

Jan H. Pierskalla

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Ohio State University
2062 Derby Hall
154 N Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

Voice: +1-614-292-9026
E-mail: pierskalla.4@osu.edu

CITIZENSHIP

Germany, USA

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Political Science, The Ohio State University, 2023 — present
Associate Professor of Political Science, The Ohio State University, 2018 — 2023
Assistant Professor of Political Science, The Ohio State University, 2014 — 2018
Post-Doctoral Researcher, GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, 2012 — 2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, 2012

- Duke University

Master of Arts in Economics, 2011

- Duke University

PARISS Certificate in Advanced Quantitative Methods, SSRI, 2012

- Duke University

Diplom/MA in Politikwissenschaft, 2002–2007

- Free University of Berlin
- Exchange Student at Duke University 2005/06

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy of Development, Bureaucratic Politics, State-Building, Political Order and Political Violence

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- [1] 2022. J. Pierskalla. “*Democratization and the State. Competence, Control, and Performance in the Indonesian Civil Service*”, Cambridge Elements Political Economy Series, Cambridge University Press.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- [32] 2025 A. De Juan, F. Haass, and J. Pierskalla “Cadre networks and bureaucratic careers in autocracies” (*Accepted at the Journal of Politics*)

- [31] 2023. L. Paler, J. Springman, G. Grossman, and J. Pierskalla. “Oil Discoveries and Political Windfalls: Evidence on Presidential Support in Uganda.” *Political Science Research & Methods*.
- [30] 2023. V. Chlouba, J. Pierskalla, and E. Wibbels. “Historical Exposure to Statehood, Ethnic Exclusion, and Government Legitimacy.” *Journal of Historical Political Economy*, Vol.3 (1): pp.125–160.
- [29] 2021. A. De Juan, F. Haass, and J. Pierskalla. “The partial effectiveness of indoctrination in autocracies: Evidence from a natural experiment in the German Democratic Republic.” *World Politics*, 73 (4): pp.593–628.
- [28] 2021. J. Pierskalla, A. Lauretig, D. Rosenberg, and A. Sacks. “Democratization and Representative Bureaucracy—An Analysis of Promotion Patterns in Indonesia’s Civil Service, 1980-2015.”, *American Journal of Political Science*, 65 (2): 261-277.
 - Winner of the 2018 APSA-SEAPRG Best Paper Award (prior working paper version)
- [27] 2020. J. Pierskalla and A. Sacks. “Personnel Politics: Elections, Clientelistic Competition, and Teacher Hiring in Indonesia.”, *British Journal of Political Science*, 50 (4): pp. 1283–1305.
- [26] 2020. A. De Juan, J. Pierskalla, and E. Schwarz. “Natural Disasters, Aid Distribution, and Social Unrest—Micro-Level Evidence from the 2015 Earthquake in Nepal.”, *World Development*, 126 (February).
- [25] 2019. J. Pierskalla. “The Proliferation of Decentralized Governing Units”, in: *Decentralized Governance and Accountability: Academic Research and the Future of Donor Programming*, Edited by Jonathan Rodden and Erik Wibbels, forthcoming Cambridge University Press.
- [24] 2019. J. Pierskalla, A. De Juan, and M. Montgomery. “The Territorial Expansion of the Colonial State: Evidence from German East Africa 1890–1909.” *British Journal of Political Science*, 49 (2): 711–737.
- [23] 2018. J. Pierskalla and A. Sacks. “Unpaved Road Ahead: The Consequences of Election Cycles for Capital Expenditures.” *Journal of Politics*, 80 (2): 510-524.
- [22] 2017. F. Hollenbach and J. Pierskalla. “A Re-Assessment of Reporting Bias in Event-Based Violence Data with Respect to Cell Phone Coverage.” *Research & Politics*, 4 (3).
- [21] 2017. J. Pierskalla, A. Schultz, and E. Wibbels. “Order, Distance, and Local Development Over the Long-Run.” *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 12 (4): 375–404.
- [20] 2017. S. Dettman, T. Pepinsky, and J. Pierskalla. “Incumbency Advantage and Candidate Characteristics in Open-List Proportional Representation Systems: Evidence from Indonesia.” *Electoral Studies*, 48 (August): 111–120.
- [19] 2017. G. Grossman, J. Pierskalla, and E. Boswell Dean. “Government Fragmentation and Public Goods Provision.” *Journal of Politics*, 79 (3): 823–840.
- [18] 2017. T. Pepinsky, J. Pierskalla, and A. Sacks. “Bureaucracy and Service Delivery.” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 20: 249–268.

- [17] 2017. A. De Juan and J. Pierskalla. “The Comparative Politics of Colonialism and Colonial Legacies: Research Frontiers.” Introduction to the Special Issue. *Politics & Society*, 45 (2): 159–172.
- [16] 2017. A. De Juan, F. Krautwald, and J. Pierskalla. “Constructing the State: Macro Strategies, Micro Incentives, and the Creation of Police Forces in Colonial Namibia.” *Politics & Society*, 45 (2): 269–299.
- [15] 2017. J. Pierskalla and A. Sacks. “Unpacking the Effect of Decentralization on Routine Violence: Lessons from Indonesia.” *World Development*, 90 (February): 213–228.
- [14] 2017. M. Basedau, J. Fox, J. Pierskalla, G. Strüver, and J. Vüllers. “Does discrimination breed grievances – and do grievances breed violence? New evidence from an analysis of religious minorities in developing countries.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 34 (3): 217–239.
- [13] 2016. C. Koos and J. Pierskalla. “The Effects of Oil Production and Ethnic Representation on Violent Conflict in Nigeria: A Mixed-Method Approach.” *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 28 (5): 888–911.
- [12] 2016. J. Pierskalla. “The Politics of Urban Bias: Rural Threats and the Dual Dilemma of Political Survival.” *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 51 (3): 286–307
- [11] 2016. J. Pierskalla. “Splitting the Difference? The Politics of District Creation in Indonesia.” *Comparative Politics*, 48 (2): 249–268.
- [10] 2016. A. De Juan and J. Pierskalla. “Civil War Violence and Political Trust: Micro-level Evidence from Nepal.” *Conflict Management & Peace Science*. 33 (1): 67–88.
- [9] 2015. A. De Juan, J. Pierskalla, and J. Vüllers. “The Pacifying Effects of Local Religious Institutions: An Analysis of Communal Violence in Indonesia.” *Political Research Quarterly*. 68 (2): 211–224.
- [8] 2015. A. Mähler and J. Pierskalla. “Indigenous Identity, Natural Resources and Contentious Politics in Bolivia: A Disaggregated Conflict Analysis 2000-2011.” *Comparative Political Studies*, 48 (3): 301–322.
- [7] 2015. A. De Juan and J. Pierskalla. “Manpower to Coerce and Co-opt – State Capacity and Political Violence in Southern Sudan 2006-2010.” *Conflict Management & Peace Science*, 32 (2): 175–199.
- [6] 2014. B. Barber, J. Pierskalla, and S. Weschle. “Lobbying and the Collective Action Problem: Comparative Evidence from Enterprise Surveys.” *Business & Politics*, 16 (2): 221–246.
- [5] 2014. Z. Hasnain, N. Manning, and J. Pierskalla. “The Promise of Performance Pay? Reasons for Caution in Policy Prescriptions in the Core Civil Service.” *World Bank Research Observer* 29 (2): 235–264. A prior version has appeared as *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper* No. 6043. 2012
- [4] 2014. M. Basedau and J. Pierskalla. “How Ethnicity Conditions the Effect of Oil and Gas on Civil Conflict: A Spatial Analysis of Africa from 1990 to 2010.” *Political Geography* 38 (1): 1–11.
- [3] 2014. S. Zeigler, J. Pierskalla, and S. Mazumder. “War and the Re-election Motive: Examining the Effect of Term Limits.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58 (4): 658–684.

- [2] 2013. J. Pierskalla and F. Hollenbach. “Technology and Collective Action: The Effect of Cell Phone Coverage on Political Violence in Africa.” *American Political Science Review* 107 (2): 207–224.
- [1] 2010. J. Pierskalla. “Protest, Deterrence and Escalation: The Strategic Calculus of Government Repression.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54 (1): 117–145.

POLICY-RELATED
AND OTHER

- [5] 2024. J. Pierskalla. Book Note for “Who Watches the Watchers. Communist Elites, the Secret Police and Social Order in Cold War Europe”, Journal of Peace Research.
- [4] 2020. J. Pierskalla. “A Diagnostic Study of the Civil Service in Indonesia”. Asian Development Bank Report.
- [3] 2018. A. Sacks and J. Pierskalla. “Mapping Indonesia’s Civil Service.” World Bank Policy Report.
- [2] 2015. G. Grossman, L. Marshall, L. Paler, and J. Pierskalla. “Oil and Governance in Uganda.” Research report for donor.
- [1] 2009. E. Wibbels and J. Pierskalla. “Natural Resources and Human Development in the American States.” Research report prepared for the American Human Development Project.

WORKING PAPERS

- [6] 2025. A. De Juan, F. Haass, and J. Pierskalla “Gender Penalties in Autocratic Bureaucracies – Motherhood, Loyalty Signals, and Career Paths in the German Democratic Republic”
- [5] 2025 V. Chlouba, G. Uzonji, and J. Pierskalla “Displaced but Not Forgotten: The Aterritorial Legacy of the Namibian Genocide”
- [4] 2025. D. Smith and J. Pierskalla “Military Elites and Political Stability, 1000–1800 CE”
- [3] 2025 J. Pierskalla, D. Smith, and J. Vogler “Exploring the Origins of Coercive Colonial Institutions: How Economic Interests and Technological Conditions Shape Imperial Military Strategy”
- [2] 2025. F. Hollenbach, J. Magat, and J. Pierskalla. “Higher Education and the Making of Democratic Elites.”
- [1] 2023. F. Hollenbach and J. Pierskalla. “The Origin of Universities in Europe, 800-1800.”

WORK IN
PROGRESS

- [2] 2025 A. De Juan, F. Haass, and J. Pierskalla “*Cadres and Careers. Indoctrination and Bureaucratic Loyalty in the German Democratic Republic*”, Book manuscript
- [1] 2025. M. Alam, D. Smith, S. Wagner, and J. Pierskalla “Technological Change and Colonial Expansion”

GRANTS

- Mershon Center Faculty Grant, “Transitional Justice at Scale. A Micro-Level Analysis of Denazification Outcomes in Post-war Germany” (\$37,596), 2025–2026
- Gerda Henkel Stiftung, “The Territorial Dynamics of Colonial State-Building” With Alexander De Juan (€91,026), 2014–2016
- Private Foundation, Public Opinion and Oil Governance in Uganda, with Guy Grossman and Laura Paler (\$30,000), 2014
- DIPE Research Funding (\$2,500), 2011
- DIPE Research Funding (\$4,000), 2010

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Joan N. Huber Faculty Fellowship, 2024
- APSA Southeast Asia Politics Group Best Paper Award, 2018
- Extraordinary Reviewer Award, *Comparative Political Studies*, 2017
- Mancur Olson Best Dissertation Award, 2014
- SEAREG Young Southeast Asia Fellow, 2013
- PARISS Fellowship, SSRI, 2011-12
- Robert R. Wilson Award, 2010
- Walter Molano Graduate Fellow in Comparative Politics, 2010-11
- James B. Duke International Research Travel Fellowship, 2010-11
- Duke University Summer Research Fellowship, 2010, 2011
- Duke University Conference Travel Grants, 2008, 2009, 2010
- Earhart Graduate Studies Fellowship, 2008–2009
- Duke University Graduate Studies Fellowship, 2007–2012
- DAAD Fellowship for an Internship with an International Organization, 2006
- Fulbright Travel Grant, 2005–2006
- Exchange Student Fellowship for Studies at Duke University, Free University of Berlin, Germany, 2005–2006
- Ernst-Reuter Fellowship for Outstanding Academic Success, Free University Berlin, Germany, 2005

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- POLITSC 4781 (UG): Introduction to Quantitative Methods, OSU, Fall 2024, Fall 2025
- POLITSC 4782 (UG): Research Methods in Political Science, OSU, Fall 2014
- POLITSC 7260 (G): Authoritarian Politics, OSU, Spring 2022, Spring 2024
- POLITSC 7551 (G): Quantitative Political Analysis III, OSU, Fall 2023
- POLITSC 7551 (G): Quantitative Political Analysis I, OSU, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2022
- POLITSC 7208 (G): State-Building, OSU, Spring 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2023
- POLITSC 8782 (G): Research in Comparative Politics, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
- POLITSC 7880 (G): The Field of Political Economy, OSU, Spring 2015, Fall 2016
- INTSTD 3850 (UG): Introduction to Globalization, OSU, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020
- POLITSC 3220 (UG): Politics of the Developing World, OSU, Fall 2014, Spring 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025
- POLITSC 4236 (UG): Southeast Asian Politics, OSU, Spring 2014, Fall 2015
- POLITSC 4597.02 (UG): Political Violence, OSU, Spring 2014
- Math Camp for Incoming Graduate Students, Duke University, Summer 2011
- SSRI Statistical Consultant for Honors Students, Duke University, 2011-12

INVITED TALKS
AND WORKSHOPS

- 2025: MIT, Harvard KSG (scheduled)
- 2022: Princeton University
- 2021: Cornell University, GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, University of Konstanz
- 2020: University of Michigan
- 2019: Duke University, Stanford University, UCSD GPS, IE Business School, NYU, MIT GOVLab
- 2018: NYU Abu Dhabi, UIUC, SUNY Binghamton, The World Bank (Jakarta), BKN (Badan Kepegawaian Negeri, Jakarta), WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Vanderbilt University, UT–Austin, ATI Workshop (Syracuse University), Quality of Governance Workshop (Stanford University), World Bank’s Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (Washington, D.C.)
- 2017: BKN (Badan Kepegawaian Negeri, Jakarta), Cornell University (SEAP Getty Lecture), University of Michigan, Yale University, College of William & Mary, The World Bank (Washington D.C.), ESTA Workshop (University of Konstanz), Public Management and Public Finance in Developing Countries (Johns Hopkins SAIS)
- 2016: BKN (Badan Kepegawaian Negeri, Jakarta), University of Konstanz, The World Bank (Washington D.C.), Yale University, OCV Workshop (New Haven), Nuffield College Book Workshop (Oxford University)
- 2015: The World Bank (Washington D.C.), MIT, University of Konstanz, The World Bank (Jakarta), Peace Science Workshop: Bridging Comparative and IR Perspectives on Intrastate Conflict and Violence (Ole Miss), Peking University, CiEFR Workshop (Beijing)
- 2014: University of Wisconsin-Madison, The World Bank (Jakarta), SMERU (Jakarta), University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)
- 2013: BICC (Bonn), SEAREG Meeting (Duke University),
- 2009: Juan March Institute Workshop (Madrid)

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS
AND ATTENDANCE

- APSA: 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024
- MPSA: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2025
- EPSA: 2012, 2013, 2019, 2023
- SEAREG: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019
- ISA: 2013, 2019
- SPSA: 2012, 2018, 2020
- PolMeth: 2010, 2011
- Gulf Research Council Meeting, Cambridge, 2013
- SISP: 2012
- Conference on Decentralization and Democratization in Southeast Asia, University of Freiburg, 2011
- Finding Thetas in Europe Conference, Mannheim University, 2010

Professional

- Virtual Historical Political Economy Workshop (<http://historicalpe.org/>) Co-Organizer (2020–2023).
- APSA Political Economy Section Treasurer 2020–23
- APSA Political Economy Section Mancur Olson Dissertation Prize Committee, 2020/21
- APSA Southeast Asia Politics Group Best Paper Award Committee, 2019
- APSA Democracy & Autocracy Section Best Article Award Committee, 2019
- Member, Executive Council, Political Economy Section, APSA, 2018–2020
- 2017 Best Article Committee, APSA Comparative Democratization Section
- SEAREG Advisory Board Member
- Journal Manuscript Referee: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Civil Wars*, *Contemporary Economics*, *Contemporary Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Conflict Management & Peace Science*, *Economic Development & Cultural Change*, *Economics & Politics*, *Electoral Studies*, *Ethnic & Racial Studies*, *European Political Science Review*, *Governance*, *Government & Opposition*, *Human Rights Review*, *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, *International Political Science Review*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of African and Asian Studies*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Local Government Studies*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Geography*, *Political Science Research & Methods*, *Politics & Gender*, *PRX*, *Publius*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Social Problems*, *South European Society & Politics*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *World Politics*
- Book Manuscript Referee: *Cambridge University Press*
- Research Proposal Referee: *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, *National Geographic Society*, *National Science Foundation — Political Science*, *National Science Foundation — Economics*, *Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation*

Department and Graduate School

- University Senate, Faculty Member, OSU, 2023-26
- Committee for Academic Technology, Member, OSU, 2023-25
- SBS P&T Committee, OSU, 2023-26
- Annual Review Committee, OSU, 2024-25
- Good-to-Great Oversight Committee, OSU, 2024-25
- Comparative Politics Field Coordinator, OSU, 2023
- Methods Field Coordinator, OSU, 2019-2024
- Graduate Admissions, OSU, 2018-2021, 2022, 2023
- Departmental Speaker Series, Co-Chair / Chair, OSU, 2018–2021
- Financial Aid Committee, OSU, 2016–2019, 2020-21, 2022-23, 2024-25
- College of Arts & Sciences IT Advisory Committee Member, OSU, 2016–2019
- Search Committee for Quantitative Methods, OSU, 2022, 2024
- Search Committee for the Timashev Chair in Data Analytics, OSU, 2024
- Search Committee for Hospitality Management Position, OSU, 2015
- Search Committee for Data Analytics Politics Position, OSU, 2015
- Search Committee for Comparative Politics Position, OSU, 2014
- OSU Indonesian Student Association Faculty Advisor, OSU, 2014–2020
- Organizer of the Comparative Politics Workshop, OSU, 2017–2020
- Co-Organizer of the Comparative Politics Workshop, OSU, 2014–2016

- Graduate Studies Committee, OSU, 2014–17
- Sciences-Po Study Abroad Selection Committee, OSU, 2014–20
- Graduate Student Member, Graduate Curriculum Reform Committee, Duke University, 2010
- Co-organizer Graduate Student Colloquium, Duke University, 2009–2010
- Junior Representative to the Graduate and Professional Student Council, Duke University, 2007–2008
- Member of the GPSC Judicial Committee, Duke University, 2007–2008

Graduate Students

- Dan Silverman (OSU) – Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University
- Gaby Lloyd (OSU) – Assistant Professor (University of Maryland)
- Wei-Ting Yen (OSU) – Assistant Professor (Franklin & Marshall College)
- Aisha Bradshaw (OSU) – Editor at *Nature and Human Behavior*
- Jose Antonio Fortou (OSU) – Assistant Professor (Universidad EAFIT)
- Miguel Garza Casado (OSU) – Senior Data Scientist (Penn Criminology & District Attorney’s Office of Philadelphia)
- Jianzi He (OSU) – Assistant Professor (Duke Kunshan)
- Alec Clott (OSU) – Director of Data Analysis at The Gender Equity Policy Institute
- Chase Harpole (OSU) – Abt Associates
- Kevin Simmt (OSU) – Lecturer, Cal Poly
- Ricardo Graiff Garcia (OSU) – Data Scientist at Nationwide
- Mike Denly (UT–Austin)–Post-Doc at IAST Toulouse, Assistant Professor Texas A&M
- Vlad Chlouba (OSU)–Assistant Professor, University of Richmond
- Mariana Miguelez (OSU)–Associate Researcher Hamilton College
- David Peterson (OSU)–Assistant Instructional Professor, University of Chicago
- Victoria Gurevich (OSU)–Department of Homeland Security
- Karis Neufeld (OSU) – Policy Manager, JPAL Africa
- Barbara Roth (OSU) *ongoing*
- Daniel Smith (OSU), *ongoing*
- Mohamed Shedeed (OSU), *ongoing*
- Sinan Anbarcioglu (OSU), *ongoing*
- Eva Mushoffa (OSU), *ongoing*
- Euchan Jang (OSU), *ongoing*
- Liuya Zhang (OSU), *ongoing*
- Seobin Han (OSU), *ongoing*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Asian Development Bank

- Consultant, 2019–2020

The World Bank

- Jakarta, Indonesia
- Short-term consultant, 2014–2018

The World Bank

- Washington, DC
- Short-term consultant , 2011, 2020

Delegation of the European Commission

- Washington, DC

- Intern, Fall and Winter 2006

UBS Investment Bank

- London, UK
- Summer Analyst M&A, July–August 2006

REFERENCES

Erik Wibbels

- Presidential Penn Compact Professor of Political Science
- University of Pennsylvania
- email: ewibbels@sas.upenn.edu

Edmund Malesky

- Professor
- Duke University
- email: ejm5@duke.edu

Tom Pepinsky

- Walter F. LaFeber Professor
- Cornell University
- email: pepinsky@cornell.edu