GUSTAV AGNEMAN

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EDUCATION

Gothenburg University

2011-2015

Bachelor in European Science

Bachelor in Economics

Exchange Student at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2012-2013)

University of Copenhagen

2015-2020

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)

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Copenhagen Business School

Visiting research fellow

January 2024 - Present

 $Copenhagen,\ Denmark$

NTNU Norway

Associate Professor

December 2023 - Present

Trondheim, Norway

Uppsala University

Researcher

March 2023 - October 2023

Uppsala, Sweden

Lund University

Post-doctoral researcher

January 2021 - March 2023

Lund, Sweden

University of Chicago

Visiting research fellow

October 2018 - June 2019

Chicago, United States

University of Copenhagen

Ph.D. Student

September 2017 - September 2020 Copenhagen, Denmark

University of Copenhagen

Research Assistant

March 2017 - August 2017 Copenhagen, Denmark

University of the Andes

Research Assistant

August 2016 - December 2016 Bogotá, Colombia

SOFTWARE

Data AnalysisStata, RMachine LearningPython, R

Data Visualisation Tableau, Stata, R, QGIS, ArcGIS

Typesetting Document Latex (Overleaf), Word

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 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

Trusting behaviour is a cornerstone of cooperation and hence economic performance, not least in

• 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

costly climate policies, an effect we trace to higher levels of concerns about human-induced climate change among primed subjects. In a heterogeneity analysis, we find that the impact of the prime is entirely driven by women and non-binary. The present paper advances our understanding of the moral foundations of climate policy preferences and suggests that the malleable nature of intergenerational altruism can be leveraged to enhance public support for costly climate policies.

On the Nexus Between Material and Ideological Determinants of Climate Policy Support 2023

Under review in Ecological Economics

With S. Henriks, H. Bäck & E. Renström

2023

This study explores how rising economic costs of climate mitigation policies differentially shape climate policy support among the political left and right. To this end, we randomly manipulate how much consumption costs increase as a result of four different climate mitigation policies and study how different cost scenarios influence policy support among a sample of 1,597 Swedish adults. We find that more costly climate policies induce greater climate policy polarization, since right-leaning participants display both lower baseline and more cost-sensitive climate policy support. In addition, we investigate how policy costs affect participants' concerns about the climatic consequences of consumption. While inconclusive, the results indicate that right-leaning participants become less concerned about the climatic consequences of consumption when policy costs rise. This pattern can be understood through the lens of motivated disbelief, which holds that people adjust their beliefs in order to support their preferred actions. The present study provides novel insights as to how and when material conditions influence climate policy preferences.

The Uneven Reach of the State: A Novel Approach to Mapping Local State Presence 2023

Under review in the Journal of Development Economics With K. Brandt, C. Cappelen & D. Sjöberg

• The ability of states to exercise authority often varies considerably within their borders. Yet, the empirical literature on state capacity has typically relied on country-level indicators of state capacity. In this paper, we develop a measure of local state capacity for all five-kilometer grid cells across Sub-Saharan Africa. The measure builds on geocoded survey data on local state presence, which we predict and extrapolate in a machine learning model using readily available data on the costs and benefits of capacity building across space. We showcase the usefulness of measuring state capacity at a local level by employing the index as a moderating factor in the relationship between oil wealth and violent conflict and show that areas with higher levels of state capacity face lower risks of conflict outbreak due to exogenous oil wealth shocks.

Conflict Victimization and Norms of Obedience: Evidence from Colombia

Under review in the European Economic Review

· In this study, I investigate how conflict victimization influences civilians' likelihood of (dis)-obeying armed actors, a behavioral tendency which I elicit through a lab-in-the field experiment. Violence could foster either obedience or defiance depending on whether a "fear of punishment" or a "taste for retribution" dominate. In a sample with residents in Meta, a conflict-ridden department of Colombia, I find that conflict victimization increases disobedience. Participants who were victimized during the conflict are significantly more likely than non-victimized civilians to disobey the main insurgent group, but no more likely to disobey the Colombian Armed Forces. This differential effect is attributed to more frequent civilian victimization by the insurgents. I support a causal interpretation through an Instrumental Variable approach which leverages the distance to a historic front line as an instrument for victimization. In sum, the findings show that violent targeting of civilians can inspire resistance rather than submission.

Miscellaneous

· 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) Nominated to McKinsey-prize for best paper (2016) University of Copenhagen 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