

GUILHEM CASSAN

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DATE OF BIRTH: 18/08/1982

SEX: M

CITIZENSHIP: French

CURRENT POSITION

2011 – Present Post-Doctoral Fellow, London School of Economics

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

2006 – 2007 Mres. in Economics, London School of Economics
2005 – 2006 Master in Economics, Paris School of Economics
2002 – 2005 B.Sc. in Economics and Sociology, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan

DOCTORAL STUDIES:

2007 – 2011 PhD in Economics, Paris School of Economics
THESIS TITLE: “Caste Identity and the State in India: an Economic Approach”
Committee: Jean Marie Baland, Denis Cogneau, Lakshmi Iyer, Eliana La Ferrara, Sylvie Lambert (advisor), Thomas Piketty

THESIS ADVISOR AND REFERENCES:

Pr. Sylvie Lambert (Advisor)
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DESIRED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Economic History
Secondary Fields: Political Economy, Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2007 – 2010 History of Economic Thought and Macroeconomics
First Year Undergraduate, University Paris-Dauphine
2006 – 2007 International Economics
Third Year Undergraduate, London School of Economics

LANGUAGES

French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (notions)

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

2011 Axa Research Fund Post-Doctoral Fellowship
2010 AMID Young Researcher Fellowship, Università Bocconi
2007 – 2010 French Ministry of Education PhD Fellowship
2003 – 2007 French Ministry of Education “Normalien” Fellowship

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2011 – 2012 AMID/BREAD/CEPR Conference (Paris), NEUDC (Yale), Lisbon meeting on institutions and political economy, LSE, PSE, Oxford (Scheduled)
2010 – 2012 AFSE (Paris), EUDN PhD Conference (Tinbergen Institute), Pompeu Fabra University, Bocconi University, PSE
2009 – 2010 NEUDC Conference (Tufts University), EUDN Scientific Conference (Paris-AFD), ISI Conference (Delhi), Paris School of Economics, LSE, Delhi School of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
2008 – 2009 Paris School of Economics, EDP Jamboree (London School of Economics).

COMPLETED PAPERS:

Law and Identity Manipulation: Evidence from Colonial Punjab, working paper, 2011. (JOB MARKET PAPER)

I analyze the impact on identity manipulation of the creation of an “agricultural caste” category by the Punjab Alienation of Land Act (1901), the membership of which granted access to various advantages on the land market. Using original data built from the census of Punjab from 1881 to 1921, I show, using various double differences strategies, that caste groups manipulated their caste identity in order to claim an affiliation to the castes registered as agricultural, explicitly ruling out alternative demographic interpretations. This points to the ability of caste groups to manipulate their identity in response to economic incentives. More broadly, it questions the impact of any ethnic based policy on the definition of ethnic groups themselves, and gives a measure of the extent of mistargeting that those type of policies can lead to.

The Impact of Positive Discrimination in India: Evidence from a Natural Experiment, working paper, 2011

I use a natural experiment in order to assess the impact of positive discrimination in India on targeted groups' educational attainment. I take advantage of the harmonization of the Schedule Castes and Tribes lists within the Indian states taking place in 1976 to measure the increase of the educational attainment of the groups that suddenly became members of the "Scheduled Castes". This setting allows me to measure the impact of the policy on the castes that were added to the list from 1976 on, taking the Castes already on the list as a control group. Using two different identification strategies, I show that this policy had no effect overall, while areas with better than average school supply and urban areas benefited from the policy.

Caste Identity Manipulation and Land Ownership in Colonial Punjab, working paper, 2011

I use a comprehensive dataset on the land market in the colonial Province of Punjab to assess the evolution of land sales and land ownership by "agricultural caste" status. The members of the "agricultural castes" saw their landholding increase rapidly in the period under study. After the Government of Punjab decided to allocate the land of the "canal colonies" to the members of those castes only, a vast movement of caste identity manipulation was going on in order to get access to this land. It is shown that this movement led to the allocation of up to 11% of the land to non agricultural caste members passing as agricultural castes.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

Elections and attitudes towards minorities. Evidence from Indian Assembly Elections.

Joint with Sonia Balhotra (University of Bristol), Irma Clots-Figueras (University Carlos III, Madrid) and Sanjay Kumar (CSDS, Delhi)

This project aims at evaluating the effect of reservation on attitudes towards minorities, at a national level, in the spirit of Beaman et al. (2009). We use a RDD identification strategy to identify the constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes and women and compare them to the first constituencies not reserved. Using the National Election Survey data, collected by the CSDS, we ambition to identify the causal impact on attitudes towards minorities, but also towards voting behavior of reservations.