Friday, April 27, 2018
ILR Conference Center 423

1:30 pm  Welcoming Remarks
Kifle Gebremedhin, IAD Advisory Chair; International Professor, Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University

2:00–4:00 pm  Session I: Democratic Backsliding: Trends and Theoretical Approaches
Moderator: Dominica Koter, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Colgate University

Recent Trends in the Quality of African Democracy
Nicolas van de Walle, Professor of Government, Cornell University

What Makes Democracy Abort in Africa?
Mamoudou Gazibo, Professor, Political Science, University of Montreal

Theories of Democratic Breakdown in Sub-Saharan Africa: Elite Contestation and Transition Legacies
Rachel Beatty Riedl, Associate Professor, Political Science; Fellow, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

4:00-4:10 pm  Introduction of the Keynote Speaker
Nicolas van de Walle, Government, Cornell University

4:10-4:55 pm  Keynote Address
Africa’s Democratic Recession or Transitional Pains?
Gilbert Khadiagala, Jan Smuts Professor of International Relations and Head of Department of International Relations, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

6:00 pm  Reception
Saturday, April 28, 2018
ILR Conference Center 423

8:00–9:00 am  Breakfast (open to all)

9:00–11:00 am  Session II: Judicial Institutions and Democratic Sustainability

Moderator: Kifle Gebremedhin, International Professor, Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University

Building Judicial Legitimacy or Inviting Institutional Backlash? Kenya’s Supreme Court and the Invalidation of the 2017 Presidential Election
Eric Kramon, Assistant Professor, Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University

When do Executive Constraints Stick? Assessing the Durability of Constitutional Term Limits and Succession Policies in Africa
Anne Meng, Assistant Professor of Politics, University of Virginia

Elections and Election Observers
Muna Ndulo, Director, Institute for African Development; Professor, Cornell Law School

Endurance of Authoritarian Constitutionalism in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from Kenya and Benin
Duncan Okubasu, PhD Candidate, Institute of Jurisprudence, Constitutional & Administrative Law, Utrecht University

11:00–11:15 am  Coffee/Tea Break

11:15–12:30 pm  Session III: Comparative Perspectives on Democratic Backsliding in Africa

Moderator: Locksley Edmondson, Professor Emeritus, Africana Studies and Research Center, Cornell University

Horizontal Accountability, Democratic Backsliding, and the Challenges to Democratic Consolidation in Africa
Landry Signé, David M. Rubenstein Fellow, Global Economy and Development Program, Brookings Institution

Resisting Democratic Backsliding: An Exploration and Comparative Reflection on Malawi, 2011–2012
Peter von Doepp, Professor, Political Science, University of Vermont

African Union and the Protection of Democracy in Africa
Thomas Tieku, Associate Professor, Political Science, Kings University College
Saturday, April 28, 2018
ILR Conference Center 423

12:30–1:30 pm  Lunch (open to all)

1:30–3:00 pm  Session IV: Political Competition and Partisanship
Moderator: Judith Van Allen, Senior Visiting Fellow, Institute for African Development, Cornell University

Nigerian Party Competition during a Time of Transition and Terror
Carl Levان, Associate Professor, School of International Service, American University

Asserting Autonomy: Resisting Regime Crackdown in Opposition
Local Governments in Tanzania
Rachael McLellan, PhD Candidate, Comparative Politics, Princeton University

Re-conceptualizing African Party Systems: Explaining the Variation in Institutionalized Competition
Lise Rakner, Professor, Comparative Politics, University of Bergen
Leonardo R. Arriola, Associate Professor, Political Science and International Affairs, University of California, Berkeley

3:00–3:15 pm  Coffee/Tea Break

3:15–4:15 pm  Session V: African Citizens and the Politics of Backsliding
Moderator: Marcel Kitissou, Adjunct Professor, Africana Studies, University of Albany; IAD Senior Visiting Fellow

Two Wrongs Make it Right? Perceptions of Electoral Legitimacy and Judicial Interference in African Elections
Michael Wahman, Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Missouri

Citizens Evaluations of Political Actors over the Course of a Crisis: Longitudinal Data from Mali
Jaimie Bleck, Ford Family Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Notre Dame (with Lauren Honig, Sidiki Guindo, and Andrea Pena-Vasquez)

5:00 pm  Closing Remarks
Muna Ndulo, Director, Institute for African Development and Professor, Cornell Law School