

# 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.” *Conditionally Accepted, American Political Science Review*. [PDF](#). Coverage: [Development Impact](#).  
Soeren J. Henn, and James A. Robinson. “Africa’s Latent Assets.” *Conditionally Accepted, Journal of African Economies*. [NBER Working Paper w28603](#). Coverage: [Marginal Revolution](#) and [VoxEU](#).

**WORKING PAPERS** Soeren J. Henn, and Connor Huff. “The Legacies of Atrocities and Who Fights.” *Revise & Resubmit, World Politics*. [SSRN Working Paper](#)  
Soeren J. Henn, Christian Mastaki Mugaruka, Miguel Ortiz, Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra, David Qihang Wu, and Jean Paul Zibika. “The Perils of Building States by Force: How Attempts to Assert the State’s Monopoly of Violence Create Lasting Incentives for Violent Banditry.” *Revise & Resubmit, Review of Economic Studies*. [NBER Working Paper w28631](#).  
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](#).

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*.

## **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*.

## **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*.

Aimable Amani Lameke, Soeren J. Henn, Christian Mastaki Mugaruka, and Vincent Tanutama. “Decentralization in the DRC.” *In Progress*.

## **FIELD WORK**

Co-PI, \$ 1,730,000 USAID, 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)

## **ACADEMIC HONOURS & GRANTS**

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** 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**

2021 Kiel Institute for the World Economy  
 Princeton University  
 2019 World Bank, Governance Unit  
 2016 German Development Institute (DIE)

**Conferences**

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

**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, ~~La~~TeX, Matlab, Microsoft Office, Python, R, Stata.

**LANGUAGE  
SKILLS**

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

Last updated: September 9, 2022.