

Laura Paler

Department of Government *Email:* lpaler@american.edu
School of Public Affairs *Phone:* (917) 364-6383
American University *Web:* www.laurapaler.com
4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW *Office:* Kerwin Hall 213
Washington, DC 20016-8130

Academic Appointments

2025- Provost Associate Professor, Dept. of Government, School of Public Affairs, American University
 Graduate Program Director (July 2024-present)
2020-25 Associate Professor, Dept. of Government, School of Public Affairs, American University
2012-20 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh (tenured May 2020).
2016-17 Visiting Fellow, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University
2012-13 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Global Development (Washington, D.C.).

Education

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

Publications

Baron, Hannah, Rob Blair, Jessica Gottlieb, **Laura Paler**, Julie Anne Weaver, Benjamin Yoel. "The Democratic Erosion Event Dataset." *Forthcoming at Scientific Data*.

Henn, Soeren, **Laura Paler**, Wilson Prichard, Cyrus Samii, and Raul Sanchez de la Sierra. 2026. "[Seeing like a Citizen: Experimental Evidence on how Empowerment Affects Engagement with the State.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*.

Blair, Robert, Jessica Gottlieb, Brendan Nyhan, **Laura Paler**, Pablo Argote, and Charlene Stainfield. 2024. "[Interventions to Counter Misinformation: Lessons from the Global North and Applications to the Global South](#)" *Current Opinion in Psychology* 55: 101732.

Baron, Hannah, Robert Blair, Jessica Gottlieb, and **Laura Paler**. 2024. "[An Events-Based Approach to Understanding Democratic Erosion](#)" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 57(2): 208-215.

Paler, Laura, Jeremy Springman, Guy Grossman, and Jan Pierskalla. 2023. "[Oil Discoveries and Political Windfalls: Evidence on Presidential Support in Uganda](#)" *Political Science Research and Methods* 11(4): 903-912.

Marshall, Leslie and **Laura Paler**. 2021. "[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.

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.

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.

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." *Working Paper*.

Paler, Laura and Sarah Khan. "Shy Women Voters: Private Preferences and Public Expression in the 2024 US Presidential Election." *R&R*.

Paler, Laura. "When Contact Causes a Public-Private Divide: How Interventions Affect Personal Beliefs, Public Expression, and Social Change." *Under review*.

Paler, Laura, Kyle Gray, and Pauline Sow. "Parasocial Contact through Reality Television Can Reduce Prejudice Among Adults." *Working Paper*.

Humphreys, Macartan and **Laura Paler**. "Joining Separatist Insurgencies: Evidence from the Free Aceh Movement in Indonesia."

Datasets

Gottlieb, Jessica, Hannah Baron, Rob A. Blair, Laura Paler, and Julie Anne Weaver. 2025. "Democratic Erosion Event Dataset v7." *Democratic Erosion: A Cross-University Collaboration*.

- Winner of the 2025 Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Best Dataset Honorable Mention

Select Policy Publications

Blair, Robert, Jessica Gottlieb, Brendan Nyhan, **Laura Paler**, Charlene Stainfield, Pablo Argote. 2023. "Interventions to Counter Misinformation: Lessons from the Global North and Applications to the Global South" *Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development*.

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" (*Prepared for 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*.

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." *Prepared for 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*.

Select Grants and Awards

2022	\$2.08 million, The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. Department of State for the Democratic Erosion Consortium (with Rob Blair and Jessica Gottlieb).
2019	\$120,000, The International Centre for Tax and Development (with Jonathan Weigel).
2017	\$600,000, Hewlett Foundation (with Michael Ross, Graeme Blair, and Darin Christensen).
2015	\$750,000, DFID (with Wilson Prichard, Raul Sanchez de la Sierra, and Cyrus Samii).
2014	\$22,000, The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies.
2013	\$140,000, Anonymous Foundation (with Guy Grossman).
2010	\$11,480, The Revenue Watch Institute and OSI-LGI (\$11,480).
2010	\$10,000 US-Indonesia Society Sumitro Fellowship.
2009	\$17,060 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant.

Selected Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

- 2023-25 Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science-22 (Princeton); NBER SI 2024 Development Economics Workshop, ITAM (Mexico City), University of Maryland CP workshop.
- 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

- At AU: **Undergrad:** Intro 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

Professional Service and Affiliations

- 2022- Co-Director, [The Democratic Erosion Consortium](#)
- 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)*, *the Israel 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-convener, The Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS)
- 2013-20 Non-resident Fellow, The Center for Global Development
- 2012- Member, Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP)

Other Professional Experience

- 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 Program Officer, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (Asia and DC)

