

RAÚL SÁNCHEZ DE LA SIERRA
Associate Professor (with tenure)

London School of Economics
Department of Management
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Employment

London School of Economics, Department of Management
Associate Professor, with tenure: 2026-*present*
Visiting Professor 2025-26

University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy
Associate Professor, with tenure: 2025-2026
Assistant Professor: 2019-2025

Harvard University, Department of Economics
Visiting Assistant Professor: Jan-Jun 2023

University of California Berkeley, Haas School of Business
Assistant Professor: 2015-19

Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies
Academy Scholar, 2014-15, 2017-18

Education

Columbia University, Ph.D. in Economics, 2014
Dissertation: “Essays on the Economics of Statelessness and State Formation”

Sciences Po Paris, M.Sc. in Economics of International Development, 2006-08

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Visiting Student, *Hauptstudium*, 2004–05

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, B.Sc. in Economics, 2002-06

Lycée Victor Hugo (France), Baccalauréat Scientifique (*spé* Mathematics), 2002

Languages

Native: Spanish, French.

Fluent: English, German.

Advanced: Italian, Portuguese, Swahili. **Intermediate**: Arabic

Recent Journal Articles

“Seeing like a Citizen: How Citizen Empowerment Affects Engagement with the State”
American Journal of Political Science, 2026 1-19

with Soeren Henn, Laura Paler, Cyrus Samii, Wilson Prichard

“Monopoly of Taxation Without a Monopoly of Violence: The Weak State’s Trade-Offs”
The Review of Economic Studies, Vol. 92, Issue 2, March 2025, pp. 1126-1156,

with Soeren Henn, Christian Mastaki, Miguel Ortiz, David Qihang Wu

“The Real State: Inside Congo’s Traffic Police Agency”

American Economic Review, December 2024, 114 (12): 3976–4014

with Kristof Titeca, Stan Xie, Albert Malukisa, Aimable Lameke

“Whither Formal Contracts?” [CESifo Distinguished Affiliate Award Applied Micro.]

Econometrica, September 2021, Volume 89, Issue 5

“On the Origins of the State: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo”

Journal of Political Economy, Volume 128, Number 1, January 2020

Working Papers Being Revised for Resubmission

“The Social Fabric of Corruption: A Field Experiment in Congo’s Public Transport”

Journal of Public Economics, Revision Requested

with Aimable Lameke, Albert Nkuku, Vincent Tanutama, Kristof Titeca

“Social Motivations for Violence: at the Heart of One of Congo’s Major Armed Groups”

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Reject with invitation to resubmit

with Louis Dunia and Hilary Yu

“Violent Collective Action: The Extraordinary Rise of the Outraged Citizens”

Review of Economic Studies, Reject and Resubmit

(Previously: Journal of Political Economy Reject and Resubmit)

with Gauthier Marchais, Christian Mastaki Mugaruka, and Qihang Wu

“On the Importance of African Traditional Religion for Economic Behavior”

Econometrica, Reject (and Resubmit)

with Aimable Lameke, Lewis Butinda, Nathan Nunn and Max Winkler

Older Publications

“Exporting Democratic Practices: Evidence from an intervention in East Congo”

Journal of Development Economics, 2019, Volume 140, Pages 279-301

with Macartan Humphreys and Peter Van der Windt

“Gender quotas in development: Null Results from an Experiment in Congo”

Journal of Development Economics, 2018, Volume 133(C), pages 326-345.

with Macartan Humphreys and Peter Van der Windt.

“Being Wrong Can Be Right: Magical Warfare Technology and Persistence of Beliefs”
American Economic Review, P&P, 107 (5): 582-87, May 2017
with Nathan Nunn

“Fishing, Commitment, and Communication: Comprehensive Nonbinding Registration”
Political Analysis, 2012, 21 (1)
with Macartan Humphreys and Peter Van der Windt

Working Papers

“From Indirect to Direct Rule: Armed Groups and Customary Chiefs in East Congo”
with Soeren Henn, Christian Mugaruka, and Gauthier Marchais

“Uncovering The Moral Economy of State Officials and Its Significance of Corruption”
with Kristof Titeca, Haoyang (Stan) Xie, Albert Jolino Malukisa, Aimable Lameke.

“Boatnapping: Political Economy of Transnational Activity, the Case of Sicilian Fishermen”
with Naor Ben Yehooda and Vito Pipitone

“Enhancing Food Security and Mental Well-being Among Palestinian Refugees in Egypt”
with Amira El-Shal.

Current affiliations

NBER Faculty Research Fellow (POL, DEV); **BREAD** Fellow; **IGC** Fellow; **JPAL-CVI** Faculty Affiliate; **CESifo** Affiliate

Fellowships and Awards

2024	Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award, Harris School of Public Policy
2019	CESifo Distinguished Affiliate Best Applied Micro Paper Prize
2016-2019	Azrieli Global Scholar, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research
2008-2010	La Caixa Foundation Scholarship for Postgraduate studies in the United States
2004-2005	Erasmus Scholarship for Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich

Research Grants

2026	PI	ReCIPE, Lives inside violent organizations	\$110,000
2025	PI	JPAL/HPI, <i>Empathy inside violent organizations</i>	\$200,000
2025	PI	JPAL/CVI, <i>Empathy inside violent organizations</i>	\$200,000
2023	PI	Anonymous Donor	\$400,000

2022	PI	Kiphart Research and Innovation in Global Health and Social Development Award	\$50,000
2021	PI	Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation distinguished fellowship	\$90,000
2019	PI	JPAL/CVI, <i>Decreasing abuse in armed groups</i>	\$319,000
2019	PI	Hellman Fellows Fund (<i>declined due to change of academic institution</i>), <i>Participation to armed groups</i>	\$60,000
2018	PI	Private Enterprise in Developing and Low-income Countries Grant, <i>Human resource management in armed groups</i>	\$36,000
	PI	Initiative for Poverty Action, <i>Who becomes a rebel commander?</i>	\$200,000
	PI	JPAL/CVI, <i>Who becomes a rebel?</i>	\$150,000
	PI	IBI Center, Haas School of Business, <i>Who becomes a rebel?</i>	\$7,500
2016	PI	Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, <i>Azrieli global scholar fellowship</i>	\$80,000
	PI	International Center for Taxation and Development <i>The Beer distribution sector in conflict</i>	\$267,000
	PI	Weiss Family Program Fund for Research in Development Economics, <i>Participation in Armed Organizations</i>	\$69,000
	PI	Electronics industry <i>Regulating electronics global supply chain and human rights</i>	\$421,000
	PI	Clausen Center for International Business and Policy <i>Indirect rule by armed groups</i>	\$7,000
	PI	Haas School of Business Deans's office competition <i>The beer sector in conflict</i>	\$12,000
2015	PI	International Growth Center, <i>Police corruption</i>	\$30,000
	PI	Department For International Development, U.K., <i>Taxation, DRC</i>	\$675,000
	PI	Private Enterprise in Developing and Low-income Countries Grant, <i>Private sector development, DRC</i>	\$240,000
	PI	International Center for Taxation and Development <i>Armed groups in DRC</i>	\$120,000

	PI	Private Enterprise in Developing and Low-income Countries Exploratory Grant, <i>Police corruption</i>	\$53,000
2014	PI	<i>i2i</i> , World Bank, <i>Public sector reform, Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>	\$5,000
2013	PI	Private Enterprise in Developing and Low-income Countries Exploratory Grant, <i>Armed groups in DRC</i>	\$55,000
	PI	National Science Foundation Graduate Dissertation Improvement Grant <i>Armed groups in DRC</i>	\$30,000
	PI	Russell Sage Foundation Small Grant in Behavioral Economics <i>Ethnicity, state contracts, and trade. Evidence from DRC</i>	\$7,500
	PI	International Peace Research Association Foundation Grant <i>Armed groups in DRC</i>	\$5,000
	PI	Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity <i>Armed groups in DRC</i>	\$3,000
2012	PI	Program for Economic Research grant, Columbia University <i>Armed groups in DRC</i>	\$5,000
	PI	Cross-Cutting Initiative, Earth Institute <i>Conflict and resources in DRC</i>	\$5,000
	PI	Economics Development Colloquium Research Funds, Columbia University, <i>Armed groups in DRC</i>	\$700
2011	PI	CSDS Research Grant, Columbia University <i>Ethnicity, state contracts, and trade. Evidence from DRC</i>	\$9,000
		Lead researcher on 3ie grant. <i>Impact evaluation of development aid</i>	\$40,000
2010		Lead researcher on a 3ie grant <i>Impact evaluation of development aid</i>	\$400,000

Invited Presentations

- 2025** UC San Diego, Development Seminar; Stanford, Political Science; University of Toronto Development Seminar, ACES Summer School (Zanzibar); II Spanish Workshop in Development Economics (Keynote)
- 2024** University of British Columbia, Department of Economics. “Last Lecture” end of year school wide speech at the Harris School of Public Policy. End of year Diversity and Inclusion Awards Ceremony speech, University of Chicago.
- 2023** Brown University, University of Minnesota, Boston University, Harvard Alberto Alesina PE Seminar, Association for the Study of Religion, Economics and Culture Conference at Harvard, Economic Research on Identity Norms and Narratives Conference at PSE, Institutions Organizations and Growth College de France meeting, Pomona College, Toulouse School of Economics, Vancouver School of Economics, Namur Conference of Culture and Development in Africa
- 2022** Universidad Autónoma de Madrid TEH, Conference of Critical Junctures in Real Time (Munich), Dartmouth Development Seminar, Institute of International Economic Studies Stockholm, University of Southern California, 7th Zurich Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries
- 2021** Paris Sorbonne Sustainable Development Seminar, Paris School of Economics/Sciences-Po Political Economy Seminar, McGill University Development Seminar, Wisconsin-Madison Development Seminar
- 2019** London School of Economics PE seminar, University College London Comparative Politics, Harvard Business School (BGIE), U Michigan Development seminar, Barcelona Summer Forum, CESifo-Microeconomics, Paris political economy workshop, Long-Run Latin American development conference (Universidad de Los Andes), Conference on the economics of conflict (Paris School of Economics), NBER PE, Dev, Org Econ
- 2018** New Economic School), Yale Economics, UC Berkeley Williamson Seminar, University of Southern California, Cultural Evolution Society Conference (Arizona State University), U Chicago Development Seminar, Boston University Development seminar, DFID, Princeton Applied Economics seminar, WZB Berlin, MIT Org Econ, Harvard Political Economy seminar
- 2017** AEA invited session, Arizona State University Evolution of Social Complexity colloquium, NYU PE seminar, Cornell Development seminar, DFID DRC, DRC Ministry of Finance, DRC Civil society, DEVPEC keynote, Stanford Graduate School of Business, Canadian Institute For Advanced Research
- 2015** Berkeley Development seminar, Harvard Africa Conference, Harvard PPE Seminar, Stanford Comparative Politics Seminar, NYU PE seminar, World Bank applied micro seminar, Inter-american Development Bank

- 2014** Stanford Development Workshop, Harvard Development retreat, NEUDC (BU), Harvard Academy, Oxford (CSAE), Oxford (OxCarre), Santa Fe (Workshop on the Co-evolution of Institutions and Behaviors), CEMFI, Lausanne (Conference on the Political Economics of Conflicts and Development), NHH Bergen (Symposium on Economic Experiments in Development Countries), World Bank, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, U Toronto (ICTD/Munk School of global affairs), APSA
- 2014** *Toulouse School of Economics, MIT, Chicago Booth, Brown, Berkeley Haas, (job market) LSE (ID), Warwick, IIES Stockholm, Sciences-Po, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Fundacao Getulio Vargas (Rio), Georgetown Qatar*
- 2013** NEUDC (Harvard), Columbia Comparative Politics Seminar (Columbia), Development Seminar (Columbia), Chicago Summer School in Socioeconomic Inequality, WGAPE (MIT), Social Impact (DC)
- 2011** INET Conference (New York), Columbia Political Economy Colloquium, Columbia Workshop on Experiments in Political Economy, Columbia Social Impact Workshop

Dissertation committees: UC Berkeley (Sam Leone, Caroline Brandt, Hilary Yu), Paris School of Economics (Annali Casanueva Artis), Harris School of Public Policy (Ari Anisfeld)

Professional Service

Co-founder of the Social and Institutional Economics Seminar at the University of Chicago

Co-founder of the Student Coffee in Social and Institutional Economics at the University of Chicago

Co-founder of the [Conference in Substantivist Economics](#)

Referee for: American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economic Studies, Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Political Science Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Games and Economic Behavior, International Economics Review, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Public Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Theoretical Economics, World Development, Economica

Submission Editor: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)

University Assistant Marshall (2025-present)

Teaching

London School of Economics
Business analysis

University of Chicago

Political Economy of Development, with Eduardo Montero, *PhD* (Spring 2024, 2025)
Power and “Development,” *Masters* (Spring 2024, 2025)
Political Economics of Development, *Masters* (Spring 2021, 2022)
African Societies, *PhD*, with James Robinson (Spring 2022, 2021)
Political Development and Policy, *Undergraduate* (Spring 2021)

Harvard University

Political Economy and Development (Econ 2326), *PhD level* (Spring 2023)

University of California, Berkeley

Causal Inference methods (*PhD*, Fall 2018)
Political Economy and development (*PhD*, Spring 2016, Spring 2019)
Ethics for Business (*MBA*, Spring 2016, Fall 2018, Spring 2019)
International Business (*Undergraduate*, Spring 2015)

Other Activities

Co-Founder, Marakuja Kivu Research group

Congo Calling: Documentary about research and humanitarian aid in Eastern Congo. Concept inspiration and advice, and lead story. Audience Prize to the best Documentary at the Max Ophuls Film Festival and nominated for best German Documentary Award.

Personal Interests

(Former) Cyclist, Toulouse Vélo Club (best under 17, see [here](#), Saint-Paul sur Save)

Marathon runner: [Berlin 2017](#), Chicago 2019. Best mark: 3:49

Photography: Exhibition M55 Brooklyn art gallery (2012)

Nationality: Spanish