#### LEONARD WANTCHEKON

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#### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 1995 M.A. Economics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 1992 Maitrise Plan A, Economics, Laval University, Quebec, Canada 1990

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Current Employment**

Professor, Department of Politics and Woodrow Wilson School (Associated Faculty, Economics Department), Princeton University, 2015-

Founder and President, African School of Economics, 2010-

Founder and Director, Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE), 2004-

Distinguished Research Affiliate, University of Notre Dame, 2019-

Associate Researcher, CAGE, Department of Economics, University of Warwick (UK).

# Past Employment (selected)

Professor, Department of Politics (joint with Economics), New York University, 2006 - 2011 Professor, Department of Politics (joint with Economics), New York University, 2001- 2006 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, joint with Economic Growth Center, Yale University, 1995-2001

Visiting Professor of Decision Sciences, Institute of Mathematics and Physics of Benin (affiliated with the Institute of Theoretical Physics of Trieste, Italy), Summer 1997 and 2000

### FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS

# **Fellowships**

Centennial Chair, London School of Economics, 2018-2019 Kellogg Fellow, University of Notre Dame, 2019 Fellow, Econometric Society, 2018-Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2013-

#### **Awards and Grants**

Research on Improving Systems of Education (Nigeria), DFID, 2019-2022; (£3,000,000)

Youth Unemployment and Political Violence, IDRC, 2019-2021; (\$400,000)

Open Society Initiative for West Africa Grants, 2017-2020; (\$400,000)

Open Society Foundation Fellowship, Soil Quality, Roads and Rural Poverty, 2014; (\$100,000)

Bobst Center Grant, Princeton University, Campaign Experiment in the Philippines, 2013; (\$25,000)

Center of International Teaching and Research, Empirical Political Economy, 2013; (\$200,000)

Open Society Institute of West Africa, Grant, Campaign Experiment in Benin, 2012; (\$170,000)

SES Grant, Empirical Research at the African School of Economics, 2012; (\$30,000)

IDRC Think Tank Initiative, Empirical Research at the IERPE. 2009-2014, (\$1,000,000)

#### KEYNOTE INVITATION

Economic History and Cliometrics Conference, PUC, Santiago, Chile, 2019

Nova Africa Conference, Nova Business School, Lisbon, Portugal, 2019

Econometric Society (Africa Region), Cotonou, Benin, 2018

Canadian Economic Association, St. Francis University, 2017

Howard Lecture, International Initiative in Impact Evaluation, London, 2016

Government of Senegal, Higher Education in Africa, Dakar, 2017

African Academy of Arts and Sciences, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 2016

African Economic History Conference, Wageningen, Netherland, 2015

International Conference on Sustainable Development in Africa, Dakar, 2015

Oxford University, CSAE African Development Conference, 2014

ECG Annual Convention, Johannesburg, 2014

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Vice President, American Political Science Association, 2019

Program Committee, International Economic Association World Congress, 2019

Executive Committee, International Economic Association, 2017-

Program Committee Chair, Econometric Society Meetings (Africa Region), 2017-2018

Editorial Board, American Political Science Review, 2016-

Editorial Board, World Development, 2015-

Program Committee, International Economic Association World Congress, 2013

Member, Board of Directors, Partnership for Economy Policy, Laval University, 2013-2015

Founder and Coordinator, Empirical Political Economy Network, Princeton University, 2013

Member of the Executive Committee, Afrobarometer Network, 2005-2019

Secretary, American Political Science Association, 2008-2009

Member, Advisory Council, Ibrahim Index of African Governance, 2006-2014

### RESEARCH

### Published Papers (selected)

- 1. "Policy Deliberation and Voter Persuasion: Experimental Evidence from the Philippines". *American Journal of Political Science*, Forthcoming
- 2. "Mobile Technology and Food Access" (with Zara Riaz). World Development, Forthcoming
- 3. "Can Information Improve Rural Governance and Service Delivery?" (with Katrina Kosec) World Development, Forthcoming
- 4. "Policy Deliberation and Voter Persuasion. Measuring the Intrinsic Causal Effect of Town Hall Meetings" *Journal of Development Effectiveness*. Vol. 9, Issue 3, 2017
- 5. "Do Electoral Handouts Affect Voting Behavior?" (with Jenny Guardado), 2018, Electoral Studies 53: 139-149
- 6. "Education and Human Capital Externalities: Evidence from Colonial Benin" (with Natalija Notva and Marko Klansja), 2015, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 130: 703-757
- 7. "Corruption and Ideology in Autocracies" (with James Hollyer), 2015, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization.*, Vol.31(3): 499-533
- 8. "Does Corruption Information Inspire the Fight or Quash the Hope? A Field Experiment in Mexico on Voter Turnout, Choice and Party Identification" (with Alberto Chong, Ana de la O, Dean Karlan), *Journal of Politics*, 77(1): 55-71

- 9. "Can Informed Public Deliberation Overcome Clientelism? Experimental Evidence from Benin" (with T. Fujiwara), 2013, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics.*, 5(4): 241- 255.
- 10. "Public Investment in Rural Infrastructure: Some Political Economy Considerations" (with Moussa Blimpo and Robin Harding), 2013, *Journal of African Economies*, 22: ii57-ii83
- 11. "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa" (with Nathan Nunn), 2011, *American Economic Review*, Vol. 11, No. 7, 5221-3252.
- 12. "Methodology Update: Randomized Controlled Trials, Structural Models and the Study of Politics" (with Jenny Guardado), 2011, *Journal of African Economies*, 20 (4) pp. 653-672.
- 13. "Clientelism and Vote Buying: Lessons from Field Experiments in West Africa" (with Pedro Vicente), 2009, Oxford Review of Economic Policy, 25 (2) pp. 292-305.
- 14. "The Paradox of Warlord Democracy: A Theoretical Investigation", 2004, *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 98 (February), pp. 17-33.
- 15. "Resource Wealth and Political Regimes in Africa" (with Nathan Jensen), 2004, *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 37 (September), pp. 816-841.
- 16. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin", 2003, World Politics, Vol. 55, pp. 399-422.
- 17. "A Theory of Post-Civil War Democratization" (with Zvika Neeman), 2002, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, Vol. 4, No 14.
- 18. "Electoral Competition Under the Threat of Political Unrest" (with Matthew Ellman), 2000, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 115, Issue 2, pp. 499-531.
- 19. "Strategic Voting in Conditions of Political Instability: the 1994 Elections in El Salvador", 1999, *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 7, pp. 811-835.
- "The Game of Torture" (with Andrew Healy), 1999, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Vol. 43, No. 5, pp. 596-609.

### Book Chapters and Other Publications (selected)

- "Clientelism in Decentralized States" (with Gianmarco Leon), in Jonathan Rodden and Erik Wibbels, in "Decentralized Governance and Accountability: Academic Research and the Future of Donor Programming" Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- 2. "Democracy and Development" in Aryeetey et al eds, Oxford Companion to the Economics of Africa, Oxford University Press. 2012
- 3. Experiments on Clientelism and Vote-Buying (with Jorge Gallego) in *New Advances in Experimental Research on Corruption* (Danila Serra and Leonard Wantchekon. 2012. United Kingdom: Emerald Books.
- 4. "Experimental Research on Democracy and Development" (with Ana de la O) in James Druckman et al (eds) Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science. 2011. Cambridge University Press.
- 5. "Theory, External Validity and Experimental Inference: Some Conjectures (with Fernando Martel Garcia), 2010 in "Field Experiments in Comparative Politics and Policy" special issue of *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

6. "Transfer Dependence and Regional Disparities in Nigerian Federalism" (with Tamar Asadurian and Emmanuel Nnadozie), 2005, in *The Dynamics of Federalism: the Political Economy Reality,* T.N. Srinivasan and Jessica Wallack, eds, Cambridge University Press.

#### **Books**

- 1. Rêver à Contre-Courant: Autobiographie. 2012. Paris. Editions l'Harmattan.
- 2. New Advances in Experimental Research on Corruption (with Danila Serra). 2012. Edited Volume, United Kingdom: Emerald Books.

# **Working Papers**

- 1. "Policy Deliberation and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Campaign Experiment in Benin" Submitted.
- 2. "Critical Junctures: Independence Movements and Democracy in Africa" (with Omar Garcia Ponce), American Journal of Political Science. Revise and Resubmit.
- 3. "Are Voters too Afraid to Tackle Corruption? Survey and Experimental Evidence from Mexico" (with Omar Garcia Ponce and Thomas Zeitzoff). *Political Science Research and Methods*. Revise and Resubmit.
- 4. "The Strength of Weak Ties: Education Externalities and Intergenerational Mobility in Benin"
- 5. "Roads and Institutions" (with Simon Adler and Illeni Kondo)
- 6. "A Theory of Patronage-Mediated Clientelism" (with Jorge Gallego and Christopher Li)
- 7. "Campaign Finance and State Capture: Evidence from Benin" (with Rafael Ch and Mathias Hounkpe)
- 8. "The Curse of Good Soil? Land Fertility, Roads and Rural Poverty in Africa" (with Piero Stanig)
- 9. "Intrinsic Institutional Effects: Theory with Applications to Deliberation Experiments" (with Yves Atchade and Pierre Nguimkeu).
- 10. "Echoes of the Malagasy Uprising: Estimating the Long Term Effects of Colonial Repression on Political Attitudes in Madagascar" (with Omar Garcia-Ponce).
- 11. "School-Based Management and Primary Education Achievement in Benin (with Moussa Blimpo).
- 12. "Can Institutionalized Parties Overcome Clientelism?" (with Peter Buisseret).
- 13. "Migration, Bureaucratic Reforms and Institutional Persistence: Evidence from US Municipalities" (with Alexander Bolton and James Hollyer).

# Media Coverage (Selected)

- 1. "Ground Breaker," by Ismaella Dieng, Finance and Development, December 2016, Vol. 53, No. 4
- 2. "Professors Offer A Reality Check For Politicians," by Lynne Browney, New York Times, a review of "Clientelism and Voting Behavior", World Politics, 2003
- 3. "On the Legacy and Slave Trade in Africa: Two Scholars Find Lasting Distrust Among People of the Region" by Gregory Rodriguez, *Los Angeles Times*, a review of "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa", *American Economic Review*, 2011.

- 4. "Dreaming Against the Current": A review of "Rêver à Contre Courant: Autobiographie" by Nicholas Van Walle, *Foreign Affairs*, 2013.
- 5. "Leonard Wantchekon, Un Désir de Reconnaissance" by Jean-Eric Boulin, *Jeune Afrique*, Paris, March 10, 2011.
- 6. "La Sécurité Alimentaire en Question" in Etat de l'Afrique (State of Africa), *Jeune Afrique*, Paris, Hors Série, 2011
- 7. « An Activist who Fled Jail in Benin to Become a Princeton Professor" by Annie Maccoby Berglof, Financial Times, 2013

#### Reviewer

American Economic Review, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Economic Development and Cultural Change, European Economic Review, Journal of Development Economics, European Economic Review, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Economic Growth, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, World Politics

# Selected Conferences and Workshops (last 5 years)

2017-2019. Notre Dame, UBC, UCLA, NYU, Harvard, Princeton, Ryerson, ASE, World Bank, NSF, Stanford, Kiev School of Economics, DFID, PUC Santiago (Chile), NOVAFRICA (Lisbon, Portugal), Los Andes (Bogota, Colombia), CSEA (Abuja, Nigeria), EGAP (Cotonou, Benin), UNU-WIDER (Helsinki), UCL (SOAS), LSE, Penn, EDI (PSE, Namur), IEA World Congress (Mexico), NBER (Development)

**2015-2017.** Harvard (Law School, KSG), Toronto, Northwestern, Brown, NYU, Columbia, Penn, Toulouse, Nottingham, Georgetown, CIDE (Mexico), Michigan, Michigan State, MIT, African School of Economics, Princeton, Rutgers. World Bank, Barcelona, Ottawa.

**2014-2015:** Oxford, Maryland, Georgetown, World Bank, Michigan State, African School of Economics, Mannheim, Aix-Marseille, Barcelona School of Economics, Bocconi

**2013- 2014**: Rochester, PSE, LSE, Warwick, Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), UAC (Benin), BREAD Conference, Harvard, Princeton, University of Martinique, Columbia, Yale, IIES Stockholm, Boston University

**2012-2013:** Nobel Conference on Growth and Development, Princeton, Northwestern, Sciences Po (Paris), Stanford GSB, SMU Dallas, NBER Political Economy.

**2011-2012:** Juan March Conference on Clientelism, Toulouse, Namur, LSE, Virginia, UCSD, Georgetown, Stanford, Paris-Sorbonne, Princeton

2008-2011: Columbia, Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Georgia Tech, Manchester, LSE, NYU