

## **GEDEON J. LIM**

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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Student, Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, 2020 (expected)  
Dissertation Title: *Essays on Development Economics*  
Main Advisors: Samuel Bazzi & Dilip Mookherjee  
Dissertation Committee: Samuel Bazzi, Dilip Mookherjee and Robert A. Margo  
  
B.Soc.Sci. Economics, *First Class Honors*, National University of Singapore, Singapore 2014

### **FIELDS OF INTEREST**

Development Economics, Political Economy, Economic History

### **WORKING PAPERS**

"Why Pay the Chief? Political Selection & Economic Development in Indonesia (Job Market Paper)"

### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

"The Effects of Long-Run Segregation in Southeast Asia"

### **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

Northeast Universities Development Conference. Evanston, IL	2019
Economic History Association Meeting, Poster Session. Atlanta, GA	2019
Southeast Asia Research Group N.A. Meeting. Vancouver, Canada	2019
17th Nordic Conference on Development Economics. Helsinki, Finland	2018
Summer School in Development Economics. Prato, Italy	2017

### **GRANTS**

Manuel Abdala Gift Grant	Spring 2019
Boston University Initiative on Cities, Seed Funding	Fall 2018
Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship (Short-Term)	Fall 2018
Economics Department Summer Research Grant	Summer 2018
Global Development Policy Center, Summer in the Field	Summer 2018

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant for S. Bazzi, Boston University,	2015-Present
Visiting Researcher, AKATIGA, Indonesia,	2018
Visiting Junior Researcher, SMERU Research Institute, Indonesia	Summer 2015, 2016
Research Assistant for R. Arunachalam & A. Shenoy, University of Michigan, MI	Summer 2013
Communications & Research Intern, Centre for Microfinance, India	Summer 2012
Non-Commissioned Officer, Singapore Armed Forces, Singapore	2009-2011

**LANGUAGES:**

English (native), Mandarin Chinese (native), Bahasa Indonesia (intermediate)

**COMPUTER SKILLS:** ArcGIS, Stata

**CITIZENSHIP:** Singapore/F1

**REFERENCES**

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Boston University  
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**Why Pay the Chief? Political Selection & Economic Development in Indonesia** (Job Market Paper)

Much of modern development efforts are channeled through traditional local governance. Yet, despite their importance as politician-bureaucrats, traditional chiefs are rarely paid a living wage. This paper studies the effect of awarding chiefs control over a stable, revenue generating asset during their term of office in rural Indonesia. Using an RD estimator at a colonial border discontinuity, I find a strong positive effect on both contemporary and historical development outcomes. To trace mechanisms, I leverage a novel panel data set covering the election histories of 931 chiefs in 193 villages. I find evidence of political selection driven by higher barriers to entry for political office: campaigning costs are higher, resulting in both chiefs and the candidate pool as a whole being positively selected. My findings suggest that paying chiefs from a stable source of local revenue can be an efficient tool when top-down monitoring by the State is limited.