

# Leander Heldring

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## PERSONAL

Date of Birth: November 20th, 1985  
Nationality: Dutch

## CURRENT POSITIONS

**PhD (Dphil) Candidate in Economics, *Oxford University***, United Kingdom, Expected 2015  
- Fields: Economic Growth, Political Economy, Development Economics  
- Principal Investigator, large scale fieldwork project in Rwanda, summer 2014  
- Supervisors: Dr. James Fenske and Prof. Paul Collier  
- Funding: *Competitively awarded full funding from the Economic and Social Research Council*  
- Sir John Hicks fund research Grant  
**Visiting Fellow, *Harvard University, Department of Economics***, Fall 2014

## EDUCATION

Mphil in Economics, *Oxford University*, United Kingdom, 2013  
- *Competitively awarded full funding from the Economic and Social Research Council*  
Bsc in Economics, *Radboud University Nijmegen*, the Netherlands, 2010  
Ba in History, *Radboud University Nijmegen*, the Netherlands, 2010  
  
*Harvard University*, Visiting Undergraduate Student, United States, Fall 2009  
*London School of Economics*, Summer School, 'Political Economy of Public Policy', United Kingdom, 2008

## RELEVANT PAST EMPLOYMENT

<b>Research Fellow</b>	- Carried out own research - Managed research for Prof. James Robinson <i>Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University</i>	2010-2011
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Teaching Applied Quantitative Methods <i>Harvard School of Public Health</i>	2010-2011
<b>Research Assistant</b>	Professors Niall Ferguson and James Robinson <i>Harvard University &amp; Oxford University</i>	2009-2014

## RELEVANT COMPUTER SKILLS

Excel, STATA, MATLAB, Python, ARCGIS.

## WORKING PAPERS

State Capacity and Conflict: Evidence from the Rwandan Genocide" (2013). CSAE Working Paper WPS/2014-08.

**Abstract** Exploiting local variation in state capacity within Rwanda I investigate the link between state capacity and violence. Using a disaggregated measure of the intensity of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, I establish that greater local state capacity led to greater conflict intensity. I proxy modern state capacity with its precolonial counterpart, measured by the total time a district was incorporated in the precolonial kingdom. This 'duration of incorporation' measures the cumulative effect

of the centralizing forces in the kingdom and acts as a proxy for state capacity. Since the kingdom expanded through conquest and consolidated through patronage relations revolving around cattle, I instrument the duration of incorporation with the geographical suitability for cattle. This strategy confirms the main result. State capacity, while usually associated with greater public good provision and higher GDP, played a central role in the mass killings in Rwanda.

"Colonialism and Development in Africa" (2012), with James A. Robinson. NBER WP #18566 and African Economic History Society working paper nr. 5.

media coverage: VOXEU.org, 10 January 2013

**Abstract** In this paper we evaluate the impact of colonialism on development in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the world context, colonialism had very heterogeneous effects, operating through many mechanisms, sometimes encouraging development sometimes retarding it. In the African case, however, this heterogeneity is muted, making an assessment of the average effect more interesting. We emphasize that to draw conclusions it is necessary not just to know what actually happened to development during the colonial period, but also to take a view on what might have happened without colonialism and also to take into account the legacy of colonialism. We argue that in the light of plausible counter-factuals, colonialism probably had a uniformly negative effect on development in Africa. To develop this claim we distinguish between three sorts of colonies: (1) those which coincided with a pre-colonial centralized state, (2) those of white settlement, (3) the rest. Each have distinct performance within the colonial period, different counter-factuals and varied legacies.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

"Monks, Gents and Industrialists: The Long-Run Impact of the Dissolution of the English Monasteries" with James A. Robinson and Sebastian Vollmer

**Description** In this paper we undertake an investigation of the long-run economic impact of the dissolution of the English monasteries by Henry VIII in the 1530s. This event is plausibly linked to the "rise of the gentry", the commercialization of agriculture and political and economic change in early modern England potentially facilitating its precocious industrialization.

"Enclosures, Land Inequality and Agricultural Yield" with James A. Robinson and Sebastian Vollmer

**Description** We identify the relationship between enclosure and agricultural yield. Using the duration of the presence of the home of a member of parliament as an instrument for enclosure at the parish level (note that the constituency for which the mp sat rarely overlaps with where he lives) we can conclude that although there is a positive association between enclosure and yield once you instrument it disappears. Enclosed parishes did not gain in yield relative to unenclosed parishes.

## PRESENTATIONS

### 2013

NEUDC

Harvard University

Household in Conflict Network annual meeting (held at the University of California, Berkeley)

### 2014

Oxford University

Utrecht University

CSAE

## OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

- Founding Member of Nijmegen Career Event, a multi-day career event for student of economics and business administration, 2007-2008
- Founding Member of Pecunia Causa, student investment club, 2008-2009