

# Johannes C. Buggle

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## EMPLOYMENT

1/2016 – **Post-Doctoral Fellow**, University of Lausanne

## EDUCATION

9/2012 – 12/2015 **PhD in Economics**, Sciences Po  
*Summa Cum Laude*  
Thesis: “Essays on Culture, Institutions and Long-Term Development”  
Advisor: Yann Algan  
Committee: Sascha Becker; Sergei Guriev; Mathias Thoenig; Hans-Joachim Voth

2011 – 2012 **Master in Economics**, Sciences Po

2010 – 2011 **Master in Quantitative Economics** (Paris Sorbonne & UA Barcelona), highest honors

2006 – 2010 **B.Sc. in Economics**, University of Konstanz, with honors (best degree)

## RESEARCH VISITS

Fall 2017 **Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow**, Brown University

2013 – 2014 **Visiting PhD Student**, University of California, Berkeley

## REFERENCES

**Yann Algan**  
Department of Economics  
Sciences Po  
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Department of Economics  
University of Zurich  
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## RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

**Primary:** Economic Growth and Development, Economic History

**Secondary:** Political Economy, Cultural Economics

## PUBLICATIONS

“**Law and Social Capital: Evidence from the Code Napoleon in Germany**”,  
*European Economic Review*, 2016, vol. 87, pp. 148–175

“**Essays on Culture, Institutions and Long-Term Development**”,  
*Journal of Economic History*, 2017, 77(2), (dissertation summary)

**AWARDS**

- 2016 Finalist of the Alexander Gerschenkron Prize for the best dissertation in non-American economic history awarded by the Economic History Association
- 2012 Co-Winner best Master's Thesis, Sciences Po
- 2010 Best degree in Economics (VEUK Prize), University of Konstanz

**GRANTS**

- 2017 Swiss National Science Foundation Scientific Exchange (8'000 CHF)
- 2015 Robert Solow Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)
- 2012 – 2015 Doctoral Fellowship, Sciences Po
- 2011 – 2012 Tuition waiver (merit-based), Sciences Po
- 2010 – 2011 Consortium Scholarship (merit-based), UA Barcelona, Paris 1
- 2006 – 2010 Tuition waiver (merit-based), University of Konstanz
- 2006 – 2012 Scholarship for academic excellence, Konrad Adenauer Foundation

**SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2017 ASREC (Boston); University of Basel; Brown University (Macro Lunch & Growth Lab); HEC Lausanne Behavioral Seminar; NEUDC (Tufts); SSES Annual Congress; Williams
- 2016 Copenhagen Business School; HEC Lausanne Macro Lunch; Economic History Association Annual Meeting (Boulder); Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics (Paris); ASREC Europe (Copenhagen)
- 2015 IMT Lucca; WEast Workshop on Economic History and Development (Budapest)
- 2014 "Institutions, Culture and Long-Term Economic Effects" (Warsaw); University of California Berkeley; Sciences Po; EEA-ESEM (Toulouse)
- 2013 Sciences Po, Spring Meeting of Young Economists (Aarhus)
- 2012 FRESH Meeting (London)

**TEACHING**

- 2016, 2017 **Economic Growth** (graduate), Lecturer, University of Lausanne [[syllabus](#)]
- 2017 Master Thesis Supervision, University of Lausanne
- 2015 **Political Economy** (Summer School), TA for Prof. Durante, Sciences Po
- Micro-Development** (graduate), TA for Prof. Huillery, Sciences Po
- 2014 **Political Economy of Development** (graduate), TA for Prof. Guriev, Sciences Po
- 2012 **Globalization for Development** (graduate), TA for Prof. Goldin, Sciences Po
- 2009 **Macroeconomics** (undergraduate), TA for Prof. Kaas, University of Konstanz

**REFEREEING**

*Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Growth, Explorations in Economic History, Journal of Institutional Economics*

**RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT**

- 2010 Intern, MPI Collective Goods
- 2009 Intern, Federal Ministry of Economics, Berlin

**LANGUAGES**

**German** (native speaker), **English** (fluent), **French** (fluent), **Spanish** (basic)

## JOB MARKET PAPER

### **“Growing Collectivism: Irrigation, Group Conformity, and Technological Divergence”** [pdf]

This paper examines the origins of collectivist cultures that emphasize group conformity over individual autonomy. In line with the hypothesis that collaboration within groups in pre-industrial agriculture favored the emergence of collectivism, I find that societies whose ancestors jointly practiced irrigation agriculture have stronger collectivist norms today. The positive effect of irrigation on contemporary collectivism holds across countries, sub-national districts within countries, and migrants. For causal identification, I instrument the historical adoption of irrigation by its geographic suitability. Furthermore, this paper establishes that, by favoring conformity, irrigation agriculture has contributed to the global divergence of technology. I document (i) a negative effect of traditional irrigation agriculture on contemporary innovativeness of countries, cities, and migrants; (ii) a positive effect on selection into routine-intensive occupations; and (iii) that the initial technological advantage of irrigation societies was reversed after 1500.

## WORKING PAPER

### **“Climate Risk, Cooperation and the Co-Evolution of Culture and Institution”**, [CEPR DP #12380] (with Ruben Durante, under review)

This research examines the historical relationship between economic risk and the evolution of social cooperation. We hypothesize that norms of generalized trust developed in pre-industrial times as a result of experiences of cooperation triggered by the need of subsistence farmers to cope with climatic risk. These norms persisted over time, even after climate had become largely unimportant for economic activity. We test this hypothesis for Europe combining high-resolution climate data for the period 1500-2000 with survey data at the sub-national level. We find that regions with higher inter-annual variability in precipitation and temperature display higher levels of trust. This effect is driven by variability in the growing season months, and by historical rather than recent variability. Regarding possible mechanisms, we find that regions with more variable climate were more closely connected to the Medieval trade network, indicating a higher propensity to engage in inter-community exchange. These regions were also more likely to adopt inclusive political institutions earlier on, and are characterized by a higher quality of local governments still today. Our findings suggest that, by favoring the emergence of mutually-reinforcing norms and institutions, exposure to environmental risk had a long-lasting impact on human cooperation.

### **“The Slow Road from Serfdom: Labor Coercion and Long-Run Development in the Former Russian Empire”**, [pdf], (with Steven Nafziger, under review)

This paper examines the long-run economic consequences of Russian serfdom. Using novel data measuring the intensity of labor coercion at the district level in 1861, we find that a greater legacy of serfdom is associated with lower economic well-being today. This result is robust to taking into account a large set of correlates of serfdom, as well as an instrumental variable strategy. The analysis of different types of labor coercion reveals substantial heterogeneity in the long-run effects of serfdom. Furthermore, we document persistence of economic development measured by city populations over the period 1800 - 2002 in cross-sectional regressions and panel estimations. Exploring mechanisms, our results suggest that the effect of serfdom on urbanization in Imperial Russia was perpetuated in the Soviet period, with negative implications for structural change, the spatial distribution of firms, and human capital investment.

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

### **“Ethnic Conflict and Migration: Evidence from World War II”**, (with Mathias Thoenig and Seyhun Sakhalli)

### **“Technological Innovations in Electoral Campaigns: Railroads and the 1896 Presidential Race”**, (with Stephanos Vlachos)

### **“Economic Growth, Cultural Change, and Technological Innovations”**