

# Laura Paler

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## Academic Appointments

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- 2012-      Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh (on leave 2012-13, 2016-17).
- 2016-17   Visiting Fellow, Niehaus Center, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University
- 2012-13   Post-doctoral fellow, Center for Global Development (Washington, D.C.)

## Education

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- 2012      Ph.D. in Political Science, Columbia University  
*Dissertation:* How Revenue and Information Shape Citizen Behavior  
*Committee:* Macartan Humphreys (chair), John Huber, and Tim Frye  
*Degrees earned in process:* M.A. (2006) and M.Phil (2007)
- 2005      M.Phil. in Comparative Government, Oxford University (St. Antony's College)
- 2001      B.A. in International Affairs and East Asian Studies, The George Washington University

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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- [5]      Paler, Laura, Camille Strauss-Kahn, and Korhan Kocak. Forthcoming. "Is Bigger Always Better? How Targeting Aid Windfalls Affects Capture and Social Cohesion." *Comparative Political Studies*.
- [4]      Paler, Laura, Leslie Marshall, and Sami Atallah. 2018. "The Social Costs of Public Political Participation: Evidence from a Petition Experiment in Lebanon." *Journal of Politics* 80(4):1405-1410.
- [3]      Samii, Cyrus, Laura Paler, and Sarah Zukerman Daly. 2016. "Retrospective Causal Inference with Machine Learning Ensembles: An Application to Anti-Recidivism Policies in Colombia." *Political Analysis* 24(4): 434-456.
- [2]      Paler, Laura. 2013. "Keeping the Public Purse: An Experiment in Windfalls, Taxes, and the Incentives to Restrain Government" *American Political Science Review* 104(7): 706-725.
  - Winner of the 2011 MPSA Westview Press Award
  - Winner of the 2012 NYU-Alexander Hamilton Center Award for best political economy paper
- [1]      Paler, Laura. 2005. "China's Legislation Law and the Making of a More Orderly and Representative Legislative System" *The China Quarterly* 182: 301-318.
  - Reprinted in *The Citizen and the Chinese State*. Ed. Perry Keller. Ashgate: 2012.

## Under Review and Underway

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- [5] Daly, Sarah Zukerman, Laura Paler, and Cyrus Samii, "Wartime Ties and the Social Logic of Crime." *R&R at Journal of Peace Research*.
- [4] Paler, Laura, Leslie Marshall, and Sami Atallah, "How Talking Across Ethnic and Class Divides Shapes Support for Ethnic Politics: Evidence from an Experiment in Lebanon" *R&R at Quarterly Journal of Political Science*.
- [3] Marshall, Leslie and Laura Paler, "Women, Class, and Cooperation in Groups: Evidence from a Public Goods Experiment in Lebanon." *Under review*.
- [2] Paler, Laura, Jeremy Springman, Guy Grossman, and Jan Pierskalla, "Oil Discoveries and Political Windfalls: Evidence on Presidential Support in Uganda." *Working paper*.
- [1] Henn, Soeren, Laura Paler, Wilson Prichard, Cyrus Samii, and Raul Sanchez de la Sierra, "On the Mechanics of Kleptocratic States: Administrators' Power, Protection, and False Confessions" *Pre-Analysis Plan*.

## Chapters in Edited Volumes

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- [1] Grossman, Guy and Laura Paler. 2015. "Using Field Experiments to Study Political Institutions" *Routledge Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions*. Eds. Jennifer Gandhi and Ruben Ruiz-Rufino. New York: Routledge: pp. 84-97.

## Policy Publications

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Paler, Laura, Wilson Prichard, Cyrus Samii, and Raul Sanchez de la Sierra. 2017. "Survey on Total Tax Burden in the DRC" (*submitted to DFID*).

Grossman, Guy, Leslie Marshall, Laura Paler, and Jan Pierskalla. 2015. "Oil and Governance in Uganda" (*submitted to the donor*).

Paler, Laura, Cyrus Samii, Matthew Lisiecki, and Adrian Morel. 2015. "The Social and Environmental Impacts of the Community Rangers Program in Aceh" *A World Bank policy report*.

Daly, Sarah Zukerman, Laura Paler, and Cyrus Samii. 2014. "Return to Legality or Recidivism of Ex-Combatants in Colombia" (*submitted to Fundacion Ideas para la Paz*).

Samii, Cyrus, Matt Lisiecki, Parshar Kulkarni, Laura Paler and Larry Chavis. 2014. "The Effects of Payments for Environmental Services on Deforestation and Poverty in Low and Middle Income Countries: A Systematic Review" (*submitted to International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Campbell Collaboration for International Development, and Collaboration for Environmental Evidence Systematic Reviews*).

Samii, Cyrus, Matt Lisiecki, Parshar Kulkarni, Laura Paler and Larry Chavis. 2014. "The Effects of Decentralized Forest Management on Deforestation and Poverty in Low and Middle Income Countries: A Systematic Review" (*submitted to International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Campbell Collaboration for International Development, and Collaboration for Environmental Evidence Systematic Reviews*).

Paler, Laura. 2011. "Empowering Citizens to Combat the Resource Curse," *Commissioned by the Revenue Watch Institute and the Open Society Institute-LGI*.

Paler, Laura. 2011. "The Subnational Resource Curse: Causes, Consequences and Prescriptions." *Commissioned by the Revenue Watch Institute and Open Society Institute-LGI*.

Barron, Patrick, Macartan Humphreys, Laura Paler, and Jeremy Weinstein. 2009. "Community-Based Reintegration in Aceh: Assessing the Impacts of BRA-KDP" *The World Bank Indonesian Social Development Paper*.

### **Field Projects (years refer to design and implementation periods)**

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- 2014-16 *Public support for sectarian politics in Lebanon*. Nationally representative survey and discussion experiments designed to study the obstacles to cross-sectarian political mobilization and support for programmatic politics (with the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies). *Status*: Implementation completed 2016, policy report(s) completed, academic article(s) published and in process.
- 2014-15 *Taxation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*. Original surveys and field experiments to study the determinants of predatory taxation in a weak state and how to increase the bargaining power of households and businesses confronting illegal taxation (with Wilson Prichard, Cyrus Samii, and Raul Sanchez de la Sierra). *Funding*: DFID (\$750,000). *Status*: Implementation completed 2015, policy report completed 2017, academic article(s) in process.
- 2013-14 *Oil and political engagement in Uganda*. Nationally representative survey and information experiments designed to study the effects of an oil discovery on political engagement in Uganda (with Guy Grossman and Jan Pierskalla). *Funding*: Anonymous Foundation (\$140,000). *Status*: Implementation completed 2014, policy report completed 2015, academic article(s) in process.
- 2012-13 *Ex-combatant criminality in Colombia*. Surveys of ex-combatants both in and out of prison to study the determinants of criminality following demobilization (with Sarah Daly and Cyrus Samii). *Funding*: Government of Sweden. *Status*: Implementation completed 2013, policy report completed 2014, academic article(s) published and in process.
- 2010-13 *Natural resources and post-conflict reintegration*. Field experiment in Aceh, Indonesia to study how community-based conservation affects both illegal logging and social integration. Funded by the World Bank (with Cyrus Samii). *Funding*: The World Bank (\$200,000). *Status*: Implementation completed 2013, policy report completed 2015.
- 2009-10 *Oil, taxes, and information in Indonesia*. Survey and lab-in-the-field experiments to study the effects of natural resources, taxes, and information on government spending on political behavior. *Funding*: Various sources. *Status*: Implementation completed 2010, policy report completed 2011, academic articles published.
- 2007-08 *Community-driven development in Aceh*. Impact evaluation of a World Bank community-driven development project focused on improving economic welfare and social cohesion (with Patrick Barron, Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein). Data collection involved representative surveys with civilians, ex-combatants and village heads. *Status*: Implementation completed 2008, policy report completed 2009, academic article(s) in process.

## Selected Grants and Awards

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- 2019 Funding for a research project on taxation and collective action in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (with Jonathan Weigel). *Funding:* International Centre for Tax and Development (\$120,000)
- 2017 Start-up funding for the Project on Resources and Governance (with Michael Ross, Graeme Blair and Darin Christensen) *Funding:* Hewlett Foundation (\$600,000)
- 2016 Niehaus Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University
- 2015 Taxation and State-building in the DRC (with Wilson Prichard, Raul Sanchez de la Sierra, and Cyrus Samii). *Funding:* Department for International Development (DFID) (\$750,000)
- 2014 Support for a project on oil and political attitudes in Lebanon. *Funding:* Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (\$22,000)
- 2013 Grant for research on oil and political attitudes in Uganda (with Guy Grossman). *Funding:* Anonymous Foundation (\$140,000)
- 2012 Center for Global Development post-doctoral research fellowship.
- 2012 Notre Dame Kellogg Institute for International Affairs post-doctoral fellowship (declined)
- 2012 Stanford University Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research post-doctoral fellowship (declined).
- 2010 Grant for research on the resource curse. *Funding:* Revenue Watch Institute and OSI-LGI (\$11,480)
- 2010 US-Indonesia Society Sumitro Fellowship for political economy research (\$10,000)
- 2009 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, with supplementary funding from the OISE's East Asia and Pacific Program (SES-0921093) (\$17,060).
- 2006 Fellow, IGERT Globalization and Development program at Columbia (two years of NSF-funded tuition + stipend)
- 2005 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (three years tuition + stipend)

## Selected Invited Talks

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- 2019 FHI 360 (Washington, DC); University of Chicago Harris School.
- 2018 Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) semi-annual meeting in Nairobi.
- 2017 APSA annual meeting; WPSA political economy of development mini-conference; Yale quantitative methods research workshop; Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC) workshop (Princeton); NYU Abu-Dhabi WESSI conference.
- 2016 Princeton University IR colloquium; UCLA comparative politics workshop.
- 2015 APSA annual meeting; Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) semi-annual meeting (Berlin); Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS) semi-annual meeting; Duke political economy workshop; Center for Global Development seminar series.

## Teaching Experience

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- PS0300 Introduction to Comparative Politics (large undergraduate lecture)
- PS1338 Politics of Developing Countries (upper-level undergraduate seminar)
- PS1538 Politics of Oil and Natural Resources (upper-level undergraduate seminar)
- PS2370 Political Economy of Development (graduate seminar)
- PS2307 Ethnic Politics and Conflict (graduate seminar)

## Department Service (University of Pittsburgh)

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Faculty search committees (2013, 2014, 2015, and 2018)

Graduate admissions committee (2015 and 2016)

Chair's planning and advisory committee, including service for dept. external review (three year term: 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18)  
Graduate education committee (2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17).  
Global Politics Seminar co-organizer (2014-15, 2015-16)  
Seminar in Representation and Identity Politics co-organizer (2018-19).

## **Service to the Profession and Affiliations**

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- 2012- Reviewer. *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *World Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Political Behavior*, *World Development*, *Politics and Society*, *Journal of Development Studies*, Cambridge University Press, the International Centre for Tax and Development (funding proposals), the National Science Foundation (funding proposals).
- 2017- Advisory Board Member (formerly Steering Committee Member), The Project on Resources and Governance (PRG).
- 2017- Co-convener, The Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS)
- 2013- Non-resident Fellow, The Center for Global Development
- 2012- Member, Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP)

## **Other Professional Experience**

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- 2010,15 Consultant, Development Impact Evaluation Initiative (DIME), World Bank
- 2012-13 Consultant, International Rescue Committee
- 2010 Consultant, Research Triangle Institute and Social Impacts, Inc.
- 2008-09 Consultant, Conflict and Development Team, World Bank Indonesia
- 2006 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) election observer in Belarus
- 2004 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) election observer in Macedonia
- 2005,06 Faculty Advisor, Congressional Youth Leadership Council (Central Europe and China visits)
- 2003-05 Founder and Vice President for Development of Oxford Women in Politics
- 1999-03 Employee of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (Asia and DC)

## **Personal**

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*Field experience in Asia:* Indonesia, China, Cambodia; *Africa:* Uganda, DRC, Burundi; *Latin America:* Colombia; *Middle East:* Lebanon.

*Languages:* English (native); Chinese, Spanish and Indonesian (working).