

# Sara Lowes

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## Education

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- 2017 HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
Ph.D., Political Economy and Government  
Thesis: "Understanding the Process of Economic Development: Essays on Culture and Institutions"
- 2014 HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
M.A., Political Economy and Government
- 2007 MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE  
B.A., Economics and Political Science (*summa cum laude*)

## Academic Positions

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- 2017 – BOCCONI UNIVERSITY  
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

## Research Fields

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Fields: Development Economics, Economic History, Political Economy

## Affiliations

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- 2017– CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar, Institutions, Organizations, and Growth  
2018– Associate, European University Development Network (EUDN)  
2017– Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)  
2017– Affiliate, IGIER; LEAP, Bocconi University  
2014–2017 Graduate Student Affiliate, Workshop on African History and Economics, Harvard University  
2011–2017 Graduate Student Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences, Harvard University  
2013–2014 Graduate Student Research Associate, WCFIA, Harvard University

## Research Awards and Honors

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National Science Foundation, 2018. Award No. 1823988. "Experimental Evidence on Stress and In-group Preference" (with J. Haushofer and N. Nunn).

DFID RA4, 2017. "Age Sets, Accountability, and Public Goods Provision: Evidence from the DRC," (with E. Montero, N. Nunn, and J.A. Robinson).

Invited attendee, 6th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting on Economic Sciences, Lindau, Germany.

J-PAL Governance Initiative, 2016. "Age Organization and Accountability: Evidence from the DRC," (with E. Montero, N. Nunn, and J.A. Robinson).

Weiss Family Program Fund Grant, 2016. "Addressing Mistrust in Medicine in Central Africa," (with E. Montero).

Institute for Quantitative Social Science Travel Grant, 2015.

Center for African Studies Summer Research Grant, 2015.

Foundations of Human Behavior Initiative Summer Research Grant, 2014.

The History Project Research Grant, Center for History and Economics, 2014.

LEAP Research Grants, 2013-2015.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2011-2017.

Theodore H. Ashford Dissertation Fellow, 2011-2017.

US State Department Critical Language Scholar, 2007.

Phi Beta Kappa and Prize for Best Thesis in Economics, Middlebury College, 2007.

## Publications

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"[The Evolution of Culture and Institutions: Evidence from the Kuba Kingdom](#)" (with N. Nunn, J.A. Robinson, and J. Weigel), *Econometrica*, July 2017, Vol. 85, No. 4, pp. 1065-1091.

"[Understanding Ethnic Identity in Africa: Evidence from the Implicit Association Test \(IAT\)](#)," (with N. Nunn, J.A. Robinson, and J. Weigel), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 2015, Vol. 105, No. 5, pp. 340-345.

## Working Papers

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"[The Legacy of Colonial Medicine in Central Africa](#)," (with E. Montero), 2018. Revision Requested, *American Economic Review*.

"The Genetic Legacy of State Centralization in the Kuba Kingdom of the Democratic Republic of the Congo," (with L. van Dorp, J. Weigel, N. Ansari-Pour, S. López, J. Mendoza-Revilla, J. A. Robinson, J. Henrich, M.G. Thomas, N. Nunn, and G. Hellenthal), 2018. Revision Requested, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"[Concessions, Violence, and Indirect Rule in the Congo Free State](#)," (with E. Montero), 2018.

"[Matrilineal Kinship and Spousal Cooperation: Evidence from the Matrilineal Belt](#)," 2018.

"[Matrilineal Kinship and Gender Differences in Competition?](#)" 2018.

## Research In Progress

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"Age Organization and Accountability" (with E. Montero, N. Nunn, and J.A. Robinson).

"The Political Economy of Ethnicity in the DRC" (with A. Bergeron, N. Nunn, J.A. Robinson, and J. Weigel).

"Stress and In-Group Preferences" (with J. Haushofer, N. Nunn, and N. Qian).

"Witchcraft and Pro-Social Behavior" (with N. Nunn).

## Book Chapters

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"New Methods in Economic History," book chapter in preparation for *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, eds. A. Bisin and G. Federico.

"Does Bride Price Promote or Hinder Women's Well-Being?" *Gender and Development*. Eds. Siwan Anderson, Lori Beaman and Jean-Philippe Platteau, UNU-WIDER, (with N. Nunn).

"King Leopold's Ghost: The Legacy of Labor Coercion in the DRC." *The Long Economic Shadow of History*. Eds. Stelios Michalopoulos and Elias Papaioannou, CEPR/VOXEU, 2017, (with E. Montero).

## Professional Activities

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Referee: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Economic Review*, *American Political Science Review*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *European Economic Review*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *The Economic Journal*, *The Economics of Transition*, *The Review of Economic Studies*, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, *World Development*, National Science Foundation (NSF)

## Seminar and Conference Presentations

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"Does Bride Price Promote or Hinder Women's Well-Being?"

UNU-WIDER Development Conference (Helsinki, September 2018)

"The Legacy of Colonial Medicine in Central Africa"

AEA CSWEP Session (Atlanta, January 2019); Higher School of Economics (Moscow, November 2018); New School of Economics (Moscow, November 2018); CfPE Conference, Vancouver School of Economics (Vancouver, October 2018); BREAD Workshop on Development Economics Pre-Conference Session, LSE (London, September 2018); EHA Annual Meeting (Montreal, September 2018); V Calvó-Armengol Workshop: Persistence and Transformation in Economic Development (Barcelona, May 2018); CIFAR IOG Meeting (Toronto, April 2018); Catholic University of Milan (Milan, March 2018); George Mason University, PPE Seminar (Fairfax, February 2018); Bonn University, Macro History Seminar (Bonn, November 2017)

“Matrilineal Kinship and Spousal Cooperation: Evidence from the Matrilineal Belt”

BREAD Conference on Behavioral Economics and Development, Stanford University (Palo Alto, January 2019); George Mason University (Fairfax, October 2018); Cultural Evolution Society Conference, Arizona State University (Tempe, October 2018); University of Michigan, Economic Development Seminar (Ann Arbor, October 2018); APSA Annual Meeting (Boston, September 2018); ERINN Conference, Oxford University (Oxford, June 2018); King’s College London (London, May 2018); Clemson University (Clemson, March 2018); Stockholm School of Economics (Stockholm, March 2018); Women & Equality Conference, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Cambridge, MA, December 2017); EUDN Conference (Gottingen, December 2017); Nova SBE (Lisbon, November 2017); CIFAR IOG Meeting (Toronto, October 2017); Stockholm University (Stockholm, September 2017); ASREC, University of Bologna (Bologna, September 2017); Galatina Summer Meetings (Galatina, August 2017); EGEN Conference, Yale University (New Haven, May 2017); Bocconi University (Milan, February 2017); NEUDC, MIT (Cambridge, MA, November 2016); Middlebury College (Middlebury, April 2016)

“Concessions, Violence, and Indirect Rule in the Congo Free State”

Dark Episodes in History Conference, King’s College London (London, December 2018); NBER Culture and Institutions Spring Meeting (Cambridge, April 2018); American History Association Conference (Washington, D.C., January 2018); Deep Rooted Factors in Comparative Development Conference, Brown University (Providence, May 2017); Stanford University, Economic History Seminar (Palo Alto, April 2017); Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona, February 2017); Sciences Po (Paris, February 2017); Copenhagen University (Copenhagen, February 2017); Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Munich, February 2017); Boston University (Boston, February 2017); Northwestern MEDS (Evanston, January 2017); University of California Berkeley (Berkeley, January 2017); Yale University (New Haven, January 2017); HBS BGIE (Boston, January 2017); Middlebury College (Middlebury, January 2017); Stanford GSB Political Economy (Palo Alto, January 2017); WGAPE, World Bank (Washington D.C., April 2016); Conference Sur la Croissance Economique Inclusive en RDC (Kinshasa, January 2015); B-WGAPE, MIT (Boston, December 2014); NEUDC, Boston University (Boston, November 2014); Brown University, Macro Lunch (Providence, September 2014)

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

EHA Annual Meeting (Boulder, September 2016)

## Teaching

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Spring 2018	Ec 20287: Development Economics (MA)
Spring 2018	Ec 30145: Development Economics (UG)
Spring 2016	Freshman Seminar 40H: Poverty and Development (UG), TF for N. Nunn
Fall 2015	Ec2392: Political Economy of Development (PhD), TF for M. Dell
Fall 2014	Ec1340: World Economic History (UG), TF for J. Robinson
Fall 2014	Ec2390: Development Economics (PHD), TF for M. Kremer and N. Nunn
Fall 2013	Ec1357: Historical Perspectives on Economic Ascendancy (UG), TF for R. Hornbeck

## References

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Nathan Nunn  
Department of Economics, Harvard University  
617-496-4958, [nunn@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:nunn@fas.harvard.edu)

Claudia Goldin  
Department of Economics, Harvard University  
617-494-3934, [cgoldin@harvard.edu](mailto:cgoldin@harvard.edu)

James A. Robinson  
University of Chicago  
773-702-6364, [jamesrobinson@uchicago.edu](mailto:jamesrobinson@uchicago.edu)

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