

VALERIA RUEDA

SCIENCES PO PARIS AND UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Placement Officer	Sciences Po	Emeric Henry, emerich.henry@sciencespo.fr , +33145495261
	Oxford	Johannes Abeler, johannes.abeler@economics.ox.ac.uk , +441865281440
Graduate Administrator		Julie Minns, julie.minns@economics.ox.ac.uk , +441865281162

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born in Manizales, Colombia. July 25th 1987, Colombian and French citizen

Address	Pembroke College, St. Aldates, OX11DW Oxford, United-Kingdom
Email	valeria.rueda@pmb.ox.ac.uk
Website	www.valeriarueda.org

REFERENCES

Brian A'Hearn Post-doc mentor brian.ahearn@pmb.ox.ac.uk +44 (0) 1865 276435	Yann Algan PhD supervisor yann.algan@sciencespo.fr +33 (0) 1 45 49 63 65
Quoc-Anh Do Member of PhD committee quocanh.do@sciencespo.fr +33 (0) 1 45 49 83 58	Julia Cagé Co-author julia.cage@sciencespo.fr +33 (0) 1 45 49 52 68

APPOINTMENTS

2015 - present	University of Oxford, Pembroke College and Economic and Social History Group Rokos Career Development Fellow in Economics
2016 - present	University of Oxford, Department of Economics and History Faculty Lecturer – MPhil/MSc Economic and Social History

EDUCATION

2012 – 2016	Sciences Po PhD in Economics under the supervision of Yann Algan <i>Examiners:</i> Yann Algan, Sascha Becker, Sergei Guriev, Nathan Nunn, and Paul Seabright.
2010 - 2011	Harvard University Visiting graduate student in the Department of Economics
2008 – 2010	Paris School of Economics Master's degree (Analysis and Policy in Economics) Graduated with honours

2007 – 2012 École Normale Supérieure, rue d’Ulm
Élève Normalienne (BL), Department of Social Sciences

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Development economics, economic history, and political economy
Secondary: Economic geography, applied econometrics, and applied
microeconomics

TEACHING

2015 – present Pembroke College, University of Oxford
College tutor in Development economics and Quantitative economics.
Undergraduate programs: E&M, Economics and History, and PPE

2016 - present Department of Economics and History Faculty, University of Oxford
Lecturer in Quantitative Methods, MPhil/MSc in Economics and Social
History.

2013 – 2015 Sciences Po
Teaching assistant for the mandatory undergraduate course in
Macroeconomics. I wrote all the problem sets and set up the digital
content for this course. Taught by Yann Algan

2007 – 2012 Paris School of Economics
Teaching assistant for the graduate course “Macroeconomics-4”. I
wrote all the problem sets for this course. Taught by Daniel Cohen.

2007 – 2012 Harvard University
Teaching assistant for the undergraduate course “Poverty and
Development”. Taught by Nathan Nunn.

PUBLICATIONS

“The long-term effects of the printing press in sub-Saharan Africa.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (2016), joint with Julia Cagé

“The devil is in the detail: Christian missions’ heterogeneous effect on development in sub-Saharan Africa.” in *The long-term economic and political shadow of History*, vol. 2, edited by Michalopoulos and Papaioannou, CEPR press (2016), joint with Julia Cagé

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Sex and the Mission: The conflicting effects of early Christian missions on HIV in Africa” with Julia Cagé.

ABSTRACT: This article investigates the long-term impact of historical missionary activity on HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. On the one hand, missionaries were the first to invest in modern medicine in the region. On the other hand, Christianity influenced sexual beliefs and behaviours that affect the risk of contagion. We build a new geocoded dataset locating Protestant and Catholic missions in the early 20th century, as well as the health facilities they invested in. With these data, we can address separately these two channels, within regions close to historical missionary settlements. First, we show that proximity to historical missionary health facilities decreases the likelihood of HIV; persistence in healthcare provision and safer sexual behaviours in the region explain this result. Second, we show that regions close to historical missionary settlements exhibit higher likelihood of HIV. This

effect is driven by the Christian population in our sample. This suggests conversion to Christianity as a possible explanatory channel. Our findings are robust to alternative specifications addressing selection.

Presented at - Seminars: Bonn University; ESH Oxford seminar series; Harvard University; Monash University; Paris School of Economics; Sciences Po; University of Warwick.

Conferences: ASREC (Chapman University, Los Angeles); Journées LAGV (AMSE, Aix-en-Provence); Political Economy of Development workshop (University of Warwick, Coventry); World Economic History Conference (MIT, Boston)

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

“Political unification and geographic economic disparities in Italy, 1861-1871.” with Brian A’Hearn

ABSTRACT: What is the effect of removing national borders on local economic activity? This article studies this question in a unique historical setup: The Italian unification. The Italian peninsula went from being a patchwork of independent states throughout the entire first half of the 19th century, to an almost completely-unified state in 1861, and fully unified one in 1870. This article investigates the effect of this sudden and unexpected geopolitical change on the spatial distribution of local population growth, a proxy for economic activity. Using a difference-in-difference approach, we show that proximity to a removed border is, on average, associated with an increase in population growth. This average result masks important heterogeneities. First, there can be asymmetric effects on each side of a same border. Second, Piedmont, which endured the least institutional changes is the state with the largest increase in growth. Finally, proximity to the border is also associated with increased variability, an indication of reallocation of economic activity.

Presented at - Seminars: Paris School of Economics; Tinbergen Institute

Conferences: Oxford-Warwick-LSE Economic History workshop.

“A political economy of ethnicity in Africa.” with Philip Roessler and Yannick Pengl

ABSTRACT: Ethnicity is found to profoundly influence economic and political processes, but the historical drivers of ethno-political configurations remain poorly understood. We argue that Africa’s ethnic landscape was powerfully shaped by dual economic revolutions that swept across the continent in the 19th and 20th centuries: the spread of cash crop agriculture and the diffusion of printing and writing technologies initiated by European missionaries. Both economic transformations are hypothesized to have contributed to the politicization of ethnicity by endowing some groups with higher mobilizational capacity through increased wealth and improved communication capabilities. The interest of comparatively studying these two phenomena, is that while they both increased ethnic politicization, just one of them – cash crop agriculture – is tied to the land. Therefore, for groups treated with cash crops, we expect ethnicity to be most salient among those who stay within the homeland and diminishing for those who move. On the contrary, the formation of an *imagined community* through printing and writing is likely persist for both “ethnic movers” and “ethnic stayers.” We test these hypotheses by combining new geographic data on the location and intensity of colonial cash crop production and publishing in African languages, with group and individual-level data on ethnic politicization, salience, trust, and polarization.

Presented at - Seminars: Princeton, seminar in Comparative Politics

Conferences: American Political Science Association (Boston); African Economic History Network (Bologna); WGAPE (LSE, London)

“Does it really matter how different we are? Ancestry distances and income in the USA”

ABSTRACT: Do ancestry differences at the local level have persistent effects on economic success inside the United States? Using data from the American Community Survey, and genetic and cultural measures of ancestry distance from the recent literature, this article

shows that the impact on income of ancestry distance at the regional level is small in magnitude and depends on the measure chosen. Our estimates capture the effect of the intensive margin of diversity (“how different we are”) on income, conditional on observed extensive margins of diversity (“how many groups are present”). The heterogeneity in the results also holds when focusing only on groups of first-generation migrants and when considering alternative specifications. This “negative” finding suggests that on average, the cultural difference between migration origins does not appear to be a persistent nor a robust predictor of economic success.

Presented at - Seminars: Sciences-Po, CSAE workshop

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

2015 – present	Rokos Career Development Fellowship 5-year post-doc fellowship
2016 – 2018	John Fell Fund Research fund awarded by the University of Oxford for the research on the long-term effects of mission on HIV
2012 – 2015	French Ministry of Research and Higher Education PhD scholarship
2010 - 2011	Herchel-Smith Scholarship Student exchange full scholarship between the École Normale Supérieure and Harvard University
2005 - 2010	French Ministry of Education - AEFÉ Undergraduate full scholarship for foreign students

RELEVANT SKILLS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Programming and software	Advanced: ArcGIS; ArcPy; QGIS; Stata; R Intermediate: Bash; Python Basic SAS: HTML
Languages	Spanish (mother language); French (bilingual); English (very advanced)
Referee	Economic Journal; Explorations in Economic History; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Development Economics.

OTHERS

Translation	Collective translation from Spanish, edited by François Géral <i>Proses Apatrides</i> , Éditions Finitude
Interests	Cooking; Photography (mostly film); yoga