

## Voting Behavior, MP Campaign Strategies, & Political Clientelism in Ghana

**STAFFAN I. LINDBERG**



This past year, Dr. Lindberg has been writing up results from fieldwork carried out in 2008 and 2009 on voting behavior, MPs' campaign strategies, and political clientelism in Ghana. Several working papers that have come out of this work have been posted as working papers by the African Power and Politics-program ([www.institutions-africa.org](http://www.institutions-africa.org)), as well as by the Quality of Government Institute ([www.qog.pol.gu.se](http://www.qog.pol.gu.se)). Two of these working papers are co-authored with Keith R. Weghorst, a doctoral student in the Department of Political Science.

Dr. Lindberg is now working on a larger project on political clientelism and democratization. The project pulls together findings from his earlier publications on election campaign funding, voting behavior and voter align-

ments, political clientelism and the role Members of Parliament in Ghana. The project also draws on recently collected survey and interview data (also from Ghana). Together the data includes four rounds of surveys with citizens in 10 strategically selected constituencies (out of the Ghana's 230 at present), three rounds of surveys with Members of Parliament, two years of participant observation in Parliament of Ghana, and some 200+ in-depth interviews with MPs, clerks of Parliament, journalists, ministers, scholars, and citizens in Ghana. The time period covered by the data is from 1996 to 2009.

It is too early to tell what the main results will be of the comprehensive analysis but earlier work suggests that political clientelism expands during the early phases of democratization until the costs reach a tipping point for politicians, who then turn to producing collective goods via political policy making in order to economize with scarce resources in their private disposal that can be used for reelection (election campaigning).

*Staffan I. Lindberg is associate professor in the Department of Political Science and the Center for African Studies. He is currently the Research Director for World Values Survey Sweden, Research Fellow at Quality of Government Institute and associate professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.*