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CURRENT Lecturer (Assist. Prof.), Monash University, Dept. of Economics, 2018 – Present

POST Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), 2017 – 2018
DOCTORAL
STUDIES

DOCTORAL Special Student, Harvard University, Department of Economics, 2013 – 2015
STUDIES

Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University, 2011 – 2017
PhD, Economics, Defended, September 5, 2017
TITLE: “*States of Development: Essays on the Political Economy of Development in Asia*”

REFERENCES

<i>Daron Acemoglu</i> Massachusetts Institute of Technology Morris and Sophie Chang Building Building E52, Room 446 77 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge MA 02142 daron@mit.edu	<i>Torsten Persson</i> IIES, Stockholm University S-106 91 Stockholm Sweden +46 8 16 30 66 torsten.persson@iies.su.se
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James A. Robinson
University of Chicago
Harris School of Public Policy
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PRIOR M.A., Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences, Columbia University, 2011
EDUCATION B.A., Economics, University of Massachusetts - Amherst, Latin Honours, 2009

FIELDS Primary Fields: Political Economy, Development Economics, Economic History
Secondary Fields: Big Data and High Dimensional Methods, Growth

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE**

International Economics - MBA, Monash Business School, Chief Instructor

The Challenges of World Poverty - Undergraduate, MIT, Co-instructor with Frank Schilbach

History of Economic Growth - Undergraduate, Harvard University, TA for Melissa Dell

Econometrics II - Ph.D., Stockholm Economics Doctoral Program, TA for David Strömberg

Big Data, Analysis and Management - Ph.D., Stockholm Economics Doctoral Program, TA for Lena Hensvik, Peter Mozelius, David Strömberg

**RELEVANT
POSITIONS**

2018, Lecturer, Monash University

2018, Co-Founder and Principal Investigator, SoDa Laboratories

2011- 2013, Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University, Research Assistant

2010 - 2011, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Columbia University, Research Assistant

2010, National Bureau of Economic Research, Research Assistant

2009 - 2010, Earth Institute, Columbia University, Research Assistant

**GRANTS,
HONORS, AND
AWARDS**

(Under review) 2019, "Monitoring the Activity of Transnational Elites" - with Yves Zenou, Arthur Campbell, Paul Raschky, Weijia Li, and Matthew Olckers

2019, Small Research Grant (10,000 AUD), Department of Economics, Monash - "South Korean Labour Unrest" with Changkeun Lee

2018, Early Career Research Grant (30,000 AUD), Monash Business School - "Forensic Economics of Activist Assassinations."

2018, Startup Grant (5,000 AUD), Monash Business School - "Text-as-Data: Measuring labour unrest with textual data."

2017, Small Research Grant (10,000 AUD), Department of Economics, Monash - "Measuring Trade Policy: A Machine Learning Approach"

2014, Economic History Association, Exploratory Data Grant for Doctoral Students.

2013, Handelsbanken, Hedelius Scholarship

2012, Forum for Asian Studies (Stockholm University), Exploratory Research Grant

**RESEARCH
PAPERS**

“Manufacturing Revolutions - Industrial Policy and Industrialization in South Korea” (Working Paper)

My project studies the impact of industrial policy on industrial development by exploring a canonical East Asian intervention. Following a political crisis in 1972, South Korea dramatically altered its development strategy with a new sector-specific policy: the Heavy Chemical and Industry (HCI) drive. With newly digitized data, I use the sharp introduction and withdrawal of the targeted policy to study its impacts. (1) I show HCI successfully promoted the evolution of directly treated industries. Next I provide evidence for two key justifications of industrial policy: network and dynamic externalities. (2) Using variation in exposure to policies through the input-output network, I show HCI indirectly benefited (non-treated) downstream industry. (3) Finally, I show both direct and indirect benefits of HCI persist even after the policy is withdrawn, following the 1979 assassination of President Park. Together, my findings suggest that the temporary push helped shift the economy into higher value-added activity.

“The Historical State, Local Collective Action, and Economic Development in Vietnam” – *Econometrica*, 86(6), 2083–2121. with Melissa Dell (Harvard) and Pablo Querubin (NYU).

IN PROGRESS

Information is Power - Monopoly Power, Information Technology, and the Rise of the Digital State - with Weijia Li

Once seen as a weapon of freedom, informational technology has drastically transformed state capacity—often with unintended consequences. Our study analyzes the rise of the digital state. We do so by proposing a theory of how recent trends in monopoly power fuelled the demand for information technology, and how these technologies, in turn, spilled over to the state. In our model, we show information technologies that allow monopolists to extract surplus from consumers also enable states to more efficiently exercise a monopoly of violence. Since this technology transforms the costs and consequences of repression, we study how the digitization of the state impacts preferences for (digital) democracy and (digital) autocracy. A key insight is that information may reduce the costs of autocracies to deploy repression, which in turn makes autocracy more palatable to elites and citizens. We provide empirical insights into main components of our model, using newly collected data on state technological adoption.

Seeing the Digital State - Measuring the Digital Capacity of the State with 1 Trillion Internet Observations - with Klaus Ackerman, Simon Angus, Weijia Li, and Paul Raschky.

States are becoming digital, increasingly relying on the internet and information technology to fulfil their basic functions. Our study creates new unique measure of an emergent dimension of state capacity: the digital reach of the state. We use supervised machine learning methods to combine rare data on 1) the *universe* of worldwide IP address and 2) all known government organizations (entities). Doing so allows us to measure the scope of IP space utilized by government entities—as well as their activity (measures via “latency”). We provide a visual representation of our measure, mapping the spatial nature of government internet activity. We next provide the determinates and characteristics associated with the expanding informational capacity of states over the past years. In doing so, we show how the organization of the digital state varies by regime-type; the extent of decentralization; and the monopoly power of the communications network. Together we demonstrate our data allows social scientists to study a rapidly transforming dimension of governance.

Returns to Repression - Firm Asset Price Responses to Activist Assassinations in Resource Rich Economies - with David Kreitmeir and Paul Raschky

Recent decades have seen an unprecedented rise in the killing of environmental activists across resource rich economies. We study these events using hand- and machine-collected data on mining activist assassinations across the globe. We use these hundreds of well-publicized events to implement a unique, large-scale forensic Event Study using the universe of publicly-traded mining firms. We do so in two stages. First, we analyze the pre-assassination asset price movements of firms, comparing abnormal excess returns for firms close to assassinations, relative to control firms. We show that in weakly-institutionalised countries, price movements reflect patterns of “insider trading” prior to assassination events. Second, we analyze excess returns to mining firms *after* assassinations. We show that killings lead to significantly lower abnormal returns for mining companies operating nearby assassination zones. The rare global scope of our Event Study allows us to show that negative cumulative abnormal returns are a function of institutional quality. Together, these patterns confirm claims by global human rights activists: that extra-judicial violence is associated with mining activity in weakly-institutionalized regions, where firms face less fallout from these violations. Nevertheless, we confirm these extra-judicial assassinations are universally negative for mining multinationals.

Learning the Lay of the Land: A Machine Learning Approach to Measuring Sub-National Institutions - with Alistair Bayless and Paul Raschky

Economists often rely on national-level measures of institutional quality. Using high dimensional machine learning methods, I provide a framework for recovering sub-national measures of institutional quality where previously only national-level measures were available. I fit well-known measures of institutional quality on millions of geocoded observations for political events using gradient boosting methods. My model “learns” the mapping from high-dimensional event data (from newspaper text) to codings of institutional quality. Since event data contains sub-national locations, I use my model to create (predict) sub-national indices of institutional quality. I show that predicted measures captures rich variation in institutional quality across the world. I highlight this using well-known separatist struggles in Indonesia and the Philippines. Second, I use these measures to study the extent to which within country variation corresponds to measures of development. Last, using historical news data, I am able to perform out of sample prediction, effectively creating *historical* measures of institutions beyond the availability of current quality of governance data (1950-1986).

The Political Economy of Rewriting History: Evidence from the Universe of Wikipedia Edits - with Klaus Ackerman, Simon Angus, Patrick Healy, Weijia Li, and Paul Raschky

Democratization, Labor Repression, and Manufacturing Development in South Korea - with Daron Acemoglu and Changkeun Lee

The Impact of Export Promotion Policy on South Korean Industrialization - with Changkeun Lee and Krisztina Orban

Building a New Export Industry: Evidence from Vietnam’s Electronics Industry Policy - with Dung Le and Krisztina Orban

Workers of the World, Unite: The Economic Effects of Labor Day Demonstrations in Europe - with Andreas Madestam and David Yanagizawa-Drott

**PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES**

Presentations & Talks Given

(Invited) European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, London, 2019
(Invited) Paris School of Economics, Economic History Seminar, 2019
OzClio - Australian Cliometric Society Workshop, 2019
University of Technology Sydney, Economics Seminar, 2019
University of New South Wales, Economics Seminar, 2019
University of Wollongong, Economics Seminar, 2019
Melbourne University, Econometrics Seminar, 2019
CEP Bertelsmann Stiftung Conference - Industrial Policy in Advanced Economies in the 21st Century, London School of Economics, 2019
Industrial Policy and Blended Finance Conference, Geneva Graduate Institute, 2018
(Invited) Asian Economic History Conference, 2018
American University, Trade and Development Seminar, 2018
Washington Area Economic History Seminar, George Mason University, 2018
Seoul National University, Applied Economics Seminar, 2017
Korean Development Institute, Workshop, 2017
MIT, Department of Economics, Political Economy Lunch, 2017
NEUDC, Tufts University, 2017
Economic History Association meetings, San Jose, California, 2017
Econometric Society European Summer Meetings, Lisbon, Portugal, 2017
Innovation and Growth Conference, College de France, 2017
Rethinking the Economic Role of the State Conference, Peking University, 2017
CREDIT Seminar, University of Nottingham, 2017
University of Sussex, Department of Economics, 2017
NYU – Abu Dhabi, Department of Social Science, 2017
INSEAD, Department of Economics, 2017
Monash University, Department of Economics, 2017
IMT School for Advanced Studies, Lucca, Italy, 2017
Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, 2017
University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Department of Economics, 2017
University of British Columbia, Vancouver School of Economics, 2017
Spanish Economic Association meetings, Bilbao, Spain, 2016
Econometric Society European Winter meetings, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2016
Stockholm School of Economics, MicroWave Seminar, 2016
Stockholm University Brown Bag Seminar, Department of Economics, 2016
ASWEDE Workshop, Stockholm School of Economics, 2016
OXDEV, Centre for Studies of African Economies, Oxford University, 2016
CIFAR, Institutions, Organizations & Growth meetings, 2015
NBER Summer Institute, Development of the American Economy group, 2015
Harvard Economic History Tea, Harvard University, 2015

Refereeing

Econometrica (2), Review of Economic Studies (3), Economic Journal, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of the European Economic Association (3), Journal of Development Economics (2), World Bank Economic Review (2), Journal of Industrial Economics, Review of Economic History, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Economics of Transition (2), World Politics, Comparative Politics, Economics & Politics.