**Land Politics Seminar, 2023-24**

Thursdays, 5:00-6:30

LSE CON.7.03 from 5-6:30pm.

This seminar has been organized as a joint LSE-UCL land politics workshop since 2016. It transitioned to a DSA study group in Dec. 2020. It is a forum for discussions and questions on land tenure, governance of land and property rights in development contexts. Researchers at all career stages, from all theoretical backgrounds and methodological traditions are welcome. In 2023-2024, this seminar will be hosted in-person at LSE (with a Zoom option).

If you would like to join, please email Camilo Acero-Vargas (C.Acero-Vargas@lse.ac.uk), who will add you to the mailing list.

This is an open-access research group. Please circulate this flyer in your networks to anyone who may be interested.

Organizing committee: Catherine Boone (LSE) and Alexandra Hartman (UCL). LSE seminar organizer: Camilo Acero-Vargas

**Autumn Term 2023**

Th., 12 Oct. 2023. **Kudzai Tamuka Moyo**. Doctoral Candidate, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

**Political Contestation and Rival Political Elites’ Institutional Preferences: The Case of Renamo, Mozambique**

How political contestation informs rival elites’ institutional preferences, specifically institutions that govern rural land, has not been extensively analyzed. The author fills this gap by examining how contestation between Renamo, rival elites, and Frelimo informed Renamo’s preference for a strengthened customary land tenure regime. The contestation was such that Renamo sought to retain wartime zones of control as electoral strongholds, while Frelimo’s objective was to penetrate Renamo’s strongholds. Such contestation informed Renamo elites’ preference for a strengthened customary land tenure regime, with the regime effectively empowering their allies in former wartime zones of control with arbitrary power essential for political mobilization.

Th., 9 Nov. 2023. **Camilo Acero Vargas**, Doctoral Candidate, Dept. of Internat'l Development, LSE

**The origins of uneven agrarian modernization: territorial integration and rural elites’ coalitions in Casanare, Colombia**

Since the 1950s, Colombian governments - like others in Latin America - actively promoted the transformation of extensive agricultural production based on large traditional farms into capital- and input-intensive production based on modern agricultural enterprises. Specifically, they sought to change the extensive cattle ranching that occupied most of the country's arable land into commercial agriculture. This “agrarian modernization” was relatively limited and with substantial subnational variations. Agrarian political economists have emphasized that this process was socially differentiated (it benefited large producers and marginalized small producers) but have paid relatively little attention to the causes of regional divergences. In this paper I will use empirical material from my first phase of fieldwork to show how and why the type of territorial integration promoted by the state and the degree of organizational capacity of rural elites explain the emergence and persistence of commercial agriculture in Casanare, a region with comparatively poor agronomic conditions occupied by massive cattle ranches since colonial times.

16 Nov. 2023. **Michael Buteera Mugisha**, Doctoral Candidate, Dept. of Internt'l Development, LSE

**How do cooperatives rise and disintegrate in Africa? A case of Kenya and Uganda’s coffee cooperative movement.**

Cooperatives have been salient vehicles of political mobilisation and rural transformation in Africa, and larger parts of the developing and developed world. Yet, literature holds disputed views as to why and how cooperatives rise and disintegrate, especially in Africa. Contrary to common wisdom, this paper will argue that how cooperatives arise, their survival and disintegration depends on initial conditions, patterns of growth of the sector where they locate, and the nature of regulations towards the sector, which is often an outcome of relations between cooperatives and state elites. Cooperatives that emerge as a result of political struggle tend to form unique political identities and are likely to shape regulations that benefit the broader sector. The pro-growth regulations subsequently promote the expansion in size and consolidation of cooperative power, transforming such cooperatives into source of state revenue, as well as instruments of political mobilisation. These central outcomes create incentives that compel state elites to create and sustain a pro-cooperative productive regulatory regime that sustains sectoral growth and transformation. These findings inspire an alternative

**Winter Term 2024**

8 Feb. 2024. **Presenter: Colin Marx**. **Authors**: Panman, A, Marx C (University College London), Hansmann, RJ, Lincoln, GM, Musvoto, GG, Houghton, J, Greenstone, CA (Durban University of Technology).

**Land management and equitable spatial transformation: Case study of eThekwini Municipality and the Ingonyama Trust land.**

Durban is unique among South African cities in resembling the situation more common across other African cities. That is, it has, at least, three ‘layers’ of land management practices (statutory, customary – through the Ingonyama Trust Board, and informal) all interacting in seemingly frustrating, unintended, and unpredictable ways. In such processes, the compounding effects of these interactions apparently produce winners and losers and with the aggregate effect for the sustainable city, poorly understood.

We have noted that there are many moving parts with the multiple forms of land management practices having undergone profound changes over the past three decades. The focus on land management allows us to conceptualise how to trace how these diverse changes interact with shifting land values and land uses to shape ‘equitable spatial transformation’ (the discursive objective of contemporary statutory land management in South Africa). Spatial transformation is a cornerstone of spatial planning, articulated in policy and legislation such as SPLUMA (Spatial Planning and Land Use and Management Act of 2013) that cuts across land markets and yet plays out differential outcomes.  Local municipal management is facing numerous and complex practices associated with the changing use of land, particularly in the context of urban planning systems that favour freehold over other tenure systems. It also seemingly conflicts with the purpose of customary land allocation systems, as well as localized informal systems that emerge. In this context, we examine the land management practices addressing the question of how layered land management practices, changing land values, and planning for equitable spatial transformation interact because of urbanization?

29 Feb. 2024. **Jeremy Bowles**. Assistant Professor, Political Science, UCL

**Elite Identity, Land Inequality, and Local Development: Evidence from Colonial Ireland**

Shifts in landownership affect not only its concentration among individuals but, by changing the identity of the local economic elite, its distribution among groups. We study how the group identity of local elites shapes the supply of local public goods over the long run. Between 1652-9, a third of Ireland’s land was expropriated from Irish Catholic elites. Leveraging the lottery-based allocation of this land to different English Protestant recipients, we find significant and persistent local variation in the extent of land ultimately owned by Protestants. Drawing on rich local data spanning nearly two centuries, we find that public goods became scarcer and more exclusionary in areas more intensively redistributed to the Protestant minority. Broader economic outcomes, however, show only muted differences. The results underscore how the distributive consequences of inequality between groups vary from those between individuals.

March 21. **Mina Kozluca**, Doctoral Candidate, Dept. of International Development, LSE

**Precarity, Migration, and Patriarchy in Informal Agricultural Labour Regimes: A Multi-Sited Analysis of Wage Labour in Turkey’s Hazelnut Supply Chain**

Informal wage labour in agriculture constitutes a key form of employment through which internal and external migrants are integrated into globalised circuits of production. Based on 10-months of multi-sited fieldwork conducted in Turkey’s hazelnut producing regions, and in the cities where the migrant workers originate from, this paper will offer a critical examination through which migrant workers’ diverse forms of self-organisation mediates the crystallization of the prevalent informal labour regimes in hazelnut cultivation. Turkey is the leading global producer of hazelnuts, accounting for 70% of global production of hazelnuts, and 75% of global exports. Since it is a key industrial input used in the production of confectionary products, the market for hazelnuts are dominated by Multinational Agri-Business. Despite calls for improved chain regulation from the lead firms, countries, and international organisations, the bottom of Turkey’s hazelnut supply chain remains extremely variegated and informal. This paper will make the argument that the hazelnut farmers’ weakened ties to land as a form of subsistence has limited the ability to draw upon self-exploiting family labour for hazelnut cultivation, creating a dependence on the labour of migrant workers during the harvest. The supply of migrant workers for manual work in different crops is organised by informal labour intermediaries, who recruit workers based on kin relations. Despite bargaining with the employers to increase workers’ daily wages, these intermediaries consolidate the organisation of migrant families around pre-existing family units. This consolidation highlights the necessity to examine how extra-economic factors come to constitute novel forms of regulation in informal labour regimes in global production.