

# JEANNE SORIN

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## Office Contact Information

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## Education

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<b>University of Chicago</b> , Ph.D. Economics	<i>2019–present (expected June 2025)</i>
<b>Sciences Po</b> , M.Sc. Economics	<i>2016–2019</i>
<b>Sciences Po</b> , B.A. Social Sciences	<i>2013–2015</i>

## References

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Professor Michael Greenstone (Co-Chair) University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics mgreenst@uchicago.edu (773) 702-8250	Professor Esteban Rossi-Hansberg (Co-Chair) University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics earossih@uchicago.edu (773) 834-5240
Professor Fiona Burlig University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy burlig@uchicago.edu (660) 283-2931	Professor Milena Almagro University of Chicago Booth School of Business milena.almagro@chicagobooth.edu (773) 702-7743

## Research and Teaching Fields

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Primary:	Development Economics, Urban and Spatial Economics
Secondary:	Environmental Economics

## Job Market Paper

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### **Public Roads on Private Lands: Land Costs and Optimal Road Improvements in Urban Uganda**

*Abstract: High land acquisition costs often undermine net returns and hinder the implementation of high- benefit infrastructure projects in developing cities. I examine this issue in Kampala, Uganda, using new survey data on real-estate brokers and landowners to evaluate the costs and benefits of 140 km of road improvements implemented since 2017. I estimate the local benefits by using variation in the timing of improvements and I develop a quantitative spatial model to account for the general equilibrium gains, including spillovers and the fiscal cost of land acquisition. I leverage the coexistence of three property right regimes in the city to show that weak property rights enable land to be acquired at reduced cost,*

effectively acting as a subsidy to the government. Combined with the high cost of raising domestic funds, these weak property rights support more extensive road improvements with citywide benefits. As a result, I find that the realized road improvements yield net welfare gains equivalent to 99 USD per Kampala resident, compared to 40 USD if land had been acquired at market value, as legally mandated under eminent domain. Finally, I solve for the optimal road improvements under different institutional settings and funding restrictions, offering insights for policy design to enhance allocative efficiency and welfare outcomes.

## Publications and Accepted Papers

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**Learning is in the Air: Clean Air as an Experience Good** (with B. Resosudarmo and Y. Sun). *Accepted* at *Journal of Development Economics* based on Pre-Results Review.

AEA RCT Registry No. 0013110

*Abstract: Despite the enormous costs of air pollution, willingness-to-pay (WTP) for clean air in polluted developing contexts remains low. We posit one understudied reason is that clean air is an experience good, whose value is revealed after consumption. We test this using a cluster-randomized trial, and seek to document an experience wedge, i.e. a difference between anticipated and realized utility of consuming a good. We deploy a novel experience-based intervention, installing air monitors and purifiers, potentially a more salient treatment than traditional information in pamphlets or videos. To explore the mechanisms behind the hypothesized wedge, we implement a purifier-only treatment to distinguish between (1) knowledge about objective pollution exposure and (2) the sensory experience of breathing in clean air. This will be the first experimental evidence demonstrating how experience can shift demand for clean air, with implications for public health policy, environmental awareness campaigns, and using WTP estimates in economic evaluations.*

## Working Papers

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**Jobs in the Smog: Firm Location and Workers Exposure to Pollution in African Cities** (with V. Bassi, M. Kahn, N. Lozano Gracia and T. Porzio).

AEA RCT Registry No. 0014162

*Submitted.*

*Abstract: Air pollution within African cities is high but unevenly distributed. In principle, individuals could mitigate the severe health risk by working in the less polluted parts of the city. In practice, we show that pollution avoidance is challenging because firms locate on the busiest and most polluted roads searching for customer visibility. Both workers and entrepreneurs bear the cost of this pollution exposure, but the benefits are unequally distributed: profits are much higher in polluted areas, while compensating differentials in wages are minimal. An information experiment reveals limited awareness of pollution, suggesting that workers might be undercompensated for their exposure.*

## French Railroad Shrinkage

*Abstract: Transportation infrastructure determines a location's accessibility and, in turn, is a key driver of demographic and economic distributions across space. Investments and dis-investments in this infrastructure are common, but the impacts of contractionary transportation policies have not been extensively studied. Using a simple modification of the standard quantitative spatial model, I theorize that while positive accessibility changes to a location result in rapid population adjustment, negative changes may create a slow and asymmetric population adjustment due to the presence of slowly depreciating housing capital. This paper provides empirical support for the existence of these non-linear responses by studying the impact of the closure of more than one half of the French railroad between 1930 and 1960. I find that, within a given county, municipalities hit one-standard deviation harder by the policy had a 7 percent lower population growth between 1926 and 1982. This response is slow, strongest between two*

and four decades after the policy, and is non-linear in the short run: it is systematically lower when estimated on market access decrease than it is for (relative) market access increase.

## Work in Progress

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**Exposures to Indoor and Outdoor PM2.5 in a Developing Megacity** (with D. Rahut, B. P. Resosudarmo, D. Suryadarma and Y. Sun).

**Traffic Solutions in Delhi** (with Michael Greenstone and Anant Sudarshan)

## Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

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Theodore Schultz Economics Fellowship Award	2024 - 2025
Research Grant (w. Y. Sun et al.) (Asian Development Bank) (\$99,548)	2024
Research Grant (w. Y. Sun) (WEISS) (\$49,391)	2023
Certificate in Urban Science & Sustainable Development (University of Chicago)	2023
PhD Research Grant (STEG-CEPR) (\$19,458)	2023
Development Economics Research Fund (University of Chicago) (\$14,105)	2023
Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph Fieldwork Award (CISSR) (\$4,800)	2023
Pilot Grant (IGC) (\$14,165)	2023
Project Preparation Grant (IGC)	2022
Pilot Grant (w. Y. Sun) (WEISS Fund) (\$8,720)	2021
Proposal Development Grant (w. Y. Sun) (KCAI JPAL) (\$41,696)	2021
Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics	2021
Graduate Fellowship (University of Chicago)	2019 - 2024
EPIC DRW Graduate Fellowship (University of Chicago)	2019 - 2024
Open Source Economics Laboratory Summer Fellowship (University of Chicago)	2019
Best Master's Thesis (Sciences Po)	2019
<i>Cum laude</i> (top 10%) bachelor degree (Sciences Po)	2016

## Teaching Experience

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Elements of Econ. Analysis I (undergraduate)	College Lecturer	Fall 2022
Math Camp (graduate)	TA	Fall 2023
App. Microeconomics in Econ. History (graduate)	TA for Prof. Rick Hornbeck	Winter 2023
Environmental Economics II (graduate)	TA for Prof. Michael Greenstone	Winter 2022
El. of Econ Analysis I Honors (undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Victor Lima	Fall 2021

## Research Experience and Other Employment

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Research Assistant for Prof. M. Greenstone, University of Chicago	2021
Research Assistant for Prof. T. Porzio and V. Bassi, Columbia University and USC	2018-2019

Research Assistant for Prof. M. Kahn, USC	2018
Research Assistant for Prof. F. Oswald, Sciences Po	2018-2019
Research Assistant for Prof. J. Cage, Sciences Po	2016-2017
Intern Antitrust, NERA Economic Consulting (Paris)	2017

## Professional Experience

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Co-Founder and Organizer of Energy and Env. Econ. Student Sem., University of Chicago 2021–2023

<b>Conferences</b>	2023-2024: <i>IGC Uganda Climate Change Workshop, JHU Cities and Development Workshop</i> 2022-2023: <i>LSE Environmental Week, WB-IGC 7th Urbanization &amp; Poverty Res. Research Conference</i> 2021-2022: <i>NBER Summer Institute (Urban), North American Meeting of the Urban Economic Association, Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference, STEG Annual Conference</i> 2020-2021: <i>PacDev, European Meeting of the Urban Economic Association</i>
<b>Refereeing Activity</b>	<i>Journal of Environmental Economics and Management</i> <i>Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists</i>

## Other Writing

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Urbanisation, transport and the environment: Some considerations for a more productive Kampala (with Juliana Oliveira-Cunha), *IGC Policy Brief UGA-24185*

## Additional Information

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<b>Citizenship</b>	France
<b>Programming Skills</b>	Julia, R, Stata, Python
<b>Languages</b>	French (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Intermediate)