

# SOEREN J. HENN

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NUBS 7.24/desk 26.  
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, 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, 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*. [Accepted Version](#).

Soeren J. Henn, and Connor Huff. “The Local Memory of Repression and Who Fights.” *Accepted, World Politics*. [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](#). 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, and Vincent Tanutama. “State Expansion and Social Responses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” [PDF](#). **Job market paper**.

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, 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*.

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*.

## **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).
- Research Methods in Economics and Finance (masters): Fall 2023 (module leader).
- 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, European Review of Agricultural Economics, 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,  $\LaTeX$ , Matlab, Microsoft Office, Python, R, Stata.

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

Last updated: March 3, 2024.