

LAURA MONTENBRUCK

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EDUCATION

2023	Visiting PhD Student, Northwestern University
2018 –	PhD candidate in Economics, Graduate School of Economics and Social Sciences (GESS), University of Mannheim
2016 – 2018	M.A. in Development Economics, University of Göttingen
2017	Visiting Student, Stellenbosch University
2011 – 2016	B.A. in International Cultural and Business Studies, University of Passau B.Sc. in Business Administration and Economics, University of Passau
2012 – 2013	Visiting Student, Laval University

RESEARCH FIELDS

Development Economics, Labor Economics, Public Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

Fiscal Exchange and Tax Compliance: Strengthening the Social Contract Under Low State Capacity

Abstract: This article provides evidence that increased salience of public service provision can strengthen the social contract and increase tax compliance in a low-capacity setting. I conduct a field experiment randomizing information about public service provision across 5,494 property owners and tenants in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Receiving information increases property tax payments by 20% on average. The effect is driven by increases in tax compliance on both the extensive and intensive margin. Residents of low-value properties are 7–16 percentage points more likely to pay taxes when informed about public services that are both geographically accessible and respond to the citizens' most urgent needs, suggesting a benefit-based approach to taxation. Revenue effects are largely driven by residents of high-value properties, who depend less on the public provision of services, and for whom the treatment seems to act as a more general signal of government performance.

PUBLICATIONS

- Tertilt, M., Doepke, M., Hannusch A. and Montenbruck, L. (2022). **The Economics of Women's Rights**, *Journal of European Economic Association*, 20(6), 2271-2316.
- Lenz, L., Montenbruck, L., and Sievert, M. (2018). **Accidents Caused by Kerosene Lamps—New Evidence from African Household Data**. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Energy and Environment*, 7(4).
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WORK IN PROGRESS

On the Road to Female Empowerment: Evidence from the Free Public Transport Program in New Delhi, with Cristina Cibin

Gender Matters. Biases in Self-Reported Plot Size Data

Involving Religious Leaders in COVID-19 Awareness Campaigns: Implications for Behavioral Change, with Alexandra Avdeenko, Jakob Gärtner, Marc Gillaizeau, Ghida Karbala, Giulia Montresor, Atika Pasha, and Galina Zudenkova

Easy, Informative, and Cheap? On the Effectiveness of Interactive Voice Response Calls, with Alexandra Avdeenko, Jakob Gärtner, Marc Gillaizeau, Ghida Karbala, Giulia Montresor, and Atika Pasha

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 –	Research assistant for Professor Michèle Tertilt, University of Mannheim
2019 – 2020	Research assistant, Center for Evaluation and Development (C4ED)
2018	Research intern at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) Tamale, Ghana
2017	Research assistant for Professor Esther Gehrke, University of Göttingen
2016 – 2017	Research assistant, Division for Climate Change in Developing Countries, RWI – Leibniz-Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung
2016	Intern, Department of Environmental Statistics, United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
2014 – 2015	Teaching assistant in Microeconomics (Bachelor level), University of Passau

RESEARCH GRANTS

International Growth Centre (IGC) Small Project Funding, project code SLE-21175 (£19,996)

International Growth Centre (IGC) Early Career Grant, project code SLE-22083 (£16,491)

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

2024: CSAE conference (Oxford, scheduled)

2023: University of Mannheim Alumni Conference (Mannheim, scheduled), OXDEV workshop (Oxford), Meeting of Young Economists (Turin), EEA-ESEM Congress (Barcelona), International Conference on Development Economics (ICDE, Paris), Nordic Conference in Development Economics (NCDE, Gothenburg), Northwestern University Development Lunch Seminar, Northwestern University Applied Micro Lunch Seminar

2022: Frankfurt-Heidelberg-Mannheim Workshop in Development Economics, CRC Retreat, Conference on Applied Development Economics (Lahore, online), HeiKaMaxY (Mannheim), IGC/ACES Summer School in Political Economy (London)

AFFILIATIONS

Member of the Collaborative Research Center (CRC) Transregio 224

SCHOLARSHIPS

2022	Women go abroad scholarship, University of Mannheim
2019 – 2021	Scholarship for doctoral studies funded by the Freudenberg foundation
2018 – 2019	DFG Scholarship for doctoral studies

LANGUAGES

German (Mother tongue), English (Fluent), French (Fluent), Spanish (Advanced), Italian (Intermediate)

COMPUTER SKILLS

Stata, LaTeX, R

REFERENCES

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