “The Global Rise of Personalized Politics.” *The Washington Quarterly* Vol. 40, No. 1.

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz.** 2016. “How Democracies Fall Apart.” *Foreign Affairs* (December 06).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, **Erica Frantz,** and Joseph Wright. 2016. “The New Dictators.” *Foreign Affairs* (September 26).

\*\*\* Editors’ pick as one of the top ten best articles on the web in 2016 in *Foreign Affairs*.

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2014. "Mimicking Democracy to Prolong Autocracies." *The Washington Quarterly* Vol. 37, No. 4.

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2014. "How Autocracies Fall." *The Washington Quarterly* Vol. 37, No. 1.

Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and **Erica Frantz**. 2014. "The Autocratic Regimes Dataset." *APSA-CD: Comparative Democratization Newsletter* Vol. 24, No. 2 (June).

**Erica Frantz**, Andrea Kendall-Taylor, and Natasha Ezrow. 2014. "Autocratic Fate: How Leaders' Post-Tenure Expectations Influence the Behavior of Dictatorships." *Whitehead Journal of International Diplomacy* Vol. 15, No. 1.

**Erica Frantz**, Barbara Geddes, and Joseph Wright. 2013. "Autocratic Rule." *APSA-CD: Comparative Democratization Newsletter* Vol. 11, No. 2 (June).

**Erica Frantz**. 2012. "How and Why Do Dictatorships Survive? Lessons for the Middle East." *Bridgewater Review* Vol. 31, No. 2.

Natasha Ezrow and **Erica Frantz**. 2011. "State Institutions and the Survival of Dictatorships." *Journal of International Affairs* Vol. 65, No. 1 (Fall/Winter).

## Commentary

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2022. "Is Russia Better Off Without Putin? The Answer is Changing." *Politico* (May 5).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2022. "Why Putin Probably Won't Give Up Anytime Soon." *Foreign Policy* (March 17).

**Erica Frantz** and Joseph Wright. 2022. "It's not just a Putin problem. 'Personalists' like him are behind much of the world's bad behavior." *The Monkey Cage* (March 2).

**Erica Frantz**. 2021. "How Should We Confront Authoritarianism?" *Foresight Magazine* (July 6).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, **Erica Frantz**, and Joseph Wright. 2021. "All Politics is Personalized." *Foreign Policy* (March 9).

**Erica Frantz**. 2020. "The Tools of Dictatorships." *Schweizer Monat* (December).

**Erica Frantz**. 2020. "Is the U.S. at Risk of Mirroring Hungary's Democratic Backsliding?" *World Politics Review* (October 20).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, **Erica Frantz**, and Joseph Wright. 2019. "Why the fragmentation of European politics could bode poorly for democracy." *The Monkey Cage* (June 5).

**Erica Frantz**. 2019. "The Evolution of the Strongman." *Foreign Policy* (March 11).

**Erica Frantz**. 2018. "Trump is already hurting democracy. Now the GOP is making it worse." *Washington Post* (November 16).

**Erica Frantz**. 2018. "Concern for global democracy." *OUPblog*, Oxford University Press (November 2).

**Erica Frantz**, Andrea Kendall-Taylor, and Joseph Wright. 2018. “Did Xi Jinping just become China’s strongman? Not quite.” *The Monkey Cage* (March 13).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2017. “What went wrong for Mugabe? Most aging dictators don’t get toppled by coups.” *The Monkey Cage* (November 22).

**Erica Frantz** and Andrea Kendall-Taylor. 2017. “The move to one-man rule in China and beyond.” *The Interpreter*, The Lowy Institute (October 30).

**Erica Frantz**. 2017. “What happens when a strongman dictator creates his own party?” *Democracy Audit UK* (October 24).

**Erica Frantz**. 2017. “Event: Comey’s Testimony and the Price of Loyalty.” *Authoritarian Warning Survey* (June 13).

**Erica Frantz**. 2017. “Democracy Dismantled: Why the Populist Threat Is Real and Serious.” *World Politics Review* (March 14).

**Erica Frantz**. 2017. “How Today’s Populism Dismantles Democracy Worldwide.” *Scholar Strategy Network* (February 2).

**Erica Frantz** and Andrea Kendall-Taylor. 2016. “When ailing dictators die in office, what happens next?” *The Monkey Cage* (December 1).

**Erica Frantz** and Barbara Geddes. 2016. “How the Legacy of Dictatorship Influences Democratic Parties in Latin America.” *Panoramas* (November 9).

Joseph Wright, Barbara Geddes, **Erica Frantz**, and George Derpanopoulos. 2016. “Are coups good for democracy?” *The Monkey Cage* (February 22).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2015. “How democratic institutions are making dictatorships more durable.” *The Monkey Cage* (March 19).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2015. “When Dictators Die.” *Foreign Policy* (September 10).

**Erica Frantz** and Andrea Kendall-Taylor. 2014. “Burkina Faso and the growing vulnerability of autocrats to revolt.” *The Monkey Cage* (November 12).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2014. “Ukraine Inches Closer to Civil War, Just as Research on Conflict Predicts.” *Fragile States* (July 1).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2014. “The Foreign Policy Essay: The Rising Threat of Revolt in Autocracies.” *Lawfare* (June 22).

**Erica Frantz**, Barbara Geddes, and Joseph Wright. 2014. “How oil helps dictatorships survive.” *The Monkey Cage* (June 17).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2014. “What Strongmen Have to Fear.” *Foreign Policy* (June 2).

Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Erica Frantz**. 2014. “Autocrats now more vulnerable to being ousted by revolt.” *The Monkey Cage* (April 9).

## Book Chapters

**Erica Frantz.** 2014. “Trends in Democratization: Leadership Transitions and Systemic Change.” In Paul Huth, Jonathan Wilkenfeld, and David Backer (eds.), *Peace and Conflict 2014*, University of Maryland’s Center for International Development and Conflict Management (Paradigm Publishers).

**Erica Frantz** and Elizabeth Stein. 2012. “Comparing Political Leadership in Non-Democratic Regimes.” In Ludger Helms (ed.), *Comparative Political Leadership* (Palgrave MacMillan Publishers).

**Erica Frantz.** 2012. “Trends in Democratization: Unpacking Anocracies.” In J. Joseph Hewitt, Jonathan Wilkenfeld, Ted Robert Gurr, and Birger Heldt (eds.), *Peace and Conflict 2012*, University of Maryland’s Center for International Development and Conflict Management (Paradigm Publishers).

## Book Reviews

**Erica Frantz.** 2018. “Recycling Dictators in Latin American Elections: Legacies of Military Rule. By Brett J. Kyle. Boulder: FirstForumPress, 2016. 267p. \$75.00.” Book review in *Perspectives on Politics* Vol. 16, No. 1.

**Erica Frantz.** 2015. “Understanding the Conflict Choices of Dictatorships.” Book review in *International Studies Review* Vol. 17, No. 1.

## Data Sets

*Autocratic Regimes.* Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and **Erica Frantz**

\*\*\* Winner of the 2015 Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Dataset Award.

\*\*\* Data for over 200 autocratic regimes in 122 countries from 1946-2010: regime start/failure dates and event narratives, failure event variables (level of violence/sub-sequent regime/mode of transition), and regime typology.

*Autocratic Regime Features.* Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and **Erica Frantz**

\*\*\* Data coding time-varying features of autocratic regimes from 1946-2010 relating to the regime leader, the military, and the support party; includes estimates for a time-varying measure of personalism in dictatorships.

*Personalist Political Parties.* **Erica Frantz**, Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Jia Li, and Joseph Wright

\*\*\* Data coding levels of personalism in the political parties of democratically-elected leaders from 1991 to 2020; includes qualitative narratives capturing the history of the relationship between the leader and the party.

## Invited Talks

“The Origins of Democratic Collapse in the 21st Century: How Personalist Parties Undermine Democracy,” University of Alabama, January 2022

“Digitized Autocracy: Use of Digital Tools by Authoritarian Regimes,” US Agency for International Development, September 2021

“How Democracies Fall Apart,” University of Tübingen, June 2021

“How Today’s Democracies Fall Apart,” Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, September 2020

“What Happens if Xi Dies?” Center for Strategic and International Studies and National Intelligence Council, China Policy Workshop, July 2020

“COVID-19: A Gateway to Authoritarianism?” The Oxford Union, July 2020

“Dismantled from Within: How Today’s Democracies Fall Apart,” Northern Illinois University, March 2020

“Is Democracy Promotion Dead?” University of Michigan Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, February 2020

“What’s Up with Authoritarian Elections?” University of Michigan Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, March 2019

“Democracy Dismantled: How Populism is a Pathway to Autocracy,” University of Michigan Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, November 2017

“How Today’s Democracies Fall Apart,” Democracy in Danger Workshop, Rutgers University, April 2017

“Theories of Democratic Change,” (with Jeffrey Conroy-Krutz), Democratic Change Research Initiative, Northwestern University, April 2017

“Coding Regime Type and Re-evaluating Transition Models,” Political Instability Task Force, January 2017

“Top-Down Change in Autocracies,” Bureau of Intelligence and Research, US State Department, and National Intelligence Council, June 2016

“Dictatorial Survival and Breakdown,” Political Science Department, Oakland University, April 2016

“Corruption in State Institutions,” Defense Intelligence Agency, September 2015

“Logic of Autocratic Regime Survival: Implications for Rwanda and Burundi,” Defense Intelligence Agency, August 2015

“Succession Rules and Survival in Dictatorships,” Department of Government, University of Essex, April 2014

“Failed States: Author Meets Critic,” Center for Legislative Studies, Bridgewater State University, March 2014

“Failed States and Institutional Decay: Understanding Instability and Poverty in the Develop-



ing World,” CARS Celebration, Bridgewater State University, May 2013

“How and Why do Dictatorships Survive? Lessons for the Middle East,” Political Science Department and Center for the Middle East, Bridgewater State University, April 2012

“The Arabian Peninsula: Historical Influences and Political Trends,” Open Lecture Series, Barrington Public Library, February 2012

“The Politics of Diversion: Why Leaders Decide to Go to War,” Latin American Studies Center, University of New Orleans, September 2011

“How Politics Inside Dictatorships Affects Regime Stability and International Conflict: Comparative Insights,” The Minerva Initiative, National Defense University, September 2010

“Toppling Tyrants: Leadership Survival in Authoritarian Regimes,” Department of Government, University of Essex, May 2010

## Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017)

Latin American Studies Association Annual Congress (2006, 2012, 2018)

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2016, 2017, 2018, 2021)

## Courses Taught

Introduction to Political Science

Introduction to American Government

Comparative Government

Unlocking Politics: Power and Authority

Peace and Conflict

Authoritarian Political Systems

Politics of the Developing World

Failed States

International Law

Pandemics and Social Science

Comparative Political Institutions (graduate)

Dynamics of Political Change (one-day training course for USG practitioners)

Authoritarianism (one-day training course for USG practitioners)

## Reviewer

### *Journals*

American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of International Relations, British Journal of Political Science, Canadian Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Political Theory, Comparative Politics, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Defence and Peace Economics, Democratization, Economics and Politics, Electoral Studies, European Journal of International Relations, European Journal of Political Research, European Political Science Review, Foreign Policy Analysis, Government and Opposition, International Interactions, International Studies Quarterly, International Organization, Journal of Global Security Studies, International Political Science Review, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Comparative Politics, Journal of Politics, Journal of Peace Research, Latin American Politics and Society, Legislative Studies Quarterly, National Science Foundation, New Global Studies, Perspectives on Politics, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science Research and Methods, Research and Politics, Security Studies, World Politics

### *Books*

Lynne Rienner Publishers, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, University of Michigan Press

### *Grants*

National Science Foundation (NSF), Germany Research Foundation (DFG), Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS)

## Professional Associations

American Political Science Association

\*\*\* Division Chair, Comparative Democratization Section, 2018

Midwest Political Science Association

\*\*\* Section Chair, Transitions to Democracy, 2020

Latin American Studies Association

Southern Political Science Association

Scholar Strategy Network

## Language Skills

Fluency: Spanish

Basic: Portuguese, French

## International Experience

Research, community development work, or travel in: Panama (2001, 2008, 2019), Costa Rica (1998, 2001), Mexico (2001, 2017), Chile (2000), Argentina (2000, 2018), Brazil (2000, 2005,

2016), Peru (2000), Bolivia (2000), Nicaragua (2001), Honduras (2001), Guatemala (2001), Thailand (2003, 2005), Laos (2003), Vietnam (2003), Cambodia (2003), Malaysia (2005), India (2005), Kenya (2005), Uganda (2005), Uruguay (2018), Tanzania (2005), Egypt (2005), Russia (2008), Colombia (2009, 2014), Cuba (2017)

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