

# SOEREN J. HENN

---

NUBS 7.24/desk 16.  
5 Barrack Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4SE, UK

+ 1 (857) 218 0826  
[soeren.henn@gmail.com](mailto:soeren.henn@gmail.com)  
<http://soerenhenn.com>

## 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*.

## RESEARCH PAPERS

Soeren J. Henn. “Complements or Substitutes? How Institutional Arrangements Bind Traditional Authorities and the State in Africa.” *Resubmitted, American Political Science Review*. [PDF](#). Coverage: [Development Impact](#).

Soeren J. Henn, and Connor Huff. “The Legacies of Atrocities and Who Fights.” *Revise & Resubmit, World Politics*. [SSRN Working Paper](#)

Soeren J. Henn, and James A. Robinson. “Africa’s Latent Assets.” *Under Review*. [NBER Working Paper w28603](#). Coverage: [Marginal Revolution](#) and [VoxEU](#).

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, 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.” *Under Review*. [NBER Working Paper w28631](#).

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.

<b>TEACHING</b>	<p>Senior Thesis Research Seminar in Political Economy, Development, and Econometrics: Fall 2018 &amp; Spring 2019 (main instructor).</p> <p>Analyzing Politics (undergraduate): Spring 2016 &amp; Spring 2017 (Kenneth Shepsle).</p> <p>Rethinking Financial Inclusion: Smart Design for Policy and Practice (executive): April 2016 (Asim Khwaja)</p> <p>The Future of Globalization: Issues, Actors, and Decisions (undergraduate): Fall 2016 (Robert Lawrence and Larry Summers)</p>
<b>TALKS &amp; CONFERENCES</b>	<p><b>Invited Talks</b></p> <p>2022 Emory University University of Pretoria Newcastle University</p> <p>2021 Kiel Institute for the World Economy Princeton University</p> <p>2019 World Bank, Governance Unit</p> <p>2016 German Development Institute (DIE)</p> <p><b>Conferences</b></p> <p>2022 NBER Political Economy Meeting (Discussant) Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society Midwest Political Science Association</p> <p>2021 Development Day, Notre Dame</p> <p>2020 American Political Science Association</p> <p>2019 American Political Science Association BREAD Conference on Development Economics Midwest Political Science Association North East Universities Development Consortium</p> <p>2018 American Political Science Association Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science</p> <p>2017 Midwest Political Science Association American Political Science Association African Studies Association</p> <p>2016 Midwest Political Science Association Formal Theory and Comparative Politics Conference Boston Working Group on African Political Economy Workshop</p> <p>2014 European Political Science Association African Studies Association</p>
<b>PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<p><i>Reviewer:</i> American Political Science Review, Asian Development Perspectives, Journal of Development Economics, Political Analysis, Quarterly Journal of Economics, South African Journal of Economics.</p> <p><i>Member:</i> American Economic Association. American Political Science Association. Midwest Political Science Association.</p> <p><i>Academic Advisor:</i> <a href="#">Marakuja Research</a>, Goma, D.R. Congo, 2018–</p> <p><i>V-DEM Country Expert:</i> Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, 2021–</p>
<b>CONSULTING</b>	<p>NORC &amp; USAID, Writing of Political Economy Analysis Literature Review of Decentralization Policy in Rwanda, 2021.</p> <p>World Bank, Governance Unit, Development of Policy Note on Conflict, State Deployment and Legitimacy in Niger, 2020.</p>

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: July 21, 2022.