

Address: Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
Chemin Eugene-Rigot 2, CP 76, CH-1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland

Email and Website: rahul.mehrotra@graduateinstitute.ch; rahul-mehrotra.com; [Google Scholar](#)

Research Fields: Development Economics, Political Economy, Economic History

References:

Ugo Panizza	Gilles Carbonnier	Lore Vandewalle	Fred Mawunyo Dzanku
Graduate Institute Geneva	Graduate Institute Geneva	Graduate Institute Geneva	University of Ghana

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Development Economics	2013-17
Dissertation Committee: Ugo Panizza (Co-Supervisor), Lore Vandewalle (Co-Supervisor), Jean-Louis Arcand (Internal Examiner), Stefan Klöner (External Examiner) Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva	
Master in International Economics	2011-13
Supervisor: Ugo Panizza Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva	
Bachelor (Honours) in Economics	2004-07
University of Delhi, New Delhi	

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva	2017-23
Research Fellow	
· Lead Researcher & Project Coordinator, Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d.ch) Principal Investigator: Gilles Carbonnier	
· Faculty, Department of International and Development Studies Department Chair: Davide Rodogno	
Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences (LASES), Lao P.D.R.	2023
Visiting Senior Research Fellow; Host: Sthabandith Insisienmay	
National Institute for Economic Research (NIER), Lao P.D.R.	2020
Visiting Research Fellow; Host: Sthabandith Insisienmay	
University of Ghana, Ghana	2019-20
Visiting Research Fellow; Host: Fred Mawunyo Dzanku	
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva	2014-17
Teaching and Research Assistant; Advisor: Ugo Panizza	
Symbiotics S.A., Switzerland	2012
Asset Management; Advisor: Christophe Favre	
Gartner Consulting, previously Corporate Executive Board	2007-10
Strategic Research Analyst, Corporate Finance and Strategy, Financial Services	

JOB MARKET PAPER

Irrigating the Killing Fields: Economic Legacy of the Khmer Rouge Genocide ([Latest version here](#))

Abstract: Radical nation-building under the Communist Party of Kampuchea resulted in approximately 2 million deaths, i.e. between 20-25% of the Cambodian population between 1975-79. How did this human capital destruction impact long-term economic development? Satellite data on the regime's failed irrigation projects provide a source of exogenous variation in mass graves. Spatial power relations between moderate and extremist administrative zones can be further exploited as a border discontinuity. My analysis finds persistent impacts of historical genocide on household wealth and village-level poverty, driven by lower human capital, limited structural transformation, restricted public goods provision and private investment flows. Political repression measured by proximity to Khmer Rouge prisons predicts significantly worse outcomes. This paper contributes novel, country-level evidence on how the worst genocide since the Holocaust impacts economic development in Cambodia.

SELECTED WORKS-IN-PROGRESS:

Stereotypes or Prejudice: Evidence of Gender Discrimination from Rural India (Under review)

[Working Paper, Pre-Analysis Plan](#)

Abstract: Discriminatory social norms drive high levels of gender inequality. However, there is a paucity of evidence on how gender discrimination manifests in economic decision-making. I present a lab-in-the-field experiment with incentivized trust and dictator games in a within-subjects design to distinguish between statistical and taste-based discrimination. Next, I evaluate a behavioural intervention hypothesized to reduce the influence of biased prior beliefs. Results indicate that participants discriminate against women in the trust game, but not in the dictator game, which is interpreted as statistical discrimination. Signalling higher trustworthiness leads to gender unbiased decision-making under joint evaluation nudge.

Social Identity and Conflict: Evidence from the British Colonial Census in India (with Roland Hodler)

[Preliminary draft available on request](#)

Abstract: Fragmented societies experience increased levels of violence. However, less is known about the origins of social cleavages. This paper evaluates the impact of the first Census of British India - as a quasi-natural experiment on social identity formation - on inter-group conflict during the 19th century. Historians have illustrated that the census implementation led to previously diffuse and overlapping identities based on local communities or *jati* being manipulated into a standardised, hierarchical taxonomy of mutually distinct social identities. I construct an original conflict events database using historical newspaper archives from the 19th century for my analysis. Results indicate that the Census roll-out led to a significant increase in inter-group riots, especially in territories with high religious fractionalisation.

Christian Missions and Human Capital Transmission in Vietnam

[Draft-in-progress](#)

Abstract: Christian missionaries in Vietnam are credited with the creation of *chu Quoc ngu* the modern Vietnamese alphabet. I build the first geo-located database on French missionaries to 19th century Vietnam from archival research at the Société des Missions Etrangères de Paris. The geographic territories controlled by different missionary orders are used as a geographic regression discontinuity design to identify causal impacts on human capital transmission. My analyses demonstrate a persistent impact of proximity to Christian missions on contemporary human capital, driven by religious composition of local populations and prioritization of public education by local leaders.

Father of the Nation: Nation-building through Peace and Sacrifice

[Draft-in-progress](#)

Abstract: Under what socio-political conditions can a political leader catalyse institutional change? To evaluate this question, I construct a hand-collected database on all public engagements of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi who emerged as the pre-eminent leader of the Indian freedom movement against British colonialisation. He was granted the honorific title of Mahatma, or great soul, due to his advocacy for religious harmony and non-violent resistance against colonialism. This project investigates Gandhi's impact on religious conflict and self-sacrifice by freedom fighters using the first complete events database of the Indian freedom movement in the 20th century.

PUBLICATIONS:

Rahul Mehrotra, Vincent Somville & Lore Vandewalle (2021), *Increasing Trust in the Bank to Enhance Savings: Experimental Evidence from India*, [Economic Development and Cultural Change](#), Vol. 69, Issue 2

Laura Cyron & **Rahul Mehrotra** (2021), *Deeper Crisis, Higher Skills Demand? Impact of Financial Crises on Demand for Skills*, [Education Economics](#), DOI: 10.1080/09645292.2021.1931036

Rahul Mehrotra & Gilles Carbonnier (2021), *Abnormal Pricing in International Commodity Trade: Evidence from Switzerland*, [Resources Policy](#), Volume 74, December 2021

Ama Ahene-Codjoe, Angela Alu & **Rahul Mehrotra** (2021), *Abnormal Pricing in International Commodity Trading: Evidence from Ghana*, [International Economics](#), Volume 172, December 2022

Rahul Mehrotra, Vanthana Nolintha & Vanxay Sayavong (2021), *Abnormal Pricing in International Commodity Trade: Evidence from Lao P.D.R.*, [International Trade Journal](#), August 2022

Rahul Mehrotra (2020), *Contagion and Conflict: Evidence from India*, [CEPR Covid Economics, Vetted and Real-Time Papers](#) 25, 3 June 2020: 122-140

TEACHING

- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva** 2014-22
- Mathematics and Statistics for Economics (Role: Lecturer)
 - International Trade and Finance: Applied Research (Role: Lecturer)
 - Academic Writing and Project Management for Graduate Students (Role: Lecturer)
 - Statistics for Social Sciences (Role: Teaching Assistant)
 - Economic Policy in Developing Countries (Role: Teaching Assistant)
- Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences; National University of Laos** 2020, 2023
- International Trade and Finance (Role: Visiting Lecturer)
 - Microeconometrics: Impact Evaluation Methods (Role: Visiting Lecturer)
 - Academic Writing and Publishing in Economics (Role: Visiting Lecturer)
- Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana** 2020
- International Trade and Finance (Role: Visiting Lecturer)
 - Academic Writing and Publishing in Economics (Role: Visiting Lecturer)

RESEARCH GRANTS

- Predicting Explosive Remnants of War using Machine Learning (PEACE-ML)** 2023-24
Swiss National Science Foundation (Under Review)
Role: Principal Investigator
- Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d.ch) Grant** 2022-23
Swiss National Science Foundation (Awarded: Chf 75,000)
Role: Principal Investigator (joint with Latdavanh Songvilay and Kinnalone Phimmavong)
- Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d.ch) Grant** 2020-22
Swiss National Science Foundation (Awarded: Chf 121,000)
Role: Co-Principal Investigator (joint with Sabin Bieri, Eva Ming and Maliphone Douangphachanh)
- Curbing Illicit Financial Flows from Resource-rich Countries** 2017-23
Swiss National Science Foundation (Awarded: Chf 2.9 million)
Role: Lead Researcher and Project Coordinator (Principal Investigator: Gilles Carbonnier)

POLICY AND MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

- Missing Dollars: A Documentary Film** (with Francis Fiifi Koomson) 2023
[Documentary Film: Research project on Curbing Trade-related Illicit Financial Flows](#)
Role: Producer, Lead Researcher
- Trade Implications of Tax Expenditures** (with Agustin Redonda, Irma Mosquera Valderrama, et al.) 2020
[Policy Brief: G-20 Summit in Saudi Arabia](#)
Role: Invited Author
- Abnormal Pricing in Swiss Commodity Trade: Policy Proposals** (with Gilles Carbonnier) 2020
[R4D-IFFs Project Working Paper Series](#)
Role: Lead Author
- Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: Conceptual Framework and Empirical Methods** 2018
(with Gilles Carbonnier) [R4D-IFFs Project Working Paper Series](#)
Role: Lead Author
- Defining, Estimating and Disseminating Statistics on Illicit Financial Flows in Africa** 2021-22
Joint Project of UNECA, UNODC and UNCTAD
Role: Invited Expert, [Webpage here](#)
- Statistics and Data for Measuring Illicit Financial Flows in the Asia-Pacific region** 2021-22
Joint Project of UNODC, UNESCAP and UNCTAD
Role: Invited Expert, [Webpage here](#)

Violent consequences of the Covid-19 Pandemic in India, Global Challenges Special Issue on the Politics of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Podcast Listen here	2020
United Nations Economic Development in Africa Report 2020 Africa and Least Developing Countries Division, UNCTAD Geneva Role: Contributing Expert and Peer-reviewer, Webpage here	2019-20
Increasing Trust in Bankers to Enhance Savings: Research Interview Graduate Institute Geneva, Research Interview, Webpage here	2019
How to assess commodity-trade related illicit financial flows? LAgefi Newspaper, Special Edition on Commodities Media article, Webpage here	2019
Expert Meeting on Statistical methodologies for measuring Sustainable Development Goal 16.4.1 (Illicit Financial Flows), UNCTAD Geneva Role: Invited Speaker, Webpage here	2018

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Policy Workshop: Curbing Illicit Financial Flows and Mobilizing Tax Revenues in Laos (Role: Co-Organizer, Webpage coming soon)	Vientiane, 2023
International Conference: Swiss Program for Research on Global Issues for Development (Role: Main Organizer, Webpage here)	Luang Prabang, 2023
Research Workshop: Illicit Financial Flow Risks in Gold Trading (Role: Co-Organizer, Webpage here)	Bern, 2021
Mid-term Conference: Curbing Illicit Financial Flows Project (Role: Organizer, Webpage here)	Geneva, 2019
Research Workshop: Curbing Illicit Financial Flows from Ghana (Role: Co-organizer, Webpage here)	Accra, 2018
Research Workshop: Curbing Illicit Financial Flows from Laos (Role: Co-organizer, Webpage here)	Vientiane, 2018
Keynote Speech and Expert Panel: Deterring corruption and improving commodities trading transparency (Role: Co-organizer, Webpage here)	Geneva, 2018

CERTIFICATIONS AND HONORS

Certificate, Predictive and Causal Machine Learning Chair of Applied Econometrics and Evaluation of Public Policies, University of Fribourg	2021
Certificate, Machine Learning (Levels: Introduction and Advanced) Global School for Empirical Research Methods, University of St. Gallen	2019
Certificate, Advanced Courses in Law and Economics Study Centre Gerzensee, Swiss National Bank	2018
Ph.D. Scholarship (Chf 18,000) Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva	2013-14
M.A. Scholarship (Chf 18,000) Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva	2012-13
Certificate of Merit (top-ranked student in B.A. program) University of Delhi	2006-07

ACADEMIC SUPERVISION

Master Dissertation: Kennedy Mmasi (1st reader), Kristina Enger, Ravini Gunasekera, Alana Peters (2nd reader)
Applied Research Projects (Trade and Finance): 18 projects with 56 students (Academic Supervisor)

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

American Economic Association, Econometric Society, European Economics Association, Royal Economic Society, Swiss Society for Economics and Statistics, Swiss Political Science Association