

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**LEE MORGENBESSER**

School of Government and International Relations  
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**RESEARCH EXPERTISE**

Authoritarian Politics, Democratization, Dictators, Election Observation, Southeast Asian Politics

**EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

2014            Doctor of Philosophy, Griffith University  
2008            Bachelor of Politics and Government with Class I Honours, Griffith University  
2007            Bachelor of International Relations, Griffith University

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2023-           Associate Professor, School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University  
2019-2022      Senior Lecturer, School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University  
2014-2018      Research Fellow, Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University

**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS**

2020            School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University (prevented by COVID-19)  
2012            Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore

**VISITING SCHOLAR**

2019            Department of Government, The University of Texas at Austin, United States  
                  Centre for Southeast Asia Research, University of British Columbia, Canada  
2018            Department of Political Science, University of Oslo, Norway  
                  V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

2016 German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Germany  
WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Books

[!\[\]\(99f58673407353e96a019fbca558fd72\_img.jpg\) \*The Rise of Sophisticated Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia\* \(New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020\).](#)

[!\[\]\(0f848bbd71cef6b345273b16f905912a\_img.jpg\) \*Behind the Façade: Elections under Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia\* \(Albany: SUNY Press, 2016\).](#)

### Journal Articles

[!\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b\_img.jpg\) “Cambodia in 2021: With Fear and Favor,” \*Asian Survey\*, Vol. 62, No. 1 \(2022\): 118-125.](#)

[!\[\]\(de95854c7ee024cfadc48187bbb781b2\_img.jpg\) “Election Turnout in Authoritarian Regimes,” \*Electoral Studies\*, Vol. 68 \(2020\): 1-11 \(with Ferran Martinez i Coma\).](#)

[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010\_img.jpg\) “The Menu of Autocratic Innovation,” \*Democratization\*, Vol. 27, No. 6 \(2020\): 1053-1072.](#)

[!\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42\_img.jpg\) “The APSA Journal Rankings: Popularity, Purpose and Performance,” \*Australian Journal of Political Science\*, Vol. 54, No. 3 \(2019\): 318-333 \(with Duncan McDonnell\).](#)

[!\[\]\(c50c8b7b2cc2cf9ff925edec0ee94c0d\_img.jpg\) “Cambodia’s Transition to Hegemonic Authoritarianism,” \*Journal of Democracy\*, Vol. 30, No. 1 \(2019\): 158-171.](#)

[!\[\]\(6a9b39b98eb945faa14c645ec99e4eaa\_img.jpg\) “Elections as Causes of Democratization: Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective,” \*Comparative Political Studies\*, Vol. 52, No. 1 \(2019\): 3-35 \(with Thomas Pepinsky\).](#)

[!\[\]\(9c2e8d1b5bd77cb5c9f83b7a9cff79fd\_img.jpg\) “Survive and Thrive: Field Research in Authoritarian Southeast Asia,” \*Asian Studies Review\*, Vol. 42, No. 3 \(2018\): 385-403 \(with Meredith Weiss\).](#)


[!\[\]\(e3275251d0893157c3584e20c81dc3ba\_img.jpg\) “Misclassification on the Mekong: The Origins of Hun Sen’s Personalist Dictatorship,” \*Democratization\*, Vol. 25, No. 2 \(2018\): 192-208.](#)


[!\[\]\(f60b7a900783ac3fd531bfd9c111be6d\_img.jpg\) “Out of the Shadows: Authoritarian Regimes, Flawed Elections and International Legitimation,” \*Contemporary Politics\*, Vol. 23, No. 3 \(2017\): 328-347 \(with Maria Debre\).](#)


[!\[\]\(f1c5da15572e3e09d343161be98f508d\_img.jpg\) “The Autocratic Mandate: Elections, Legitimacy and Regime Stability in Singapore,” \*The Pacific Review\*, Vol. 30, No. 2 \(2017\): 205-231.](#)

[!\[\]\(235bfe13ebf007ce2eea9e689707fac7\_img.jpg\) “The Failure of Democratisation by Elections in Cambodia,” \*Contemporary Politics\*, Vol. 23, No. 2 \(2017\): 135-155.](#)


 “In Search of Stability: Electoral Legitimation under Authoritarianism in Myanmar,” *European Journal of East Asian Studies*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (2015): 163-188.

 “Elections in Hybrid Regimes: Conceptual Stretching Revived,” *Political Studies*, Vol. 62, No. 1 (2014): 21-36.

 “Bridging the Information Gap: A Survey of Politics and International Relations PhD Students in Australia,” *Australian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 48, No. 4 (2013): 507-518 (with Glenn Kefford).

 “The 2012 TRIP Survey of International Relations in Australia: One Problem to Rule Us All,” *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 62, No. 2 (2013): 222-237.

### Book Chapters

 “Out of the Shadows: Authoritarian Regimes, Flawed Elections and International Legitimation.” In A. Dukalskis and J. Gerschewski (eds), *Justifying Dictatorship: Studies in Autocratic Legitimation*. New York: Routledge, 2018, 78-97 (with Maria Debre).

### In Progress

*Repression in Southeast Asia: Theory, Practice, and Implications*

“Autocratic Assassins” (with Sheena Greitens and Tore Wig)

“The Singapore Model of Authoritarianism” (with Milan Svobik)

“On the Move: Autocratic Leaders, Security and Capital Relocations” (with Carl Henrik Knutsen and Tore Wig)

“Benevolent Dictatorship” (with Carl Henrik Knutsen)

“Parliaments under Fire: Conceptualizing and Operationalizing Legislative Closure” (with Lindsay Benstead, Margaret Hanson, Allison Hartnett, Ben Noble, Paul Schuler, Matthew Wilson, Josef Woldense)

### **INVITED TALKS**

2023	XVI Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies, Ottawa, Canada Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Working Group on Election Observation Methodology, European Parliament, Belgium Special Committee on Foreign Interference, European Parliament, Belgium Waseda Institute of Political Economy, Waseda University, Japan Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan, United States
2022	Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation Convening Committee, Belgium 14th ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Dialogue, Malaysia
2021	The Carter Center, United States


	Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group, European Parliament, Belgium
	Council on Foreign Relations, United States
	United States Department of State, United States
	United States Agency for International Development, United States
	Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University, Australia
2020	Investigating and Exploring Society, University of Canberra, Australia
2019	United States Agency for International Development, United States
	The BiiG Network: Innovation Month, Australia
2018	Department of Political Science, University of Oslo, Norway
	V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
	Germany Institute of Global and Area Studies, Germany
	American Enterprise Institute, United States
	United States Department of State, United States
	Heritage Foundation, United States
	United States Agency for International Development, United States
	Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney, Australia
	Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University, Australia
	ASEAN-Australia Dialogue, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australia
	Australian National University/TIFA Foundation, Australia
	Southeast Asia Research Centre, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
2017	United States Department of State, United States
	National Endowment for Democracy, United States
2016	WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Germany
	Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney, Australia

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association	2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023
Asian Studies Association of Australia	2018
Australian Political Studies Association	2011, 2012, 2013, 2017
European Consortium for Political Research	2015, 2016
International Studies Association	2011, 2012, 2023
Southeast Asia Research Group	2018, 2019, 2020

## COMMENTARY

### Written

 "Facing Up to Sophisticated Authoritarianism," *The Ambassador's Brief*, 2 May 2020.

 "Autocrats are Finding Democratic Facades Hard to Keep Up," *Foreign Policy*, 1 May 2020.

 "The Rise of Sophisticated Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia," *Machinery of Government*, 23 October 2019.

[!\[\]\(f4912148590488019602cab6e009e597\_img.jpg\)](#) "Fake Monitors Endorse Cambodia's Sham Election," *Foreign Policy*, 30 July 2018.

[!\[\]\(8af806fb1314382d09bc5ec5b767526c\_img.jpg\)](#) "Casting a Shadow of Doubt on International Election Monitoring Norms," *National Endowment for Democracy*, 29 November 2017.

[!\[\]\(2e897e890e69d81eae4503a8342c36b0\_img.jpg\)](#) "A Midnight Crackdown in Cambodia," *Freedom House*, 14 September 2017.

[!\[\]\(bd1a142de767a21e5362c595f844a4ff\_img.jpg\)](#) "Cambodia's Leader Just Cracked Down on the Opposition, and the Consequences will be Dramatic," *The Monkey Cage*, 24 February 2017.

[!\[\]\(e2376d476d06eb31946dc01a69a4403a\_img.jpg\)](#) "Lifting Myanmar's Sanctions: Right or Wrong?" *Myanmar Times*, 26 September 2016.

[!\[\]\(74d4806277d7e73349d8e8c0897931e9\_img.jpg\)](#) "Elections without Democracy in Southeast Asia," *New Mandala*, 5 August 2016 (with Tom Pepinsky).

[!\[\]\(0aff635c4179ba9e710b00f4b01d3b20\_img.jpg\)](#) "Burma Votes on Sunday. Why do Authoritarian Regimes Even Hold Elections?" *The Monkey Cage*, 7 November 2015.

[!\[\]\(830769b31eeeaca920791081939ff8ba\_img.jpg\)](#) "The Theatre of Autocratic Elections: Why Myanmar is Going to the Polls," *The Conversation*, 5 November 2015.

#### Solicited (Selected)

ABC News, Agency France-Presse, Al Jazeera, Asahi Shimbun, Asia Times, Asian Correspondent, Australian Financial Review, BBC News, Bloomberg, Channel NewsAsia, Deutsche Presse-Agentur, Deutsche Welle, Los Angeles Review of Books, Los Angeles Times, Myanmar Times, Newsweek, Nikkei Asian Review, Rappler, Reuters, Sky News, South China Morning Post, Straits Times, Taipei Times, The 7:30 Report, The Age, The Atlantic, The Australian, The Economist, The Diplomat, The Guardian, The Jakarta Post, The Japan Times, The New York Times, The Seattle Times, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Time Magazine

## **TEACHING**

### Convening

2021-2022      Political Leadership  
2017-            The Way of the Dictator  
2014-2015      Global Security

### Tutoring

2008-2013      American Foreign Policy, American Politics, Comparative European Politics, Human Rights in World Politics, International Relations, International Relations Theory, Media and Politics

## **SERVICE**

### Appointments

2021-	Director, Higher Degrees by Research, Griffith Business School
2020-2021	Convenor, Higher Degrees by Research, School of Government and International Relations
2014-2016	Chair, Centre for Governance and Public Policy Seminar Series

### Committee Membership

2021-	Griffith University – Board of Graduate Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Disability Scholarship Working Group</li><li>– Graduate Research Development Operational Group</li><li>– Portfolio Advisory and Action Group</li><li>– Scholarship Committee</li></ul>
2021-	Griffith Business School – Higher Degrees by Research Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– PVC Executive Committee</li><li>– Research Strategy and Impact Committee</li></ul>
2016-2017	Griffith University Board of Graduate Research
2012-2014	APSA Standing Committee on International Relations
2012	Griffith Business School Learning & Teaching Committee

### Editorial Boards

2017-	Contemporary Politics
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### Initiatives

2019-2020	HDR Professional Development Program, School of Government and International Relations
2017-2020	Cambodia Country Representative, Association of Mainland Southeast Asia Studies
2017-2018	Co-Founder, Authoritarian Warning Survey

### Mentoring

2023	DECRA Pitch Panel, Griffith Business School
2022	Doing Research in Authoritarian Contexts, Australian Political Studies Association DECRA Workshop: Key Requirements for a Successful Application, Griffith Business School
2020	PhD Professional Development Session, Australian Political Studies Association Gender Equality Research Network, Griffith University Early Career Researcher Seminar, Griffith Business School
2019	Bridging the Academic-Policy Divide, Southeast Asia Research Group
2018	Publishing Southeast Asian Research, American Political Science Association Early Career Researcher Day, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Postgraduate Day, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre
2013	Advanced Methods in Political Science, Australian Political Studies Association

## Peer Reviews

2014- American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Asian Studies Review, Australian Journal of International Affairs, Australian Journal of Political Science, Communist and Post-Communist Studies, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Contemporary Politics, Democratization, Electoral Studies, Government and Opposition, International Political Science Review, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Contemporary Asia, Journal of Peace Research, Midsouth Political Science Review, Pacific Affairs, Peacebuilding, Policy Studies, Political Behavior, Political Studies, Political Studies Review, Politics, Politikon, PS: Political Science & Politics, South East Asia Research

Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge

Australian Research Council

## **AWARDS, GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

2022 Griffith Business School Research Excellence Award (Team Category), \$5,000  
Australian Research Council Discovery Award, \$171,743  
Griffith Business School Mid-Career Researcher Small Grant Scheme, \$10,000

2020 Griffith Business School Publication and Grant Completion Scheme, \$4,850

2019 Griffith University Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Award (ECR Category), \$5,000  
Diplomatic Academy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, \$396,901

2018 Griffith Business School Research Excellence Award (ECR Category), \$5,000  
Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award, \$331,248

2017 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting Travel Grant, \$250  
University of Sydney Southeast Asia Centre Travel Grant, \$750

2015 Griffith Business School New Researcher Grant, \$9,462

2013 Asian Politics, Security and Development Conference Grant, \$2,500  
School of Government and International Relations Travel Grant, \$1,000

2012 Prime Minister's Australia Asia Outgoing Postgraduate Award, \$63,000  
Centre for Governance and Public Policy Travel Allowance, \$6,500  
Griffith Business School HDR Conference Travel Grant, \$3,000  
International Studies Association Travel Grant, \$450

2011 Australian Political Studies Association Postgraduate Travel Award, \$400

2010 Griffith University Postgraduate Research Scholarship, \$24,653 p.a.  
Asian Politics, Security and Development Research Scholarship, \$5,000 p.a.

## **PHD SUPERVISION**

2022- Richard Gallaher; Seng Maw  
2021- Bogdan Mamaev

2020- Edy Susilo  
2018- Daniel Szabo  
Conferred Lucy West, Mark Vong

## **CONSULTANCY**

2021-2022 Freedom House (International Advisory Board, Civil Mobilisation under Authoritarianism)  
2021 Dutch Council for Refugees  
2020 Varieties of Democracy  
2019 Facebook  
United States Agency for International Development  
2017- Bertelsmann Transformations Index, Bertelsmann Foundation  
2016 Leadership-Security Ties Project, Pennsylvania State University  
2015 Electoral Integrity Project, Harvard University/University of Sydney

## **ACCREDITATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

2023 Mental Health First Aid  
2021 Geolocation, Digital Forensics Research Lab  
Information Operations 101, Digital Forensics Research Lab  
Introduction to Twitter Analysis, Digital Forensics Research Lab  
Narrative Warfare, Digital Forensics Research Lab  
OSINT Tools that Work via Command Line, Digital Forensics Research Lab  
Social Media and Individual-Focused Research Course, Bellingcat  
Telegram Analysis, Digital Forensics Research Lab  
Verification Course, Bellingcat  
2017 Data Analysis Using Stata, ACSPRI  
2016 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University  
2015 Fundamentals of Statistics, ACSPRI

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

2016- Asian Studies Association of Australia  
2015- American Political Science Association  
2011- Australian Political Studies Association

Last Updated: July 2023