

LEONARD WANTCHEKON
Department of Politics, Princeton University
230 Corwin Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544
Office: (609) 258 6723
Home: (609) 454 5470
e-mail: lwantche@princeton.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 1995
M.A. Economics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 1992
Maitrise Plan A, Economics, Laval University, Quebec, Canada 1990

EMPLOYMENT

Current Employment

Professor, Department of Politics and Woodrow School, (Associated Faculty, Economics Department), Princeton University, 2011-present
Founder and Director, African School of Economics, 2010-present
Founder and Director, Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE), 2004-present
Associate Researcher, CAGE, Department of Economics, University of Warwick (UK)

Past Employment (selected)

Professor, Department of Politics (joint with Economics), New York University, 2006-2011
Assistant
Professor, Department of Political Science, joint with Economic Growth Center, Yale University, 1995-2001
Visiting Professor of Decision Sciences, Institute of Mathematics and Physics of Benin (affiliated with the Institute of Theoretical Physics of Trieste, Italy), Summer 1997 and 2000

RESEARCH

Manuscripts Under Review

1. "Policy Deliberation and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Campaign Experiment in Benin" *Submitted.*
2. "Politician-Voter Co-ethnicity and Electoral Support for Public Goods: Evidence from a Field Experiment" (with Yves Atchade and Gwyneth McClendon), *Submitted.*
3. "Critical Junctures: Independence Movements and Democracy in Africa" (with Omar Garcia Ponce), *Revise and Resubmit, American Journal of Political Science.*
4. Policy Deliberation and Electoral Returns: Experimental Evidence from the Philippines. *American Journal of Political Science, Revise and Resubmit.*

Published Papers (selected)

1. "Policy Deliberation and Voter Persuasion. Measuring the the Intrinsic Causal Effect of Town Hall Meetings." *Journal of Development Effectiveness.* Vol. 9, Iss. 3, 2017.
2. "Do Electoral Handouts Affect Voting Behavior?" (with Jenny Guardado). *Electoral Studies.* Forthcoming.

3. "Education and Human Capital Externalities: Evidence from Colonial Benin" 2015 with Natalija Notva and Marko Klansja), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130: 703-757.
4. "Corruption and Ideology in Autocracies" (with James Hollyer), 2015, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*, Vol. 31(3): 499-533.
5. "Does Corruption Information Inspire the Fight or Quash the Hope? A Field Experiment in Mexico on Voter Turnout, Choice and Party Identification" (with Alberto Chong, Ana de la O, Dean Karlan). *Journal of Politics*, 77(1): 55-71.
6. "Can Informed Public Deliberation Overcome Clientelism? Experimental Evidence from Benin" (with T. Fujiwara). 2013. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 5(4): 241- 255.
7. "Public Investment in Rural Infrastructure: Some Political Economy Considerations" (with Moussa Blimpo and Robin Harding), 2013. *Journal of African Economies*, 22: ii57-ii83.
8. "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa" (with Nathan Nunn). 2011. *American Economic Review*, Vol. 11, No. 7, 5221-3252.
9. "Methodology Update: Randomized Controlled Trials, Structural Models and the Study of Politics" (with Jenny Guardardo) 2011. *Journal of African Economies*, 20 (4) pp. 653-672.
10. "Clientelism and Vote Buying: Lessons from Field Experiments in West Africa" (with Pedro Vicente). 2009 *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 25 (2) pp. 292-305.
11. "Political Rights versus Public Goods: Uncovering the Determinants of Satisfaction with Democracy in Africa (with Gwen Taylor)"; *Afrique Contemporaine* (December, 2006).
12. "The Paradox of Warlord Democracy: A Theoretical Investigation", 2004, *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 98 (February), pp. 17-33.
13. "Resource Wealth and Political Regimes in Africa", 2004, (with Nathan Jensen), *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 37 (September), pp. 816-841.
14. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin", 2003, *World Politics*, Vol. 55, pp. 399-422.
15. "Why do Resource Dependent Countries Have Authoritarian Governments?", 2002 *Journal of African Finance and Economic Development*, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 57-77.
16. "A Theory of Post-Civil War Democratization" (with Zvika Neeman), 2002, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, Vol. 4, No 14.
17. "Electoral Competition Under the Threat of Political Unrest" (with Matthew Ellman), 2000, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 115, Issue 2, pp. 499-531.
18. "Strategic Voting in Conditions of Political Instability: the 1994 Elections in El Salvador", 1999, *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 7, pp. 811-835.

19. "The Game of Torture", 1999, (with Andrew Healy) *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 43, No. 5, pp. 596-609.

Book Chapters and Other Publications (selected)

1. "Democracy and Development" in Aryeetey et al eds., *Oxford Companion to the Economics of Africa*, Oxford University Press. 2012.
2. "Experimental Research on Democracy and Development" (with Ana de la O), 2011, in James Druckman et al. (eds.) *Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge University Press.
3. "Theory, External Validity and Experimental Inference: Some Conjectures (with Fernando Martel Garcia), 2010 in "Field Experiments in Comparative Politics and Policy" special issue of *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.
4. "Transfer Dependence and Regional Disparities in Nigerian Federalism" (with Tamar Asadurian and Emmanuel Nnadozie), 2005, in *The Dynamics of Federalism: the Political Economy Reality*, T.N. Srinivasan and Jessica Wallack, eds., Cambridge University Press.

Books

1. *Rêver à Contre-Courant: Autobiographie*. 2012. Paris. Editions l'Harmattan.
2. *New Advances in Experimental Research on Corruption* (with Danila Serra). 2012. Edited Volume, United Kingdom: Emerald Books.

Working Papers

1. "The Curse of Good Soil? Land Fertility, Roads and Rural Poverty in Africa" (with Piero Stanig).
2. "Policy Deliberation and Electoral Returns: Experimental Evidence from the Philippines."
3. "Randomized Evaluation of Institutions: Theory with Applications to Voting and Deliberation Experiments" (with Yves Atchade).
4. "Echoes of the Malagasy Uprising: Estimating the Long Term Effects of Colonial Repression on Political Attitudes in Madagascar" (Omar Garcia-Ponce).
5. "School-Based Management and Primary Education Achievement in Benin" (with Moussa Blimpo).
6. "Can Institutionalized Parties Overcome Clientelism?" (with Peter Buisseret).
7. "Migration, Bureaucratic Reforms and Institutional Persistence: Evidence from US Municipalities" (with Alexander Bolton and James Hollyer).
8. "Choosing between Corruption, Violence: a Survey Experiment on Fear, Drug-War Violence and Political Behavior in Mexico" (with Omar Garcia Ponce and Thomas Zeitack).

9. "Electoral Institutions and Political Polarization: Evidence from an Approval Voting Experiment in Benin" (with Alda Kabre, Jean-Francois Laslier, and Karine van de Straeten).

Media Coverage (Selected)

1. "Ground Breaker," By Ismaella Dieng, *Finance & Development*, December 2016, Vol. 53, No. 4.
2. "Professors Offer A Reality Check For Politicians," by Lynne Browney, *New York Times*, a review of "Clientelism and Voting Behavior", *World Politics*, 2003.
3. "On the Legacy and Slave Trade in Africa: Two Scholars Find Lasting Distrust Among People of the Region" by Gregory Rodriguez, *Los Angeles Times*, a review of "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa, *American Economic Review*, 2011.
4. "Dreaming Against the Current": A review of "Rêver à Contre Courant: Autobiographie" by Nicholas Van Walle, *Foreign Affairs*, 2013.
5. "Leonard Wantchekon, Un Désir de Reconnaissance" by Jean-Eric Boulou, *Jeune Afrique*, Paris, March 10, 2011.
6. "La Sécurité Alimentaire en Question" in Etat de l'Afrique (State of Africa), *Jeune Afrique*, Paris, Hors Série, 2011.
7. "An Activist who Fled Jail in Benin to Become a Princeton Professor" by Annie Maccoby Berglof, *Financial Times*, 2013.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2013; Open Society Foundation Fellowship, Soil Quality, Roads and Rural Poverty in Africa, 2014; Bobst Center Grant. Princeton University. Campaign Experiment on Policy Deliberation in the Philippines, 2013; Center of International Teaching and Research, Empirical Political Economy, 2013; Open Society Institute of West Africa, Grant, Campaign Experiment on Policy Deliberation in Benin, 2012; SES Grant, Empirical Research at the African School of Economics, 2012
IDRC Think Tank Initiative, Empirical Research at the IERPE. 2009-,2014; Denmark Ministry of Foreign Affairs Research Grant, 2008-2011, (School Governance)

KEYNOTE INVITATION

Canadian Economic Association, St Francis University, 2018
Howard Lecture, International Initiative in Impact Evaluation, London, 2016
Government of Senegal Higher Education in Africa, Dakar, 2017
African Economic History Conference, Wageningen, Netherland, 2015
International Conference on Sustainable Development in Africa, Dakar, 2015
Oxford University, CSAE African Development Conference, 2014
ECG Annual Convention, Johannesburg, 2014

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Committee Work

Executive Committee. International Economic Association, 2017-
Program Committee Chair, Econometric Society Meetings (Africa Region), 2017-
Editorial Board, *American Political Review*, 2016-
Editorial Board, *World Development*, 2015-

Program Committee, International Economic Association World Congress, 2013
Member, Board of Directors, Partnership for Economy Policy, Laval University, 2013-
Founder and Coordinator, Empirical Political Economy Network, Princeton University, 2013
Member, Council of International Teaching and Research, Princeton University, 2011-present
Member of the Executive Committee, Afrobarometer Network, 2005-present
Secretary, American Political Science Association. 2008-09
Program Chair, Comparative Politics, American Political Science Association Meetings, 2005
Member, Advisory Council and Technical Committee, Ibrahim Index of African Governance
Editor/Managing Editor, Journal of African Development, 2001-2009
Cofounder/Deputy Secretary of "Front Démocratique du Bénin", the only opposition group in
Benin during the military rule. Served as Editor of the Journal of the Front, 1982-1987
President of the Student Union "Organization de Lutte des Universitaires du Benin", 1978-1987

Reviewer

American Economic Review, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science
Review, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Economic
Development and Cultural Change, European Economic Review, Journal of Development
Economics, European Economic Review, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Applied
Econometrics, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Economics,
Journal of Economic Growth, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and
Statistics, World Politics

Selected Conferences and Workshops (last 5 years)

2014-2015: Oxford, Maryland, Georgetown, World Bank, Michigan State, African School of
Economics, Mannheim, Aix-Marseille, Barcelona School of Economics, Bocconi

2013- 2014: Rochester, PSE, LSE, Warwick, Institute of Advanced Studies (Princeton), UAC
(Benin), BREAD Conference, Harvard, Princeton, University of Martinique, Columbia, Yale, IIES
Stockholm, Boston University

2012-2013: Nobel Conference on Growth and Development, Princeton, Northwestern, Science
Po (Paris), Stanford GSB, SMU Dallas, NBER Political Economy

2011-2012: Juan March Conference on Clientelism, Toulouse, Namur, LSE, Virginia, UCSD,
Georgetown, Stanford, Paris-Sorbonne, Princeton 2008-20011: Columbia, Stanford, Harvard,
Yale, Georgia Tech, Manchester, LSE, NYU