

SOEREN J. HENN

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RESEARCH INTERESTS Political Economy, Comparative Politics, Economic Development, Economic History.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS Newcastle University, Business School, Lecturer in Economics, 2022–
University of Chicago, Pearson Institute, Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2021–2022
Innovations for Poverty Action, Peace & Recovery, Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2019–2021

EDUCATION *Ph.D.*, Political Economy & Government. Harvard University, 2013–2019.
Committee: Torben Iversen, Horacio Larreguy, Nathan Nunn & Pia Raffler.
BA, Politics. University of Essex, 2010–13. *With Distinction*.

PUBLICATIONS Soeren J. Henn. “Complements or Substitutes? How Institutional Arrangements Bind Traditional Authorities and the State in Africa.” *American Political Science Review*, 117(3):871–890. [Open Access PDF](#). Coverage: [Development Impact](#) and [This Week In Africa](#).

Soeren J. Henn, and James A. Robinson. “Africa’s Latent Assets.” *Journal of African Economies*, 32:i9–i32. [NBER Working Paper w28603](#) and [Open Access PDF](#). Coverage: [Brookings](#), [LSE Business Review](#), [Marginal Revolution](#), [This Week In Africa](#), and [VoxEU](#).

Soeren J. Henn, Christian Mastaki Mugaruka, Miguel Ortiz, Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra, and David Qihang Wu. “Monopoly of Taxation Without a Monopoly of Violence: The Weak State’s Trade-Offs From Taxation.” *Accepted, Review of Economic Studies*. [NBER Working Paper w28631](#) and [Latest Version](#).

Soeren J. Henn, and Connor Huff. “The Local Memory of Repression and Who Fights.” *Accepted, World Politics*. [Latest Version](#).

WORKING PAPERS Aimable Amani Lameke, Soeren J. Henn, Christian Mastaki Mugaruka, and Vincent Tanutama. “Expanding a Weak State: Evidence from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” *Draft Available*.

Soeren J. Henn, Horacio Larreguy, and John Marshall. “How Unobserved Investments Inhibit Public Service Delivery Improvement in Corrupt Environments.” *Under Review*. [PDF](#).

Soeren J. Henn, Horacio Larreguy, and Carlos Schmidt-Padilla. “Missionary Competition, Education, and Long-run Political Development: Evidence from Africa.” *Under*

Review. [PDF](#).

Soeren J. Henn, Laura Paler, Wilson Prichard, Cyrus Samii, and Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra. “Increasing Bargaining Power to Reduce Informal Taxation: Evidence from an Experiment in the DRC.” [Pre-Analysis Plan](#). *Draft Available*.

Soeren J. Henn, Gauthier Marchais, and Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra. “Empires and the Origins of Indirect Rule: Stationary Bandits and Traditional Chiefs in Eastern Congo.” *Draft Available*.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Soeren J. Henn, Horacio Larreguy, and John Marshall. “The Effect of Drug-related Violence on Local State Capacity.” *In Progress*.

Oeindrila Dube, Soeren J. Henn, and James Robinson. “Farmer Herder Violence in Nigeria.” *In Progress*.

Soeren J. Henn, and James Robinson. “African Success Stories.” *In Progress*.

Soeren J. Henn, and Vincent Tanutama. “The Electoral Consequences of Decentralization Reform in the DRC.” *In Progress*.

POLICY WRITING

Soeren J. Henn. 2021. “Political Economy Analysis of Decentralization and the Imihigo Process in Rwanda: A Review of the Literature.” *USAID DRG Learning, Evaluation, and Research Activity*.

Alexandre Arrobbio, Soeren J. Henn, Pascal Jaupart, and Michel Maellberg. 2021. “Deployment of Public Resources, Service Delivery, and Stability: Evidence from Niger.” *World Bank Group Policy Report and Working Paper*.

Oeindrila Dube, Smriti Ganapathi, Soeren J. Henn, and James A. Robinson. 2020. “Farmer-Herder Conflict in Nigeria’s Middle Belt: Evidence from 288 Communities.” *Policy Report*.

FIELD WORK

Co-PI, \$2,000,000 USAID, FID, IPA, & JPAL randomized control trial on farmer herder violence in Nigeria, 2019– (1 month in Nigeria)

National coordinator and co-PI, \$750,000 DFID project on taxes, corruption, and fiscal evasion in the DRC, 2015: Survey of 3,100 households in 3 provinces, involving 60 enumerators. (7 months in DRC)

National coordinator and co-PI, \$300,000 PEDL & ICTD project on armed group taxation and beer markets in Eastern DRC, 2015. (7 months in DRC)

Co-PI, \$150,000 IGC project on traditional governance in Sierra Leone, 2014. (2 months in Sierra Leone)

ACADEMIC HONOURS & GRANTS

2023 Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund over \$20,000
(with Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra)
Outstanding Early Career Researcher of the Year NUBS Economics

2022 UN-WIDER grant over €10,000
 (with Gauthier Marchais and Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra)
 2021 FID grant over €286,037 (with Oeindrila Dube and James Robinson)
 2020 International Growth Centre grant over £107,606
 USAID-DIV grant over \$1,056,540.37 (with Oeindrila Dube and James Robinson)
 Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund over \$12,793
 2019 JPAL CVI grant over \$471,664 (with Oeindrila Dube and James Robinson)
 Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
 2018 Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
 CAF Latin American Development Bank research grant over \$10,000
 (with Horacio Larreguy and John Marshall)
 2017 IQSS graduate research grant over \$2,300
 2016 IQSS graduate research grant over \$2,200
 2015 IQSS graduate research grant over \$2,389
 2013 Oscar Arias Prize in Politics (best thesis in politics), Essex University.
 Athlete Scholar Award, Essex University.

TEACHING

Development Economics (undergraduate): Fall 2022 & Fall 2023 (module leader).

Microeconomic Analysis (undergraduate): Fall 2022 & Fall 2023 (seminar instructor).

Senior Thesis Research Seminar in Political Economy, Development, and Econometrics:
 Fall 2018 & Spring 2019 (main instructor).

Analyzing Politics (undergraduate): Spring 2016 & Spring 2017 (Kenneth Shepsle).

Rethinking Financial Inclusion: Smart Design for Policy and Practice (executive):
 April 2016 (Asim Khwaja)

The Future of Globalization: Issues, Actors, and Decisions (undergraduate): Fall
 2016 (Robert Lawrence and Larry Summers)

TALKS & CONFERENCES

Invited Talks

2023 Arthur Lewis Lab, Manchester University
 University of Bristol
 2021 Kiel Institute for the World Economy
 Princeton University
 2019 World Bank, Governance Unit
 2016 German Development Institute (DIE)

Conferences

2023 European Economic Association
 Royal Economic Society
 TwoSaNe
 2022 NBER Political Economy Meeting (Discussant)
 Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society
 Midwest Political Science Association
 2021 Development Day, Notre Dame
 2020 American Political Science Association
 2019 American Political Science Association
 BREAD Conference on Development Economics
 Midwest Political Science Association
 North East Universities Development Consortium

2018 American Political Science Association
 Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science
 2017 Midwest Political Science Association
 American Political Science Association
 African Studies Association
 2016 Midwest Political Science Association
 Formal Theory and Comparative Politics Conference
 Boston Working Group on African Political Economy Workshop
 2014 European Political Science Association
 African Studies Association

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES *Reviewer:* American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Asian Development Perspectives, Asia-Pacific Economic History Review, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Political Analysis, Quarterly Journal of Economics, South African Journal of Economics.
Member: American Economic Association. American Political Science Association. European Economic Association. Midwest Political Science Association. Royal Economic Society
Academic Advisor: [Marakuja Research](#), Goma, D.R. Congo, 2018–
V-DEM Country Expert: Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, 2021–2022

CONSULTING NORC & USAID, Writing of Political Economy Analysis Literature Review of Decentralization Policy in Rwanda, 2021.
 World Bank, Governance Unit, Development of Policy Note on Conflict, State Deployment and Legitimacy in Niger, 2020.
 World Bank, Governance Unit, Development of Policy Note on State Deployment in the Sahel Region, 2019.

COMPUTING SKILLS GIS, L^AT_EX, Matlab, Microsoft Office, Python, R, Stata.

LANGUAGE SKILLS German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), Swahili (intermediate).

Last updated: August 31, 2023.