

The Political Economy of Development

ECON35570/PPHA41120/PLSC46600

Chris Blattman **James Robinson**

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Course Information

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Lecture Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:50AM, Keller 2112

Who may take this course? This course is intended as an advanced research seminar for Ph.D. students in economics, public policy, and political science. Other Ph.D. students are welcome but will benefit from some experience in game theory and causal inference. MACRM students are welcome. other Master's students are not eligible and should take one of the Harris MA classes taught by the professors.

Auditing Ph.D. auditors are welcome, space pending. First year Ph.D. students should not audit this course, but rather should take for credit.

Course description

This course is intended as an introduction for Ph.D. students to the research literature in the political economy of development. Its purpose is to:

- Give you a sense of the frontier research topics

- Introduce you to some of the canon
- Give you a command of how social science tools are used in this area
- Highlight important and under-researched questions, ripe for a dissertation

The reading list is intentionally long, to give those of you interested in the field an opportunity to dig deeper into some of the topics in this area. The lectures will cover the material with *’s in detail and also discuss the material without *’s, but in less detail. There is a “book of the day” for each reading which we will talk about briefly.

Though the research papers in this course tend to be short and focused on very specific questions that one can hopefully answer in a convincing way, often inspiration, ideas and questions themselves come from very different sorts of research, qualitative, ethnographic and works which have studied a subject in a very different way than you might. We hope you’ll come away from the class with some appreciation of this perspective and the rich set of ideas and questions it provides for us. There is a great deal of knowledge about the world out there even if it isn’t presented in ways which attempt to establish causal hypotheses. Even more important, sometimes the thirst to establish causal hypotheses leads us to set aside things which ultimately turn out to be very important.

This is a very eclectic subject but the theme that unites it is an argument that traditional approaches to trying to understand economic development, particularly in terms of the ‘fundamentals’ of standard economic models, cannot satisfactorily account for the evidence. ‘Satisfactorily’ is a bit “in the eye of the beholder” and this course will necessarily be a bit subjective. Nevertheless, we’ll try to argue using many different sources of evidence from regressions, through case studies and ethnographic material, that it is very unlikely that the tools development economists have used for the past 50 years to study why poor countries stay poor and why rich countries got rich, are sufficient for the task.

First half: Jim Robinson

One main argument is going to be that societies are organized in very different ways with very different consequences for prosperity. We talk about these differences in organization in terms of the institutional differences in society, the differences in the rules which create very different patterns of incentives and opportunities and very different allocations of resources. Institutions will be thought of in a very broad way, from traditional economic institutions like property rights, though political institutions, such as how collective decision are made, all the way to social institutions like kinship relationships. This is a much broader agenda than traditional ‘institutionalism’ in economics or political science but I think logically we have to anticipate that any aspect of the way a society is organized could have important consequences for the economy and we’re going to give you a lot of examples of this.

Why then the emphasis on ‘political’ as in ‘political economy of development’. That’s an empirical claim that to understand institutional differences and their consequences for

prosperity you need to understand power and how it is exercised. Put simply, the institutions of a society are chosen by the society themselves through some process of collective decision making (preference aggregation). Different distributions of power in society lead to different collective choices and these have different consequences for development. If this is right then understanding comparative development is ultimately going to be about understanding comparative politics.

This is not the only way to think about institutional differences however, as we will see. Standard views in economic theory would suggest institutional differences are efficient and reflect differences in underlying circumstances (factor endowments etc.). Such theories regard the distribution of power in society as irrelevant to understanding institutions and the efficiency of resource allocation (though it may determine the distribution of surplus). If this view is correct (and I'll present evidence that it isn't) then institutional differences cannot be the source of comparative economic development. Other views emphasize the cultural origins of institutional differences, I'll give examples of these and of other views which emphasize the ideological origins of institutional differences.

Examples suggest that both of these approaches have explanatory power in some contexts. The main issue is how important quantitatively they are compared to other (e.g. political) approaches. I'm going to mostly emphasize the political approach, but I think you should keep an open mind about the others which have been much less researched and studied empirically.

Second half: Chris Blattman

My goal in the second half of the course is to illustrate what I think are some of the newer and most exciting directions in the political economy of development.

We will start with a look at a classic subject: ethnic politics and clientelism, then informal institutions more generally. The economics literature has tended to focus on formal institutions rather than informal institutions such as norms. We will talk about what these norms are, why they are important, and how malleable they are.

On the subject of violence and conflict, we will start with the major game theoretic theories of conflict and move to more behavioral and non-standard explanations. Like voting, violent conflict is one of the social phenomena where standard approaches only seem to get you so far, and a major frontier of research is whether or not more non-standard theories can close the gap or not.

We will then move on to related frontiers: the industrial organization of violence, international crime, and gangs. Then studies of international interventions, including aid and military actions.

Grading

Weekly 1-page comments

30% of the course grade will be based on 8 weekly comments submitted throughout the quarter. No comment is due the first week or the last week (during presentations).

The comment should be submitted either the Monday or Wednesday evening before the relevant class.

Your comments should be roughly one-page long, and be related to the theme of one of the classes of the week. It should address one or multiple of the following:

- An original question and research idea related to the themes or readings of the week
- Critiques of the required readings, including an idea about how to do it better or differently

The idea is for this to be less like a referee report or critical evaluation of the required readings, and more of a constructive opportunity to think about questions and how to push the literature forward.

That said, if you find yourself stuck for new questions, you can certainly dwell on some of the problems you see with the required or recommended readings. Just be sure to think about what better could be done.

Your TA will grade these with a check plus, check, or check minus (or zero in the event nothing is submitted) and the professors will sometimes review a selection before class.

Research proposal and presentation

70% of the course grade will be based on a full research proposal which every student has to write and present.

The research proposal should be related to the political economy of development. While we are somewhat flexible on topic, it should be in the spirit of "development" in that it is not focused on a contemporary OECD country. Thus it could be a historical project or one focused on a low - or middle-income country. It should also be in the spirit of "political economy" in that there is a clear political angle to the research.

Students who have existing research proposals are welcome to develop them further in this class, but they must be able to demonstrate substantive progress over the quarter. So we would ask that you share with us a recent proposal or presentation of the work at the beginning of the semester to be able to illustrate progression over the 10 weeks of the class.

A 1-2 page proposal is due May 9.

The last two classes of the quarter (June 4 and 6) will be devoted to student presentations of their proposal. We find this a useful deadline for people and a great way to get feedback on a project. This approach has also led to dissertation projects and published papers in the past.

The aim is not to have a well crafted research paper by the end of the quarter but rather to have a good question or puzzle that interests you, where you can place it in a literature and come up with a research design and plan. This is usually empirical, but you don't even need to have run a regression, but know what data would you use, what is the hypothesis, what model would you estimate?

We understand that auditors may want to present their research proposals as well. Unfortunately, there is unlikely to be time for all to present and we are likely to focus on students taking the class for credit.

Weekly schedule — Robinson half (9 classes)

1 A Crash Course in Political Economy (April 2)

I start with a primer on the political economy of development emphasizing some ideas about why politics leads to inefficient outcomes and what creates variation in political equilibria.

- (*) **Bates, Robert H. (1981)** *Markets and States in Tropical Africa*, Berkeley: University of California Press.
- **Wittman, Donald (1989)** “Why Democracies Produce Efficient Results,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 97(6), 1395-1424.
- **Acemoglu, Daron (2003)** “Why Not a Political Coase Theorem?” *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 31, 620-652.
- (*) **Lizzeri, Alessandro and Nicola Persico (2001)** The Provision of Public Goods under Alternative Electoral Incentives,” *American Economic Review*, 91, 1, 225-239.
- (*) **Chattopadhyay, Raghendra and Esther Duflo (2004)** “Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India,” *Econometrica*, 72, No. 5 1409-1443.
- **Persson, Torsten and Guido Tabellini (2000)** *Political Economics*, Cambridge: MIT Press. (Background reading on basic models in political economy).
- **Acemoglu, Daron (2005)** “Modelling Inefficient Institutions,” *Advances in Economic Theory World Congress 2006*, http://econ-www.mit.edu/faculty/download_pdf.php?id=1214 (An attempted taxonomy of mechanisms that lead to inefficient outcomes)

2 Political Institutions

2.1 The State: Origins (April 4)

Some ideas and evidence about what creates variation in the nature and effectiveness of states.

- (*) **Besley, Timothy and Torsten Persson (2009)** “The Origins of State Capacity: Property Rights, Taxation and Politics,” *American Economic Review*, 99(4), 1218-44.
- (*) **Sanchez de la Sierra, Raul (2014)** “On the Origin of States: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo,” <http://raulsanchezdelasierra.com/papers/>
- (*) **Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson (2017)** “The Emergence of Weak, Despotism and Inclusive States,” <http://www.nber.org/papers/w23657>.
- **Dow, Gregory K. and Clyde G. Reed (2018)** “The Origins of City-States in Southern Mesopotamia,”

2.2 The State: Consequences (April 9)

- (*) **Michalopoulos, Stelios and Elias Papaioannou (2013)** “Pre-Colonial Ethnic Institutions and Contemporary African Development”, *Econometrica*, 81(1), 113–152.
- (*) **Dell, Melissa, Nathan Lane and Pablo Querubín (2018)** “The Historical State, Local Collective Action and Economic Development in Vietnam,” *Econometrica*, 86(6), pp. 2083-2121.
- **Acemoglu, Daron, Camilo Garcia-Jimeno and James Robinson (2015)** “State Capacity and Economic Development: A Network Approach,” *American Economic Review*, 105(8), 2364-2409.
- **Acemoglu, Daron, Jacob Moscona and James A. Robinson (2016)** “State Capacity and American Technology,” *American Economic Review*, 106(5), 61-67.
- (*) **Heldring, Leander (2018)** “The Origins of Violence in Rwanda,”

<http://www.leanderheldring.com/>

- (*) **Udry, Christopher and Goldstein, Markus (2008)** “The Profits of Power: Land Rights and Agricultural Investment in Ghana,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 116(6), 981-1022.
- **Douglas, Mary (1962)** “Lele Economy compared to the Bushong,” in Paul Bohannan and George Dalton eds. *Markets in Africa*, Evanston: Northwestern University Press.

2.3 The Regime #1: Dictatorship (April 11)

Models of dictatorship and their predictions about institutions and development.

- (*) **Padró i Miquel, Gerard (2007)** “The Control of Politicians in Divided Societies: The Politics of Fear,” *Review of Economic Studies*, 74(4): 1259-1274.
- **Francois, Patrick, Ilya Rainer and Francesco Trebbi (2015)** “How is Power Shared in Africa?” *Econometrica*, 83(2), 465–503.
- (*) **Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson (2001)** “A Theory of Political Transitions,” *American Economic Review*, 91, 4, 938-963.
- (*) **Lizzeri, Alessandro and Nicola Persico (2004)** “Why did Elites Extend the Suffrage?,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Volume 119, Issue 2, 1, 707–765.

2.4 The Regime #2: Democracy (April 16)

The contrast with democracy.

- (*) **Martinez-Bravo, Monica, Priya Mukherjee and Andreas Stegmann (2017)** “The Non-Democratic Roots of Elite-Capture: Evidence from Soeharto Mayors in Indonesia” *Econometrica*, 85 (6), 1991-2010.
- (*) **Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson (2008)** “Persistence of Power, Elites and Institutions,” *American Economic Review*, 98, 1, 267-93.
- (*) **Aidt, Toke S. and Raphaël Franck (2015)** “Democratization Under the Threat of Revolution: Evidence From the Great Reform Act of 1832,” *Econometrica*, 83,(2), 505–547.
- (*) **Fujiwara, Thomas (2015)** “Voting Technology, Political Responsiveness, and Infant Health: Evidence from Brazil,” *Econometrica*, 2015, 83(2): 423-464.
- **Jones, Benjamin F. and Olken, Benjamin A. (2005)** “Do Leaders Matter? National Leadership and Growth Since World War II,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 120, 835-864.
- **Burgess, Robin, Remi Jedwab, Edward Miguel, Ameet Morjaria and Gerard Padró i Miquel (2015)** “The Value of Democracy: Evidence from Road Building in Kenya”, *American Economic Review*, 105 (6), 1817-51.

2.5 The Architecture of Democracy (April 18)

But there are lots of types of democracies organized in many different ways...

- **Acemoglu, Daron, James A. Robinson and Rafael Santos (2012)** “The Monopoly of Violence: Evidence from Colombia” *Journal of European Economic Association*, 11(1), 5-44.
- (*) **Finan, Frederico and Laura Schechter (2012)** “Vote Buying and Reciprocity,” *Econometrica*, 80(2), 863–881.
- (*) **Cruz, Cesi, Julianne Labonne and Pablo Querubin (2017)** “Politician Family Networks and Electoral Outcomes,” *American Economic Review*, 107(10), pp. 3006-3037.
- (*) **Acemoglu, Daron, James A. Robinson and Ragnar Torvik (2013)** “Why Do Voters Dismantle Checks and Balances?” *Review of Economic Studies*, 80 (3): 845-875.
- **Anderson, Siwan, Patrick Francois and Ashok Kotwal (2015)** “Clientelism in an Indian Village,” *American Economic Review*, 105(6): 1780-1816.

3 Social Institutions (April 23)

So far we have considered institutions in conventional ways, economic institutions (property rights), political institutions (the state, the regime), but there are many more institutions than this in society...

- (*) **Jakeila, Pamela (2011)** “Social Preferences and Fairness Norms as Informal Institutions: Experimental Evidence,” *American Economic Review*, 101(3): 509-513.
- (*) **Jakiela, Pamela and Owen Ozier (2015)** “Does Africa Need a Rotten Kin Theorem? Experimental Evidence from Village Economies,” *Review of Economic Studies*,
- (*) **Moscona, Jacob, Nathan Nunn and James A. Robinson (2018)** “Social Structure and Conflict,” NBER Working Paper #24209.
- **Davies, Elwyn and Marcel Fafchamps (2017)** “When No Bad Deed Goes Punished: Relational Contracting in Ghana versus the UK,” <http://www.nber.org/papers/w23123>
- (*) **Gneezy, Uri, Kenneth L. Leonard and John A. List (2009)** “Gender Differences in Competition: Evidence from a Matrilineal and a Patrilineal Society,” *Econometrica*, 77(5), 1637–1666.

4 ‘Deep’ Institutional Variation (April 25)

How do such equilibria get established? Often they are deeply rooted in the past. Showing this empirically is a very active and exciting research agenda.

- **Alsan, Marcela (2015)** “The Effect of the TseTse Fly on African Development,” *American Economic Review*, 105(1): 382-410.
- (*) **Nunn, Nathan (2008)** “The Long Term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123 (1): 139–176.
- (*) **Nunn, Nathan and Leonard Wantchekon (2011)** “The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa,” *American Economic Review*, 101 (7): 3221-3252.
- (*) **Dell, Melissa (2010)** “The Persistent Effects of Peru’s Mining Mita,” *Econometrica*, 78(6), 1863-1903.
- **Alberto Alesina, Paola Giuliano, and Nathan Nunn (2013)** “On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128 (2): 469-530.

5 Interactions (April 30)

So far I have been discussing economic, political and social institutions and emphasizing studies which focus on the origins or consequences of one. But these no doubt interact. How and with what consequences? I think this is another very exciting area of research.

- **Greif, Avner (1994)** “Cultural Beliefs and the Organization of Society: A Historical and Theoretical Reflection on Collectivist and Individualist Societies,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 102, 912-950.
- (*) **Tabellini, Guido (2010)** “Culture and Institutions: Economic Development in the Regions of Europe.” *Journal of European Economic Association*, 8, 677-716.
- (*) **Tabellini, Guido (2008)** “The Scope of Cooperation: Values and Incentives,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123, 905-950.
- (*) **Lowes, Sara, Nathan Nunn, James A. Robinson and Jonathan Weigel (2017)** “The Interaction of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom,” *Econometrica*, 85(4):1065-1091.
- **Besley, Timothy (2019)** “State Capacity, Reciprocity and the Social Contract,” Unpublished.

Weekly schedule – Blattman half (9 classes)

This is a preliminary syllabus. Readings (including required readings) will be finalized closer to the start of this half of the course.

(**) means required and we will discuss in detail in class. Please arrive having read the full paper. (*) means we will discuss in some detail in class and you should read the introduction at minimum.

6 Social identity, preferences, and engineering

6.1 Ethnic identification: Causes and consequences (May 2)

- (**) Blouin, A., & Mukand, S. (2019). Erasing Ethnicity? Propaganda, Nation Building and Identity in Rwanda. forthcoming in *Journal of Political Economy*.
- (**) Burgess, Robin, Remi Jedwab, Edward Miguel, Ameet Morjaria, and Gerard Padro i Miquel. “The value of democracy: Evidence from road building in Kenya.” *American Economic Review* 105, no. 6 (2015): 1817-51.
- (*) Hjort, J. (2014). “Ethnic divisions and production in firms.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 129(4), 1899-1946.
- (*) Bazzi, Samuel, and Matthew Gudgeon. “The Political Boundaries of Ethnic Divisions. ” (2018).
- Hodler, Roland, and Paul A. Raschky. “Regional favoritism. ” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 129, no. 2 (2014): 995-1033.
- Fearon, J. D., & Laitin, D. D. (1996). Explaining interethnic cooperation. *American political science review*, 90(4), 715-735.
- Alesina, Alberto, and Eliana La Ferrara. “Ethnic diversity and economic performance.” *Journal of Economic Literature* 43, no. 3 (2005): 762-800.
- Francois, Patrick, Ilia Rainer, and Francesco Trebbi. “How is power shared in Africa?” *Econometrica* 83, no. 2 (2015): 465-503.
- Esteban, Joan, and Debraj Ray. 2008. ”On the Saliency of Ethnic Conflict.” *American Economic Review*, 98 (5): 2185-2202.
- Easterly, W., & Levine, R. (1997). Africa’s growth tragedy: policies and ethnic divisions. *The quarterly journal of economics*, 112(4), 1203-1250.

- Montalvo, J. G., & Reynal-Querol, M. (2005). Ethnic polarization, potential conflict, and civil wars. *American economic review*, 95(3), 796-816.
- Kasara, Kimuli (2007) “Tax Me If You Can: Ethnic Geography, Democracy, and the Taxation of Agriculture in Africa” *American Political Science Review*, 101(1), 159-172.
- Skarbek, D. (2014). *The social order of the underworld: How prison gangs govern the American penal system*. Oxford University Press.
- Greif, A. (2006). *Institutions and the path to the modern economy: Lessons from medieval trade*. Cambridge University Press.
- Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. “Violence and the social construction of ethnic identity.” *International organization* 54, no. 4 (2000): 845-877.

6.2 Social identity & preferences (May 7)

- (**) Akerlof, George A., and Rachel E. Kranton. “Economics and Identity.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 115, no. 3 (2000): 715–53.
- (*) Atkin, David, Moses Shayo and Eve Sihra. 2019. “How Do We Choose Our Identity? A Revealed Preference Approach Using Food Consumption ” Working paper.
- (*) Chen, Y., & Li, S. X. (2009). Group identity and social preferences. *American Economic Review*, 99(1), 431-57.
- (*) Lars Ivar Oppedal Berge, Kjetil Bjorvatn, Simon Galle, Edward Miguel, Daniel Posner, Bertil Tungodden and Kelly Zhang. (2019). ”Ethnically Biased? Experimental Evidence from Kenya”, forthcoming *Journal of the European Economic Association*.
- Bauer, M., Blattman, C., Chytilová, J., Henrich, J., Miguel, E., & Mitts, T. (2016). “Can war foster cooperation?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 30(3), 249-74.
- Almlund, M., Duckworth, A. L., Heckman, J., and Kautz, T. (2011). “Personality psychology and economics.” In *Handbook of the Economics of Education* (Vol. 4, pp. 1-181). Elsevier. Chicago
- Athey, Susan and Calvano, Emilio and Jha, Saumitra, A Theory of Community Formation and Social Hierarchy (August 15, 2016). Stanford University Graduate School of Business Research Paper No. 16-41.

- Habyarimana, James, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. “Why does ethnic diversity undermine public goods provision?.” *American Political Science Review* 101, no. 4 (2007): 709-725.
- Cikara, M., Bruneau, E., Van Bavel, J. J., and Saxe, R. (2014). “Their pain gives us pleasure: How intergroup dynamics shape empathic failures and counter-empathic responses.” *Journal of experimental social psychology*, 55, 110-125.
- Elster, Jon. “Social Norms and Economic Theory.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 3 (1989): 99–117.
- Charness, Gary, and Matthew Rabin. ”Understanding social preferences with simple tests.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 117, no. 3 (2002): 817-869. Harvard
- Habyarimana, J., Humphreys, M., Posner, D., & Weinstein, J. (2006). “Social Focal Points.” Working paper.
- Tajfel, H., Billig, M. G., Bundy, R. P., & Flament, C. (1971). Social categorization and intergroup behaviour. *European journal of social psychology*, 1(2), 149-178.

6.3 Social engineering (May 9)

- (**) Blattman, Christopher, Julian C. Jamison, and Margaret Sheridan. “Reducing crime and violence: Experimental evidence from cognitive behavioral therapy in Liberia.” *American Economic Review* 107.4 (2017): 1165-1206.
- (*) Cantoni, Davide, Yuyu Chen, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman, and Y. Jane Zhang. “Curriculum and ideology.” *Journal of Political Economy* 125.2 (2017): 338-392.
- (*) Jha, Saumitra, Trade, Institutions and Ethnic Tolerance: Evidence from South Asia (May 6, 2013). *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 107, No. 4.
- (*) Blattman, Christopher, Alexandra Hartman, and Robert Blair. 2014. “How to Promote Order and Property Rights under Weak Rule of Law? An Experiment in Changing Dispute Resolution Behavior through Community Education.” *American Political Science Review* 108(1): 100–120.
- Jha, Saumitra, and Steven Wilkinson. “Does Combat Experience Foster Organizational Skill? Evidence from Ethnic Cleansing during the Partition of South Asia.” *American Political Science Review* 1, no. 1 (2012): 1–25.
- Bazzi, Samuel, Arya Gaduh, Alexander Rothenberg, and Maisy Wong. “Unity in Diversity? How Intergroup Contact Can Foster Nation Building.” (2018).

- Heller, Sara B., Anuj K. Shah, Jonathan Guryan, Jens Ludwig, Sendhil Mullainathan, and Harold A. Pollack. “Thinking, Fast and Slow? Some Field Experiments to Reduce Crime and Dropout in Chicago.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2016.
- Ghosal, S., Jana, S., Mani, A., Mitra, S., & Roy, S. (2016). Sex workers, self-image and stigma: evidence from Kolkata brothels, Working paper.
- Lowes, Sara, Nunn, Nathan, Robinson, James A., and Weigel, Jonathan L. (2017). “The evolution of culture and institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom.” *Econometrica*, 85(4), 1065-1091.
- Clingingsmith, David, Asim Ijaz Khwaja, and Michael Kremer. “Estimating the impact of the Hajj: religion and tolerance in Islam’s global gathering.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 124, no. 3 (2009): 1133-1170.
- Paluck, Elizabeth Levy, and Donald P. Green. “Deference, dissent, and dispute resolution: An experimental intervention using mass media to change norms and behavior in Rwanda.” *American Political Science Review* 103, no. 4 (2009): 622-644.
- Jaeger, David A., Esteban F. Klor, Sami H. Miaari, and M. Daniele Paserman. “The struggle for Palestinian hearts and minds: Violence and public opinion in the Second Intifada.” *Journal of Public Economics* 96, no. 3-4 (2012): 354-368.

One-page proposal for final project due May 12

7 Violence and conflict (May 14, 16 and 21)

7.1 Rationalist explanations for group conflict (May 14)

- (**) Baliga, Sandeep, and Tomas Sjöström. “Bargaining and war: A review of some formal models” *Korean Economic Review* 29.2 (2013): 235-266.
- (**) Fearon, James. 1995. “Rationalist Explanations for War” *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.
- (*) Caselli, F., Morelli, M., and Rohner, D. (2015). “The geography of interstate resource wars.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(1), 267-315.
- (*) Fearon, James and Xin Jin. 2019. *Armed Conflict Bargaining*.
- (*) Fearon, J. D., & Laitin, D. D. (1996). Explaining interethnic cooperation. *American political science review*, 90(4), 715-735.
- Jackson, Matthew O., and Massimo Morelli. “Political Bias and War.” *American Economic Review* 97 (2007): 1353-73.

- Dube, O., and Vargas, J. F. (2013). “Commodity price shocks and civil conflict: Evidence from Colombia.” *The Review of Economic Studies*, 80(4), 1384-1421.
- Berman, N., Couttenier, M., Rohner, D., and Thoenig, M. (2017). “This mine is mine! How minerals fuel conflicts in Africa.” *American Economic Review*, 107(6), 1564-1610.
- Joan Esteban, Massimo Morelli, and Dominic Rohner, “Strategic Mass Killings,” *Journal of Political Economy* 123, no. 5 (October 2015): 1087-1132.
- Powell, Robert. 2006. “War as a commitment problem” *International organization* 60.1 (2006): 169-203.
- Acemoglu, D. (2003). Why not a political Coase theorem? Social conflict, commitment, and politics. *Journal of comparative economics*, 31(4), 620-652.
- Ramsay, K. W. (2017). “Information, Uncertainty, and War.” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 20, 505-527.
- Amos Sawyer. 2004. “Violent conflicts and governance challenges in West Africa: the case of the Mano River basin area.” *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 42(03).
- Chapter 1 and 7 of Fortna, Virginia Page. 2008. “Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents’ Choices after Civil War.” Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Jackson, Matthew O., and Massimo Morelli. 2011. “The Reasons for Wars: An Updated Survey.” *The Handbook on the Political Economy of War*: 34-57.
- Galiani, Sebastian, and Gustavo Torrens. 2016. “Why Not Taxation and Representation? A Note on the American Revolution.” NBER Working Paper.

7.2 “Behavioral” theories of violence (May 16)

- (*) Ager, Philipp, Leonardo Bursztyn, and Hans-Joachim Voth. “Killer Incentives: Status Competition and Pilot Performance during World War II.” (2017).
- (*) Jha, Saumitra, and Moses Shayo. “Valuing Peace: The Effects of Financial Market Exposure on Votes and Political Attitudes.” (2017).
- (*) Passarelli, Francesco, and Guido Tabellini. “Emotions and political unrest.” *Journal of Political Economy* 2017.
- (*) Acemoglu, Daron, and Alexander Wolitzky. “Cycles of Conflict: An Economic Model.” *American Economic Review* 104, no. 4 (2014): 1350–67.

- Arbath, C. E., Ashraf, Q. H., Galor, O., and Klemp, M. (2018). Diversity and Conflict (No. 2018-6).
- Tezcür, Güneş Murat. “Ordinary People, Extraordinary Risks: Participation in an Ethnic Rebellion.” *American Political Science Review* 110, no. 2 (May 2016): 247–64.
- Pearlman, Wendy. “Emotions and the Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings.” *Perspectives on Politics* 11.2 (2013): 387-409.
- Varshney, Ashutosh. “Nationalism, ethnic conflict, and rationality.” *Perspectives on politics* 1, no. 1 (2003): 85-99.
- Chapter 1 of Wood, Elisabeth J. 2003. “Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador.” New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Henrich, Joseph, Robert Boyd, Samuel Bowles, Colin Camerer, Ernst Fehr, and Herbert Gintis. 2004. “Foundations of Human Sociality: Economic Experiments and Ethnographic Evidence from Fifteen Small-Scale Societies.” Oxford University Press.
- Fehr, Ernst, and Simon Gächter. “Fairness and Retaliation: The Economics of Reciprocity.” *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14, no. 3 (2000): 159–81.
- Rabin, Matthew. “Incorporating Fairness into Game Theory and Economics.” *The American Economic Review* 83, no. 5 (December 1, 1993): 1281–1302.

7.3 Frontiers of violence research (May 21)

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