

Chipo Dendere
Wellesley College
Department of Africana Studies
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Academic Appointments

- 2019–present Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA (passed 3rd-year review)
- 2023–2024 Visiting Research Fellow, Center for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town
- 2022 Suzy Newhouse Fellow, Wellesley College
- 2017–2019 Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science, Amherst College
- 2015–2017 Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science, Gettysburg College

Education

- 2016 PhD, Political Science, Georgia State University
Dissertation: The Impact of Voter Exit on Party Survival: Evidence from Zimbabwe's ZANU PF
Committee: Daniel J. Young (Chair), Carrie Manning, Ryan Carlin
- 2012 MA, political science, Georgia State University
- 2008 BA, political science and psychology, Linfield College

Research

Books

- forthcoming *Death, Diversion, and Departure: Voter Exit and the Persistence of Autocracy in Zimbabwe* (Forthcoming at Cambridge University Press)

Refereed Publications

- forthcoming “The Price of the Party: How Finance Shapes Political Organization in Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Nicholas Cheeseman and Lise Rakner), in *Political Parties in the Global South*, ed. Lisa Storm (deGruyter).
- forthcoming “Party Financing in Africa,” in *Encyclopedia of African Politics*, eds. Mette Kjaer, Moses Khisa and Alecia Ndlovhu (Edwin Elgar Publishers).
- forthcoming Understanding the evolution and state of democracy in Zimbabwe: When a coup is not called a coup (with Miles Tendi), *Brookings Institute*
- forthcoming “Historical and Contemporary Trends in African Migration,” In *Oxford Companion to Migration*, ed. Abel. Chikanda
- 2023 “Zimbabwean Civil Society Survival in the Post-coup Environment: A Political Settlements Analysis” (with Shingirai. Taodzera), *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 1–21.

- 2021 “The Impact of Money on African Politics: The Case of Zimbabwe,” *Journal of Modern African Studies* 59, no. 30: 259–317.
- 2021 “The Military and Citizen Engagement: A Case of Zimbabwean Politics,” *Texas National Security Review*.
- 2020 “Tweeting to Democracy: A New Anti-Authoritarian Liberation Struggle in Africa,” *Journal Cardernos De Estudos Africanos*.
- 2019 “The Impact of Voter Exit on Party Survival,” in *Oxford Handbook of Zimbabwean Politics*, eds. Miles Tendi, Jocelyn Alexander, and JoAnn McGregor (Oxford University Press).
- 2019 “Using Semi-Structured Ethnographic Interviews to Study Politically Sensitive Topics with Immigrant Populations, in *SAGE Research Methods Cases*
- 2018 “Making North–South Collaborations Work” (with Jaimie Bleck and Boukary Sangaré), *PS: Political Science & Politics*.
- 2018 “Finding Women in the Zimbabwean Transition,” *Meridians: Feminism, Race and Transnationalism*.
- 2018 “Quality Peace in Mozambique” (with Carrie Manning). In *Understanding Quality Peace: Peacebuilding after Civil War*, eds. John Darby and Madhav Joshi (Routledge).
- 2018 “Good Governance and Sustainable Development Challenges and Opportunities in Zimbabwe,” in *Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: Problems, Perspectives, and Prospects*, eds. Jennifer De Maio, Suzanne Scheld and Mintesnot Woldemmanuel (Routledge).

Books in Progress

“We Like Our Women Pretty, We Don’t Like to Hear Them Speak”: African Women in Politics in the Internet Age
The Politics of Africa’s “First” First Ladies

Workshopped Papers in Progress

- 2023 “Tender Sisterhood in the Struggle of Winnie Mandela,” presented at Colloquium: Women’s Friendships as Political History, University of Cape Town
- 2023 “Using RCTs to Study the Impact of social media on Voter Mobilization, funded by grants from NDI (awarded \$90,000) IPA Peace and Recovery
- 2022 *Politics in the Digital Media: Zimbabwe’s Non-coup*, presented at American Political Science Association and African Studies Association
- 2019 *Politics in the Digital Media: Zimbabwe’s Non-coup*, presented at American Political Science Association and African Studies Association
- 2019 *When Do Governments Ban the Internet?* presented at American Political Science Association
- 2020 “Why Do Poor Voters Support the Incumbent: Unpacking the Rural Urban Voter Divide in African Elections” (with Daniel Young),
- 2020 *Urban-Rural Differences in Voter Preferences among African Voters*, University of Cape Town Centre for Social Science Research Working Paper Series
- 2018 *Overwhelming Support for Democracy among the Zimbabwean Electorate*. Zimbabwe Center of Mass Public Opinion Working Paper Series

Book Reviews

- 2024 *Shouting in a Cage: Political Life after Authoritarian Co-optation in North Africa* (Vol. 100, No. 5, pp. 2279–80). Oxford University Press [Book review]
- 2022 “Should I Stay or Should I Go? Migratory Politics in Zimbabwe” (with K. Jain), *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 29, no. 1
- 2021 “Migration and Development in Africa: Trends, Challenges and Policy Implications,” *Journal of Modern African Studies* [Book review]
- 2021 “Understanding Zimbabwe from Liberation to Authoritarianism,” *Journal of the International African Institute* [Book review]
- 2021 “Worldmaking after Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination,” *National Review of Black Politics* [Book review]
- 2019 “The Struggle Over State Power in Zimbabwe: Law and Politics since 1950 by George Hamandishe Karekwaivanane,” *The Journal of Modern African Studies* [Book review]
- 2018 “Understanding Zimbabwe: From Liberation to Authoritarianism by Sara Rich Dorman,” *Africa* 88, no. 3: 620–21 [Book review]

Grants, Awards and Fellowships

- 2025 Faculty Fellow, Social Science Summer Research Program
- 2024–2025 “Faculty and Student Dialogue” Faculty Fellow, Pluralism and PLTS Initiative
- 2025–2026 Maurer Public Speaking in Instruction Grant, Wellesley College,
- 2024–2026 faculty Fellow, Hillary Rodham Clinton Center (HRCC)
- 2025 Paulson Initiative Class Grant, “Unpacking the Evolution of Diversity at Wellesley College”
- 2024–2025 “The World Is Running Out of Chocolate,” Albright Institute
- 2024 “The State of Democracy in Africa,” The Brookings Institution, \$10,000
- 2023 Institutional travel grant, Wellesley College, \$3,000
- 2023 Short-term research grant, American Association of University Women, \$8,000
- 2023 “From the University to the Field: North and South Collaboration with Practical Pedagogy for Production, Commercialization, and Transformation of Cocoa” (with colleagues from Antonio José Camacho University Institution, Cali, Colombia), 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund Grant, USAID, \$25,000
- 2023 Whiting Foundation Grant to study cacao and chocolate production in Ghana
- 2022 Wellesley College Knapp Social Science Center Summer Grant, \$1000 for faculty and over \$8,000 for research assistants
- 2022 “Democracy Evaluation in Authoritarian Regimes” (with Lauren Young, UC Davis), USAID, \$100,000
- 2022 Wellesley College Institutional Development Grant, \$5,000
- 2022 Newhouse Fellow Summer Grant, Wellesley College
- 2022 Maura Public Speaking in Instruction Grant, Wellesley College
- 2020 Wellesley College Knapp Social Science Center Summer Grant, \$1000 for faculty and over \$8,000 for research assistants
- 2019 “Literature Review on Social Media and Democracy in Africa” (with Tanja Bosch, University of Cape Town, and Admire Mare, Namibia University of Science and Technology), Social Science One; funded by Kofi Annan Foundation, Facebook, Carnegie Foundation, and other partners
- 2018 Workshop on Universal Design Teaching and Learning grant, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 2017–2018 Gregory S. Call Summer Research Award, Amherst College, Amherst College, Amherst, MA
- 2017–2018 Lamont Speaker Series Award, Amherst College, Amherst, MA

- 2016 Faculty Research Professional Development Grant, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA
- 2016 Teaching Improvement Grant, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA
- 2015 Dissertation Completion Grant, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
- 2012–2013 Dissertation Research Grant, Center for Economic Risk and Research, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Ga

Invited Lectures, Symposia, and Conference Presentations

- 2025 “The Risky Chocolate Industry” *Recent Developments in the Economics of Risk*, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2025 “SSRP Faculty Research Presentation”, SSRP Summer 2025, Wellesley College
- 2025 “Living under Authoritarianism,” Agora Faculty–Student Panel, Wellesley College
- 2025 “Why Is the World Running Out of Chocolate,” Albright Faculty–Student Research Panel
- 2024 HRCC Faculty Research Panel
- 2024 *Migration Premium for Authoritarian Survival: When Voters Leave, the Regime Survives*, Southern Association of Political Science Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR
- 2024 *Migration and Autocratic Survival: The Exit Premium*, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2024 “When Voters Leave, Democracy Dies.” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 50th symposium, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- 2024 Young African Research Network, Stanford University (via Zoom)
- 2024 “The Politics of Chocolate,” University of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2024 “The Changes in the Cacao Industry,” Cali, Colombia
- 2023 “Africa’s First ‘First’ Ladies,” Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 2023 “The Death and Dearth of Democrats,” University of Cape Town, South Africa
- 2023 “A Conversation on Zimbabwe’s 2023 Election,” Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2022 “How to shape your academic career as an African student in the United States”, Young African Research Network (YARN) (via Zoom)
- 2022 “When and Why do governments in Africa and elsewhere routinely shutdown the Internet on their citizens?”, African Studies Center, Stanford University (via Zoom)
- 2022 “Psychology of Authoritarianism,” Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- 2022 Social and expressive incentives to vote in a hybrid regime: Research designs of two field experiments in Zimbabwe. Newhouse Center, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA (via Zoom)
- 2022 “This is NOT a Coup: Even if it looks like one”, Africa Interest Group of the International Society of Public Law (ICON.S. (via Zoom)
- 2022 USA-AFRICA Leaders’ Summit Academic Review (via Zoom)
- 2022 Lab for Democratic Renewal Workshop, Open Society for Africa, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (via Zoom)
- 2022 “Contemporary Politics Broad Issues in Africa and the Middle East”, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN (via Zoom)
- 2022 *Pre-Analysis Plan Social and Expressive Incentives to Vote in a Hybrid Regime: Research Designs of Two Field Experiments in Zimbabwe* (with Lauren Young), American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada
- 2022 *Voter Exit and Regime Survival: Zimbabwe, the AIDS/HIV Pandemic, and Migration. When Voters Exit, the Regime Stays*, Edinburgh University Book Workshop, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- 2021 “Global cooperation around the use of technology”, Albright institute, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA (via Zoom)
- 2021 Book manuscript chapter workshop, Wellesley College Junior Faculty Working Group (via Zoom)

- 2021 “Encountering Contemporary African Politics”, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (via Zoom)
- 2020 Feminist and Accessible Publishing and Communication Technologies Speaker, McGill University, Montreal, Canada [via Zoom]
- 2020 “Manipulation of crisis for party survival”, Political Parties in Africa Conference, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa (via Zoom)
- 2020 “Data the Good, Bad, Ugly and Beyond Western Borders”, Plenary on Data and Privacy, Big Survey Conference 2020, Place, Netherlands [via Zoom]
- 2021 Zimbabwe at 40 Panelist, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
- 2020 Africa Day Panelist, University of Massachusetts Lowell, MA
- 2019 “Presidential online Dialogue and Citizen engagement- An analysis of how African leaders use social media” International Studies Association (ISA) (CANCELLED PANDEMIC)
- 2019 *Populist and propaganda communication by digital means: presidential Twitter by African leaders*, African Studies Association, Boston, MA
- 2019 “What you see is not a coup: Fake News a real threat to African Politics”, AFRICOM, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany
- 2019 *Fake News and gendered attacks on African women: We Like Our Women Pretty, We Don't Like to hear them Speak*, The National Conference of **Black Political Scientists** (NCOBPS), Boston Rougue, LA, CA
- 2019 “Violence as a survival strategy in post independence Zimbabwe”, Southern Methodist University, TX
- 2019 “Social Media and Protets”, African Studies Center, University of Boston, Boston, MA
- 2019 Facebook Inquiry on the Impact of Social Media on Women of Color, Facebook HQ, NY
- 2018 Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges Faculty Workshop Program
- 2018 “Zimbabwe after Mugabe,” U.S. Subcommittee on Africa, Washington DC
- 2019 “African Politics in the Digital Age”, Political Science Linfield College, McMinnville, OR
- 2018 *We Like Our Women Pretty, We Don't Like to hear them Speak, Women in Zimbabwean Politics*, African Caribbean Conference, Barbados (Virtual)
- 2018 “How Social Media is shaping African Domestic Politics”, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany
- 2018 “Understanding Zimbabwe’s Coup in the Context of Fake news”, British Zimbabwe Society Research Day, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
- 2018 “Remittances and Authoritarianism”, African Studies Center, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
- 2018 “Coups and the internet”, Political Science and African Studies Joint Invitation, U.C. Davis, CA
- 2018 “The Zimbabwean Coup that was NOT a Coup”, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN
- 2018 “Zimbabwe’s First Lady, Grace Mugabe and the Army Generals and the NOT coup”, Baraza Lecture Series, African Studies Center, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 2017 *No Money. No Democracy. Money and Politics in African Elections*. Kellogg Institute’s Africa Working Group, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
- 2017 *Tweeting their way to Democracy: a new anti-authoritarian liberation struggle in Africa* University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- 2017 “Change in Zimbabwe: Reflections on the Not-Coup Coup” Canadian Association of African Studies Conference, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario (Virtual)
- 2017 “Africa: Imagining new frontiers for collaboration”. Panel. Harvard African Development Conference. Cambridge, MA

- 2017 “What is happening in Zimbabwe?” Voice of America Town Hall Panel, Washington DC
- 2017 *No Money. No Democracy. Money and Politics in African Elections.* African Studies Association, Chicago, IL
- 2017 *Miracle Money, Miracle Babies and Doom to Politics: Pentecostalism and Authoritarian rule* North-Eastern Workshops on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT
- 2017 *When do Authoritarian Regimes Ban the Internet?* American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA
- 2016 *The Impact of Migration on Party Survival: Evidence from Zimbabwe's ZANU PF* North-Eastern Workshops on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT
- 2016 *iDemocratize: Democratizing Africa one tweet at a time.* American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 *Evaluating the impact of remittances on democracy: Evidence from Zimbabwe.* Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL
- 2015 *The Impact of Migration on Party Survival: Evidence from Zimbabwe's ZANU PF* African Studies Association, San Diego, CA
- 2014 Seventh Annual NYU-CESS (New York University Center for Experimental and Social Sciences) Conference on Experimental Political Science
- 2014 *Election Violence and the Survival of ZANU PF 2000-2013*, 24TH European Consortium for Political Science Research (ECPR), Leuphana University, Luneburg, Germany
- 2014 *Understanding Risk Attitudes and Political Participation in a high and low risk political context: Evidence from Zimbabwe and Zambia,* North-Eastern Workshops on Southern Africa, Burlington, VT
- 2014 *The paper evaluates the strategies of violence and peace as they are used by incumbents using, the case of Zimbabwe's 2013 election,* Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL
- 2014 *The impact of voter exit on party survival: Evidence from ZANU PF*
A study on the impact of emigration on survive of parties. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL
Evidence of Voter Coordination from a Field Experiment in Zimbabwe. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL
- 2013 *The Impact of Voter Exit on the Survival of Political Parties.* African Studies Association, Baltimore, MD
- 2013 2013 Mini-Conference for Women of Color in Political Science. APSA.
- 2011 *How do Africans Choose?* Poster Session. American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA
- 2010 “What explains the rural and urban divide in support for ZANU PF”, Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL

Teaching

- 2021– The Politics of Chocolate and Other Foods
- 2022 Calderwood Seminar: Pandemics and Black Bodies
- 2022– Unpacking Blackness: The Politics of Race in the Black Diaspora
- 2019–2020 Introduction to African Politics: The Impact of Globalization on Africa and the Caribbean
- 2018 Comparative Politics of Race and Identity in Africa
- 2018 Globalization in Africa
- 2016–2017 Democracy, Elections, and Voting Behavior in the Developing World
- 2015–2017 Introduction to African Politics

Knowledge Exchange and Impact

2025	Community Engagement and Advocacy Team, Transparency in Africa, Middle East and Türkiye Program, Meta
2024–	State of Democracy in Africa Expert Working Group, The Brookings Institution
202–2024	Democracy Expert Working Group, National Democracy Institute
2018	Chair, Africa Committee, Facebook Election Research Commission
2015	Consultant, World Bank
2008-09	Researcher, Oxfam

Public Engagement and Service

Selected Op-Eds and Media Appearances

2025	“Zimbabwe 45 Years after Independence,” <i>Australian Outlook</i> [Op-Ed]
2024–2025	Political expert, Studio 7, <i>Voice of America</i>
2023	Multiple appearances on <i>Voice of America</i>
2022	Guest, “Mugabe the Scholar,” <i>Real Dictators</i> [Podcast]
2021	Book Review: “Migration and Development in Africa: Trends, Challenges and Policy Implications,” <i>Journal of the International African Institute</i> .
2021	Book Review: “Understanding Zimbabwe from Liberation to Authoritarianism,” <i>Journal of Modern African Studies</i> .
2020	Coronavirus Versus Democracy: 5 Countries Where Emergency Powers Risk Abuse, <i>The Conversation</i> [Op-Ed]
2019	“The Complicated Legacy of Robert Mugabe,” <i>CGTN</i> [Interview]
2018	“What’s Next for Zimbabwe’s Opposition,” <i>Al Jazeera</i> [Op-Ed]
2018	“Robert Mugabe’s First Appearance since the November 2017 Coup,” <i>Al Jazeera</i> [Interview]
2018	“Thinking of President Trump’s Comments on Africa,” <i>CNN International</i> [Interview]
2017	“Is Emmerson Mnangagwa the Right Man to Lead Zimbabwe Right Now,” <i>CNN International</i> [Interview]
2017	“To Understand the Coup in Zimbabwe, You Need to Know More about Grace Mugabe,” <i>Monkey Cage, Washington Post</i>
2017	“Robert Mugabe’s Lucky Break: He Had Grace to Act as a Lightning Rod.” <i>The Guardian</i> [Interview]
2017	“Mugabe to Mnangagwa: A real change?” <i>Euronews</i> [Interview]
2017	“Mugabe is What Happens When an Authoritarian Regime Abides by Its Constitution,” <i>Monkey Cage, Washington Post</i>
2017	“What’s Next for Zimbabwe?” <i>Slate Magazine</i> [Interview]
2017	“Zimbabwe Created a New Ministry to Monitor Social Media—But Most Zimbabweans Don’t Want Government Monitoring,” <i>Monkey Cage, Washington Post</i>

Professional Service and Activities

2024–	Subject expert, Democracy Trends, Centre for African Smart Public Value Governance
2024–	Editorial Advisory Board, <i>European Journal of Politics and Gender</i>
2025	Subdivision Program Chair for African Politics, American Political Science Association
2025	Committee member, Women’s Caucus, African Studies Association
2023–	Advisory Board, Democracy Works
2018–	Chair, Africa subcommittee, Social Science One, Facebook Academia Initiative

2018– Treasurer, African Politics Conference Group
2018–2021 Planning Committee member, North-Eastern Workshops on Southern Africa
2018 Awards Committee member, African Politics Conference Group