

Don Leonard

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Academic Employment

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Assistant Professor of Practice (2016-present)
City and Regional Planning

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
Postdoctoral Fellow (2014-16)
Center for Inter-American Policy and Research

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Niehaus Postdoctoral Fellow (2013-14)
Woodrow Wilson School for Public & International Affairs

Education

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
PhD, Government, 2014
MA, Government, 2011
Subfields: Comparative Politics (Latin America) and International Relations

University of Massachusetts, Lowell, MA
MA, Regional Economic and Social Development, 2004
BA, Political Science, 2002 (*Magna Cum Laude*)

Book Project

Trade and Crisis in the Making of Latin America's Developmental State

Most of the global inequality that exists today reflects the uneven spread of industrialization. This book explores why some agrarian societies were more successful than others at industrializing. It focuses on the economic divergence of Haiti and the Dominican Republic—the two societies inhabiting the tropical island of Hispaniola. While the Dominican Republic is an industrializing middle-income country, Haiti remains agrarian and poor. This is puzzling in light of existing theories that point to geography, emphasizing either its direct effects on growth or its indirect effects on the quality of political institutions. I find that exogenous changes in exposure to international trade during the post-colonial period triggered the economic divergence by reshaping agrarian societies in ways that promoted the emergence of state-led industrialization.

Research and Teaching Interests

Economic inequality; international and comparative political economy of developing countries; trade and development; institutions; distributional politics; mixed-methods research.

Academic Publications

2013. “Review of *Creative Destruction? Economic Crises and Democracy in Latin America*, by Francisco E. González.” *Latin American Politics and Society* 55(4), 182–211.
2006. “Water is Life! Utility de-privatization and the search for alternatives in Cochabamba, Bolivia” *Progressive Planning*, no. 169.

Research-based Public Engagement

2021. “Forget the American Dream: Most Americans can’t afford food and rent.” *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/forget-the-american-dream-millions-of-working-americans-still-cant-afford-food-and-rent-165706>
- 2019-Present. Data journalism platform, The Level Field: A data-driven conversation about the American Dream. <https://thelevelfield.com>

Manuscripts Under Review

“Exposure to Trade and Postcolonial Divergence on the Island of Hispaniola.” Under review at *Comparative Political Studies*.

Recent Conference and Workshop Papers

- “Political Economy of Statebuilding under Foreign Military Occupation.” Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association (2019).
- “Political Economy of Statebuilding under Foreign Military Occupation.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (2018).
- “Understanding the Legacies of Statebuilding under U.S. Military Occupation: Lessons from Latin America.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Latin American Studies Association* (2016).
- “Geography is not Destiny: Trade Coalitions and Post-Colonial Development.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *American Political Science Association* (2015).
- “An Embarrassment of Riches? Political Decentralization and Municipal Government Performance in Extractive Economies” with Mariana Giusti (Cornell University). Presented at the annual meeting of the *Latin American Studies Association* (2015).
- “Statebuilding under Foreign Military Occupation: Lessons from distributional politics.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *International Studies Association* (2015).
- “Hard Times in Poor Places: Trade Crises and State Development in the Periphery.” Presented at the *Princeton University International Relations Faculty Colloquium* (2014).
- “Origins and Effects of State Developmentalism.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *International Studies Association* (2012).

Teaching Experience

- Assistant Professor of Practice, The Ohio State University (2016-Present).
Courses: *Global Environment in Planning*, *Planning in the Developing World*, *International Development Studio*.
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Tulane University (2015-2016).

Courses: *State Development in Latin America, Introduction to International Relations.*

Instructor, Department of Government, Cornell University (2012).

Course: *Politics of Poverty and Development in Latin America*

Teaching Assistant, Department of Government, Cornell University (2008-2010).

Courses: *Introduction to International Relations, Comparative Politics of Latin America, Introduction to Peace Studies*

Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Lowell (2004, 2007). Courses: *Introduction to International Relations, Intro to Comparative Politics*

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

Kidd Fund, The Ohio State University (2019)

Sage Graduate Fellow, Cornell University (2013, 2007)

Houston I. Flournoy Graduate Fellow (2012)

Graduate School Field Research Grant (2012): Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Tinker Foundation Research Grant (2010, 2011): Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Government Department Supplemental Grant for Language Training (2010): French.

Cornell Institute for the Social Sciences Research Grant (2009): Pre-dissertation field research in Washington DC, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

LaFeber Grant (2008): Collaborative research with Kenneth Roberts on the impact of neoliberal structural adjustment on civil society and social movements in Latin America.

Professional Experience

Consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank, training project managers from the IDB Regional Public Goods program on innovative strategies for measuring impact (2018)

Consultant for the UK Department for International Development (DFID), training researchers in Africa and Latin America on current social science research methods and evidence-based policy recommendations (2014-2017).

Academic Advisor and Administrative Coordinator for the undergraduate International Relations minor, Cornell University (2010, 2012).

Municipal Planning Volunteer (micro-enterprise development), U.S. Peace Corps, Cochabamba, Bolivia (2004-2006).

Intern, Office of NAFTA and Inter-American Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington DC (2001).

Methodological Training/Competencies

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-method Research (IQMR) – Syracuse, NY (2009)

Teaching Writing Program – John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University (2009, 2012)

Proficient in statistics (Stata), system dynamics computational modeling, and archival research

Foreign Languages

Spanish: Fluent

French: Reading only