

## JESSICA GOTTLIEB

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### EDUCATION

#### Stanford University

Ph.D. in Political Science (expected June 2013)

M.A. in Economics (2011)

Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Institutions, Political Methodology

*Thesis*: “Peasants into Democrats? Evaluating the determinants of democratic failure in Mali”

*Advisors*: James Fearon (Chair), Jeremy Weinstein, Beatriz Magaloni, Saumitra Jha

#### Yale University

B.A. in Political Science, *cum Laude*, with Distinction (2004)

B.A. in International Studies, *cum Laude*, with Distinction (2004)

Courses in Economics and Political Science, Université de Paris I et Paris II, 2003

*Thesis*: Deeper than Development: democracy and decentralized health care in Mali

*Advisors*: William Foltz, Pierre F. Landry

### DISSERTATION PROJECT

#### “Peasants into Democrats? Evaluating the determinants of democratic failure in Mali”

Why have free and fair elections frequently failed to generate government accountability in new democracies? My dissertation investigates the puzzle of poor performance in Mali, presenting and testing three related arguments that together explain how a bad governance equilibrium can persist in spite of democratic institutions. First, I explore the problem of how low voter expectations allow politicians to live down to poor performance standards without electoral retribution. I run a large-scale field experiment in 95 communes where I find that providing a brief civics course about what local governments can and should do effectively raises standards of politician performance and changes voter behavior. I then suggest that the temptation for politicians to collude rather than compete contributes to such information asymmetries between voters and politicians, and use a regression discontinuity design to produce evidence of party collusion within local councils in Mali. Analysis of a new database of individual-level civic activity suggests why dissatisfied citizens also fail to mobilize to change the status quo: they are less likely to organize because of underlying socio-economic inequalities.

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Voting behavior and elections; political and economic development; social networks and civic engagement; field experiments and field methods; lab-in-the-field experiments and behavioral economics; survey methods; sub-Saharan Africa (particularly francophone).

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2012-2013      Pre-doctoral Fellow, Center for Democracy Development and the Rule of Law (CDDRL), Stanford University
- 2010-2013      Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- 2012              Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) Evidence to Action Research Challenge, UC Berkeley, \$5,000
- 2011              Vice Provost for Graduate Education Diversity Dissertation Research Opportunity, Stanford University, \$4,975
- 2010              International Growth Centre (with James Fearon), London School of Economics and the UK Department for International Development, \$36,978
- 2010              Global Underdevelopment Action Fund (with James Fearon), Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, \$40,000
- 2010              National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, \$12,000
- 2010              Graduate Research Opportunity Fund, Stanford University, \$4,999
- 2009              Center for African Studies Graduate Fellowship, Stanford University, \$2,000
- 2003              Frank M. Patterson Research Prize, Yale University, \$3,000
- 2003              Sunrise Travel Research Award, Yale University, \$2,000

## **WORKING PAPERS**

- \* “Does raising voter expectations improve accountability? A field experiment in Mali”
- \* “The logic of party collusion in a democracy: Evidence from Mali”
- \* “Who participates in civic activity and why? Evidence from Mali”

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

- “Who benefits from clientelism? The determinants of bloc voting in Senegal”
- “The political determinants of public goods provision in African democracies”

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- “Can Information Raising Voter Expectations Improve Accountability? A Field Experiment in Mali.” Presented at the World Bank’s Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics, Washington, DC, May 8, 2012.

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\* Indicates a paper of my dissertation.

“Information Effects on Local Governance in Developing Democracies: A field experiment in Mali.” Presented at the International Growth Centre’s Political Economy workshop, London School of Economics, September 22, 2011.

“Is democracy working? Determinants of local government performance in Mali.” Presented at CDDRL’s “Better Governance for Better Health” conference, April 26, 2010.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND WORKSHOPS**

“Why don’t citizens participate in developing democracies? The role of information in raising expectations.”

- African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2012 (scheduled).

“Does raising voter expectations improve accountability? A field experiment in Mali.”

- MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 14, 2012.
- Stanford’s Comparative Politics Workshop, Stanford, May 14, 2012.
- Working Group on African Political Economy’s (WGAPE) national conference, Berkeley, May 25, 2012.
- APSA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, August 31, 2012 (accepted).

“Peasants into Democrats: Evaluating the Impact of Information on Local Governance in Mali.”

- FSI’s Action Fund Fridays, Stanford, December 2, 2011.

“Is democracy working? Determinants of local government performance (failure) in Mali.”

- Stanford’s Comparative Politics Workshop, Stanford, April 20, 2009.
- Working Group on African Political Economy (WGAPE), Claremont, May 1, 2010.

## **RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant, Poverty and Governance Program, Center for Democracy Development and the Rule of Law, Beatriz Magaloni, 2009-2010.

Research Assistant, The Immigration of Muslim Immigrants into European Societies, David Laitin, Summer 2009.

Field Research Assistant, Can Development Aid Contribute to Social Cohesion After Civil War?, James Fearon, Macartan Humphreys, and Jeremy Weinstein, Summer 2008.

Program Coordinator, Center for Global Development, Washington, DC, 2005-2007.

Program Assistant, Academy for Educational Development, Washington, DC, 2004-2005.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

“Health and Human Rights in a Global Context.” Guest lecture in *Global Politics of Human Rights*, February 24, 2009.

*Organizations and Public Policy*. Faculty Instructor: Jonathan Bendor. Grader, Stanford University, Spring 2010.

*Global Politics of Human Rights*. Faculty Instructor: Terry Karl. Teaching Assistant, Stanford University, Winter 2010.

*Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law*. Faculty Instructors: Larry Diamond and Kathryn Stoner-Weiss. Teaching Assistant, Stanford University, Fall 2009.

*War and Peace in American Foreign Policy* (Writing in the Major). Faculty Instructor: Kenneth Schultz. Teaching Assistant, Stanford University, Spring 2009.

*Global Politics of Human Rights*. Faculty Instructor: Terry Karl. Teaching Assistant, Stanford University, Winter 2009.

Developed curriculum for and taught health education in New Haven public schools, 2000-2004.

## **FIELD EXPERIENCE**

*Countries*: Senegal (summer 2012), Mali (winter-spring 2011; summer 2010; fall 2008; summer 2003), Liberia (summer 2008), West Bank (spring 2005).

*Activities*: Trained and recruited educators, enumerators, and research assistants; supervised a Masters student; managed data entry and verification; liaised with government offices.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

2012	Reviewer, <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>
2012	Reviewer, <i>Political Behavior</i>
2012	Co-organizer, "Public Goods Provision and the Efficacy of Governance," Program on Poverty and Governance Conference, CDDRL
2008-2012	Discussant, Stanford Comparative Politics Workshop
2010-2011	Discussant, CISAC Social Science Seminar
2010	Search Committee, CDDRL Draper Hills Summer Fellowship
2010	Co-organizer, "Better Governance for Better Health" Conference, CDDRL

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

2011-present	American Political Science Association
2007-present	Working Group on African Political Economy (WGAPE)
2008-present	Midwest Political Science Association
2012	West African Research Association (WARA)
2012	African Studies Association
2008-present	Student Forum for African Studies, Stanford University
2006	Evaluation Gap Working Group, Center for Global Development

## NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

“Reducing Child Mortality through Vitamin A in Nepal” and “Neural Tube Defects in Chile.” 2007. In *Case Studies in Global Health: Millions Saved*. Ed. Ruth Levine. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

“Comment la démocratie peut améliorer un système de santé: Le cas du Mali.” 2005. *Le Nouvel Observateur*; Bamako, Mali.

## SKILLS

*Languages:* English (native), French (fluent), Spanish (basic proficiency)

*Software:* Stata and R statistical packages, ArcGIS (mapping and spatial analysis), LaTeX (document preparation), FrontlineSMS (mass two-way mobile communication)

## REFERENCES

James Fearon  
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Stanford University  
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Saumitra Jha  
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