Academic Positions

Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse (IAST), Research Fellow, September 2025-

International Centre for Tax and Development, Pre/Postdoctoral Fellow, 2024-2025

Education

PhD, Political Science, UCLA, 2024

Committee: Daniel Posner (co-chair), Darin Christensen (co-chair), Kate Baldwin, Cesi Cruz

MS, International Development, Wageningen University, 2016

Specialization: Development Economics, Cum Laude

BA, Economics & Philosophy, University of New Hampshire, 2012

Working **Papers**

"Building Fiscal Capacity with Traditional Political Institutions: Experimental and Qualitative Evidence from Sierra Leone". Under review. Job Market Paper.

"Participation, Legitimacy and Fiscal Capacity in Weak States: Evidence from Participatory Budgeting," with Abou Bakarr Kamara, Niccolò Meriggi, Julian Michel, and Wilson Prichard. Under review.

"Increasing Local Disease Preparedness and Surveillance Capacity for Global Health Security: A Cluster-randomised Control Trial," with Maarten Voors, Macartan Humphreys, Salif Jaiteh, Mohamed Alpha Jalloh, Sellu Kallon, Niccolò Meriggi, and Peter Van der Windt.

In Preparation

"Property Taxation and Political Accountability: Evidence from a Rule-based Expansion of Tax Demands in Sierra Leone," with Niccolò Meriggi, Julian Michel, and Wilson Prichard.

"Mobilizing Voters with SMS in Sierra Leone," with Niccolò Meriggi and Maarten Voors.

External Grants / **Fellowships**

2025. IGC, \$7,500. For Exploring the Socio-Economic Causes and Consequences of 'Kush' Abuse Among Young People in Freetown, Sierra Leone, with Henry Mondeh

2024. J-Pal (K-CAI), \$57,860. For Preserving Mangroves and Livelihoods in Benin, with Darin Christensen and Ambaliou Olounlade

2024. ICTD, \$194,000. For Traditional Leaders and Formal and Informal Taxation in Sierra Leone. with Vanessa van den Boogaard

2022. Mercatus Center Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship (declined), \$5,000. For Can Traditional Political Institutions Help the State Raise Property Taxes?

2021. ICTD, \$22,917. For Can Traditional Political Institutions Help the State Raise Property Taxes?

2021. ICTD, \$5,884. For Can Rural Property Taxation Generate Revenue?

2021. C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, \$10,000.

2019. ICTD, \$257,802. For Compliance, Accountability and the Social Contract, with Niccolò Meriggi, Julian Michel, Wilson Prichard

2019. IGC, \$25,929. For Taxation and Political Participation, with Darin Christensen

2019. IGC, \$25,652. For Improving Tax Compliance in Freetown, with Derek Holliday and Julian Michel

2018. IGC, \$110,523. For Electrifying Growth, with Niccolò Meriggi, Mushfiq Mobarak, and Maarten

2018. UKaid/OPM Energy and Economic Growth, \$489,688. For Electrifying Growth, with Niccolò Meriggi, Mushfiq Mobarak, and Maarten Voors

2018. IGC, \$25,542. For Improving Tax Systems in Sierra Leone

2018. IGC, \$10,994. For Electoral Impacts of Aid, with Niccolò Meriggi and Maarten Voors

2018. IGC, \$28,165. For Mobilizing Voters with SMS, with Niccolò Meriggi and Maarten Voors

2018. IGC, \$12,925. For Brighter Communities Safer Cities, with Daniel N. Posner

2018. Sustainable Energy Transitions, \$4,975. For Brighter Communities Safer Cities.

Internal Grants / Fellowships

2024. UCLA Political Science Department's Swarr Prize (for best unpublished grad paper)

2023. UCLA/Keck Humanistic Inquiry Graduate Research Award, \$8,000.

2023. UCLA Fellowship in Political Psychology, \$1,995.

2022. UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship, \$20,000.

2022. UCLA Fellowship in Political Psychology, \$2,000.

2021. UCLA Summer Mentored Research Fellowship, \$6,000.

2021. UCLA Fellowship in Political Psychology, \$2,000.

2019. UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award, \$6,000.

2018. UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award, \$6,000.

Talks & Conferences

2025: German Development Economics Conference; EPSA

2024: GLD Workshop (online); WGAPE (Accra); World Bank Land Conference; IIPF; APCG Online Colloquium; Public Finance in Developing Countries; CGU Talk Series; UN-Habitat

2023: Governance and Local Development Institute Annual Conference

2022: CaliWEPS V; APSA; Global Development Conference; Sierra Leone Tax Conference

2019: Harvard Experimental Political Science Graduate Conference

Consulting

World Bank, Consultant, May 2024–March 2025

Project: Qualitative Assessment for Institutionalizing the Wan Fambul Framework in Sierra Leone

ICTD, *Consultant*, March 2021–November 2023 Project: Can Rural Property Taxation Generate Revenue?

Oxford Policy Management, Consultant, June 2020–July 2020

Project: The Role of Traditional Leaders in COVID-19

Oxford Policy Management, *Consultant*, March 2020–May 2020 Project: A Rapid Assessment of the Response to COVID-19 in Sierra Leone

Skills/ Experience

Languages: English (Native), Sierra Leone Krio (Intermediate), Spanish (Intermediate)

Fieldwork: Sierra Leone (4+ years); Benin

Referee International Tax and Public Finance; Political Research Exchange

References

Daniel Posner Darin Christensen

Professor Associate Professor

Political Science Public Policy & Political Science

UCLA UC

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