

Marcus Barrow Walton

Curriculum Vita

E-mail: mbwalton@bu.edu

Academic Positions:

Assistant Professor	2020-present
Department of Political Science	
Boston University	

Lecturer, Post-Doctoral Fellow	2018-2020
Department of Organisational and Institutional Studies	
University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa)	

Education:

Ph.D., Political Science, Brown University	2019
B.A., Near Eastern Studies, Washington University in St. Louis	2010

Books:

We Have the Rights: Protest and Democracy in Three African Cities (Cambridge University Press, 2026)

Articles and Manuscripts:

“Theory Reconstruction: An Approach to Conceptual Innovation in Political Science.” 2025. *Perspectives on Politics*. (November): 1–15. (Co-Authored with Rachel Meade).

“Citizenship and Democratic Theory in the Global North and South,” in *De Gruyter Handbook in Democratic Theory* (eds. Cristina Lafont, Nadia Urbinati, and David Ragazzoni). (forthcoming, Co-Authored with Elizabeth Cohen)

“A Unified Approach to Theory Reconstruction” 2023. *Qualitative and Multi-Method Review*. Fall, Vol. 21.2 (Co-Authored with Rachel Meade).

“Grassroots Reform in the Global South.” 2017. *Research and Innovation Grants Working Papers Series*. USAID/IIIE. (Co-Authored with Adhikari, Anindita, Benjamin Bradlow, Patrick Heller, Rehan Rafay Jamil, Kristine Li, Chantel Pheiffer, and Andrew Schrank)

Works in Progress:

“Riots Beyond Regime Type: Unevenness and Urban Protest in Egypt and South Africa.” 2025

Under Review

“Democracy Out of Order: Spontaneity and Political Order in a South African City and Beyond.” *Article*

Under Review

-“On Rights and Realities: Alignment and Social Citizenship in South Africa”

Awards:

Templeton Award for Excellence in Student Advising and Mentoring (2025)

Boston University College of Arts & Sciences

P. Terrence Hopmann Award for Excellence in Teaching (2018)

Brown University Department of Political Science award for outstanding work of teaching assistants

USAID Democracy Fellows and Grants Program (2017)

Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) Research Grant for producing multi-disciplinary literature review on when grassroots reforms scale up

National Science Foundation IGERT Fellowship (2013-2015)

Fellowship provides 2 years of funding for doctoral students studying development using interdisciplinary coursework or methods.

Fulbright Grant (2010-2011)

Fellowship for English Teaching Assistantship program in Cairo, Egypt

Presentations:

“A Unified Approach to Theory Reconstruction.” (co-authored with Rachel Meade)

Emerging Methodologists Workshop. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Virtual. 2023

2023 “Democracy Out of Order: Political Order and Social Movements Across Africa.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. 2023

“Making (Some) Rights Work: The Uneven Boundaries of Social Citizenship in South Africa.” African Studies Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. 2022

“Formal Rights, Informal Foundations: Movements and the Boundaries of Citizenship.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, CA. 2022

“Storming the Sand Castle: A Unified Approach to Theory Reconstruction.” (co-authored with Rachel Meade). Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Virtual 2022

“Protest and the Challenge of Democracy in Africa.” African Studies Association Annual Meeting. Virtual. 2020

Teaching Experience:

Boston University (Assistant Professor)

- CASPO375 Democracy and Protest (Spring 2021, 2022, Fall 2023)
- CASPO338 Urban Politics of the Global South (Fall 2021, 2022, 2024)
- CASPO573 Decolonization and Democracy (Spring 2021, 2022, 2023)
- CASPO903 Graduate Research Workshop (Fall 2022, Spring 2023)
- CASPO530 Race and Capitalism (Fall 2023, 2024)

University of the Witwatersrand (Lecturer)

- Basic Concepts in Organisational and Institutional Studies (2018-2020)

Al-Azhar University (Cairo, Egypt) (Visiting Lecturer)

- English (Fall 2010, Spring 2011)
- Undergraduate

Boston University Involvement:

- Boston University Initiative on Cities. Internal Advisory Board (2022-2025)

Professional Service:

- Reviewer, *Journal of Comparative Politics* (2022-Present)
- Reviewer, *Studies in Comparative International Development* (2021-Present)

Professional Membership:

- American Political Science Association (2012-)
- African Studies Association (2017-)
- Midwest Political Science Association (2014-)