

# ALEXIS COOPERSMITH

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## EDUCATION

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- Present**      **Ph.D. Sociology, University of California Los Angeles**
- 2014**      **B.A. International Studies– Political Science, University of California San Diego**  
Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha, Honors with Distinction  
Thesis: Pathways to Power: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Wangari Maathai, and the African Woman's Pursuit of Political Power

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Political Sociology, Collective Action/Social Change, Political Violence, African Studies, Race/Ethnicity, Gender

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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**Charles F. Scott Fellowship**, UC Los Angeles, 2016-2017

**Nancy “Penny” Schwartz Undergraduate Student Essay Award for Africanist Anthropology**, Association for Africanist Anthropology, American Anthropological Association, 2014

**Best Undergraduate Research Paper Honors Award**, Department of Sociology, UC San Diego, 2014

**Best Undergraduate Research Paper Award**, African and African American Studies Research Center, UC San Diego, 2014

**William Denman Scholarship**, UC San Diego, 2013-2014

**Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award**, African and African American Studies Research Center, UC San Diego, 2013

## UNDERGRADUATE JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

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“The Abuse of Entrusted Power: Combating Corruption in Nigeria”. Prospect Journal of International Affairs at UCSD, 2014

“African Democracy in a Post-Mandela World”. Prospect Journal of International Affairs at UCSD, 2014

“Combating the Ivory Trade”. Prospect Journal of International Affairs at UCSD, 2013

“Corrective Rape: The Unspeakable Cost of Being a Homosexual in Africa”. Prospect Journal of International Affairs at UCSD, 2013

“Teachers Leave Classrooms on Strike in South Africa”. Prospect Journal of International Affairs at UCSD, 2013

## REFERENCES

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- Dr. Bennetta Jules-Rosette, Department of Sociology, UC San Diego, [bjulesrosette@ucsd.edu](mailto:bjulesrosette@ucsd.edu)  
Dr. Maureen Feeley, Department of Political Science, UC San Diego, [mfeeley@ucsd.edu](mailto:mfeeley@ucsd.edu)