

Sara Lowes

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Education

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Ph.D., Political Economy and Government Thesis: "Essays on Culture and Institutions" Committee: Nathan Nunn, James Robinson, Claudia Goldin, Alberto Alesina	2017
HARVARD UNIVERSITY M.A., Political Economy and Government	2014
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE B.A., Economics and Political Science (<i>summa cum laude</i>)	2007

Academic Positions

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Assistant Professor, Department of Economics	2020–
STANFORD UNIVERSITY Postdoctoral Fellow, King Center on Global Development	2019–2020
BOCCONI UNIVERSITY Assistant Professor, Department of Economics	2017–2019

Affiliations

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Faculty Research Fellow	2020
Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), Affiliate	2020
Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), Azrieli Global Scholar	2017
Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), Research Affiliate	2017

Research Awards and Honors

The Weiss Fund, 2020. "The Impact of Wealth on Prosociality," (with J. Haushofer and L. Mait).

Pershing Square Venture Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior, 2020. "Age Organization and Accountability: Evidence from the DRC," (with E. Montero, N. Nunn, and J.A. Robinson).

Becker Friedman Institute's Initiative for the Study of Gender in the Economy, 2020. "Affirmative Action and Antisocial Behavior in the Workplace," (with R. Fabregas and H. Sarsons).

Pershing Square Venture Fund for Research on the Foundations of Human Behavior, 2020. "Conflict and Prosociality: Panel Evidence Beyond the In-group," (with N. Nunn, J. Weigel, and J.A. Robinson).

Ronald Coase Best Dissertation Award, 2019. Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics.

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, 2017. 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

"Concessions, Violence, and Indirect Rule: Evidence from the Congo Free State," (with E. Montero), 2020. Accepted, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

"The Legacy of Colonial Medicine in Central Africa," (with E. Montero), Forthcoming, *American Economic Review*.

"Traditional Medicine in Central Africa," (with E. Montero), *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*, May 2019, Vol. 109, pp. 516-520.

"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), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, December 2018.

"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*, May 2015, Vol. 105, No. 5, pp. 340-345.

Working Papers

- “Traditional Supernatural Beliefs and Prosocial Behavior” (with E. Le Rossignol and N. Nunn), 2021.
- “Stress, Ethnicity, and Prosocial Behavior” (with J. Haushofer, A. Musau, D. Ndetei, N. Nunn, M. Poll, and N. Qian), 2021.
- “Matrilineal Kinship and Spousal Cooperation: Evidence from the Matrilineal Belt,” 2020.
- “Kinship Structure, Stress, and the Gender Gap in Competition,” 2018.

Research In Progress

- “Age Organization and Accountability” (with E. Montero, N. Nunn, and J.A. Robinson).
- “Bokoko: Supernatural Authority and Political Power in the DRC” (with E. Montero, N. Nunn, and J.A. Robinson).
- “The Dynamic Effects of Conflict on Prosociality: Evidence from the Kamuina Nsapu Insurgency” (with N. Nunn, J.A. Robinson, and J. Weigel).
- “The Political Economy of Ethnicity in the D.R. Congo” (with A. Bergeron, N. Nunn, J.A. Robinson, and J. Weigel).
- “The Economic Origins of Trust” (with E. Le Rossignol).

Book Chapters

- “Ethnographic and Field Data in Historical Economics,” book chapter in *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, eds. A. Bisin and G. Federico, 2020.
- “Kinship Structure & Women: Evidence from Economics,” *Daedalus*, Special Issue on Women and Equality, eds. N. Keohane and F. Rosenbluth, Winter 2020.
- “Does Bride Price Promote or Hinder Women’s Well-Being?” *Gender and Development*. Eds. Siwan Anderson, Lori Beaman and Jean-Philippe Platteau, UNU-WIDER, 2019, (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

Referee: *AER: Insights*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Economic Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Big Data and Society*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *European Economic Review*, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *Games and Economic Behavior*, *International Economic Review*, *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*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *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*, *World Politics*, National Science Foundation (NSF), IZA/DFID G2LMLIC.

Conference: SIOE (program committee; June 2020, June 2021); Culture and Preference Formation (co-organizer; UCLA & CIFAR, February 2020).

Discussant: AEA (San Diego, 2020); NBER Organizational Economics Fall Meeting (Cambridge, November 2019); Cultural Transmission and the Economics of Cultural Change: Theory, Empirics and Experiments (PSE, March 2018).

Seminar and Conference Presentations

“Traditional Supernatural Beliefs and Prosocial Behavior”

UC Merced (January 2021); Economic Seminar Series, University of San Francisco (November 2020); Development Workshop, University of Wisconsin (October 2020); Development Conference, UCSD (La Jolla, February 2020); CIFAR IOG Meeting (Toronto, October 2019).

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

UCSD Rady (October 2020); Applied Micro Seminar, University of Melbourne (August 2020); Institute for Advanced Studies Toulouse (Toulouse, March 2020); Behavioral Seminar, Stanford University (Palo Alto, November 2019); SIOE Conference, Stockholm School of Economics (Stockholm, June 2019); Family and Development Conference, University of Bordeaux (Bordeaux, March 2019); 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); Economic Development Seminar, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, October 2018); APSA Annual Meeting (Boston, September 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 (Göttingen, December 2017); Nova SBE (Lisbon, November 2017); CIFAR IOG Meeting (Toronto, October 2017); Stockholm University (Stockholm, September 2017); AS-REC, 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).

“The Legacy of Colonial Medicine in Central Africa”

Paris Sorbonne Sustainable Development Seminar, Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne University (Paris, March 2020); Center for African Studies, Stanford University (Palo Alto, February 2020); Hawaii Applied Micro One-Day Conference, University of Hawaii at Manoa (Honolulu, December 2019); BGIE Seminar, Harvard Business School (Cambridge, November 2019); Political Economy Workshop, Princeton University (Princeton, September 2019); Development Seminar, Stanford University (Palo Alto, September 2019); APSA Annual Meeting (Washington D.C., August 2019); Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (Stockholm, April 2019); Northwestern Kellogg MEDS (Evanston, February 2019); NYU (New York; February 2019); Dartmouth College (Hanover, February 2019); University of Toronto (Toronto, February 2019); Vanderbilt University (Nashville, January 2019); UCSD (La Jolla, January 2019); AEA CSWEP Session (Atlanta, January 2019); Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago (Chicago, November 2018); 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 Calvo-Armengol Workshop: Persistence and Transformation in Economic Development (Barcelona, May 2018); CIFAR IOG Meeting (Toronto, April 2018); Catholic University of Milan (Milan, March 2018); PPE Seminar, George Mason University (Fairfax, February 2018); Macro History Seminar, Bonn University (Bonn, November 2017).

“Concessions, Violence, and Indirect Rule: Evidence from the Congo Free State”

Empirical Studies of Conflict Annual Meeting (ESOC), UCSD (La Jolla, May 2019); 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); Economic History Seminar, Stanford University (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 Kellogg 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).

“Does Bride Price Promote or Hinder Women’s Well-Being?”

UNU-WIDER Development Conference (Helsinki, September 2018)

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

EHA Annual Meeting (Boulder, September 2016)

Teaching

University of California, San Diego:

Ec 237: Development Economics (PhD)

Spring 2021

Ec 116: Development Economics (UG)

Winter/Spring 2021

Bocconi University:

Ec 20287: Development Economics (MA)

Spring 2018/2019

Ec 30145: Development Economics (UG)

Spring 2018/2019

Other Employment

Harvard Business School, Research Associate for N. Ashraf

2010–2011

Yale University, Research Assistant for C. Udry and N. Qian

2009–2010

Innovations for Poverty Action, Project Associate for D. Karlan and C. Blattman
(in Uganda)

2008–2009

Entrepreneurs du Monde, Chi Em Project, Intern (in Vietnam)

2007–2008

Last updated: March 10, 2021