

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	David Ehrhardt
Title of clinic:	Traditional authority in a (post-)modern world
Number of students:	Max. 4
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	Elective or GED
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	No prerequisites.

Research context

One of the most interesting puzzles of postcolonial African politics is to understand the diverse ways in which state authorities govern in collaboration with a range of nonstate leaders, including religious, ethnic, and traditional authorities. This clinic will focus on analysing the roles of traditional authorities, such as chiefs, Emirs, and kings, in contemporary politics. It has two specific aims:

- To expand and update an original dataset on traditional authorities in all countries of the world. This dataset has been built by students in two previous research clinics; it needs to be expanded with additional countries, cases, and variables.
- To assist in the preparation of an article for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. This article will most likely be a combination of a literature review of traditional authority in contemporary governance, and a first analysis of the data from the global dataset.

Students' tasks and activities

Although the specific activities, division of labour, and deliverables will depend on the composition of the team working on this clinic, the following timeline will be the starting point:

Weeks 1-2: Getting up to speed on the project so far; reading previous reports; familiarising yourself with the dataset and the literature.

Weeks 3-12: Updating the dataset. This is the core of the clinic and will involve extensive library and online research, as well as interviews with experts (where feasible).

Weeks 13-16: Article preparation. Depending on the number of students involved in the clinic, the tasks in this phase include data analysis, writing a literature review, and collecting further information where necessary.

Deliverables (to be finalised with the research clinic students):

1. Updated dataset and log book of research and data entry
2. Report summarising the data collection process, its problems and gaps, and the key findings.
3. (Parts of) a draft article for publication.