

# Comparing Societies: Understanding Diverse Social Perspectives

Autumn 2024

Tentative Syllabus. Version: August 29, 2024

**Day / Time:** Wednesdays at: 1-3:30pm PT; 3-5:30pm CT; 4-6:30pm ET.

**Locations:** Sept 11th and Sept 18th - Keller Sky Suite; Sept 25th onwards - Keller 2054

**Course Numbers:** UBC: Econ 590; Chicago: PPHA41150 (also PLSC 41150 and ECON 42200); MIT: 14.775

**Instructors:** Jacob Moscona (MIT), Nathan Nunn (UBC), and James A. Robinson (Chicago)

**Emails:** moscona@mit.edu, nathan.nunn@ubc.ca, jamesrobinson@uchicago.edu,

**Teaching Fellows:** Lia Petrose (MIT) (lpetrose@mit.edu)

## Course Description

This course will study the cultural, social, and institutional foundations of societies around the world, with a focus on fundamentals and mechanisms that are outside the scope of traditional models of economics and political science. Topics include forms of social organization, different perceptions of reality (e.g., the spiritual and meta-human world), drivers of innovation and technology diffusion, motivations for participating in conflict, determinants of fertility and population growth, moral frameworks (including views about right/wrong, fairness, equality, ideology, and community membership), objectives and definitions of success, and societal equilibria. We will consider how these differences affect and are affected by cultural values, formal political and legal institutions, and economic development.

Typically, in economics and political science, the aim is to identify universal facts and relationships. The class will focus on differences and deviations from what we typically view as universals and on why social scientific research (ranging from economic theory to applied policy design) benefits from an understanding of the vast differences that exist around the world. As such, one of the class requirements will be an independent research project that asks students to take seriously the cultural differences that exist around the world and examine how, in one context, this is important for understanding economics or politics.

The course targets advanced Ph.D. students working in economic development, political economy, political science, cultural economics, or economic history.

For a sense of what this course is about, you may want to watch this 30-minute interview with James Robinson: <https://voxdev.org/topic/institutions-political-economy/political-economy-and-development>

## Requirements

Enrolled students are required to complete the following assignments.

1. **Reading summary for each class (25%):** Before each lecture, students are required to write a short summary of one of the required readings. You are free to use whatever format you like for the summaries, but they should address the following: (i) Provide an overview of what you learned from the reading or, if you didn't learn anything, why you felt you didn't learn anything from it. (ii) Explain what you liked and did not like about the reading. (iii) Explain what you did not understand about the reading and/or describe any questions that came to your mind that the paper didn't address. Please email these to all faculty and TAs the day before lecture.
2. **Class participation (25%):** Students are expected to participate in class discussions. At a minimum, your goal should be to ask any questions that you raised in your reading summary during the class at the appropriate time. The rooms will be set up so that students can ask questions or make comments when the person lecturing is in another location. We strongly encourage and hope for substantial cross-location discussion.
3. **Class presentation (25%):** Each student will provide a short presentation on their research project on cultural differences. The presentation should be descriptive, with particular attention paid to the aspects of the society that are different from other societies discussed in class. The presentations will take place during a special class that is scheduled for Friday December 6th.
4. **Four-page write-up (25%):** Students are asked to write up the findings from the research they undertook for their presentation. The write up should incorporate the questions, comments, and feedback received during the presentation. These are due a few weeks after the final class.

# Outline and reading list

## 1 Introduction: Goals and Ambitions of the Course (Sept 11)

- James Robinson
  - Bronislaw Malinowski, K. (1920). “The Circulating Exchange of Valuables in the Archipelagoes of Eastern New Guinea,” *Man*, 20, 97-105.
  - Comaroff, Jean and John Comaroff (2011) “Figuring Democracy: An Anthropological Take on African Political Modernities,” in their *Theory from the South*, Paradigm Publishers.
  - Bohannon, Cat (2024) *Eve: How the Female Body drove 200 million years of Human Evolution*, Alfred A. Knopf. Chapter 5 “Tools”.
  - Ferguson, James (1985). “The bovine mystique: power, property and livestock in rural Lesotho.” *Man*, New Series, 20(4), 647-674.
- Nathan Nunn
  - (\*) Henrich, Joseph, Steven J. Heine, and Ara Norenzayan. 2010. “The Weirdest People in the World?” *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 33: 61–135.
  - Flannery, Kent and Joyce Marcus. 2012. *The Creation of Inequality: How Our Prehistoric Ancestors Set the Stage for Monarchy, Slavery and Empire*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
  - Fei, Xiaotong, Gary G. Hamilton, and Wang Zheng. 1992. *From The Soil: The Foundations of Chinese Society*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.
  - Nisbett, Richard E. 2003. *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently... and Why*. New York: Free Press.
  - Thomas, Catherine Cole and Hazel Rose Markus. 2023. “Enculturating the Science of International Development: Beyond the WEIRD Independent Paradigm,” *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 54 (2): 195–214.
  - Snyder-Mackler, Noah, Joseph Robert Burger, Lauren Gaydosh, Daniel W. Belsky, Grace A. Noppert, Fernando A. Campos, Alessandro Bartolomucci, et al. 2020. “Social Determinants of Health and Survival in Humans and Other Animals,” *Science*, 843: eaax9553.
- Jacob Moscona
  - Lerner, Josh, Junxi Liu, Jacob Moscona, and David Yang. 2023. “Appropriate Entrepreneurship? The Rise of Chinese Venture Capital and the Developing World,” Working paper.

- Derex, Maxime, and Robert Boyd. 2016. “Partial Connectivity Increases Cultural Accumulation within Groups,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 113 (11): 2982–2987.
- Hsieh, Chang-Tai, Erik Hurst, Charles I. Jones, and Peter J. Klenow. 2019. “The Allocation of Talent and U.S. Economic Growth,” *Econometrica*, 87 (5): 1439–1474.
- Einio, Elias, Josh Feng, and Xavier Jaravel. 2023. “Social Push and the Direction of Innovation,” Working Paper.

## 2 Morality & Worldviews (Nathan, James & Jacob) (Sept 18)

- Nathan

- (\*) Chinoy, Sahil, Nathan Nunn, Sandra Sequeira, Stefanie Stantcheva. 2023. “Zero-Sum Thinking and the Roots of U.S. Political Divides,” NBER Working Paper 31688.
- (\*) Carvalho, Jean-Paul, Augustin Bergeron, Joseph Henrich, Nathan Nunn, and Jonathan Weigel. 2023. “Zero-Sum Thinking, the Evolution of Effort Suppressing Beliefs and Economic Development,” NBER Working Paper 31663.
- (o) Nisbett, Richard E. 2003. *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerns Think Differently... and Why*. New York: Free Press.
- Talhelm, T., Zhang, X., Oishi, S., Chen, S., Duan, D., Lan, X., & Kitayama, S. 2014. Discovery of large-scale psychological differences within China explained by rice vs. wheat agriculture. *Science*, 344(6184), 603–608.
- Enke, Benjamin. 2024. “Moral Boundaries,” *Annual Review of Economics*, forthcoming.
- Enke, Benjamin. 2020. “Moral Values and Voting,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 128 (10): 3679–3729.
- Enke, Benjamin. 2019. “Kinship, Cooperation, and the Evolution of Moral Systems,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 134 (2): 953–1019.
- Aknin, Lara B., Christopher P. Barrington-Leigh, Elizabeth W. Dunn, John F. Helliwell, Justine Burns, Robert Biswas-Diener, Imelda Kemeza, Paul Nyende, Claire E. Ashton-James, and Michael I. Norton. 2013. “Prosocial Spending and Well-Being: Cross-Cultural Evidence for a Psychological Universal,” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. 104 (4): 635–652.

- James

- (\*) Fergusson, Leopoldo, José-Alberto Guerra and James A. Robinson. 2024. “Anti-Social Norms,” NBER Working paper No. 32717.

- Baggini, Julian. 2018. *How the World Thinks: A Global History of Philosophy*. Granta, Chapter 27: 323–336.
- Jacob
  - Flynn, Joel P., and Karthik Sastry. 2023. “The Macroeconomics of Narratives,” Working Paper.
  - Andre, Peter, Ingar Haaland, Christopher Roth, and Johannes Wohlfart. 2023. “Narratives about the Macroeconomy,” Working Paper.

### 3 Questioning Research by WEIRD Scholars on Non-WEIRD Cultures (Guest Lecture: Thomas Talhelm) (Sept 25)

- Thomas
  - (\*) Yamagishi, T., H. Hashimoto, & J. Schug, (2008). “Preferences versus strategies as explanations for culture-specific behavior.” *Psychological Science*, 19(6), 579–584.
  - (\*) Thomson, R., M. Yuki, T. Talhelm, J. Schug, M. Kito, A.H. Ayanian, ... & Visserman, M. L. (2018). “Relational mobility predicts social behaviors in 39 countries and is tied to historical farming and threat.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(29), 7521–7526.
  - Liu, S. S., M. W. Morris, T. Talhelm, & Q. Yang. (2019). “Ingroup Vigilance in Collectivistic Cultures.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(29), 14538–14546.
  - Adams, Glenn. (2005). “The cultural grounding of personal relationship: enmityship in North American and West African worlds.” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88 (6): 948–968.
  - Li, Liman Man Wai, and Takahiko Masuda. (2016). “The role of regulatory focus in how much we care about enemies: Cross-cultural comparison between European Canadians and Hong Kong Chinese.” *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 47 (1): 131–148.
  - Talhelm, Thomas, Xuemin Zhang, Shigehiro Oishi, Chen Shimin, Dongyuan Duan, Xuezhao Lan, and Shinobu Kitayama. (2014) “Large-scale psychological differences within China explained by rice versus wheat agriculture.” *Science* 344 (6184): 603–608.
  - Talhelm, Thomas, and Xiawei Dong. (2024). “People quasi-randomly assigned to farm rice are more collectivistic than people assigned to farm wheat,” *Nature Communications* 15(1): 1782.

## 4 Social Structure (Jacob & James) (Oct 2)

- Jacob
  - (\*) Moscona, Jacob, Nathan Nunn, and James A. Robinson. 2020. “Segmentary Lineage Organization and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa,” *Econometrica*, 88 (5): 1999–2036.
  - (\*) d’Altroy, Terence N. 2014. *The Incas*. Vol. 13. John Wiley & Sons, Pages 33–45, 392–401.
  - Moscona, Jacob, and Awa Ambra Seck. “Age Set vs. Kin: Culture and Financial Ties in East Africa,” *American Economic Review*. Forthcoming.
  - Ghosh, Arkadev, Sam Il, and Munir Squires. 2023. “Economic Consequences of Kinship: Evidence from US bans on Cousin Marriage,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Forthcoming.
  - Bau, Natalie, 2021. “Can policy change culture? Government pension plans and traditional kinship practices.” *American Economic Review*, 111(6), pp.1880-1917.
  - Chetty, R., Jackson, M.O., Kuchler, T., Stroebel, J., Hendren, N., Fluegge, R.B., Gong, S., Gonzalez, F., Grondin, A., Jacob, M. and Johnston, D., 2022. “Social capital I: measurement and associations with economic mobility.” *Nature*, 608(7921), pp.108-121.
- James
  - (\*) Dunning, Thad, and Lauren Harrison. 2010. “Cross-Cutting Cleavages and Ethnic Voting: An Experimental Study of Cousinage in Mali.” *American Political Science Review*, 104 (1): 21–39.
  - (\*) Gneezy, Uri, Kenneth L. Leonard, and John A. List. 2009. “Gender differences in competition: Evidence from a Matrilineal and a Patriarchal Society.” *Econometrica*, 77 (5): 1637–1664.
  - Molina, Carlos, James A. Robinson, and Pablo Selaya. 2023. “The Return of Pachamama: Social Structure and Power in Bolivia.” Unpublished.
  - Anderson, Siwan, Sophia du Plessis, Sahar Parsa and James A. Robinson (2024) “The Persistence of Female Political Power in Africa,” Unpublished.

## 5 Religion (Nathan & James) (Oct 9)

- Nathan
  - (\*) Le Rossignol, Etienne, Sara Lowes, and Nathan Nunn. “The Consequences of Traditional Religion in Contemporary Africa,” NBER Working paper 29695.

- (o) Barber, Luke, Michael Jetter, and Tim Krieger. 2023. “Foreshadowing Mars: Religiosity and Pre-Enlightenment Warfare,” Working paper.
  - (o) Skali, Ahmed. 2017. “Moralizing Gods and Armed Conflict,” *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 63: 184–198.
  - Montero, Eduardo and Dean Yang. 2022. “Religious Festivals and Economic Development: Evidence from the Timing of Mexican Saint Day Festivals,” *American Economic Review*, 112 (10): 3176–3214.
  - Campante, Felipe and David Yanagizawa-Drott. 2015. “Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramada,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130 (2): 615–658.
  - Sola, Daniela. 2023. “Brother Votes for Brother: The Effects of Pentecostal Political Influence in Brazil,” Working paper.
  - Butinda, Lewis Dunia, Aimable Amani Lameke, Nathan Nunn, Max Posch, and Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra. “On the Importance of African Traditional Religion for Economic Behavior,” NBER Working Paper 31430.
  - Idowu, E. Bolaji. 1973. *African Traditional Religion: A Definition*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books. (Especially Chapter 5).
  - Olupona, Jacob K. 2014. *African Religions: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- James
    - (\*) Auriol, Emmanuelle, Julie Lassébie, Amma Panin, Eva Raiber, and Paul Seabright. 2020. “God Insures those Who Pay? Formal Insurance and Religious Offerings in Ghana,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 135 (4): 1799–1848.
    - Lowes, Sara, Eduardo Montero, Nathan Nunn and James A. Robinson (2024) “Bokoko: Supernatural Authority and Political Power in the DRC,” Unpublished.
    - Carter, Robert E. 2013. *The Kyoto School: An Introduction*, State University of New York. Chapter 1.
    - Gautama. 2011. “Nayāya sūtra,” in Deepak Sarma ed. *Classical Indian Philosophy: A Reader*. Columbia University Press.

## 6 Violence and Conflict (Nathan & James) (Oct 16)

- Nathan
  - (\*) Nisbett, Richard E. and Dov Cohen. 1996. *Culture of Honor: The Psychology of Violence in the South*. Westview Press.

- (\*) Cao, Yiming, Ben Enke, Armin Falk, Paola Giuliano, and Nathan Nunn. 2023. “Herding, Warfare, and a Culture of Honor,” NBER Working Paper 29250.
  - (o) Mathew, Sarah and Robert Boyd. 2011. “Punishment Sustains Large-Scale Cooperation in Prestate Warfare,” *PNAS*, 108 (28): 11375-111380.
  - (o) Mathew, Sarah and Robert Boyd. 2014. “The Cost of Cowardice: Punitive Sentiments Towards Free Riders in Turkana Raids,” *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 35: 58–64.
  - (o) Zefferman, Matthew R. and Sarah Mathew. 2015. “An Evolutionary Theory of Large-Scale Human Warfare: Group-Structured Cultural Selection,” *Evolutionary Anthropology*, 24: 50–61.
  - Fiske, Alan Page and Tage Shakti Rai. 2015. *Virtuous Violence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
  - Ager, Philipp, Leonardo Bursztyn, Lukas Leucht, and Joachim Voth. 2022. “Killer Incentives: Rivalry, Performance, and Risk-Taking among German Fighter Pilots, 1939-45.” *Review of Economic Studies*, 89 (5): 2257–2292.
  - Dippel, Christian and Stephan Heblich. 2021. “Leadership in Social Movements: Evidence from the “Forty-Eighters” in the Civil War,” *American Economic Review*, 111 (2): 472–505.
  - Cage, Julia, Anna Dagherret, Pauline Grosjean, and Saumitra Jha. 2023. “Heroes and Villains: The Effects of Combat Heroism on Autocratic Values and Nazi Collaboration in France,” *American Economic Review*, 113 (7): 1888–1932.
  - Jha, Saumitra and Steven Wilkinson. 2023. “Revolutionary Contagion,” Stanford GSB Research Paper 4084.
  - Ottinger, Sebastian and Lukas Rosenberger. 2023. “The American Origins of the French Revolution,” Working paper.
  - Barber, Luke, Michael Jetter, and Tim Krieger. 2023. “Foreshadowing Mars: Religiosity and Pre-Enlightenment Warfare,” Working paper.
  - Guarnieri, Eleonora, and Ana Tur-Prats. 2023. “Cultural Distance and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 138 (3): 1817–1861.
- James
    - (\*) McGovern, Michael. 2011. “Popular Development Economics—An Anthropologist among the Mandarins,” *Perspectives on Politics*, 9(2): 345-355.
    - Sviatschi, Michaela, 2022. “Spreading Gangs: Exporting US criminal capital to El Salvador,” *American Economic Review*, 112 (6): 1985–2024.
    - Kelly, Raymond C. 1985. *The Nuer Conquest: The Structure and Development of an Expansionist System*, University of Michigan Press.



- Gambetta, Diego and Steffen Hertog. 2017. *Engineers of Jihad: The Curious Connection between Violent Extremism and Education*, Princeton University Press.

## 7 Doing Fieldwork on Conflict (Guest Lecture: Raúl Sánchez de la Sierra) (Oct 23)

- Raul
  - (\*) Marchais, Gauthier, Christian Mastaki Mugaruka, Raul Sanchez de la Sierra, and David Qihang Wu. 2024. “Social Origins of Militias: The Extraordinary Rise of Outraged Citizens,” Working paper.
  - (\*) Dunia Butinda, Lewis, Raul Sanchez de la Sierra, and Hilary Yu. 2024. “Morality of Violence: Inside one of the Largest and Oldest of Congo’s Armed Groups,” Working paper.

## 8 Our Relationship with Nature (Nathan, Jacob) (Oct 30)

- Nathan
  - (\*) Oetelaar, Gerald A. 2014. “Worldviews and Human-Animal Relations: Critical Perspectives on Bison-Human Relations Among the Euro-Canadians and Blackfoot,” *Critique of Anthropology* 34 (1): 94–112.
  - (o) Kanu, Ikechukwu Anthony. 2023. “The Ecological Value of Igbo Spirituality,” *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Spring/Summer, pp. 47–54.
  - Feir, Donn L., Rob Gillizeau, and Maggie Jones. 2023. “The Slaughter of the Bison and Reversal of Fortunes on the Great Plains,” *Review of Economic Studies*, forthcoming.
  - White, Lynn. 1967. “The Historical roots of Our Ecological Crisis,” *Science*, 155 (3767): 1203–1207.
  - Fernandez-Villaverde, Jesus, Mark Koyama, Youhong Lin, and Tuan-Hwee Sng. 2023. “The Fractured Land Hypothesis,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138 (2): 1173–1231.
  - Barsanetti, Bruno and Alipio Ferreira. 2023. “Historical Occupation and Modern Deforestation: Evidence from Indigenous Extinctions in the Amazon,” Working paper.
  - Smith, Alexander C., Kaspar Hurni, Jefferson Fox, and Jamon Van Den Hoek. 2023. “Community Forest Management Led to Rapid Local Forest Gain in Nepal: A 29 Year Mixed Methods Retrospective Case Study,” *Land Use Policy*, 126: 106526.

- Deopa, Neha. 2022. “Sacred Ecology: The Environmental Impact of African Traditional Religions,” Working paper.
  - Lowe, Benjamin et al. 2019. “The Neglected Role of Religion in Fisheries Management,” *Fish and Fisheries*, 20 (5): 1024–1033.
  - Alonso, Elena Briones, Romain Houssa, and Marijke Verpoorten. 2016. “Voodoo Versus Fishing Committees: The Role of Traditional and Contemporary Institutions in Fisheries Management,” *Ecological Economics*, 122: 61–70.
  - Clifford, R.Y. 2019. “WSÁNEĆ (“The Emerging People”): Stories and the Re-Emergence of WSÁNEĆ Law,” In *Renewing Relationships: Indigenous Peoples and Canada*, Karen Drake and Brenda L. Gunn (eds.) pp. 83–114. Saskatoon: University of Saskatchewan.
- Jacob
    - (\*) Frank, Eyal and Anant Sudarshan. “The Social Costs of Keystone Species Collapse: Evidence From The Decline of Vultures in India,” *American Economic Review*, Forthcoming.
    - (\*) Coscieme, L., da Silva Hyldmo, H., Fernández-Llamazares et al., 2020. “Multiple conceptualizations of nature are key to inclusivity and legitimacy in global environmental governance.” *Environmental Science & Policy*, 104, pp.36-42.
    - Cardinale, B.J., Duffy, J.E., Gonzalez, A., Hooper, D.U., Perrings, C., Venail, P., Narwani, A., Mace, G.M., Tilman, D., Wardle, D.A. and Kinzig, A.P., 2012. “Biodiversity loss and its impact on humanity.” *Nature*, 486(7401), pp.59-67.
    - (\*) Weitzman, Martin, 1992. “On diversity.” *The quarterly journal of economics*, 107(2), pp.363-405.
    - Weitzman, Martin, 1998. “The Noah’s ark problem.” *Econometrica*, pp.1279-1298.
    - Schiebinger, Londa, 2007. *Plants and empire: Colonial bioprospecting in the Atlantic world*. Harvard University Press. Introduction.
    - Solow, Robert, 1993. “Sustainability: An economist’s perspective.” *Economics of the environment: Selected readings*, 3, pp.179-187.
    - Giglio, S., Kuchler, T., Stroebel, J. and Wang, O., 2024. “The Economics of Biodiversity Loss.” Working Paper.
    - Andre, Peter, Teodora Boneva, Felix Chopra, and Armin Falk, 2021 “Fighting climate change: The role of norms, preferences, and moral values.” Working Paper.

## 9 State formation (James & Jacob) (Nov 6)

- James

- (\*) Tambiah, Stanley J. 2013. “The Galactic Polity in Southeast Asia.” *Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, 3 (3): 503-534.
- (\*) Sánchez de la Sierra, Raúl. 2020. “On the Origins of the State: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 128 (1): 32-74.
- (\*) Allen, Robert C., Mattia C. Bertazzini, and Leander Heldring. 2023. “The Economic Origins of Government,” *American Economic Review*, 113 (10): 2507-2545.
- (\*) Babst, Andreas. 2023. “Inside the Taliban’s Luxury Hotel.” *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/12/inside-the-taliban-luxury-hotel-afghanistan-intercontinental-kabul>
- Mayshar, Joram, Omer Moav, and Luigi Pascali. 2022. “The Origin of the State: Land Productivity or Appropriability?” *Journal of Political Economy*, 130 (4): 1091-1144.
- Moin, A. Azfar, and Alan Strathern (Eds.). 2022. *Sacred Kingship in World History: Between Immanence and Transcendence*. Columbia University Press. Chapter 1.
- Lowes, Sara, Eduardo Montero, Nathan Nunn, and James A. Robinson. 2023. “Age Sets, Accountability and the Balance of Power: Evidence from Rural Congo”.
- Graeber, David, and Marshall Sahlins. 2017. *On Kings*. Chicago: Hau Books. Introduction.

- Jacob

- Michalopoulos, Stelios and Papaioannou, Elias, 2013. “Pre-colonial ethnic institutions and contemporary African development.” *Econometrica*, 81(1), pp.113-152.
- (\*) Michalopoulos, Stelios and Papaioannou, Elias, 2014. “National institutions and subnational development in Africa.” *The Quarterly journal of economics*, 129(1), pp.151-213.
- (\*) Heldring, Leander, 2021. “The origins of violence in Rwanda.” *The Review of economic studies*, 88(2), pp.730-763.
- Heldring, Leander and Robinson, James., 2023. “Problematizing state capacity: the Rwandan case.” *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 19(3), pp.401-425.
- Blair, Robert, 2018. “Legitimacy after violence: Evidence from two lab-in-the-field experiments in Liberia.” Working Paper.

- Bray, Tamara L. 2009. “An Archaeological Perspective on the Andean Concept of Camaquen: Thinking Through Late Pre-Columbian Ofrendas and Huacas,” *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*, 19 (3): 357–366.
- Urton, Gary. 1999. *Inca myths*. University of Texas Press. Especially Chapter 1 (“The Settings of Inca Myths in Space and Time”) and Chapter 4 (“Origin Myths and the Inca State”).

## 10 Gender, Family, and Fertility (Nathan, James & Jacob) (Nov 13)

- Nathan

- (\*) Beach, Brian, and W. Walker Hanlon. 2023. “Culture and the Historical Fertility Transition,” *Review of Economic Studies*, 90 (4): 1669–1700.
- (o) McGavock, Tamara. 2023. “More than a Village: Why Endogenous Living Arrangements Affect 40% of Non-Orphaned Children in Sub-Saharan Africa,” Working paper.
- (o) Lowes, Sara. 2020. “Matrilineal Kinship and Spousal Cooperation: Evidence from the Matrilineal Belt,” Working paper, Stanford University.
- Blanc, Guillaume. 2023. “The Cultural Origins of the Demographic Transition in France,” Working paper.
- Spolaore, Enrico and Romaine Wacziarg. 2022. “Fertility and Modernity,” *Economic Journal*, 132 (642): 796–833.
- Henrich, Joseph. 2004. “Demography and Cultural Evolution: How Adaptive Cultural Processes can Produce Maladaptive Losses – The Tasmanian Case,” *American Antiquity*, 69 (2): 197–214.
- Young, Alwyn. 2005. “The Gift of Dying: The Tragedy of Aids and the Welfare of Future African Generations,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 120 (2): 423–466.
- Galor, Oded and David Weil. 2000. “Population, Technology, and Growth: From Malthusian Stagnation to the Demographic Transition and Beyond,” *American Economic Review*, 89 (2): 806–828.
- Acemoglu, Daron, Leopoldo Ferguson, and Simon Johnson. 2020. “Population and Conflict,” *Review of Economic Studies*, 87 (4): 1565–1604.

- Jacob

- (\*) Weismantel, Mary. 2004. “Moche Sex Pots: Reproduction and Temporality in Ancient South America,” *American Anthropologist*, 106 (3): 495–505.

- (\*) Bogl, Sarah, Jasmin Moshfegh, Petra Persson, and Maria Polyakova, 2024. “The Economics of Infertility: Evidence from Reproductive Medicine.” No. w32445. National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper.
- (\*) Jayachandran, Seema, and Rohini Pande, 2017. “Why are Indian children so short? The role of birth order and son preference.” *American Economic Review* 107, no. 9: 2600-2629.
- Jayachandran, Seema, 2017. “Fertility decline and missing women.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 9, no. 1: 118-139.
- Klenow, Pete, Chad Jones, Mark Bills, and Mohamad Adhami, 2024 “Population and welfare: The greatest good for the greatest number.” Working Paper.
- Jones, Chad. 2022. “The End of Economic Growth? Unintended Consequences of a Declining Population,” *American Economic Review*, 112 (11): 3489–3527.
- Kremer, Michael. 1993. “Population Growth and Technological Change: One Million B.C. to 1990,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 108 (3): 681–716.
- Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1929. *Sexual Life of Savages in North-Western Melanesia: An Ethnographic Account of Courtship, Marriage, and Family Life Among the Natives of the Trobriand Islands, British New Guinea*. Genesis Publishing Pvt Ltd.

## 11 Appropriate Policy (James & Jacob) (Nov 20)

- James

- (\*) Gershenkron, Alexander. 1962. *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*. Harvard University Press. Chapter 1.
- Mukand, Sharun W., and Dani Rodrik. 2005. “In Search of the Holy Grail: Policy Convergence, Experimentation, and Economic Performance,” *American Economic Review*, 95 (1): 374–383.
- Helper, Susan, and Rebecca Henderson. 2014. “Management practices, relational contracts, and the decline of General Motors,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 28 (1): 49-72.
- (\*) Bloom, Nicholas, Benn Eifert, Aprajit Mahajan, David McKenzie, and John Roberts. 2013. “Does Management Matter? Evidence from India,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128 (1): 1-51.
- Lane, Nathan. 2024. “Manufacturing revolutions: Industrial policy and industrialization in South Korea,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. Forthcoming.
- Heldring, Leander and James A. Robinson 2024. “How Developmental States Actually Work: Evidence from Rwanda,” work in progress.

- Jacob
  - (\*) Kuznets, Simon. 1971. Nobel Prize Lecture. <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/1971/kuznets/lecture/>
  - (\*) Ashraf, Nava, Natalie Bau, Nathan Nunn, and Alessandra Voena. 2020. “Bride Price and Female Education,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 128 (2): 591–641.
  - Godoy, Ricardo, Dean Karlan, and Jonathan Zinman. 2021. “Randomization for causality, ethnography for mechanisms: Illiquid Savings for Liquor in an Autarkic Society,” NBER Working Paper 29566.
  - (\*) World Bank, 2015. *The World Development Report*. Overview (and whatever additional chapters seem interesting!)
  - Baer, Werner. 1972. “Import Substitution and Industrialization in Latin America: Experiences and Interpretations,” *Latin American Research Review*, 7 (1): 95–122.
  - Grandin, Greg. 2009. *Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford’s Forgotten Jungle City*. Macmillan. Introduction.
  - *American Factory*, Documentary, <https://www.netflix.com/title/81090071>

## 12 Technology, Innovation, and Society (Jacob) (Dec 4)

- Jacob
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  - Suri, Tavneet. 2011. “Selection and comparative advantage in technology adoption,” *Econometrica*, 79 (1): 159-209.
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**13 Student presentations (Special class: Friday Dec 6, time tbd)**