

## ABSTRACT

Laura Kurtzberg

Mentor: Paula L.W. Sabloff

Developing countries are increasingly inviting election monitoring organizations to observe their elections- sometimes multiple organizations at once during each election. Using survey results from Afrobarometer and the World Values Survey, we aim to investigate whether election monitoring has an effect on the perceived fairness of an election by the public, and how this may affect people's perceptions of democratic governance in general. In a group of five countries in sub-Saharan Africa, responses to the surveys will be compared before and after monitoring. Regression analysis will be used to assure that correlation and perhaps even causality is not due to some exogenous factor. Ultimately, we aim to construct an evolutionary model to describe the effectiveness of election monitoring in establishing trust by the people in their democracies.