

# Laura Paler

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## Academic Appointments

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- 2020- Associate Professor (with tenure), Dept. of Government, School of Public Affairs, American University.  
2012-20 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh (tenure approved 5/2020).  
2016-17 Visiting Fellow, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, 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  
*Committee:* Macartan Humphreys, John Huber, and Tim Frye  
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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Paler, Laura, Jeremy Springman, Guy Grossman, and Jan Pierskalla, "Oil Discoveries and Political Windfalls: Evidence on Presidential Support in Uganda." Forthcoming at *Political Science Research and Methods*.

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* 8(1): 26-40.

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.

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.

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## Under Review and Underway

Ahrenshop, Mats, Augustin Bergeron, Laura Paler, Gabriel Tourek, and Jonathan Weigel, "Delegating Tax Collection does not Adversely Affect Demand for Accountability: Evidence from an Experiment in the D.R. Congo."

Paler, Laura and Kyle Gray, "How Mediated Intergroup Contact Changes Prejudice and Politics: Evidence from a *Married at First Sight* Experiment."

Henn, Soeren, Laura Paler, Wilson Prichard, Cyrus Samii, and Raul Sanchez de la Sierra, "Engaging or Avoiding the State: How Empowerment Affects Citizen Payments for Public Services."

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## 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.

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## Select 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*).

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. "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*.

## The Democratic Erosion Consortium

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2022- Co-Director along with Robert Blair (Brown) and Jessica Gottlieb (University of Houston).  
The [Democratic Erosion Consortium \(DEC\)](#) is a consortium of researchers, students, practitioners, and policymakers with the common goal of deepening understanding of democratic erosion and identifying evidence-based strategies to combat it. DEC's main activities include improving education on democratic erosion for students, policymakers, and practitioners; documenting democratic erosion trends and dynamics through the unique [Democratic Erosion Event Dataset \(DEED\)](#); marshaling existing research through policy briefs and workshops to inform evidence-based interventions; and fostering learning, discussion, and academic-practitioner partnerships.

## Selected Grants and Awards

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2022 Core funding for the Democratic Erosion Consortium (Co-PI with Robert Blair and Jessica Gottlieb). *Source:* The Department of Democracy, Rights, and Labor (State Department). *Amount:* \$1.738 million.

2019 Funding for a research project on taxation and collective action in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Co-PI with Jonathan Weigel). *Source:* International Centre for Tax and Development (\$120,000)

2017 The Project on Resources and Governance (Co-PI with Michael Ross, Graeme Blair and Darin Christensen) *Source:* 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). *Source:* Department for International Development (DFID) (\$750,000)

2014 Support for a project on oil and political attitudes in Lebanon (PI). *Source:* Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (\$22,000)

2013 Grant for research on oil and political attitudes in Uganda (Co-PI with Guy Grossman). *Source:* 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). *Source:* 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 (two years of NSF-funded tuition + stipend)

2005 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (three years tuition + stipend)

## Selected Invited Talks and Conferences

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2019-22 Boston University political science seminar; FHI 360 (Washington, DC); University of Chicago Harris School political economy workshop; APSA annual meetings (Washington, DC; Montreal, Canada)

2017-18 Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) semi-annual meeting in Nairobi; 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.

2015-16 Princeton University IR colloquium; UCLA comparative politics workshop. 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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- At AU: **Undergrad:** Introduction to Comparative Politics, Politics of Developing Countries  
**MA/PhD:** Ethnic Politics and Conflict, Political Economy of Development
- At Pitt: **Undergrad:** Intro to Comparative Politics, Politics of Developing Countries, Politics of Natural Resources  
**PhD:** Political Economy of Development, Ethnic Politics and Conflict, Dissertation Seminar

## 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).*
- 2019- Senior Fellow, Lebanese Center for Policy Studies
- 2017- Advisory Board Member (formerly Steering Committee Member), The Project on Resources and Governance (PRG).
- 2017- Co-convenor, 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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- 2023 Consultant, United States Agency for International Development
- 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
- 2004,06 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) election observer in Macedonia & Belarus
- 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; *Sub-Saharan Africa:* Uganda, DRC, Burundi; *Latin America:* Colombia; *Middle East:* Lebanon.

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