

Yannick Dupraz

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Personal information

Date of birth: 13 April 1985

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PRIMARY RESEARCH FIELDS

Development economics, applied microeconomics: education

Economic history: economic history of Sub-Saharan Africa, colonization

EDUCATION

- Since 2011 **PhD in Economics, Paris School of Economics (PSE)**. PhD supervisor: Denis Cogneau.
- 2015-2016 **Visiting PhD candidate, Aix-Marseille School of Economics (AMSE)**, Marseille, France.
- 2013-2014 **Visiting PhD candidate, London School of Economics (LSE)**, London, UK (European Doctoral Program in Quantitative Economics).
- 2009-2011 **MSc in Quantitative Economics, PSE**.
- 2005-2011 **Student at École Normale Supérieure (ENS), Lyon**
MA in History
Agrégation d'histoire obtained in 2008 (one of France's highest-level teaching qualification in history; ranked 36 out of 2500 candidates).
- 2002-2005 **University-level preparation for entrance to ENS, Lycée Condorcet, Paris**.

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper: “French and British Colonial Legacies in Education: A Natural Experiment in Cameroon”

Does colonial history matter for development? In Sub-Saharan Africa, economists have argued that the British colonial legacy was more growth-inducing than others, especially through its effect on education. This paper uses the division of German Kamerun between the British and the French after WWI as a natural experiment to identify the causal effect of colonizer identity on education. Using exhaustive geolocated census data, I estimate a border discontinuity for various cohorts over the 20th century: the British effect on education is positive for individuals of school age in the 1920s and 1930s; it quickly fades away in the late colonial period and eventually becomes negative, favoring the French side. In the most recent cohorts, I find no border discontinuity in primary education, but I do find a positive British effect in secondary school completion — likely explained by a higher rate of grade repetition in the francophone system. I also find a strong, positive British effect on the percentage of Christians for all cohorts. I argue that my results are best explained by supply factors: before WWII, the British colonial government provided incentives for missions to supply formal education and allowed local governments to open public schools, but the British effect was quickly smoothed away by an increase in French education investments in the late colonial period. Though the divergence in human capital did not persist, its effect on religion was highly persistent.

Publications

- “Institutions historiques et développement économique en Afrique. Une revue sélective et critique de travaux récents”, *Histoire et Mesure*, 30(1), 2015 (with Denis Cogneau).

Working Papers

- “Questionable Inference on the Power of Pre-Colonial Institutions in Africa”, PSE Working Papers n2014-25, 2014 (with Denis Cogneau).
- “Public Finance and Investment in the French Colonial Empire, 1870-1960”, XVIIth World Economic History Congress Working Paper (with Denis Cogneau and Sandrine Mesplé-Somps).
- “Public Finances in Colonial West Africa, British and French Compared”, XVIIth World Economic History Congress Working Paper (with Denis Cogneau and Sandrine Mesplé-Somps).

Work in progress

- Effect of education on spouse choice and polygamy in Cameroon (with Pierre André).
- Long term effects of Cameroon's Independence War.

REFERENCES

Prof. **Denis Cogneau**
(supervisor)
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Prof. **Jean Imbs**
Paris School of
Economics
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75013, Paris, France
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TEACHING

Université Paris Sorbonne (Paris IV)

- Junior Lecturer (ATER) in Introduction to Economics (undergraduate course) [2014-2015]

London School of Economics

- Teaching Assistant in Macroeconomics (undergraduate course) [2013-2014]
- Teaching Assistant in French (LSE's Language Center) [2008-2009]

Paris School of Economics

- Teaching Assistant in Macroeconomics (graduate course) [2011-2013]
- Teaching Assistant in Microeconomics (graduate course) [2012-2013]

Prépa Intégrale, Teaching Assistant in Economic History (Classes Préparatoires HEC) [2010-2011]

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

- 2013: Casual Friday Development Seminar (PSE), Development and Growth PhD Seminar (LSE), European Doctoral Program Jamborees (Catholic University of Louvain).
- 2014: Economic History Thesis Workshop (LSE), African Economic History Workshop (London School of Economics).
- 2015: Applied Economics Seminar (PSE), Economic History Seminar (PSE), Center for the Study of African Economies conference (Oxford), 3rd DIAL conference "Barriers to Development" (Dauphine University, Paris); XVIIth World Economic History Congress (Kyoto), New Economic School Center for the Study of Diversity and Social Interactions Conference (Moscow).

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Co-organization of the "Casual Friday Development Seminar" at PSE [2014-2015]

GRANTS

2015-2016 Doctoral Fellowship, Aix-Marseille School of Economics.
2011-2014 Doctoral Fellowship, French Ministry of Research.
2010-2011 Full Fellowship, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon.
2005-2008 Full Fellowship, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon.

LANGUAGES AND COMPUTER SKILLS

- **Languages:** French (fluent), English (fluent), German (beginner), Italian (beginner).
- **Computer skills:** proficient in Stata, ArcGIS, LaTeX, Microsoft Office. Working knowledge of R, MATLAB, html/css programming.