

ANTOINE BOUCHER

◇ Nationality: French

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral researcher, Aix-Marseille School of Economics *2025 - 2028*
Project: “FISCAl behavior, AId and Decentralization in Uganda (FISCAID)”,
With Nathalie Ferrière

Postdoctoral researcher, University of Göttingen *2024 - 2025*
Chair of Development Economics (Prof. Andreas Fuchs). Project:
“Economic and Ideological Causes of Political Radicalization and Violence”,
with Gerda Asmus-Bluhm, Richard Bluhm, Raphaël Franck, and Andreas Fuchs.

Lecturer, Université Gustave Eiffel *2023 - 2024*
Teaching macroeconomics, economic and social policies, money and finance,
and statistics to undergraduate students.

Lecturer, Sciences Po Paris, School of International Affairs *2023*
Teaching public finance of development course to graduate students.

Lecturer, Université Paris Dauphine *2021 - 2023*
Teaching open macroeconomics to undergraduate students.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Université Paris Dauphine PSL, DIAL - IRD *2019 - 2023*
“Three Essays in Applied Political Economy”
Thesis under the direction of Lisa Chauvet and Marin Ferry.
Jury members: Silvia Marchesi, Pierre-Guillaume Méon,
Emmanuelle Lavallée, Kai Gehring.

Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne *2017 - 2019*
Master in Development Economics, with honors.

Université Savoie Mont-Blanc, Annecy *2014 - 2017*
Bachelor in Economics and Finance,
Valedictorian, with honors.

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS

Languages	French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (basic).
Software	Stata, Python (web scraping, OCR), QGis, L ^A T _E X.

PUBLICATIONS

Connective Infrastructure and Firms Export: China vs. the World Bank, Different Approaches, Different Results?

2023

Revue d'Economie du Développement, International Conference on Development Economics, Special Issue

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Foreign Aid and Power Play: Political Cycle in World Bank's Procurement Allocation

With Lisa Chauvet and Marin Ferry.

Submitted

This paper examines the existence of political cycles in the awarding of World Bank procurement contracts around elections. We consider elections in the home country of firms winning these contracts, whether the firms come from the aid recipient country (*i.e.* domestic firms) or from other supplier countries (*i.e.* foreign firms). Our findings indicate that domestic firms are more likely to secure larger contracts around elections in their home country, especially when corporate donations to candidates are allowed. Additionally, our results reveal an increase in contract sizes awarded to foreign firms before elections in their home country. This cross-border political cycle appears to be driven by strong aid partnerships and historical colonial ties between the supplier and recipient countries.

Do All Roads Lead to Exports? Chinese Transport Infrastructure Projects in Developing Countries

Submitted

In recent decades, China become a key provider of transport infrastructure in developing countries. This paper examines the impact of Chinese-funded transport projects on firm-level development, with a particular focus on firms' export likelihood. To do so, I match firm-level data from the World Bank Enterprise Survey with geolocated Chinese-funded transport projects implemented between 2000 and 2019. Employing an instrumental variable strategy, I leverage the interaction between a region's probability of receiving transport projects and labor unrest in China as a source of exogenous variation for Chinese-funded transport infrastructure. The analysis reveals no significant overall effect of these projects on firms' export probabilities. This absence of an effect holds regardless a regions initial infrastructure, sectoral transport intensity, and firms' productivity. A possible explanation is the regional favoritism already observed in Chinese aid, which perpetuates the suboptimal placement of transport infrastructure in developing countries, thereby limiting its impact on firm-level export performance.

Can Democracy Leave a Trace? Evidence from the 18151860 Franco-Piedmontese Border

Runner-up for the Wicksell Prize during the EPCS conference 2023.

Submitted

Can short-lived democratic experiences leave lasting political legacies? This paper exploits a natural experiment in 19th-century France, when the Duchy of Savoy and the County of Nice were separated from France between 1815 and 1860. This change created an institutional divide between French communes that were exposed to democratic elections under the Second Republic (18481851), and neighboring communes under Piedmont-Sardinian rule, which remained subject to a more restrictive monarchical system. Using a spatial regression discontinuity design and election data from 1876 to 2024, I find that early exposure to democratic institutions increased support for left-wing parties for nearly a century. The effect is particularly pronounced during the Third Republic (1871-1940), when institutional questions were politically salient and the left was the primary force defending democratic institutions. The effect is strongest in areas with high electoral participation in 184849 and persisted longer where academic divisions remained distinct. These findings show that even brief experiences with democratic institutions can leave enduring imprints on political preferences.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2025

ADRES Job Market Conference, Strasbourg.
Hong Kong-Kiel-Göttingen Workshop, University of Hong Kong
European Political Science Association, Madrid
Kiel-Göttingen-CEPR Conference on China in the Global Economy, Berlin
SIOE Conference, Sydney
EHES Conference, Stuttgart

2024

Political Economy of Global Development Seminar, University of Stuttgart.
Homecoming of the Göttingen School of Development Economics
International Conference in Development Economics, Aix-en-Provence.
72th Congress of the French Economic Association (AFSE), Bordeaux.
Economic History Society Conference, Newcastle.
Virtual Workshop in Historical Political Economy.

2023

European Public Choice Society Conference, Hanover.
The Political Economy of International Organization Conference, San Diego.
AFEDEV Job Market training seminar
LEDa Internal Seminar
DIAL Internal Development Seminar.
CEPR Paris Symposium 2023
Annual Workshop Economics & Politics, Brussel.

2022

Journée des Doctorants PSL.
DIAL Internal Development Seminar.
Graduate Students in International Political Economy Workshop.
European Public Choice Society Conference, Braga.
70th Congress of the French Economic Association (AFSE), Dijon.
International Conference in Development Economics, Clermont-Ferrand.

2021

The Political Economy of International Organization Seminar.
CSAE Conference on Economic Development in Africa.
European Public Choice Society Conference.
International Conference in Development Economics.
Globalization and Development International Conference.

2020

DIAL Internal Development Seminar.
Journée Doctorale du Développement.

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Organization

Joint Hong Kong-Kiel-Göttingen Workshop “China in the Global South: Consequences for Economic Development”, with Andreas Fuchs, Moritz Schularick, Austin Strange and Heiwai Tang (March 2025).

Political Economy of Radicalization and Violence workshop in Gttingen, with Gerda Asmus-Bluhm, Richard Bluhm, Raphaël Franck, and Andreas Fuchs (April 2026).

Referee

Revue d'Economie du Développement.