

# Joris Mueller

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<b>Fields</b>	Development Economics, Political Economy, Economic History	
<b>Current Position</b>	Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore	2022 –
<b>Education</b>	Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University M.A., Economics, Northwestern University M.Sc., Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science B.A., Economics, University of Zurich Exchange Student, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	2022 2018 2016 2014 2013
<b>Fellowships &amp; Awards</b>	Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, Northwestern University Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, Northwestern University Graduate Support Scheme, London School of Economics and Political Science	2021 – 2022 2017 2015 – 2016
<b>Grants</b>	Start-Up Grant, National University of Singapore Career Development Grant, Northwestern University Global Poverty Research Lab, Northwestern University	2022 – 2026 2021 2017 – 2019
<b>Teaching</b>	Main instructor, National University of Singapore Policy Impact Evaluation Methods, MA Programming Tools for Economics, BA  Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Statistical Decision Analysis, Executive MBA (x6) Practical Data Analytics with Advanced Methods, MBA Econometrics, undergraduate (x2) Law and Economics, undergraduate	2022    2017 – 2021
<b>Invited for Refereeing</b>	AEJ: Applied Economics (x2), Explorations in Economic History, Journal of Political Economy	
<b>Presentations</b>	AMES, Asian AEW, MIEDC, NASMES, NBER (Chinese Economy Group), Boston University, Federal Reserve Board, HKU, NUS, NYU Shanghai NEUDC, Northwestern University, Notre Dame, University of Zurich, Swiss Economists Abroad Conference	2022  2021
<b>Working Papers</b>	<p>“China’s Foreign Aid: Political Determinants and Economic Effects”</p> <p>Can foreign aid foster economic development, even if it is given to satisfy the objectives of the donor country? I study this highly debated question in the context of Chinese infrastructure aid, which has received much attention from policymakers. I link project-level aid data with administrative firm-level data from China to identify political determinants and economic consequences of Chinese aid. I document that when there is labor unrest in a Chinese prefecture, contracts for aid projects are allocated to state-owned firms in the prefecture, and employment by these firms increases. Connections between these firms and other countries mean that China’s response to domestic unrest affects the allocation of Chinese aid projects to recipient countries. I exploit this variation to develop a novel instrument</p>	

for identifying the causal effects of Chinese aid on recipients. I find large positive effects on GDP, consumption and employment.

“State-Building in Multi-Ethnic Societies: Origins of National Identity in Tanzania” (with Ruth Carlitz and Ameet Morjaria)

This paper examines the state-building process in an important context: the founding of new, multi-ethnic states in post-colonial Africa. We study the *Ujamaa* reforms in Tanzania in 1970–1981, one of the largest nation-building policy experiments in recent history. The reforms dramatically altered the nature of public education by changing the content of the curriculum and expanding access to schooling. To implement the reforms, the Tanzanian government used a concurrent policy, known as villagization, which forced much of the country’s population to live together in government administrated villages. We combine differences in the intensity of villagization across districts with differences across school cohorts, induced by the timing of the policy, to identify the effect of *Ujamaa* on citizens’ attitudes. We show persistent, positive effects on citizens’ identification with the nation, as measured both by survey responses and ethnic intermarriage. Treated cohorts are also more likely to express positive views for a strong central state and less likely to question state authority.

“The Long-Run Effects of Agricultural Productivity on Conflict, 1400–1900” (with Murat Iyigun, Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian)

This paper provides evidence of the long-run effects of a permanent increase in agricultural productivity on conflict. We construct a newly digitized and geo-referenced dataset of battles in Europe, the Near East, and North Africa from 1400–1900 CE and examine variation in agricultural productivity due to the introduction of potatoes from the Americas to the Old World after the Columbian Exchange. We find that the introduction of potatoes led to a sizeable and permanent reduction in conflict.

## Other Ongoing Work

“Chinese Capital Flight to the U.S. Real Estate Market” (with Joe Long)

Wealthy foreign real estate buyers have increased rapidly over the past few decades. Of particular note are those from China; in 2016 alone, Chinese buyers were the source of over 100 billion USD of outflows to real estate markets worldwide. In this paper, we investigate the effect that these wealthy Chinese buyers have on local U.S. housing markets, local governments and residents. Using a novel instrument, we demonstrate that an increase in the share of wealthy Chinese buyers in a locality causes an increase in house price growth. As a result of this increased growth, local governments benefit from increased property tax revenues but do not see a drop in sales tax revenues, suggesting that the vacancy rate for Chinese-owned properties is no different from that of counterfactual buyers. A drop in rental prices suggests that wealthy Chinese buyers are more likely to rent out their houses and less likely to move into them.

“Digital Networks and the Diffusion of Political Movements” (with Ricardo Dahis and Utsav Manjeer)

We exploit the staggered introduction of 3G mobile internet in Africa to examine the effect of new communication technologies on the spread of political unrest in and across countries. We design a novel empirical strategy that allows us to separate the direct effect of mobile internet on unrest from spillovers. We find that digital communication networks lead to the spread of unrest independent of physical distance. Preliminary evidence suggests that social media constitute an important channel.

“The Party and the Firm” (with Jaya Wen and Cheryl Wu)

We use detailed administrative firm data and natural language processing techniques to understand the scope of and motivations underlying the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) growing involvement in the operations of private firms in China.

<b>Other Professional Experience</b>	Research Assistant, Prof. Nancy Qian, Northwestern University	2018 – 2021
	Embassy of Switzerland, Bangkok, Thailand	2015
	Academic graduate intern in the diplomatic section (full-time)	
	Finatris AG, Zurich, Switzerland	2014 – 2015
	Project manager in a financial technology start-up (part-time)	
	Dolder Corporate Finance, Zurich, Switzerland	2012 – 2013
	M&A project associate (part-time)	
	UBS, Zurich, Switzerland	2007 – 2011
	International Wealth Management talent development program (full-time)	
<b>Languages</b>	German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Thai (beginner)	
<b>References</b>	Prof. Nancy Qian Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 <a href="mailto:nancy.qian@kellogg.northwestern.edu">nancy.qian@kellogg.northwestern.edu</a>	Prof. Christopher Udry Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 <a href="mailto:christopher.udry@northwestern.edu">christopher.udry@northwestern.edu</a>
	Prof. Ameet Morjaria Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 <a href="mailto:a.morjaria@kellogg.northwestern.edu">a.morjaria@kellogg.northwestern.edu</a>	Prof. Seema Jayachandran Department of Economics Princeton University 126 Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building Princeton, NJ 08544 <a href="mailto:jayachandran@princeton.edu">jayachandran@princeton.edu</a>
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