

Laura Paler

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Academic Appointments

- 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

- 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

- [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

- [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." *R&R at Journal of Experimental Political Science*.
- [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

- [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

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)

- 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

- 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

- 2019 FHI 360 (Washington, DC); University of Chicago Harris School political economy workshop.
- 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

- 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)

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

- 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

- 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

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).