

# Laura Paler

---

Department of Government  
School of Public Affairs  
American University  
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20016-8130

*Email:* lpaler@american.edu  
*Phone:* (917) 364-6383  
*Web:* [www.laurapaler.com](http://www.laurapaler.com)  
*Office:* Kerwin Hall 213

## Academic Appointments

---

- 2020 Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Government, School of Public Affairs, American University (effective August 2020).
- 2012-20 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh (approved for tenure in May 2020).
- 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

---

Marshall, Leslie and Laura Paler. 2020. "Class, Ethnicity, and Cooperation Among Women: Evidence from a Public Goods Experiment in Lebanon." *Journal of Experimental Political Science*.

Daly, Sarah Zukerman, Laura Paler, and Cyrus Samii. 2020. "Wartime Ties and the Social Logic of Crime." *Journal of Peace Research* 57(4): 536-550.

Paler, Laura, Leslie Marshall, and Sami Atallah. 2020. "How Cross-Cutting Discussion Shapes Support for Ethnic Politics: Evidence from an Experiment in Lebanon" *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 15(1): 33-71.

Paler, Laura, Camille Strauss-Kahn, and Korhan Kocak. 2020. "Is Bigger Always Better? How Targeting Aid Windfalls Affects Capture and Social Cohesion." *Comparative Political Studies* 53(3-4): 359-398.

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.

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.

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

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**

---

Paler, Laura, Jeremy Springman, Guy Grossman, and Jan Pierskalla, "Oil Discoveries and Political Windfalls: Evidence on Presidential Support in Uganda." *Under Review*.

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 filed, working paper underway*.

Bergeron, Augustin, Laura Paler, Gabriel Tourek, and Jonathan Weigel, "The Effects of Decentralized Tax Collection on Citizen Engagement" *Pre-analysis plan filed, working paper underway*.

## **Chapters in Edited Volumes**

---

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**

---

Atallah, Sami, Daniel Garotte Sanchez, Zeina Hawa, Leslie Marshall, and Laura Paler. 2019. "What Do Lebanese Citizens Want from Oil and Gas?" in *The Future of Petroleum in Lebanon*, eds. Sami Atallah and Bassam Fattouh, Bloomsbury Publishing.

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*.

### **Selected Grants and Awards**

---

2019	Funding for a research project on taxation and collective action in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Co-PI with Jonathan Weigel). <i>Source:</i> 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) <i>Source:</i> Hewlett Foundation (\$600,000)
2016	Niehaus Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University
2015	Taxation and State-building in the DRC (Co-PI with Wilson Prichard, Raul Sanchez de la Sierra, and Cyrus Samii). <i>Source:</i> Department for International Development (DFID) (\$750,000)
2014	Support for a project on oil and political attitudes in Lebanon (PI). <i>Source:</i> Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (\$22,000)
2013	Grant for research on oil and political attitudes in Uganda (Co-PI with Guy Grossman). <i>Source:</i> 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 (PI). <i>Source:</i> 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 and Conferences**

---

2019	FHI 360 (Washington, DC); University of Chicago Harris School political economy workshop; APSA annual meeting (Washington, DC)
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)
- PS2904 Dissertation Overview Seminar (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, 2016-17, 2018-19, 2019-20).
- 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).