

GUSTAV AGNEMAN

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EDUCATION

Gothenburg University Bachelor in European Science Bachelor in Economics Exchange Student at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2012-2013)	<i>2011-2015</i>
University of Copenhagen Master in Economics (2017) Exchange Student at Universidad de Los Andes Bogotá (2016) Ph.D. in Economics (2020) [Supervisor: Professor David Dreyer Lassen] Visiting Scholar at University of Chicago [Supervisor: Professor James Robinson] (2018-2019)	<i>2015-2020</i>

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Copenhagen Business School <i>Visiting research fellow</i>	January 2024 - Present <i>Copenhagen, Denmark</i>
NTNU Norway <i>Associate Professor</i>	December 2023 - Present <i>Trondheim, Norway</i>
Uppsala University <i>Researcher</i>	March 2023 - October 2023 <i>Uppsala, Sweden</i>
Lund University <i>Post-doctoral researcher</i>	January 2021 - March 2023 <i>Lund, Sweden</i>
University of Chicago <i>Visiting research fellow</i>	October 2018 - June 2019 <i>Chicago, United States</i>
University of Copenhagen <i>Ph.D. Student</i>	September 2017 - September 2020 <i>Copenhagen, Denmark</i>
University of Copenhagen <i>Research Assistant</i>	March 2017 - August 2017 <i>Copenhagen, Denmark</i>
University of the Andes <i>Research Assistant</i>	August 2016 - December 2016 <i>Bogotá, Colombia</i>

SOFTWARE

Data Analysis	Stata, R
Machine Learning	Python, R
Data Visualisation	Tableau, Stata, R, QGIS, ArcGIS
Typesetting Document	Latex (Overleaf), Word

RESEARCH OUTPUT

Published papers

Do Apologies Promote the Reintegration of Former Combatants?

Forthcoming

Journal of Peace Research

With L. Strömbom & A. Rettberg

Transitional justice practices frequently involve public apologies where former combatants confess their wrongdoings and ask for forgiveness, with the underlying assumption that such displays facilitate the reintegration of ex-combatants into society. However, little is known about the public response to ex-combatant apologies. In this article, we investigate the causal effect of an armed group apology on attitudes toward ex-combatant reintegration in Colombia. Our study builds on a novel experiment implemented in Meta, a conflict-ridden department of Colombia. The experiment entailed exposing a subset of participants to a video in which a former rebel group leader apologizes for violent acts committed by their armed group during the civil war. To examine the extent to which external actors influence the effectiveness of apologies, we incorporated third-party “encouragements to forgive” (endorsements) in two additional treatment conditions. Our analysis demonstrates that, on average, participants do not exhibit higher reintegration attitudes when exposed to the apology, regardless of third-party endorsements. However, the absence of a treatment effect is not due to an indifference to the apology; in an exploratory heterogeneity analysis, we show that the apology induces negative effects on some indicators of reintegration attitudes among participants that did not support the peace agreement. This finding aligns with qualitative data gathered in a follow-up survey, which indicates that opponents of the peace agreement generally describe negative emotional responses to the FARC-EP apology. The results call for a reconsideration of unchallenged prescriptions of public apologies after conflict.

How Ethnic Discrimination Shapes Political Reintegration After War

Forthcoming

Journal of Conflict Resolution

With L. Strömbom

The reintegration of former armed group affiliates into formal politics is a fundamental challenge for post-conflict societies. Arguably, this challenge is even more difficult in settings where ethnic discrimination is pervasive, since discrimination implies comparatively higher barriers to reintegration for racialized ex-combatants. In this paper, we explore how ethnicity and armed group affiliation interact to shape electoral prospects. Specifically, we investigate whether voters differentiate between candidates of European and African descent and whether politicians of different ethnic identities are differentially punished for ties to armed groups. We find that participants display strong aversions toward politicians with armed group affiliations and that they discriminate against Afro-Colombian candidates. Furthermore, we demonstrate that biases are additive, in the sense that Caucasian and Afro-Colombian candidates are equally punished for associating with armed groups. Finally, we explore heterogeneous treatment effects to shed light on sources of ethnic discrimination and aversion toward former armed group affiliates.

Market Participation & Moral Universalism: Experimental Evidence from Greenland 2023

The Economic Journal. 63 pp. (Altmetric Score 163)

With E. Chevrot-Bianco

The relationship between market participation and moral values has been an object of a long-standing debate in economics. Yet, to date little credible empirical evidence exists. In this study, we examine the relationship between market participation and moral decision-making by conducting rule-breaking experiments in 13 villages across Greenland (N=543), where stark contrasts in market participation within villages allow us to hold village-level factors constant. First, we document a robust positive association between market participation and moral behavior towards anonymous others. Second, we find that market-integrated participants display universalism in moral decision-making, whereas subsistence economy participants make more honest decisions toward co-villagers. A battery of robustness tests confirm that the behavioral differences between market and subsistence economy participants are not driven by variation in socioeconomic characteristics, childhood background, kinship structure, global connectedness, or exposure to religious and political institutions.

The Material Basis of Cooperation: How Scarcity Reduces Trusting Behaviour 2023
The Economic Journal. 74 pp. *With P. Falco, E. Joel & O. Selejio*

- Trusting behaviour is a cornerstone of cooperation and, hence, economic performance, not least in poorer communities where economic transactions often rely on informal agreements. But trusting behaviour is potentially costly since the counterpart may decide to defect. In this study, we investigate whether food scarcity influences the level of trusting behaviour in rural Tanzania by leveraging quasi-experimental variation in food supply induced by the harvest. Through a lab-in-the-field experiment, we document that farmers display lower levels of trusting behaviour during the lean season compared to the abundant season and show that the difference is explained by variation in food scarcity.

How Economic Expectations Shape Preferences for National Independence 2022
European Journal of Political Economy. 28 pp.

- This paper investigates how economic expectations shape voting intentions in a hypothetical independence referendum in Greenland, a self-governing region of the Kingdom of Denmark. I identify the causal effect of economic expectations by randomly exposing respondents to a prime informing on Greenland's current fiscal deficit. Respondents exposed to the information are 43% more likely to oppose independence, an effect I attribute to (a) worsened economic expectations and (b) greater political participation among pessimistic respondents. I further document that the impact of the prime depends on respondents' personal ties to the political union. While information exposure substantially increases opposition to independence among voters with strong ties to Denmark, voting intentions are essentially unchanged for respondents with weak ties to Denmark. Still, instrumental motives shape preferences for a sufficiently large proportion of voters for the information prime to alter the outcome of the independence referendum.

Working papers / under review

Modernization and the Rise of Individualism 2024
Work in progress *With A-S. Beck Knudsen*

- This paper studies a period of considerable cultural change in Scandinavia: The rise of individualism in the 19th century. We document the rise of individualism with data from population censuses on naming and family practices. The data reveals a shift in focus from the collective to the individual in these practices. This shift was particularly pronounced in the second half of the century – a period that coincides with the Second Industrial Revolution. I proceed to examine the causes of this change. Specifically, we test the hypothesis that it was caused by economic modernization and development (the *Modernization Hypothesis*). To do this, we exploit the fact that Scandinavian modernization was driven by various types of technological advancement. For now, we focus on the establishment of railroads and hydropower. Using various panel and instrumental variable strategies, we show that individualism grew in locations that gained access to railroads and hydropower. We rule out that these effects were driven by selective migration and fertility. Future work will shed light on underlying mechanisms such as prosperity and occupational mobility.

Intergenerational Altruism and Climate Policy Preferences 2023
Under review in PNAS Nexus *With S. Henriks, H. Bäck & E. Renström*

- Despite the long-term nature of climate mitigation efforts, our understanding of how our perception of obligation toward future generations influences preferences for costly climate policies remains limited. In this study, we measure intergenerational altruism—the extent of altruism to future generations—through a game where participants allocate resources across generations and demonstrate robust correlations between intergenerational altruism and support for several climate policies. We provide for a causal interpretation by randomly exposing a subset of survey participants to an *intergenerational prime*, which entails information about participants' projected number of descendants as well as the intergenerational resource allocation game and thereby serves to reduce participants' perceived social distance to future generations. Participants who were primed were significantly more likely to support

This report presents the findings from the Greenlandic Perspectives Survey (GPS), a nationally representative survey of residents' views of environmental changes and Greenland's future in a changing climate. The survey was conducted by the University of Copenhagen, the University of Greenland, Kraks Fond Institute for Urban Research and Greenland Perspective. With statistical support from Statistics Greenland, surveys were randomly allocated to residents living in randomly selected towns and settlements across Greenland's municipalities and geographic regions, as well as Nuuk and Upernavik. 646 residents in Greenland (1.5% of the adult population) took the survey from July 2018-January 2019. Average margin of error: +/-3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

G. & S. Ljungbergs Stiftelse	\$3,000 Scholarship for studies abroad (2010)
Rotary Foundation	\$1,000 Scholarship for young leadership (2010)
G. & S. Ljungbergs Stiftelse	\$5,000 Scholarship for studies abroad (2012)
University of Gothenburg	\$500 Award for best econometrics student (2014)
G. & S. Ljungbergs Stiftelse	\$6,000 Scholarship for studies abroad (2016)
University of Copenhagen	Nominated to McKinsey-prize for best paper (2016)
Oticon Foundation	\$2,000 Grant teaching obligations in Greenland (2018)
Kraks Foundation	\$100,000 Grant for field research in Greenland (2018)
Magnus Bergvalls Stiftelse	\$6,000 Grant for field research in Colombia (2022)
QoG Best Paper Award	Best paper 2022 by Quality of Governance Institute

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages	Swedish, Danish, English, and Spanish
Reviewer at	The Journal of Economic Growth, The European Journal of Development Research, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Arctic Yearbook, World Development
Drivers Licence	Swedish License for light vehicles (B2)
Volunteering experience	IM (2014), Con Las Manos (2016), Drivkraft (2021-2024)

REFERENCES

Pro-rector David Dreyer Lassen	david.dreyer.lassen@adm.ku.dk
Professor James Robinson	jamesrobinson@uchicago.edu