

ELISE HUILLERY

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CURRENT POSITION AND AFFILIATIONS

Sep. 2016 – present Associate Professor of Economics, **University of Paris-Dauphine**
Oct. 2016 – present Member of the **Conseil d'Analyse Economique**
Oct. 2014 – present Associate Member, **EUDN**
Sep. 2011 – present Lab Affiliate, **LIEPP**
Sep. 2009 – present Lab Affiliate, **J-PAL**

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2009 – 2016 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, **Sciences Po**
2012 - 2013 Visiting Assistant Professor, **Columbia University**
2008 - 2009 Post-doctoral Fellow, **J-PAL (Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab)**
2006 - 2008 Lecturer in Economics, **Ecole Normale Supérieure Ulm**
2003 - 2008 Doctorate Researcher, **Paris School of Economics**

PRIMARY RESEARCH FIELDS

Development Economics, Economics of Education, Economic History

EDUCATION

2018 **Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches**, University of Paris-Dauphine
2003 - 2008 **PhD in Economics, Paris School of Economics**
Dissertation: Inequality, development and colonial history in French West Africa
Jury: Jean-Marie Baland, Denis Cogneau (supervisor), Esther Duflo, Pierre Jacquet, Thomas Piketty (supervisor), Gilles Postel-Vinay
2001 - 2002 **Master in Économies Analyse et Politique Économiques**, Paris School of Economics
1998 - 2000 **BA in Philosophy (L3 and M1)**, University Paris IV (Sorbonne), with honors
1997 - 2001 **Master in Management Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC)**
1995 - 1997 **Classe préparatoire HEC**, Lycée Carnot, Paris

TEACHING

University Paris-Dauphine

- Readings in Economic History of Development (14h, Master 2) [2017, 2018]
- Economic History (9h, Master 1) [2018, 2019]
- Modern Economic History (9h, Licence 3) [2018, 2019]
- Readings in Economic History (15h, Master 2) [2017, 2018]
- Public Policies (18h, Licence 3) [2017, 2018]
- Data and Measurement (18h, Licence 3) [2017, 2018]
- Impact Evaluation of Social Policies (21h, Master 2) [2017, 2018, 2019]

Sciences-Po

- Public Economics (24h, Master in Public Affairs) [2016, 2017, 2018]
- Development Microeconomics (24h, Master) [2010-2016]
- Impact Evaluation (8h, Master Potentiel Afrique) [2013-2016]

Columbia University

- Development Economics (30h, Undergraduate & Graduate course) [2013]

Ecole Normale Supérieure Ulm

- General Economics (24h, Undergraduate course) [2006, 2007]
- Social Fairness and Distribution Issues (24h, Undergraduate course) [2007, 2008]
- Applied Econometrics (24h, Undergraduate course) [2007]

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, executive / academic trainings [2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013]

Optimal Prépa - Ipésup, Teaching Assistant in Mathematics (Classes Préparatoires HEC) [1997-2009]

RESEARCH

Working Papers

- “Biased Aspirations and Social Inequalities at School: Evidence from French Teenagers” (joint with Nina Guyon), Second revision requested by *Economic Journal*
- “Sex, Lies and Measurement: Do Indirect Response survey methods work?” (joint with Erica Chuang, Pascaline Dupas, and Juliette Seban)
- “Can Preschool Help Minorities Make up Differences in Human Capital? Experimental Evidence from Bulgaria” (joint with Paul Gertler and Joost de Laat)
- “The Origins of Romantic Love and Asceticism: How Economic Prosperity Changed Human Psychology in Medieval Europe?” (joint with Nicolas Baumard and Léo Zabrocki)
- “The Impact of a Large-Scale Mindset Intervention on School Outcomes: Experimental Evidence from France” (joint with Yann Algan, Adrien Bouguen, Coralie Chevallier and Axelle Charpentier)
- “Colonial Origins of Civil Conflicts: Early Leaders’ Personality in French West Africa” (joint with Quoc-Anh Do, Sacha Dray, and Jean-Louis Keene)

Publications in peer-reviewed journals

- “Financial Incentives, Efforts, and Performances in the Health Sector: Experimental Evidence from the Democratic Republic of Congo” (joint with Juliette Seban), forthcoming in *Economic Development and Cultural Change*
- “Risk Information, Risk Saliency, and Adolescent Sexual Behavior: Experimental Evidence from Cameroon” (joint with Pascaline Dupas and Juliette Seban), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 145: 151-175, January 2018
- “Willing but Unable? Short-Term Experimental Evidence on Parent Empowerment and School Quality” (joint with Elizabeth Beasley), *World Bank Economic Review*, 31(2): 531-568, June 2017
- “The Black Man’s Burden - The cost of the colonization of French West Africa for French and African taxpayers”, *Journal of Economic History*, 74(1): 1-38, March 2014
- “The long term impact of European settlement within former French West Africa: Did prosperous areas fall behind?”, *Journal of African Economies*, 20(2): 263-311, March 2011
- “History Matters: the long term impact of colonial public investments In French West Africa”, *American Economic Journal - Applied Economics*, 1(2): 176-215, April 2009

Impact Evaluation Papers for Policy Makers and Stakeholders

- « Evaluation de l’impact du programme Energie Jeunes : résultats sur les élèves de 5^{ème} » (joint with Yann Algan, Adrien Bouguen, Coralie Chevallier), Rapport pour le Fonds d’Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse et la DGESCO, November 2017
- “Supporting Disadvantaged Children Enter Kindergarten: Experimental Evidence from Bulgaria” (joint with Paul Gertler and Joost de Laat), World Bank Impact Evaluation Report, June 2017
- « Evaluation de l’impact du programme Energie Jeunes : résultats sur les élèves de 6^{ème} » (joint with Yann Algan, Adrien Bouguen, Coralie Chevallier), Rapport pour le Fonds d’Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse et la DGESCO, November 2016
- « L’impact du dispositif Groupements de Créateurs : Résultats d’une expérience contrôlée » (joint with Yann Algan, Bruno Crépon and William Pariente), Rapport d’évaluation pour le Fonds d’Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse, September 2016
- « Comment lutter contre la violence et le harcèlement à l’école et au collège ? Enseignements d’une expérimentation à grande échelle » (joint with Yann Algan and Nina Guyon), Rapport d’évaluation pour le Fonds d’Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse, Avril 2015

- « Choix d'orientation et origine sociale : mesurer et comprendre l'autocensure scolaire » (joint with Nina Guyon), Rapport pour la DEPP, Décembre 2014
- « L'impact du programme « CréaJeunes » de l'ADIE sur la création d'entreprises » (joint with Bruno Crépon, Esther Duflo, William Pariente and Juliette Seban), Rapport d'évaluation pour le Fonds d'Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse, Avril 2014
- « L'impact du programme « Soutien aux entreprises » au Maroc » (joint with Bruno Crépon and William Pariente), Rapport d'évaluation pour Millenium Challenge Corporation, September 2013

Notes for the Conseil d'Analyse Economique

- "Prévenir la pauvreté par l'emploi, l'éducation, et la mobilité", avec Stéphane Carcillo et Yannick L'Horty, Mars 2017
- « Confiance, Coopération et Autonomie : pour une école du XXIème siècle », avec Yann Algan et Corinne Prost, Septembre 2018

Book Chapters

- « Les enfants de migrants souffrent d'un handicap à l'école : une idée reçue ! », in *Migrants et migrations : 50 questions pour se faire une idée*, ouvrage collectif sous la direction de Héléne Thiollet, Armand Colin, 2016
- « Esclavage, colonisation : Quand l'histoire laisse des traces », in *L'Etat du Monde 2016*, ouvrage collectif, La Découverte, 2015
- « Transmission de la confiance entre les générations : la formation des ambitions comme facteur de la reproduction sociale », in *En Quête de Confiance*, ouvrage collectif, Textuel, 2013

Work in progress

- **Explaining Aspiration Failures: Evidence from French Middle School Students** (joint with Nina Guyon)
This paper provides evidence on the reasons why low-SES students have more modest educational aspirations than their high-SES classmates who have the same academic performance. We use lab-in-the-field experiments in 59 French middle schools to test differences in knowledge of the existing academic tracks and in academic self-esteem, as well as stereotype susceptibility and susceptibility to peers. We find that aspiration failures can come from the fact that low-SES students lack knowledge on higher education, that they perceive themselves less performant than their high-SES counterparts, and that they tend to conform to their peers.
- **Can Additional Managerial Capital Make Microcredit Work? Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Morocco** (joint with Bruno Crépon, Dean Karlan and William Pariente)
This paper provides evidence on the impact of an intervention providing managerial capital to small entrepreneurs in Morocco. Among 1,600 firms which benefitted from access to microloans ex-ante, 700 were randomly selected to receive business training sessions (marketing, accountability, networking, etc., for a total of 40 hours more than in the control group). We find that small enterprises in urban areas did not benefit from this intervention, while agricultural cooperatives benefitted in terms of sales, profits, and personal income. The return to business training may thus be larger in contexts where initial levels of education and training are limited.
- **Managerial Capital and Entrepreneurship: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment with Young Disadvantaged People** (joint with Bruno Crépon, Esther Duflo, William Pariente and Juliette Seban)
Chronic unemployment is a considerable problem in France, particularly in the poor neighborhoods. Across the so-called "Sensitive Urban Zones", 36.2 percent of men and 40.8 percent of women aged 15-24 years are unemployed. While self-employment may be a positive alternative, entrepreneurship is low in France. This paper tests the impact of a national program directed at supporting business creation for young people between ages 18 and 30 from disadvantaged neighborhoods. The program study involved 1500 individuals randomly assigned to the business training. We find no impact on business creation, nor on employment and income, suggesting that providing managerial capital and business information is not enough to encourage self-employment.

- **Mindset Change and Employment: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment with Young Disadvantaged People** (joint with Yann Algan, Bruno Crépon and William Parienté)

The unemployment rate in France is nearly 10 percent, but among young people aged 15-24 this rate is more than doubled. Although many programs exist to provide support labor market participation, in particular those who have dropped out of school and live in disadvantaged areas, the best ways of supporting youth in creating or finding a job are not clear. Will young people benefit more from general information on the job market and business creation, or development of the autonomy and decision-making skills? We test a national program in which 452 randomly selected young people (out of 902 candidates) explore their motivations, strengths, and weaknesses, and to develop their initiative and autonomy. We find that the program reduced business creation from 8% down to 3%, but increased employment contracts from 31% to 38%. Personal income increased by 22%. Also, the beneficiaries depend less on social and interpersonal transfers, show higher sense of self-efficacy, higher trust in others, and higher levels of wellbeing. Mindset approaches to support labor market participation may thus be a promising avenue for public action.
- **The Impact of Violence at School on Educational Performances** (joint with Yann Algan and Nina Guyon)

This paper explores the causal impact of bullying and victimization at school on school outcomes. It uses a field experiment aimed at reducing the prevalence and intensity of violence between students in middle schools. 80 middle schools in 13 French regions took part of the study, half of which were randomly assigned to an anti-bullying program. The program was effective at reducing bullying and victimization, which provides a powerful first-stage to analyse the causal impact of violence on school outcomes. We also show that the personality of the intervention implementers matters in that the effectiveness of the program at reducing violence was much higher when implementers are “agreeable” and “conscientious” in the terminology of the Big Five personality theory.
- **The Cost of Colonial Empire for French Taxpayers and the Benefit for African Taxpayers** (joint with Denis Cogneau and Sandrine Mesple-Soms)

This project aims at assessing the importance of public transfers from France to its colonies both for French and for African taxpayers: was colonization costly for France? To what extent did French taxpayers contribute to colonies’ development? To answer these questions, we collected original public finance data on all French colonies. The objective is to expand the analysis that exists for French West Africa (Huillery 2014) to the other colonies: French Equatorial Africa, Indochina, Madagascar, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.
- **Social diversity at school, academic performances, and social skills** (joint with Julien Grenet, Ghazala Azmat, Axelle Charpentier, Yann Algan, and Youssef Souidi)

Our project is motivated by the increasing socio-economic inequalities in the French educational system. As existing policies have failed to reduce inequalities, it is necessary to develop new tools to tackle the issue of high social inequalities at school. This research project evaluates the impacts of a large desegregation program that has started in September 2016 in France. It relies on a difference-in-difference strategy to assess the effects of the desegregation actions: we compare cohorts benefitting from the program with older cohorts not benefitting, in both participating and non-participating middle schools. Our sample includes 197 middle schools from 20 French *académies*. We will first assess whether the program effectively increase social diversity at school; second, we will measure the impact of social diversity on average academic performances and social inequality; third, we will assess the impact of social diversity on social skills and perceptions of social fairness.
- **Empowering Adolescent Girls in the Sahel: Evidence from a Multi-Country RCT of the Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project** (joint with O. Bertelli, H. Giacobino, J. Kazianga, E. Koussoube, B. Michel, M. Olapade, and L. Rouanet)

We measure the impact of programs designed to improve adolescent girls’ human capital in six West African countries (Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Chad), where women face among the starkest gender inequalities in the world. The interventions aim to increase access to secondary education, provide girls with information, or change cultural values related to marriage and fertility. In order to measure the impact of the interventions, we implement randomized controlled trials in collaboration with the local Governments, local NGOs, and the World Bank. We investigate the impact of the programs as well as the different mechanisms through which they can achieve (or not) greater women empowerment.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Invited seminars and conferences (since 2015)

- 2018** University of Aarhus, Workshop CEPR and ERC « Political Economics of Conflicts and Development », World Economic History Congress 2018, University of Paris-Dauphine, Printemps de l'économie 2018, Le Monde Festival, Journée de l'innovation du ministère de l'éducation nationale 2018, Rencontres Enseignants-Entreprises 2018, Convention nationale de l'association Energie Jeunes 2018
- 2017** University of Lund (keynote speaker), Conférence TEPP 2017 (keynote speaker), University of Paris-Dauphine, Convention nationale de l'association Energie Jeunes 2017
- 2016** AMSE, National University of Singapore, Annual Meeting of the African Economic History Network at the University of Brighton, Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet, Université de Bordeaux, Université Paris-Dauphine, Universidad Carlos III of Madrid, Séminaire Sciences Po-Banque de France, Séminaire Fourgeaud Education du ministère de l'économie et des finances
- 2015** Harvard Africa Conference, Navarra Center for International Development, Congress of the International Health Economics Association, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris School of Economics

Refereeing: *American Economic Review, Annales Economie et Statistiques, American Political Sciences Review, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Econometrica, Economic History Review, Economic Journal, Health Economics, Journal of Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Perspectives on Politics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, World Development*

PhD committees:

- Hugo Mell: 2018, PSL University, Ecole Normale Supérieure, supervisor: Nicolas Baumard
Veronica Escudero: 2018, Paris School of Economics, supervisor: Philippe Askenazy
Ababacar Gueye: 2018, Université de Clermont-Ferrand, supervisor: Martine Audibert
Anne Hilger: 2018, Paris School of Economics, supervisor: Flore Gubert
Irène Clavijo: 2018, Paris School of Economics, supervisor: Karen Macours
Florencia Devoto: 2017, Paris School of Economics, supervisor: Marc Gurgand
Pierre Gouédard: 2017, Sciences Po, supervisor: Etienne Wasmer
Lucie Gadenne: 2012, EHESS, supervisor: Thomas Piketty
Sarah Minard: 2012, Sciences Po, supervisor: Michael Woolcock
Rémi Jedwab: 2011, EHESS, supervisor: Denis Cogneau

Scientific Director of the Master International Economic Policy, Sciences-Po [2013-2015]

Jury in Economics for the selection of students at Ecole Normale Supérieure Ulm [2008, 2009, 2010] and Sciences Po [2011, 2012, 2014, 2015]

Conference and seminar organisation: *Departmental Seminar of the department of Economics at Sciences Po [2015-2016], 5th EUDN PhD Seminar in Development Economics (Paris School of Economics and Dial)*

Media: regular participation to radio shows on economic topics - France Culture: L'économie en question, Les carnets de l'économie, La grande table

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2018: Research grant from the ANR, Young Researcher program (JCJC), 2018-2022 (215K€)
2015: Nominated for the Prize « Meilleur Jeune Economiste » (finalist)
2015: Research grant from LIEPP-Sciences Po (30K€)
2015: Research grant from the Fond d'Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse (300K€)
2014: Research grant from the Porticus Foundation (100K€)
2013: Research grant from the World Bank, Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (400K€)
2013: Research grant from the Scientific Advisory Board of Sciences Po (30K€)
2013: Visiting Fellowship, Alliance Program, Columbia University
2012: Research grant from the Fond d'Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse (400K€)
2012: Research grant from the Ministry of Education (60K€)
2011: Research grant from LIEPP-Sciences Po (60K€)
2009: Research grant from the Millenium Challenge Corporation (2M€)
2009: Research grant from IRD-Hewlett Foundation-AFD (400K€)
2009: Post-doctoral Fellowship, J-PAL
2003: Doctoral Fellowship, EHESS