

GUSTAV AGNEMAN

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EDUCATION

Gothenburg University

2011-2015

Bachelor in European Science

Bachelor in Economics

Exchange Student at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2012-2013)

91% highest grade

University of Copenhagen

2015-2020

Master in Economics

Ph.D. in Economics [Supervisor: Professor David Dreyer Lassen]

Exchange Student at Universidad de Los Andes Bogotá (2016)

Visiting Scholar at University of Chicago [Supervisor: Professor James Robinson] (2018-2019)

Master GPA: 9.9

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Lund University

January 2021 - Present

Post-doctoral researcher

Lund, Sweden

- Among other things, I conduct independent research projects as well as contribute to the PUSHPEACE project, supervise and teach Bachelor, Master and Ph.D. students, and develop and execute a major field research project in Colombia.

University of Copenhagen

August 2017 - September 2020

Ph.D. Student

Copenhagen, Denmark

- Conducting independent research projects as well as course work and teaching obligations. Principal Investigator in two large field research projects, one in Greenland (grant on \$100,000 funded by Kraks Fond Byforskning) and one in Tanzania (supported by the Development Economics Research Group (DERG) at the University of Copenhagen).

University of Copenhagen

March 2017 - August 2017

Research Assistant

Copenhagen, Denmark

- Providing data visualizations for an interdisciplinary research project.

University of the Andes

August 2016 - December 2016

Research Assistant

Bogotá, Colombia

- Undertaking data collection, data analysis as well as co-writing a research project.

TECHNICAL STRENGTHS

Data Analysis

Stata, R

Machine Learning

Python, R

Data Visualisation

Tableau, Stata, R, QGIS, ArcGIS

Typesetting Document

Latex, Word

SELECTED WORK

How Economic Expectations Shape Preferences for National Independence

Conditionally Accepted at the European Journal of Political Economy

· This paper investigates how economic expectations shape voting intentions in a hypothetical independence referendum in Greenland, a self-governing region of the Kingdom of Denmark. I identify the causal effect of economic expectations by randomly exposing respondents to a prime informing on Greenland's current fiscal deficit. Respondents exposed to the information are 43% more likely to oppose independence, an effect I attribute to (a) worsened economic expectations and (b) greater political participation among pessimistic respondents. I further document that the impact of the prime depends on respondents' personal ties to the political union. While information exposure substantially increases opposition to independence among voters with strong ties to Denmark, voting intentions are essentially unchanged for respondents with weak ties to Denmark. Still, instrumental motives shape preferences for a sufficiently large proportion of voters for the information prime to alter the outcome of the independence referendum.

Mapping Local State Capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Machine Learning Approach

Under Review

With K. Brandt, C. Cappelen & D. Sjöberg

· Despite the need to measure state capacity at a sub-national level, most studies still use country-level indicators as rough approximations of the local counterpart. We estimate a measure of state capacity for five-kilometer grid cells across Sub-Saharan Africa. The measure builds on geocoded survey data on local state capacity, which we predict and extrapolate using machine learning techniques. We showcase the usefulness of measuring state capacity at the local level by employing our index as a moderating factor in the relationship between oil wealth and armed conflict and show that areas with higher levels of state capacity face lower risks of conflict outbreak due to exogenous oil wealth shocks.

Does Scarcity Reduce Cooperation? Evidence from Rural Tanzania

Under Review

With P. Falco, E. Joel & O. Selejio

· Cooperation is essential to reap efficiency gains from specialization, not least in poor communities where economic transactions often are informal. But cooperation is difficult to sustain, especially under destitute conditions, since defecting from a cooperative equilibrium can yield safe, short-run benefits. In this study, we investigate how food scarcity influences the level of cooperation in rural Tanzania by leveraging quasi-experimental variation in food supply induced by the harvest. We document a significant increase in food consumption between the pre- and post-harvest period and show that scarcity reduces socially efficient but personally risky cooperation in a lab-in-the-field experiment.

Market Participation and Moral Universalism: Experimental Evidence from Greenland

Under Review

With E. Chevrot-Bianco

· This article studies how market participation predicts moral differentiation, the degree to which group identity matters for moral behavior. To this end, we measured moral behavior through honesty experiments conducted in 13 villages across Greenland (N=543), where small and isolated communities provide for a natural demarcation of the ingroup. To measure moral differentiation, we introduced a negative externality in the experiment and randomly varied information about the group identity of the interaction partner. The results reveal significant moral differentiation. Participants refrain from misreporting when it negatively affects members of the local community, but inflate reporting by 11% when the interaction partner is not an ingroup member. Finally, we show that market participation predicts moral universalism. While participants in the traditional economy exhibit strong moral differentiation, market integrated participants behave equally honest regardless of interaction partner.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Gull & Stellan Ljungbergs Stiftelse	Scholarship for studies abroad (2010)
Rotary Foundation	Scholarship for young leadership (2010)
Gull & Stellan Ljungbergs Stiftelse	Scholarship for studies abroad (2012)
University of Gothenburg	Awarded best econometrics student (2014)
Gull & Stellan Ljungbergs Stiftelse	Scholarship for studies abroad (2016)
University of Copenhagen	Nominated to best seminar paper (2016)
Oticon Foundation	Scholarship for teaching obligations in Greenland (2018)
Kraks Foundation	\$100,000 Grant for field research in Greenland (2018)

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages	Swedish, Danish, English and Spanish
Drivers Licence	Swedish License for light vehicles (B2)
Volunteering experience	IM (2014), Con Las Manos (2016), Drivkraft (2021)