

Political Economy of Development and Conflict in Africa

MACIS Elective

Spring Semester 2019

Wednesday 14:15-16:00

Syllabus

Instructors:

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Course Description

This course introduces participating students to the geographic, historic, and political drivers of development and (redistributive) conflict in contemporary Africa. We cover the recent, mostly empirical literature from political science, economics, and history. Topics include the persistent impacts of historical factors on contemporary development outcomes, (post)colonial state building, the origins and effects of politicized ethnicity, the role of natural resources in conflict processes, as well as political accountability in ethnically divided societies and democracies. The selected readings address these important topics with well-designed quantitative analyses or case studies using experimental, quasi-experimental, or innovative observational and descriptive approaches. Combining work from various disciplines with case-specific discussions, the course aims to improve our understanding of African development trajectories.

Course Structure

We meet weekly for a 90 minute session. Each week, we discuss two required readings. We expect students to have carefully read the required texts in advance of our meetings. In every session, two participants kick off our meeting by briefly summarizing the required readings. We then cover the strengths and weaknesses of these papers, with a keen eye on open theoretical and empirical questions. On this basis we discuss what theories and empirical approaches would be needed to answer open questions in the current literature. These ideas may feed into students' own work.

Final Assignment & Grading

At the end of the course, students will develop and submit their own research design. In their research designs, course participants will

- come up with a well-defined research question on a topic of their choice that is broadly related to the content of the seminar,
- develop theoretically informed and empirically testable hypotheses that go beyond the existing literature,
- explain their empirical strategy, with a specific focus on
 - case selection
 - causal inference
 - data sources and/or own data collection

The research designs do not have to be implemented at the end of this seminar. As such, the chosen research projects do not face any constraints in terms of time and funding. Students are free to propose randomized control trials, survey experiments, qualitative field research, large-scale collection of observational data, in short, any research design that is adequate to convincingly answer the research question.

The final research design should be presented as text document until 07.02.2020 and will be 8-15 pages long. Grading will be based on the proposed research projects'

- theoretical and empirical contributions to the existing literature,
- quality and clarity of the empirical design,
- overall presentation of the paper.

We encourage students to discuss their ideas for the final assignment with their colleagues and instructors throughout the course. We will hold a research design workshop in the last week of the semester, where students present their research design ideas and give feedback to their peers.

Grading:

- 20% Feedback given to peers at the workshop on the last day of the seminar.
- 80% Research design

Readings

All readings can be found here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/545rzmzhf1i9nkb/AACzGDspW0t1X_T6hXWu7cPya?dl=0

18.9. Introductory Session - Motivation, logistics, overview

25.9. Precolonial history

Required:

- Nunn, N. (2008). The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123(1), 139–176.
- Michalopoulos, S., & Papaioannou, E. (2013). Pre-Colonial Ethnic Institutions and Contemporary African Development. *Econometrica*, 81(1), 113–152.

Additional:

- Herbst, J. (2000). *States and Power in Africa*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-3
- Nunn, N., & Wantchekon, L. (2011). The slave trade and the origins of Mistrust in Africa. *American Economic Review*, 101(7), 3221–3252. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.101.7.3221>
- Michalopoulos, S., & Papaioannou, E. (2018). Historical Legacies and African Development. *Journal of Economic Literature*, Forthcoming.

2.10. Colonial history: Politics of colonization

Required:

- Huillery, E. (2010). The impact of European settlement within French West Africa: Did precolonial prosperous areas fall behind? *Journal of African Economies*, 20(2), 263–311.
- Müller-Crepon, C. (2019). Continuity or Change: (In)direct Rule in British and French Colonial Africa. *Unpublished Working Paper*.

Additional:

- Jedwab, R., Selhausen, F. M. zu, & Moradi, A. (2018). The Economics of Missionary Expansion: Evidence from Africa and Implications for Development. *CSAE Working Paper*.
- Cogneau, D., & Moradi, A. (2014). Borders that Divide: Education and Religion in Ghana and Togo since Colonial Times. *Journal of Economic History*, 74(3), 694–729.
- Michalopoulos, S., & Papaioannou, E. (2016). The Long-Run Effects of the Scramble for Africa. *American Economic Review*, 106(7), 1802–1848.
- Woodberry, R. D. (2012). The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy. *American Political Science Review*, 106(02), 244–274.

9.10. Colonial infrastructure and resource extraction

Required:

- Lowes, S., & Montero, E. (2018). Concessions, Violence, and Indirect Rule: Evidence from the Congo Free State. *Unpublished Working Paper*.
- Roessler, P., Pengl, Y. I., Titlow, K., Marty, R., & van de Walle, N. (2018). The Empty Panorama: The Colonial Origins of Spatial Inequality in Africa. *Unpublished Working Paper*.

Additional:

- Jedwab, R., & Moradi, A. (2016). The Permanent Effects of Transportation Revolutions in Poor Countries: Evidence from Africa. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 98(2), 268–284.
- Huillery, E. (2009). History matters: the long-term impact of colonial public investments in French West Africa. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 1(2), 176–215.
- Dell, M. (2010). The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita. *Econometrica*, 78(6), 1863–1903.

- Dell, M., & Olken, B. (2018). The Development Effects of the Extractive Colonial Economy: The Dutch Cultivation System in Java. *Review of Economic Studies*, *Forthcoming*.

16.10. Decolonization

Required:

- Cooper, F. (2008). Possibility and constraint: African independence in historical perspective. *The Journal of African History*, *49*(2), 167-196.
- Wantchékon, L., & García-Ponce, O. (2014). Critical Junctures: Independence Movements and Democracy in Africa. *Unpublished Working Paper*, 1–54.

Additional:

- Zolberg, A. R. (1968). The structure of political conflict in the new states of tropical Africa. *American Political Science Review*, *62*(1), 70-87.

23.10. Ethnic politics

Required:

- Bates, R. H. (1974). Ethnic competition and modernization in contemporary Africa. *Comparative Political Studies*, *6*(4), 457-484.
- Posner, D. N. (2004). The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi. *The American Political Science Review*, *98*(4), 529–545.
- Habyarimana, J., Humphreys, M., Posner, D. N., & Weinstein, J. M. (2007). Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision? *American Political Science Review*, *101*(04), 709–725.

Additional:

- Ali, M., Fjeldstad, O.-H., Jiang, B., & Shifa, A. B. (2018). Colonial Legacy, State-building and the Salience of Ethnicity in Sub-saharan Africa. *Economic Journal*, *Forthcoming*.
- Alesina, A., Baqir, R., & Easterly, W. (1999). Public goods and ethnic divisions. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *114*(4), 1243–1284.
- Franck, R., & Rainer, I. (2012). Does the Leader's Ethnicity Matter? Ethnic Favoritism, Education, and Health in Sub-Saharan Africa. *American Political Science Review*, *106*(2), 294–325.
- Lowes, S., Nunn, N., Robinson, J. A., & Weigel, J. (2015). Understanding Ethnic Identity in Africa: Evidence from the Implicit Association Test (IAT). *American Economic Review*, *105*(5), 340–345.

30.10. Politics of sharing power

Required:

- Francois, P., Rainer, I., & Trebbi, F. (2015). How Is Power Shared In Africa? *Econometrica*, 83(3), 465–503.
- Roessler, P., & Ohls, D. (2018). Self-Enforcing Power Sharing in Weak States. *International Organization*, 72(2), 423–454.

Additional:

- Ricart-Huguet, J. (2016). Who Governs? Colonial Education and Regional Political Inequality. *Unpublished Working Paper*.
- Pengl, Y. & Roessler, P. (2018). The Economic Roots of African Ruling Coalitions. *Unpublished Working Paper*.

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6.11. Reading Week

13.11. Resources

Required:

- Christensen, D. (2019). Concession Stands: How Mining Investments Incite Protest in Africa. *International Organization*, 73(1), 65–101.
- Kasara, K. (2007). Tax Me If You Can: Ethnic Geography, Democracy, and the Taxation of Agriculture in Africa. *The American Political Science Review*, 101(1), 159–172.

Additional:

- Berman, N., Couttenier, M., Rohner, D., & Thoenig, M. (2017). This mine is mine! How minerals fuel conflicts in Africa. *American Economic Review*, 107(6), 1564–1610.
- Kotsadam, A., Olsen, E. H., Knutsen, C. H., & Wig, T. (2017). Mining and Local Corruption in Africa. *American Journal of Political Science*, 61(2), 320–334.

20.11. Bureaucracies and state building

Required

- Hassan, M. (2017). The Strategic Shuffle: Ethnic Geography, the Internal Security Apparatus, and Elections in Kenya. *American Journal of Political Science*, 61(2), 382–395.
- Weigel, J. L. (2019). Building State and Citizen: Experimental Evidence from a Tax Campaign in Congo. *Unpublished Working Paper*.

Additional:

- Lee, M. M., & Zhang, N. (2017). Legibility and the Informational Foundations of State Capacity. *The Journal of Politics*, 79(1), 118–132.
- Müller-Crepon, C. (2019). State Reach and Development in Africa since the 1960s: New data and analysis. *Unpublished Working Paper*.
- Sanchez de la Sierra, R. (2018). On the Origins of States: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo. *Journal of Political Economy*, *Forthcoming*.

27.11. Traditional institutions

Required:

- Baldwin, K. (2013). Why Vote with the Chief? Political Connections and Public Goods Provision in Zambia. *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(4), 794–809.
- Acemoglu, D., Reed, T., & Robinson, J. A. (2014). Chiefs: Economic Development and Elite Control of Civil Society in Sierra Leone. *Journal of Political Economy*, 122(2), 319–368.

Additional:

- Nathan, N. L. (2019). Electoral Consequences of Colonial Invention: Brokers, Chiefs, and Distribution in Northern Ghana. *World Politics*, 71(3), 417–456.
- Wilfahrt, M. (2018). Precolonial Legacies and Institutional Congruence in Public Goods Delivery: Evidence from Decentralized West Africa. *World Politics*, 70(2), 239–274.
- Henn, S. (2018). Complements or Substitutes: State Presence and the Power of Traditional Leaders. *Unpublished Working Paper*.

4. 12. Climate, weather, and conflict

Required

- Von Uexkull, N., Croicu, M., Fjelde, H., & Buhaug, H. (2016). Civil conflict sensitivity to growing-season drought. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113(44), 12391–12396.
- Hsiang, S. M., Burke, M., & Miguel, E. (2013). Quantifying the influence of climate on human conflict. *Science*, 341(6151), 1235367.

Additional

- Mach, K. J., Kraan, C. M., Adger, W. N., Buhaug, H., Burke, M., Fearon, J. D., et al. (2019). Climate as a risk factor for armed conflict. *Nature*, 571(2019), 193–197

11.12. Democracy, voting, accountability

Required

- Ichino, N., & Nathan, N. L. (2013). Crossing the Line: Local Ethnic Geography and Voting in Ghana. *American Political Science Review*, 107(02), 344–361.
- Dunning, T., Grossman, G., Humphreys, M., Hyde, S. D., McIntosh, C., Nellis, G., et al. (2019). Voter information campaigns and political accountability: Cumulative findings from a preregistered meta-analysis of coordinated trials. *Science Advances*, 5(7)

Additional

- Eifert, B., Miguel, E., & Posner, D. N. (2010). Political competition and ethnic identification in Africa. *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(89), 494–510.

- Aker, J. C., Collier, P., & Vicente, P. C. (2017). Is information power? Using mobile phones and free newspapers during an election in Mozambique. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 99(2), 185-200.

18.12. Research Design Workshop