

GEDEON J. LIM

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student, Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, 2020 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Essays on Development Economics*

Main Advisors: Samuel Bazzi & Dilip Mookherjee

Dissertation Committee: Samuel Bazzi, Dilip Mookherjee and Robert A. Margo

B.Soc.Sci. Economics, *First Class Honors*, National University of Singapore, Singapore 2014

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Development Economics, Political Economy, Economic History

WORKING PAPERS

"Why Pay the Chief? Land Rents and Political Selection in Indonesia (Job Market Paper)"

WORK IN PROGRESS

"The Effects of Long-Run Ethnic Segregation in Southeast Asia"

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Northeast Universities Development Conference. Evanston, IL 2019

Economic History Association Meeting, Poster Session. Atlanta, GA 2019

Southeast Asia Research Group N.A. Meeting. Vancouver, Canada 2019

17th Nordic Conference on Development Economics. Helsinki, Finland 2018

Summer School in Development Economics. Prato, Italy 2017

GRANTS

Manuel Abdala Gift Grant Spring 2019

Boston University Initiative on Cities, Seed Funding Fall 2018

Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (Short-Term) Fall 2018

Economics Department Summer Research Grant Summer 2018

Global Development Policy Center, Summer in the Field Summer 2018

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for S. Bazzi, Boston University, 2015-Present

Visiting Researcher, AKATIGA, Indonesia, 2018

Visiting Junior Researcher, SMERU Research Institute, Indonesia Summer 2015, 2016

Research Assistant for R. Arunachalam & A. Shenoy, University of Michigan, MI Summer 2013

Communications & Research Intern, Centre for Microfinance, India Summer 2012

Non-Commissioned Officer, Singapore Armed Forces, Singapore 2009-2011

LANGUAGES:

English (native), Mandarin Chinese (native), Bahasa Indonesia (intermediate)

COMPUTER SKILLS: ArcGIS, Stata

CITIZENSHIP: Singapore/F1

REFERENCES

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GEDEON J. LIM

Why Pay the Chief? Political Selection & Economic Development in Indonesia (Job Market Paper)

Much of modern development efforts are channeled through traditional local governance. Yet, despite their importance as politician-bureaucrats, traditional chiefs are rarely paid a living wage. This paper studies the effect of awarding chiefs control over rice land – a stable, revenue generating asset – during their term of office in rural Indonesia. Using an RD estimator at a colonial border discontinuity, I find a strong positive effect on both historical and contemporary development outcomes. To trace mechanisms, I leverage a novel panel data set covering the election histories of 931 chiefs in 193 villages. I find evidence of political selection driven by higher barriers to entry for political office: campaigning costs are higher, resulting in both chiefs and the candidate pool as a whole being positively selected. My findings suggest that paying chiefs from a stable source of local revenue can be an efficient tool when top-down monitoring by the State is limited.