

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## LEE MORGENBESSER

Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University  
170 Kessels Rd, Nathan  
Queensland, 4111

[l.morgenbesser@griffith.edu.au](mailto:l.morgenbesser@griffith.edu.au)  
[www.leemorgenbesser.com](http://www.leemorgenbesser.com)  
+61 7 3735 6621

*Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Fellow (2018-2020)*

### 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

2019-            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 (postponed 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

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books


 *The Rise of Sophisticated Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2020).


 *Behind the Façade: Elections under Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2016).


### Journal Articles


 "Election Turnout in Authoritarian Regimes," *Electoral Studies*, Vol. 68 (2020): 1-11 (with Ferran Martinez i Coma)

 "The Menu of Autocratic Innovation," *Democratization*, Vol. 27, No. 6 (2020): 1053-1072.


 "The APSA Journal Rankings: Popularity, Purpose and Performance," *Australian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 54, No. 3 (2019): 318-333 (with Duncan McDonnell).


 "Cambodia's Transition to Hegemonic Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (2019): 158-171.


 "Elections as Causes of Democratization: Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 52, No. 1 (2019): 3-35 (with Thomas Pepinsky).

 "Survive and Thrive: Field Research in Authoritarian Southeast Asia," *Asian Studies Review*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (2018): 385-403 (with Meredith Weiss).


 "Misclassification on the Mekong: The Origins of Hun Sen's Personalist Dictatorship," *Democratization*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (2018): 192-208.


 "Out of the Shadows: Authoritarian Regimes, Flawed Elections and International Legitimation," *Contemporary Politics*, Vol. 23, No. 3 (2017): 328-347 (with Maria Debre).


 "The Autocratic Mandate: Elections, Legitimacy and Regime Stability in Singapore," *The Pacific Review*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2017): 205-231.

 "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

*Everyday Repression in Southeast Asia*

“Autocratic Assassins” (with Sheena Greitens)

“Autocratic Party Hegemony: Talent as Path Dependency” (with Milan Svobik)

“Dictatorships and Capital Cities” (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)

“Personalist Dictatorships and Measurement Validity”

### **INVITED TALKS**

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
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
Southeast Asia Research Group	2018, 2019, 2020

## COMMENTARY

### Written

- [!\[\]\(4c660a3c4ce1da3313488b7854f55083\_img.jpg\) "Facing Up to Sophisticated Authoritarianism," \*The Ambassador's Brief\*, 2 May 2020.](#)
- [!\[\]\(f01c435bb39e3068a9b4895c9a993158\_img.jpg\) "Autocrats are Finding Democratic Facades Hard to Keep Up," \*Foreign Policy\*, 1 May 2020.](#)
- [!\[\]\(c5f009707b314589d498a683120545c5\_img.jpg\) "The Rise of Sophisticated Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia," \*Machinery of Government\*, 23 October 2019.](#)
- [!\[\]\(8b308e9f1e6682fd04ddef01495a93be\_img.jpg\) "Fake Monitors Endorse Cambodia's Sham Election," \*Foreign Policy\*, 30 July 2018.](#)
- [!\[\]\(7a2466fab2a9c99ba33ed3fbd8b0c93f\_img.jpg\) "Casting a Shadow of Doubt on International Election Monitoring Norms," \*National Endowment for Democracy\*, 29 November 2017.](#)
- [!\[\]\(f632f5613101834356c1771a91f82a1c\_img.jpg\) "A Midnight Crackdown in Cambodia," \*Freedom House\*, 14 September 2017.](#)
- [!\[\]\(1e76af9967ccdbc9d35eeb7f7c74a0bb\_img.jpg\) "Cambodia's Leader Just Cracked Down on the Opposition, and the Consequences will be Dramatic," \*The Monkey Cage\*, 24 February 2017.](#)
- [!\[\]\(13f95891d017add9bb2bd324d9543b27\_img.jpg\) "Lifting Myanmar's Sanctions: Right or Wrong?" \*Myanmar Times\*, 26 September 2016.](#)
- [!\[\]\(63cc436de7726865a4fe5c59fc1020e2\_img.jpg\) "Elections without Democracy in Southeast Asia," \*New Mandala\*, 5 August 2016 \(with Tom Pepinsky\).](#)
- [!\[\]\(f4d81379fada60627f0dc1fa410d9772\_img.jpg\) "Burma Votes on Sunday. Why do Authoritarian Regimes Even Hold Elections?" \*The Monkey Cage\*, 7 November 2015.](#)

 "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, 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 Washington Post, Time Magazine

**TEACHING**

Convening

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

2020-            Higher Degrees Research Convenor, School of Government and International Relations  
2018-            Member, Griffith Business School Research Strategy and Impact Committee  
2016-2017     Early Career Representative, Griffith University Board of Graduate Research  
2014-2016     Chair of Seminar Series, Centre for Governance and Public Policy  
2012-2014     Postgraduate Member, APSA Standing Committee on International Relations  
2012            Postgraduate Member, Griffith Business School Learning & Teaching Committee

Editorial Boards

2017-            Contemporary Politics

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

2020 PhD Professional Development Session, Australian Political Studies Association  
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, 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**

2020 Griffith Business School Publication and Grant Completion Scheme, \$4,850  
2019 Griffith University Vice Chancellor's Research Excellence Award (ECR Category), \$5,000  
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**

2021- Bogdan Mamaev  
2020- Ibrahim Genc; Edy Susilo  
2018- Daniel Szabo; Mun Vong  
Completed Lucy West

## **CONSULTANCY**

2021- Freedom House (International Advisory Board: Civil Mobilisation under Authoritarianism)  
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

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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: December 2020