

# Nathan Nunn

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## Employment

University of British Columbia, Vancouver School of Economics  
Professor & Canada Research Chair: 2022-  
Visiting Professor: 2021-2022  
Assistant Professor: 2005-2007

Harvard University, Department of Economics  
Frederic E. Abbe Professor of Economics: 2016-2022  
Professor: 2012-2016  
Paul Sack Associate Professor of Political Economy: 2011-2012  
Assistant Professor: July 2007-2011

Stanford University, Department of Economics  
Victor Trione Visiting Professor: 2009-2010

## Current Affiliations

Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), Fellow of the Boundaries, Membership, and Belonging Program.

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Research Associate (DAE, DEV, ITI, POL)

Econometric Society, Fellow

Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Fellow

Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), Faculty Affiliate

## Education

PhD, Economics, University of Toronto, 2005

MA, Economics, University of Toronto, 2000

BA, Economics, Simon Fraser University, 1998

## Awards and Honors

Canada Research Chair (Tier 1), 2022-2029. “Economics and Culture.”

Jan Soderberg Family Prize in Economics and Management, 2020.

Simon Fraser University’s Outstanding Alumni Award, Academic Achievement – Rising Star, 2017

IPUMS-International Research Award, 2014. For “On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough,” published in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow, 2009-2011.

Emerald Management Reviews 2011 Citation of Excellence Award for “Relationship-Specificity, Incomplete Contracts, and the Pattern of Trade,” published in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

## Research Grants

National Science Foundation, 2021. “Urbanization and Economic Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa,” (with Marina Ngoma, Clara Sievert, and Jonathan Weigel).

Weatherhead Center Research Grant, Harvard University, 2020, “Age Sets and Accountability: Evidence from the DRC,” (with Sara Lowes, Eduardo Montero, and James A. Robinson)

Russell Sage Foundation Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Program Grant, 2020. “Immigrants, Economic Mobility, and Support for Redistribution,” (with Alberto Alesina, Sandra Sequeira, and Stefanie Stantcheva).

Pershing Square Venture Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior. 2020. “Conflict and Prosociality: Panel Evidence Beyond the In-Group,” (with Sara Lowes, James A. Robinson, and Jonathan Weigel).

Pershing Square Venture Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior. 2019. “Age Organization and Accountability: Evidence from the DRC,” (with Sara Lowes, Eduardo Montero, and James A. Robinson).

Pershing Square Venture Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior. 2019. “Examining the Lasting Consequences of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921,” (with Alex Albright and James Feigenbaum).

Pershing Square Venture Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior. 2019. “Immigrants and the American Dream,” (with Alberto Alesina, Sandra Sequeira, and Stefanie Stantcheva).

Harvard Inequality in America Initiative, 2019. “Examining the Lasting Consequences of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921,” (with Alex Albright and James Feigenbaum).

Harvard Inequality in America Initiative, 2019. “Immigrants, Economic Mobility, and Support for

Redistribution,” (with Alberto Alesina, Sandra Sequeira, and Stefanie Stantcheva).

John Templeton Foundation, 2019. “Religion as a Source of Social and Moral Development: Evidence from the Pentecostal Revolution in Africa,” (with Clara Sievert and Jonathan Weigel). Renewed in 2022.

National Science Foundation DRMS and Political Science Grant, 2018. “Stress and in-Group Preference: Experimental Evidence from Kenya,” (with Johannes Haushofer and Sara Lowes).

DFID RA4, 2017. “Age Sets, Accountability, and Public Goods Provision: Evidence from the DRC,” (with Sara Lowes, Eduardo Montero, and James A. Robinson).

J-PAL Governance Initiative, 2016. “Age Sets, Accountability, and Public Goods Provision: Evidence from the DRC,” (with Sara Lowes, Eduardo Montero, and James A. Robinson).

Russell Sage Foundation Immigration Program Grant, 2014. “Migrants and the Making of America,” (with Nancy Qian and Sandra Sequeira).

Pershing Square Venture Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior. 2014. “The Evolution of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom,” (with James A. Robinson).

National Science Foundation IBSS Grant, 2014. “The Evolution of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom,” (with Joseph Henrich, Sara Lowes, James A. Robinson, and Jonathan Weigel).

Weatherhead Conference Grant, Harvard University, 2014-2015, “Africa’s Development in Historical Perspective,” (with Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert Bates, and James A. Robinson).

Weatherhead Center Research Grant, Harvard University, 2013, “The Impact of Fair Trade Certification,” (with Raluca Dragusanu).

Milton Fund, Harvard University, 2013, “The Impacts of Fair Trade Certification on Farmers in Latin America,” (with Raluca Dragusanu),

Weatherhead Initiative Award, 2008, “Understanding African Poverty over the Longue Duree” (with Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert Bates, and James A. Robinson).

NBER Africa Project Grant, 2008, “The Determinants of Food Aid Provision to Africa and the Rest of the Developing World” (with Nancy Qian).

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), 2006, “An Examination of Why History Matters in Africa.”

## Working Papers

- “After the Burning: The Economic Effects of the 1921 Tulsa Massacre,” (with Alex Albright, Jeremy Cook, James Feigenbaum, Laura-Thorne Kincaide, and Jason Long)
- “Zero-Sum Environments, the Evolution of Effort-Suppressing Beliefs, and Economic Development” (with Jean-Paul Carvalho, Augustin Bergeron, Joseph Henrich, and Jonathan Weigel)
- “Zero-Sum Thinking and the Roots of U.S. Political Divides,” (with Sahil Chinoy, Sandra Sequeira, and Stefanie Stantcheva)
- “On the Importance of African Traditional Religion for Economic Behavior,” (with Lewis Butinda, Aimable Lameke, Max Posch, and Raul Sanchez de la Sierra)
- “The Social Consequences of Traditional Religion in Contemporary Africa,” (with Etienne Le Rossignol and Sara Lowes)
- “Development Mismatch?: Evidence from Agricultural Projects in Pastoral Africa,” (with Eoin McGuirk).
- “Age Sets and Accountability,” (with Sara Lowes, Eduardo Montero, and James A. Robinson).
- “Herding, Warfare, and a Culture of Honor: Global Evidence,” (with Yiming Cao, Benjamin Enke, and Paola Giuliano) under revision for the *American Economic Review*.
- “Trust and Democracy: Political Stability in Times of Economic Crisis,” (with Nancy Qian and Jaya Wen), under revision for the *Economic Journal*.

## Journal Articles

- “Transhumant Pastoralism, Climate Change, and Conflict in Africa,” (with Eoin McGuirk), *Review of Economic Studies*, forthcoming.
- “Norm Dynamics: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Norm Emergence, Persistence, and Change,” (with Michele Gelfand and Sergey Gavrilets), *Annual Review of Psychology*, 2024, Vol. 75, pp. 341-378.
- “The Slave Trade and the Origins of Matrilineal Kinship,” (with Sara Lowes), *Philosophical Transactions B*, 2024, Vol. 379: 20230032.
- “Stress, Ethnicity, and Prosocial Behavior,” (with Johannes Haushofer, Sara Lowes, Abednego Musau, David Ndetei, Moritz Poll, and Nancy Qian), *Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics*, 2023, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 225-269.
- “AEA Distinguished Lecture. On the Dynamics of Human Behavior: The Past, Present, and Future of Culture, Conflict, and Cooperation,” *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*, 2022, Vol. 112, pp. 15-37.
- “The Effects of Fair Trade Certification: Evidence from Coffee Producers in Costa Rica,” (with Raluca Dragusanu and Eduardo Montero), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2022,

Vol. 20, No. 4, pp. 1743-1790.

“Understanding Cultural Persistence and Change,” (with Paola Giuliano), *Review of Economic Studies*, 2021, Vol 88, No. 4, pp. 1541-1581.

“Segmentary Lineage Organization and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa,” (with Jacob Moscona and James A. Robinson), *Econometrica*, 2020, Vol. 88, No. 5, pp. 1999-2036.

“Bride Price and Female Education,” (with Nava Ashraf, Natalie Bau, and Alessandra Voena), *Journal of Political Economy*, 2020, Vol. 128, No. 2, pp. 591-641.

“The Historical Roots of Economic Development,” *Science*, 2020, Vol. 367, No. 6485, eaaz9986.

“Immigrants and the Making of America,” (with Sandra Sequeira and Nancy Qian), *Review of Economic Studies*, 2020, Vol. 87, No. 1, pp. 382-419.

“Innis Lecture. Rethinking Economic Development,” *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 2019, Vol. 52, No. 4, pp. 1349-1373.

“The Genetic Legacy of State Centralization in the Kuba Kingdom of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,” (with Lucy van Dorp et al.) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 2019, Vol. 116, No. 2, pp. 593-598.

“Ancestral Characteristics of Modern Populations,” (with Paola Giuliano), *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 2018, Vol. 33, No. 1, pp. 1-17.

“Traditional Agricultural Practices and the Sex Ratio Today,” (with Alberto Alesina and Paola Giuliano) *PLoS ONE*, 2018, Vol. 13, No. 1, e0190510.

“The Evolution of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom” (with Sara Lowes, James A. Robinson, and Jonathan Weigel), *Econometrica*, 2017, Vol. 85, No. 4, pp. 1065-1091.

“Why Being Wrong can be Right: Magical Warfare Technologies and the Persistence of False Beliefs,” (with Raul Sanchez de la Sierra), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 2017, Vol. 107, No. 5, pp. 582-587.

“Keeping It in the Family: Lineage Organization and the Scope of Trust in Sub-Saharan Africa,” (with Jacob Moscona and James A. Robinson), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 2017, Vol. 107, No. 5, pp. 565-571.

“Understanding Ethnic Identity in Africa: Evidence from the Implicit Association Test (IAT),” (with Sara Lowes, James A. Robinson, and Jonathan Weigel), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 2015, Vol. 105, No. 5, pp. 340-345.

“U.S. Food Aid and Civil Conflict,” (with Nancy Qian), *American Economic Review*, 2014, Vol. 104, No. 6, pp. 1630-1666.

“The Economics of Fair Trade,” (with Raluca Dragusanu and Daniele Giovannucci), *Journal of*

*Economic Perspectives*, 2014, Vol. 28, No. 3, pp. 217-236.

“On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough,” (with Alberto Alesina and Paola Giuliano), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2013, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 469-530.

“Commercial Imperialism? Political Influence and Trade during the Cold War,” (with Daniel Berger, William Easterly, and Shanker Satyanath), *American Economic Review*, 2013, Vol. 103, No. 2, pp. 863-896.

“Incomplete Contracts and the Boundaries of the Multinational Firm,” (with Daniel Trefler), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 2013, Vol. 94, No. 1, pp. 330-344.

“The Transmission of Democracy: From the Village to the Nation State,” (with Paola Giuliano), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 2013, Vol. 103, No. 3, pp. 86-92.

“Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa,” (with Diego Puga), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2012, Vol. 94, No. 1, pp. 20-36.

“Culture and the Historical Process,” *Economic History of Developing Regions*, 2012, Vol. 27, Supplement 1, pp. 108-126.

“The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa,” (with Leonard Wantchekon), *American Economic Review*, 2011, Vol. 101, No. 7, pp. 3221-3252.

- Reprinted in E. Spolaore (ed.), **Culture and Economic Growth**, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2014.
- Reprinted in N. Cheeseman (ed.), **African Politics. Volume 1: Africa and the World: Sovereignty, Dependency, and Extraversion**, Routledge, 2016.

“The Potato's Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from a Historical Experiment,” (with Nancy Qian), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2011, Vol. 126, No. 2, pp. 593-650.

- Translated and reprinted in B. Luo and T. Zhang (eds.), **Agriculture and Institutions. Volume 1: The Long-Term Impacts of Agriculture**, Gezhi Publishing House (Truth and Freedom Press), forthcoming.

“Fertility and the Plough,” (with Alberto Alesina and Paola Giuliano), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 2011, Vol. 101, No. 3, pp. 499-503.

“The Structure of Tariffs and Long-Term Growth,” (with Daniel Trefler), *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 2010, Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 158-194.

“The Columbian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas,” (with Nancy Qian), *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2010, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 163-188.

“Religious Conversion in Colonial Africa,” *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 2010, Vol. 100, No. 2, pp. 147-152.

- Reprinted in P. Oslington (ed.), **Recent Developments in the Economics of Religion, Volume II**, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2018.

“The Importance of History for Economic Development,” *Annual Review of Economics*, 2009, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 65-92.

“The Long-Term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2008, Vol. 123, No. 1, pp. 139-176.

“Historical Legacies: A Model Linking Africa’s Past to its Current Underdevelopment,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 2007, Vol. 83, No. 1, pp. 157-175.

“Relationship-Specificity, Incomplete Contracts, and the Pattern of Trade,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2007, Vol. 122, No. 2, pp. 569-600.

- Reprinted in D. Bernhofen (ed.), **Empirical International Trade**, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2010.

## Books

**Africa’s Development in Historical Perspective**, (with Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert H. Bates, and James A. Robinson), Cambridge University Press, 2014.

## Book Chapters

“On the Causes and Consequences of Cross-Cultural Differences: An Economic Perspective,” in Michele Gelfand, Chi-Yue Chiu, and Ying-Yi Hong (eds.), **Advances in Culture and Psychology, Volume 9**, Chapter 3. Oxford University Press, 2022.

“History as Evolution,” in Alberto Bisin and Giovanni Federico (eds.), **Handbook of Historical Economics**, pp. 41-91. North Holland, 2021.

“Bride Price and the Wellbeing of Women,” (with Sara Lowes), in Siwan Anderson, Lori Beaman and Jean Philippe-Platteau (eds.), **Towards Gender Equity in Development**, pp. 117-138. Oxford University Press, 2018.

“The Determinants of Food Aid Provisions to African and the Developing World,” (with Nancy Qian), in Sebastian Edwards, Simon Johnson, and David N. Weil (eds.), **African Successes, Volume IV: Sustainable Growth**, pp. 161-178. University of Chicago Press, 2016.

“Historical Development,” in Philippe Aghion and Steven Durlauf (eds.), **Handbook of Economic Growth, Volume 2A**, pp. 347-402. North Holland, 2014.

“Domestic Institutions as a Source of Comparative Advantage,” (with Daniel Trefler), in Elhanan Helpman, Gita Gopinath, and Kenneth Rogoff (eds.), **Handbook of International Economics, Volume 4**, pp. 263-315. North Holland, 2014.

“Gender and Missionary Influence in Colonial Africa,” in Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert Bates, Nathan Nunn and James A. Robinson (eds.), **Africa’s Development in Historical Perspective**, pp. 489-512. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

“Shackled to the Past: The Causes and Consequences of Africa’s Slave Trades,” in Jared Diamond and James A. Robinson (eds.), **Natural Experiments of History**, pp. 142-184. Harvard University Press, 2010.

“The Boundaries of the Multinational Firm: An Empirical Analysis,” (with Daniel Trefler), in Elhanan Helpman, Dalia Marin, and Thierry Verdier (eds.), **The Organization of Firms in a Global Economy**, pp. 55-83. Harvard University Press, 2008.

“Slavery, Inequality, and Economic Development in the Americas: An Examination of the Engerman-Sokoloff Hypothesis,” in Elhanan Helpman (ed.), **Institutions and Economic Performance**, pp. 148-180. Harvard University Press, 2008.

### **Seminar and Conference Presentations for Recent Papers**

“Zero-Sum Environments, the Evolution of Effort Suppressing Beliefs, and Economic Development”

- NBER Political Economy Working Group Spring Meeting (Cambridge, April 2023), VDEV/CEPR/Bread Seminar (Virtual, October 2023), Learning, Evolution and Games Seminar Series (Virtual, October 2023), AEA Annual Meetings (San Antonio, January 2024), Editors-in-Chief Face-to-Face Conference on Economics (Beijing Jiaotong University, Online, June 2024).

“Zero-Sum Thinking and the Roots of U.S. Political Divides”

- UCLA Mini-Conference (Los Angeles, December 2022); Paris Sorbonne Sustainable Development Seminar (Online, January 2023), Virtual Economic History Seminar (Online, January 2023), Tulane University (March 2023), NBER Culture and Institutions Workshop (Cambridge, April 2023), UC Berkeley joint Political Economy and Economic History Seminar (Berkeley, September 2023), University of Chicago Booth School of Business (Chicago, November 2023).

“After the Burning: The Economic Effects of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre”

- AEA Annual Meetings (New Orleans, January 2023).

“Transhumant Pastoralism, Climate Change, and Conflict in Africa”

- Harvard University Economic History Workshop (February 2021); Oz Virtual Econ Research Seminar (March 2021); University of Manchester (April 2021); Economic Research Southern Africa, ERSA (May 2021); University of Chicago Booth Workshop (May 2021); Notre Dame (May 2021); Spatial Economic Effects of Conflict Workshop (George Washington University, June 2021), London School of Economics Applications Seminar (February 2022), Applied Economics Workshop (AEW), Empirical Studies on the Historical and Dynamic Process of Economic Development (February 2022), Rand Corporation (March 2022), Queens University Belfast (March 2022), Bocconi University and Collegio Carlo Alberto (March 2022), IOG



Becker-Friedman Conference (University of Chicago, April 2022), Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi, May 2022), SIOE Annual Conference (Toronto, June 2022).

“The Social Consequences of Traditional Religion in Contemporary Africa”

- Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC, September 2020); Stanford University (Palo Alto, October 2020); Political Economy, Cultural Economics and Gender Conference (ENS de Lyon and CEPR, June 2021), University of Victoria (Victoria, BC, September 2023), University of British Columbia, Department of Political Science, (Vancouver, April 2024).

“Distrust and Political Turnover”

- Clark University (Worcester, MA, April 2019); Kellogg-Harvard Conference on the Political Economy of Development (Evanston, IL, May 2019).

“Kinship and Conflict: Evidence from Segmentary Lineage Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa”

- Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, BC, September 2017); University of Connecticut (Mansfield, CT, October 2017); University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC, October 2017); M.I.T. (Cambridge, November 2017); University of Minnesota (Saint Paul, MN, November 2017); Zurich Workshop on The Origins and Consequences of Group Identities (Zurich, Switzerland, December 2017); NBER Cultural Economics Meeting (Cambridge, MA, April 2018); World Economic History Congress (Cambridge, MA, August 2018); Business and Fragile States Conference, London Business School’s Wheeler Institute for Business and Development (London, England, October 2018); Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (Santiago de Chile, Chile, December 2018); Broom Center for Demography, University of California Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara, March 2019); Ottawa University (Ottawa, Canada, March 2019).

“Understanding Cultural Persistence and Change”

- The Role of History and Diversity in Understanding Development Conference (Moscow, October 2015); Arizona State University, School of Human Evolution and Social Change (Phoenix, March 2016); Stockholm University (October 2016); Stanford University (Palo Alto, December 2016); Brandeis University (Waltham, March 2017); Tufts University (Medford, MA, March 2017); Georgetown University (Washington, DC, April 2017); ERINN Conference (Washington, DC, April 2017); Indiana University Bloomington (Bloomington, April 2017); University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy (Chicago, April 2017); University of Zurich Department Seminar (Zurich, Switzerland, May 2017); Harvard-M.I.T. Development Seminar (Cambridge, September 2017); University of British Columbia, Department of Psychology (Vancouver, BC, October 2017); NBER Political Economy Meeting (Cambridge, MA, November 2017); University of Bonn, BRIQ (Bonn, December 2017); Henan University (Kaifeng, China, May 2018); World Economic History Congress (Cambridge, MA, July 2018); Syracuse University (Syracuse, NY, September 2018); Trinity College Dublin (Dublin, Ireland,

May 2019); Tsinghua University (Beijing, October 2020); New Economic School (Moscow, December 2020); M.I.T. IDSS Distinguished Speaker Seminar Series (Cambridge, January 2021).

“Bride Price and Female Education”

- UNU-WIDER Gender and Development Project Kick-Off Conference (Helsinki, Finland, May 2015); M.I.T. and Harvard, Seminar on Positive Political Economy (Cambridge, March 2016); Columbia University (New York, April 2016); Economics and Political Economy of Africa (Washington, DC, April 2016); Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, September 2016); World Economic History Congress (Cambridge, MA, July 2018).

“Immigrants and the Making of America”

- The Long Shadow of History Conference, Center for Advanced Studies (Munich, Germany, November 2014); New York University (New York, January 2017); Inter-American Development Bank (Washington D.C., December 2019).

“The Evolution of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom”

- Northwestern University (Evanston, November 2013); 15<sup>th</sup> Annual NBER Neemrana Conference (India, December 2013); Boston College (Chestnut Hill, March 2014); Conference on Legal Innovations: Law, Economics and Governance, Columbia University (New York, April 2014); World Bank (Washington, D.C., April 2014); Stanford University (Palo Alto, May 2014); University of Colorado, Boulder and Denver (Boulder, September 2014); Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS), Ideas, Institutions, and Political Economy Workshop (Princeton, October 2014); University of California Berkeley, Agricultural and Resource Economics (Berkeley, November 2014); AEA Annual Meetings (Boston, January 2014); African Economic Development: Past, Present, and Future, Harvard University (Cambridge, April 2015); Deep-Rooted Factors in Comparative Economic Development, Brown University (Providence, May 2015); Oxford University, Center for the Studies of African Economies (Oxford, UK, May 2015); RAND International Development Speaker Series (IDSS) (Santa Monica, May 2015); Boston University (Boston, November 2015); University of Calgary, Distinguished Lecture (Calgary, March 2016); NBER Culture and Institutions Workshop (Cambridge, April 2016); George Mason University (Fairfax, VA, April 2016); University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business (Philadelphia, April 2016); Oliver Williamson Seminar on Institutional Analysis (Berkeley, May 2016); University of Copenhagen (May, 2016); Sciences Po (Paris, September 2016); University of Chicago Booth School of Business (Chicago, November 2016).

“The Impacts of Fair Trade Certification: Evidence from Coffee Producers in Costa Rica”

- NBER Summer Institute 2013 International Trade and Investment (Cambridge, July 2013); M.I.T. Trade Seminar (Cambridge, October 2013); LACEA-IDB TIGN Annual Conference (Santiago de Chile, May 2014); Inter-American Development Bank (Washington D.C., November 2017); Economics of Social Sector Organizations Conference (Chicago, November 2018); AEA Annual Meetings (Atlanta, January 2019); Online Geneva Trade and Development Workshop (May 2021).

“Ancestral Characteristics of Modern Populations”

- AEA Annual Meetings (San Diego, January 2013); University of California Los Angeles (Los Angeles, March 2013); World Economic History Congress (Cambridge, MA, August 2018).

**Public or Keynote Presentations**

*Maladaptive? Western Culture in a Changing World*

Korea Development Institute (KDI) Special Lecture, Sejong City, Korea. May 14, 2024.

*The Persistence Paradox: Critical Junctures and Our Shared Future*

IEA World Congress 2023, Medellin, Colombia. December 11, 2023.

*The Persistence Paradox: Critical Junctures and Our Shared Future*

Boving Memorial Lecture, Saskatoon, SK. November 23, 2023.

*The Causes and Consequences of Zero-Sum Thinking*

Landsdowne Public Lecture, Victoria, BC. September 28, 2023.

*Pastoral Populations and Paths of Development.*

African Meeting of the Econometric Society, Nairobi, Kenya. June 1, 2023.

*Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Appropriate Technology.*

Panel. International Economic Association (IEA), January 31, 2023.

*What Divides Us?*

Condliffe Memorial Lecture, New Zealand, November 22, 2022.

*Rethinking Economic Development*

World Bank Africa Economics Series. Office of the Chief Economist, Africa Region, November 17, 2022.

*Pastoralism and Development in Africa: Understanding the Importance of Climate, Conflict, and Land Conversions*

Keynote Lecture, Pacific Conference for Development (PacDev), March 5, 2022.

*On the Dynamics of Human Behavior: The Past, Present, and Future of Culture, Conflict, and Cooperation*

AEA Distinguished Lecture, January 7, 2022.

*Cultural Mismatch*

DySoC / Exeter Webinar Series. Evolution and Social Systems, October 5, 2021.

*Transhumant Pastoralism, Climate Change, and Conflict in Africa*

Research Institute for Development, Growth and Economics, Towards Sustainable Growth Workshop, December 10 & 11, 2020.

*Transhumant Pastoralism and Warfare in Africa and Beyond*  
CEPR Macroeconomics and Growth Programme Meeting 2020, November 5 & 6, 2020.

*What the Collective Brain Teaches Us about Economic Policy*  
Kazanah Megatrends Forum 2019. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 8 & 9, 2019.

*Culture, Context, and Economic Development*  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics. Stockholm, Sweden. June 27, 2019.

*Rethinking Economic Development*  
Innis Lecture. Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings. Banff, Alberta, Canada. May 31, 2019.

*Rethinking Economic Development*  
Trinity College Public Lecture. Dublin, Ireland. May 8, 2019.

*Culture and its Importance for Understanding Economic Behavior*  
Canada and the World Economy Lecture Series. University of Ottawa. Ottawa, Ontario. March 12, 2019.

*On the Economic Consequences of Culture and Tradition*  
Brazilian Econometric Society Annual Meetings. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. December 13, 2018.

*On the Causes and Consequences of Cultural Variation*  
Cultural Evolution Society Annual Meeting. Tempe, Arizona. October 24, 2018.

*The Importance of Culture and Context for Development Policy*  
NYU DRI Annual Conference. New York, NY, October 11, 2018.

*Foreign Aid and Conflict*  
Business and Fragile States. London Business School's Wheeler Institute for Business and Development. London, England, October 9, 2018.

*Cultural Context and Efficacy of Development Policy*  
Global Empowerment Meeting 2018. Cambridge, MA, April 18, 2018.

*Why Culture Matters*  
BMO Public Lecture, Simon Fraser University. Vancouver, Canada, September 14, 2017.

*On the Importance of Culture for Understanding Long-Run Economic Growth and Development*  
GGDC 25th Anniversary Conference. Groningen, Netherlands, June 29, 2017.

*Institutions, Growth, and Development*  
CDESG Policy Panel Session. Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings. Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, June 3, 2017.

*On the Importance of Culture and Context for Economic Development*

State of the Art Lecture. Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings. Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, June 2, 2017.

*Religion, Magic, and Economic Development*

Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC). 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Boston, MA, February 25, 2017.

*Why Development Needs History*

Economic History Association Plenary Roundtable on Economic History and Economic Development. Boulder Colorado, September 17, 2016.

*Economics from a Historical Perspective*

16<sup>th</sup> Annual World Knowledge Forum. Seoul, South Korea, October 20-22, 2015.

*Historical Perspectives on Economic Development in the Democratic Republic of Congo*

Croissance Economique Inclusive en RDC. Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, January 7-8, 2015.

*Understanding Gender Norms*

IDEAS UMass Boston. Boston, MA, October 29, 2014.

*Understanding Culture*

VI Workshop in International Economics. Real Colegio Complutense en la Universidad de Harvard. Cambridge, MA. September 15-18, 2014.

*Understanding Global Inequality: The Benefits of a Historical Perspective*

Rethinking Economics Conference. New York, September 12-14, 2014.

*Reform and Motivational Crowding*

Delhi Economics Conclave-2013. Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs. New Delhi, India. December 11-12, 2013.

*The Evolution of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom*

The Long Shadow of History Conference: Mechanism of Persistence in Economics and the Social Sciences. Center for Advanced Studies, Munich, Germany. November 8-9, 2013.

*Shaping Beliefs and Culture*

Global Empowerment Meeting 2013. Cambridge, MA, October 17, 2013.

*The Roots of Economic Underdevelopment*

Vancouver School of Economics Inaugural Fall Conference. Vancouver, BC, September 20, 2013

*Culture and the Historical Process*

Institute for Advanced Study, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Hong Kong. May 22, 2013.

*Topics in Development Economics*

Advanced Research Lecture Series. University of British Columbia. Vancouver, B.C. May 6-9, 2013.

*Culture and the Historical Process*

World Bank. Behavioral Economics for the African Region. Washington, D.C. November 19, 2012.

*Africa's Development in Historical Perspective*

IMF Institute Training Seminar. Washington, D.C. November 8, 2012.

*Culture and the Historical Process*

74<sup>th</sup> International Atlantic Conference. Montreal, Canada. Oct 5-7, 2012.

*The Legacy of the Slave Trade on Contemporary Africa*

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Economic Institute for Teachers. Stanford, CA. July 31, 2012.

*Historical Perspectives on Food, Health, and Prosperity*

Food Environment: The Effects of Context on Food. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE). Boston, MA, May 30-31, 2012.

*Historical Perspectives on Economic Development*

IMF Institute Training Seminar. Washington, D.C. October 28, 2011.

*External Influence and Economic Development: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*

III Workshop in International Economics. Real Colegio Complutense en la Universidad de Harvard. Cambridge, MA. Sept 19-22, 2011.

*The Importance of History and Culture for Understanding Human Behavior*

Emerging Science of Culture and its Implications Lecture Series. Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition and Culture, University of British Columbia. Vancouver, Canada. December 6, 2010.

*The Importance of History for Economic Development*

ERSA conference on Slavery, Colonial History, and the New Economic History of Southern Africa. Stellenbosch, South Africa, November 16, 2009.

*What Makes Some Countries Rich and Others Poor?*

CIFAR's The Next Big Question National Tour. Ottawa, Canada. October 26, 2007.

*The Legacy of Slave Trading in Africa*

CIAR Appetite for Discovery Luncheon. Vancouver, Canada. April 24, 2006.

**Teaching**

Graduate:

Political Economy (Harvard University, University of British Columbia)  
Economic History (Harvard University)  
Development Economics (Harvard University)  
International Trade (Harvard University, University of British Columbia)

Undergraduate:

Development Economics (Harvard University, University of British Columbia)  
Cultural Evolution (Harvard University)

### Professional Activities

#### Editorial

Positions: Editor, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2021-  
Editorial Committee, *Annual Review of Economics*, 2023-  
Co-Editor, *Journal of Development Economics*, 2013-2019  
Editorial Board, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2012-2017  
Associate Editor, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2012-2015  
Associate Editor, *Journal of International Economics*, 2007-2014  
Editorial Advisory Board, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 2010-2013

#### Other Professional Activities:

- Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics (SIOE), Board Member, 2021-
- Economic History Association (EHA), Research Archives and Databases Committee, 2013-2016
- International Advisory Committee, African School of Economics, 2012-
- Board Member, Association for Comparative Economic Studies (ACES), 2010-2012
- Director, Latin America and Caribbean Economic Association's Trade Integration and Growth Network (LACEA-TIGN), 2010-2015
- Executive Committee, Working Group on African Political Economy (WGAPE), 2012-2020
- Program Committee
  - 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the Econometric Society, Montreal, Canada.
  - SITE New Frontiers in Economic History Conference 2010, Stanford, CA.
  - Society for Economic Dynamics (SED) 2009 Meetings, Turkey.
  - African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meetings 2009, Chicago.
  - SIOE Annual Meetings, 2022, Toronto, Canada.
  - SIOE Annual Meetings, 2023, Frankfurt, Germany.
- Conference co-organizer:
  - African Poverty over the Longue Duree. Accra, Ghana, 2010.
  - Africa's Development: Past, Present and Future. Cambridge, MA, 2015.
  - Nimbios/Dysoc Investigative Workshop: Social Norms. Knoxville, TN, 2019.
  - Political Economy of Historical Development. Evanston, IL, 2019, 2023.

#### Advising (graduation year, initial academic placement, and current position)

- Marcella Alsan (2013: Stanford University; Professor, Harvard Kennedy School)
- Julia Cage (2014: Sciences Po)

- Raluca Dragusanu (2014: Federal Reserve Board of Governors)
- Natalie Bau (2015: University of Toronto; Associate Professor, U.C.L.A.)
- Oyebola Okunogbe (2016: World Bank)
- Guilherme Lichand (2016: University of Zurich; Assistant Professor, Stanford University)
- Sara Lowes (2017: Bocconi University; Assistant Professor, UC San Diego)
- Jonathan Weigel (2018: London School of Economics; Assistant Professor, U.C. Berkeley)
- Eduardo Montero (2018: University of Michigan; Assistant Professor, University of Chicago)
- Edoardo Teso (2018: Northwestern University)
- Juan Sebastian Galan (2019: Universidad de los Andes)
- Jonathan Schulz (2019: George Mason University)
- Anne Sophie Beck Knudsen (2020: University of Copenhagen)
- Anke Becker (2020: Harvard Business School)
- Tzachi Raz (2020: Hebrew University)
- Moya Chin (2020: International Monetary Fund)
- Leander Heldring (2020: Northwestern University)
- Pablo Balan (2021: Tel Aviv University)
- Max Winkler (2021: University of Exeter)
- Augustin Bergeron (2021: University of Southern California)
- Jose Ramon Morales Arilla (2022: Texas A&M University)
- Soeren Henn (2022: Newcastle University)
- Yiming Cao (2022: University of Hong Kong)
- Awa Ambra Seck (2023: Harvard Business School)
- Jacob Moscona (2023: M.I.T.)
- Marina Muvungu Ngoma (2023: World Bank)
- Arielle Bernhardt (2023: New York University)
- Ariel Gomez (2023: Northeastern University Post Doc)
- Clara Sievert, Harvard (2024: )
- Gabriel Brown, UBC (2024: )
- Ziqi Lu, Harvard (2024: )
- Marie Beigelman, University of Barcelona (2024: )
- Sarah Vincent, Aix Marseille (2024: )