

Lazare Kovo

Department of Political Science
Tarbutton Hall
1555 Dickey Drive
Atlanta, GA 30322, United States

lazare.kovo@emory.edu
(404) 229-8541
<https://sites.google.com/view/lazare-kovo/home>

Education

- Emory University**, Atlanta, Georgia, USA 2020 –
Ph.D., Political Science, expected 2026
Dissertation: The Democratic Accountability Paradox: Elite Manipulation and the Political Economy of Decentralization
Committee: Miguel Rueda (chair), Nahomi Ichino, Jack Paine, and John Patty
M.A., Political Science, 2023
- African School of Economics**, Abomey-Calavi, Benin 2016 – 2018
M.S. in Mathematics, Economics, and Statistics
- Universite d'Abomey-Calavi**, Abomey-Calavi, Benin 2008 – 2012
B.S. in Statistics and Econometrics

Research Interests

Institutions, Electoral Accountability, Development, State Capacity, Corruption, and Political Methodology

Working Papers

- Kovo, Lazare. 2025. [Governance Under Distorted Accountability: Evidence from No-Confidence Votes in Benin](#). (Job market paper)
- Kovo, Lazare. 2025. [Sanction or Strategy? Electoral Competition and Retaliatory Use of No-Confidence Votes](#). (Under review, dissertation chapter)
- Aman-Rana, Shan, Leonard Wantchekon, and Lazare Kovo. 2025. [Bureaucratic Deliberation and Accountability: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin](#).

Work in Progress

- Kovo, Lazare. Delayed Disbursements of Fiscal Transfers as a Strategic Tool for Political Power Consolidation. (Dissertation chapter, Draft available upon request)
- Kovo, Lazare and Christelle Zozoungbo. Career Choices in Rigid Labor Markets: The Insurance Effects of Political Connections in Benin (Draft available upon request)
- Kim, Seoyeon and Lazare Kovo. Why Do Anti-Corruption Campaigns Fail in Developing Democracies? Evidence from Field Experiments in Benin and Ghana.
- Kovo, Lazare, Marsove Attolou, Hamdy Bonou-Gbo, and Christelle Zozoungbo. [Combining apprenticeship and formal education as an insurance device to reduce gender gap in educational outcomes](#)
 - Pilot funded by J-PAL's Learning for All Initiative / African Scholars Program (\$75,000, 2024); pilot expected to be in the field in February 2026.

- Kovo, Lazare, Marsove Attolou, Hamdy Bonou-Gbo, and Christelle Zozoungbo. Can gender-responsive pedagogy and weekly office hours in STEM courses reduce gender gaps in school participation and STEM fields?
 - Pilot funded by J-PAL's Learning for All Initiative / African Scholars Program (\$75,000, 2025). Pilot currently in preparation.

Conference and Workshop Presentations

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| • Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) | 2024, 2025 |
| • Afrobarometer Emerging African Scholar Workshop, Pretoria, South Africa | 2024 |
| • Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) | 2024 |
| • Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society (AFES), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire | 2024 |
| • Contemporary Africa Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS XXIII), NYU, USA | 2023 |
| • Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE) | Annual Meeting (Virtual), 2020
Regional Meeting (NYU Abu Dhabi), 2019 |

Grants

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| • Professional Development Funds, Emory University (\$7,500) | 2023, 2025 |
| • Prudentis Small Grant, Emory University (\$7,500) | 2023, 2024 |

Teaching Experience

Emory University

- Primary Instructor, POLS321: Comparative Political Economy (Undergraduate), Fall 2025
- Co-Instructor, POLS494W: Electoral Politics in Developing World (Undergraduate), with Prof. Miguel Rueda, Fall 2023
- Teaching Assistant, QTM200: Applied Regression Analysis (Undergraduate), for Prof. Zhiyun Gong, Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
- Teaching Assistant, POLS208: Research Design and Methods (Undergraduate), for Prof. David Davis III and Prof. Matthew Baker, Fall 2022 and Spring 2025
- Grader, QTM315-POLS385: Introduction to Game Theory for Prof. Miguel Rueda, Spring 2022, Emory University

African School of Economics

- Co-Instructor, Research Design and Surveys (Masters), with Prof. Alice Bonou, Spring 2020
- Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics I (Masters), for Dr. Ian Heffernan, Fall 2019
- Teaching Assistant, Causal Inference and Impact Evaluation (Masters), for Dr. Marcus Olapade, Spring 2019

Relevant Work and Research Experience

- Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy, Benin, Associate and Director of Research, 2018 – 2020
- Lead Coordinator, Business Interests and Clientelist Contracts in Public Procurement (survey experiment), Benin, 2018-2019
- Lead Coordinator, Bureaucratic Control of Politicians, Political Corruption, and Local Governance (RCT), Benin, 2016
- Lead Coordinator, Participative Campaign and Electoral Support for Good Governance in Benin (RCT), 2015

Language and Technical Skills

- English (full proficiency), French (full proficiency)
- Stata, R
- Survey Solutions, CTO, Qualtrics

References

Miguel Rueda

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Emory University
miguel.rueda@emory.edu

John Patty

Professor
Department of Political Science and Decision & Data Sciences
Emory University
jwpatty@gmail.com

Jack Paine

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Emory University
jackpaine@emory.edu

Leonard Wantchekon

James Madison Professor of Political Economy
Department of Politics
Princeton University
lwantche@princeton.edu