

SOEREN J. HENN

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy, Comparative Politics, Development Economics, Economic History.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Assistant Professor, 2024–

Newcastle University, Business School, Lecturer in Economics, 2022–2024

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, 2010–2013. *With Distinction*.

PUBLICATIONS

Soeren J. Henn, and Connor Huff. 2024. “The Local Memory of Repression and Who Fights.” *World Politics*, 76(2):219–258. [Accepted Version](#).

Soeren J. Henn, Christian Mastaki Mugaruka, Miguel Ortiz, Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra, and David Qihang Wu. 2023. “Monopoly of Taxation Without a Monopoly of Violence: The Weak State’s Trade-Offs From Taxation.” *Accepted, Review of Economic Studies*. [Accepted Version](#).

Soeren J. Henn. 2023. “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](#). Honorable Mention for APCG Best Article Award 2023. Coverage: [Development Impact](#) and [This Week In Africa](#).

Soeren J. Henn, and James A. Robinson. 2023. “Africa’s Latent Assets.” *Journal of African Economies*, 32:i9–i32. [Open Access PDF](#). Coverage: [Brookings](#), [LSE Business Review](#), [Marginal Revolution](#), [This Week In Africa](#), and [VoxEU](#).

WORKING PAPERS

Soeren J. Henn, Horacio Larreguy, and Carlos Schmidt-Padilla. “Missionary Competition, Education, and Long-run Political Development: Evidence from Africa.” *Revise & Resubmit, Comparative Political Studies*. [PDF](#).

Soeren J. Henn, Laura Paler, Wilson Prichard, Cyrus Samii, and Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra. “Seeing like a Citizen: Experimental Evidence on How Empowerment Affects Engagement with the State.” *Conditionally Accepted, American Journal of Political Science*. [PDF](#).

Soeren J. Henn, and Vincent Tanutama. “State Expansion and Social Responses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” [PDF](#).

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, Gauthier Marchais, and Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra. “(Wartime) Indirect Rule: Armed Groups and Customary Chiefs in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.” *Under Review*. [PDF](#).

Aimable Amani Lameke, Soeren J. Henn, Christian Mastaki Mugaruka, and Vincent Tanutama. “Urbanization and State-Society Relations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Examining Political Change in Emerging Urban Agglomerations.” *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*.

Soeren J. Henn, Connor Huff, Conner Joyce, and Emily Myers. “Wartime Violence and Political Participation: Evidence from Reconstruction” *In Progress*.

Hélder Carvalhal, Soeren J. Henn, Nuno Palma, and James A. Robinson. “Negotiating Power: Local Agency and European Strategy in Precolonial Africa.” *In Progress*.

Soeren J. Henn, and Harry Pickard. “Institutional Origins and the Balance of Power: Long-run Effects of the Danelaw Boundary on English State Formation.” *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

2024 Honorable Mention for APCG Best Article Award 2023

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

Political Economy of Development (PhD): Spring 2025 (primary instructor).

Understanding Political Numbers (undergraduate): Fall 2024 (primary instructor).

Topics in Microeconomics (masters): Spring 2024 (primary instructor).

Development Economics (undergraduate): Fall 2022 & Fall 2023 (primary instructor).

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

Research Methods in Economics and Finance (masters): Fall 2023 (primary instructor).

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

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

Rethinking Financial Inclusion: Smart Design for Policy and Practice (executive):

April 2016 (teaching assistant for Asim Khwaja)

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

**TALKS &
CONFERENCES**

Invited Talks

2025 Washington University St. Louis
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

2024 NBER Summer Institute Development Workshop
NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development
BSE Summer Forum Political Economy Workshop
BSE Summer Forum Public Economics Workshop
European Political Science Association
LSE Workshop on Institutions and Political Economy in Historical Perspective
CSAE Conference 2024: Economic Development in Africa
2023 European Workshop in Empirical Political Science
Governance and Local Development Institute Annual Conference
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, the Economic Journal, European Review of Agricultural Economics, International Economic Review, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Rural and Community Development, Political Analysis, Quarterly Journal of Economics, South African Journal of Economics,

Studies in Comparative International Development.

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, \LaTeX , Matlab, Microsoft Office, Python, R, Stata.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

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

Last updated: March 30, 2025.