

# Jahen F. Rezki

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## Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of York, 2015 - 2019.

M.Sc. in Development Economics, University of York, 2013.

B.A. in Economics, University of Indonesia, 2011.

## Fields of Interest

Development Economics, Political Economy, Emerging Market Macroeconomics, Public Economics.

## Research

### *Working Papers*

Political Competition and Local Government Performance: Evidence from Indonesia, 2019.

**Abstract:** This paper analyses the impact of political competition on local government performance in Indonesia. This study uses a new database that covers 427 districts in Indonesia, from 2000 to 2013. In Indonesia, local governments are largely responsible for fulfilling basic service delivery and, in this regard, they are extremely powerful. Political competition is measured using the Herfindahl Hirschman Concentration Index for the district parliament election. This variable is potentially endogenous, because political competition is likely to be non-random and correlated with unobservable variables. To solve this problem, I use the lag of political competition for neighbouring districts within the same province, as well as the political competition from the 1955 general election, as instrumental variables for political competition. The degree of political competition has been found to boost real Regional Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) per capita by 1.9%. Furthermore, a one standard deviation increase in political competition would increase RGDP growth by approximately 0.81%. The results also support the findings of previous studies, which have found that stiffer political competition is associated with higher public spending (e.g. infrastructure spending) and pro-business policies.

Call Your Leader: Does the Mobile Phone Affect Policymaking?, 2019.

**Abstract:** This paper analyses the impact of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on policymaking on an Indonesian Village level. In this study, I use data from different waves of the Indonesian Village Potential Statistics (*Potensi Desa*) to determine whether mobile phone signal strength affects village policies and civic engagement activities. The results indicate that villages with a strong signal are statistically more likely to possess the proper infrastructure and economic

programs. Furthermore, mobile phones increase civic engagement, which is consistent with previous studies related to collective action or mass mobilisation. Using the plausibly exogenous variation of lightning strike intensity as the instrumental variable, this study suggests that higher mobile phone signal strength is positively associated with the policies implemented by the village head. This study also demonstrates that ICT has a stronger effect in rural areas. One possible explanation is that mobile phones improve the relative ability for rural people to interact with their leaders. Another potential answer is the fact that there are significant differences between rural village and urban village governments, which could also affect policymaking.

### *Work in Progress*

Islamic Parties, Policy Choice and Economic Performance: Evidence from Indonesia.

**Abstract:** This study investigates the role of Islamic parties on government policy choice and economic outcomes. The analysis was conducted using the results from Indonesian mayoral elections. Using a regression discontinuity (RD) design, I compare districts in which the Islamic coalition barely won or lost in the mayoral elections. This study suggests that districts in which the Islamic party barely won the election tend to have lower government expenditures and government revenues. Moreover, in terms of spending by sectors, the leaders of Islamic parties tend to spend more on education. However, none of the evidence suggests that Islamic mayors affect economic outcomes (e.g. GDP per capita, GDP per capita growth, unemployment rate). I argue that the ability of Islamic parties to collect taxes due to the implementation of laws related to Islamic law and partisan alignment influences these results. Moreover, this paper suggests that the education sector is very important for Islamic parties to spread their ideology.

Political Dynasty and State Capacity in a Newly Decentralised Country.

The Rate of Return to Education: Evidence from Islamic Schools (with Elfindri).

Returns to Investment in Non-Formal Education: Evidence from Indonesia (with Elfindri).

### *Pre - PhD Publications*

Participation of Informal Sector Workers in Indonesia's National Health Insurance System (with Teguh Dartanto, Wahyu Pramono, Chairina H. Siregar, Usman and Hamdan Bintara). 2016. *Journal of South-east Asian Economies*, 33(3):320-48.

Energy Consumption and Economic Development in Southeast Asia. 2011. *Jurnal Ekonomi dan Pembangunan Indonesia*, 12(1). (in Bahasa)

### *Policy Papers*

Expanding Universal Health Coverage in the Presence of Informality in Indonesia: Challenges and Policy Implications (with Teguh Dartanto, Wahyu Pramono, Chairina H. Siregar, Usman and Hamdan Bintara). 2015.

## *Academic Experience*

*University of York, Department of Economics*

Associate Lecturer, 2019.

Teaching Scholar, 2017 - 2019.

*Institute for Economic and Social Research, LP EM- FEB UI*

Junior Research Associate, 2013 - 2015.

*Universitas Indonesia, Department of Economics*

Teaching Assistant, 2010 - 2012.

## Teaching and Supervision Experience

*University of York, Department of Economics*

MSc Dissertation Supervisor, Summer 2019.

Econometrics I & II (PG), Autumn 2018.

Macroeconomics I (1<sup>st</sup> Year UG), Autumn 2017.

*Universitas Indonesia, Department of Economics*

Introductory Microeconomics (1<sup>st</sup> Year UG), 2010 - 2012.

Introductory Macroeconomics (1<sup>st</sup> Year UG), 2010 - 2012.

Indonesian Economy (3<sup>rd</sup> Year UG), 2010 - 2012.

Mathematical for Economics and Business (1<sup>st</sup> Year UG), 2010 - 2011.

Intermediate Macroeconomics (2<sup>nd</sup> Year UG), 2010 - 2011.

## Relevant Experience

Consultant, Directorate of Industry, Tourism and Creative Economy, Bappenas-Indonesia, 2014.

Consultant, Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia, 2014.

Short Term Associate, Directorate of Regional Autonomy, Bappenas-Indonesia, 2011.

Research Assistant for Dr. Arianto Patunru, ANU and Dr. Sjamsu Rahardja, World Bank Indonesia, 2015.

Research Assistant for Dr. Robert Sparrow, ANU and Dr. Teguh Dartanto, Universitas Indonesia. 2015.

## Conference Presentations

**2019** IRES Graduate Workshop (Orange).

**2018** CSAE Conference 2018 (University of Oxford), 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings of the Public Choice Society (Charleston), European Public Choice Society (Roma), Nordic Conference on Development Economics (Helsinki), RES PhD Meetings (London).

**2017** 6<sup>th</sup> White Rose DTC Economics PhD Conference (University of Sheffield), CHERRY Workshop (University of York).

**2015** Singapore Economic Review Conference (Singapore).

## Professional Activities

Reviewer for: Economics and Finance in Indonesia

## Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

Ellis-Hunter Teaching Scholarship, University of York, 2018-2019.

Acknowledgement of Teaching Excellence, University of York, 2018.

Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies, 2018.

Hayek Fund for Scholars, Institute for Humane Studies, 2018 (2x).

Finalist of Vincent and Elinor Ostrom Prize, The Public Choice Society, 2018.

Graduate Student Fellowships, The Public Choice Society, 2018.

DERS Research Student Conference Fund, University of York, 2018.

Ellis Hunter Teaching Scholarship, University of York, 2017-2018.

PhD Scholarship Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP), Ministry of Finance, Republic of Indonesia, 2015-2019.

Beasiswa Unggulan, Ministry of Education, Republic of Indonesia, 2012-2013.

## Miscellaneous

Proficient in Stata, eViews L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, QGIS.

Familiar with ArcGIS, Matlab, Dynare, Python and R.

## References

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