Arthur Laroche

University College London ⋄ 30 Gordon St, WC1H 0AN London
arthur.laroche.21@ucl.ac.uk ⋄ +33 (0) 6 79 57 77 31

Professional Summary

PhD economist with training in applied microeconomics and econometrics, and an engineering background in mathematics and statistics from a top French grande école. Over six years leading large-scale field experiments and quantitative research, including designing causal identification strategies, managing complex field operations, and working directly with governments and institutional partners to translate evidence into policy and operational decisions. Experienced presenting technical findings as clear, decision-ready outputs for senior stakeholders and funders.

Education

University College London — 2021 – exp. 2026
MRes + PhD in Economics (Supervisors: Imran Rasul & Jonas Hjort) — *London, UK*

Paris School of Economics — 2018 – 2019
MSc in Economics (APE) — *Paris, France*

Ecole des Ponts ParisTech — 2015 – 2020
BSc + MSc in Mathematics & Statistics — *Paris, France*

Research in Progress

Progressivity, Fairness, and Tax Capacity: Evidence from the DR Congo
with Augustin Bergeron, Joana Naritomi, Marina Ngoma, Gabriel Tourek, and Jonathan Weigel
Abstract: We study the introduction of progressive property taxation in a large Congolese city through a citywide field experiment with the provincial government. The reform builds on a citywide valuation exercise covering roughly 100,000 properties. Neighborhoods were randomly assigned to a progressive or proportional schedule. The progressive schedule raised total revenue by 55% relative to the proportional one, through different mechanisms across the value distribution: higher statutory rates at the top mechanically outweighed modest compliance losses, while lower rates at the bottom induced compliance gains that more than offset the mechanical revenue loss. Enforcement targeting higher-value properties helps align effective with statutory progressivity.

Digitization and Tax Compliance with Cash-on-Hand Constraints in the DR Congo
with Sarah Danner, Marina Ngoma, Dina Pomeranz, and Jonathan Weigel
Abstract: This project studies whether digital payment technologies can raise tax compliance and cost-effectiveness in a low-capacity, low-trust tax authority. In a randomized field experiment conducted with the provincial tax authority of Kasaï Central across roughly 60,000 properties, we cross-randomize a mobile money payment option with in-person collection visits, an installment plan, and personalized deterrence messaging. This design allows us to assess whether digital payment infrastructure can substitute for costly in-person tax collection, or whether the two are complements, and to identify the most cost-effective combination of interventions in a setting where compliance has historically depended on face-to-face solicitation.

Land Rental Market Formalization, Tenure Security, and Investment in Uganda
with Manon Delvaux
Abstract: We study how formalizing verbal land rental agreements affects contractual clarity and agricultural investment, using a randomized experiment with 514 matched landlord-tenant pairs in Uganda. Formalization reduced contractual discrepancies by 30-50 percentage points and induced a shift toward longer-maturity crops. Effects are concentrated among tenants with worse baseline mental health, consistent with a present-bias channel, and structural mediation analysis attributes 60-70% of the investment effect to the contractual clarity channel.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant — 2022 – present
University College London — *London, UK*
- Statistics for Economics, Undergraduate (Lead TA) – Lecturer: Prof. Michela Tincani
- Economics of Development, Undergraduate (Lead TA) – Lecturer: Prof. Beatriz Armendariz

Teaching Assistant — 2018
HEC Paris — *Paris, France*
- Economic Forecasting, Graduate – Lecturer: Ludovic Subran

Research Experience

Research Associate 2019 – 2021
London School of Economics & Harvard University *Kananga, DRC & London, UK*

- Lead RA on multiple projects in development, political economy, conflict, and religion
- Working with Profs. N. Nunn (Harvard), J. Robinson (Chicago Harris), and J. Weigel (LSE)

Economic Research Assistant 2018
Euler Hermes/Allianz *Paris, France*

- Built and updated macroeconomic and time-series forecasting models underlying quarterly country and sector risk ratings across dozens of economies
- Tracked short- and long-term economic indicators; prepared economic reports and notes for internal and client-facing use

Macroeconomic Research Intern 2017
Rexecode *Paris, France*

- Conducted macroeconomic forecasting and thematic research on Southern Europe and Latin America economies for clients and member companies
- Contributed to EU-level competitiveness data analysis as part of a major annual survey

Grants and Scholarships

J-PAL Innovation 2025
[$150,000], *with A. Bergeron, J. Naritomi, M. Ngoma, G. Tourek, and J. Weigel.*

Weiss Fund 2025
[$83,370], *with A. Bergeron, J. Naritomi, M. Ngoma, G. Tourek, and J. Weigel.*

International Growth Centre (IGC) 2025
[£15,000], *with M. Delvaux.*

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) 2024
[$42,350], *with M. Delvaux.*

Fund for Innovation in Development (FID) 2023
[€792,103], *with A. Bergeron, J. Naritomi, M. Ngoma, G. Tourek, and J. Weigel.*

International Centre for Tax and Development (ICTD) 2023
[$307,535], *with A. Bergeron, J. Naritomi, M. Ngoma, G. Tourek, and J. Weigel.*

Skills and Information

Software: R, Stata, Python, Office, QGIS, ArcGIS, ODK, Matlab, LaTeX
Languages: French (native), English (native), Italian (professional), Spanish (conversational)
Citizenship: French

Updated: July, 2026.