

Laura Araújo de Freitas

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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge PhD in Economics. • Research interests: political economy, development, public policy. • Supervisor: Dr Toke Aidt, tsa23@cam.ac.uk.	October 2021 – Present <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
University of Cambridge MPhil in Economic Research.	October 2020 – July 2021 <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
University of Manchester BSc (Hons) Economics.	September 2017 – June 2020 <i>Manchester, UK</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

World Bank Group, Development Economics Group Data Research Intern for the Women Business and the Law Project. • Compiled a cross-national dataset on gender legislation by analyzing national laws and surveying experts. • Wrote proposals on using the dataset for macroeconomic research on growth, aging and politics.	May - August 2025 <i>Washington DC, USA</i>
University of British Columbia, Vancouver School of Economics Visiting PhD Student.	September 2024 - April 2025 <i>Vancouver, Canada</i>
University of Oxford, Global Priorities Institute Visiting PhD Student.	June - July 2022 <i>Oxford, UK</i>

WORK IN PROGRESS

Taxing times: fiscal policy, inequality, and political instability Independent paper. • Develop a model of fiscal policy and political instability in autocracies and new democracies. • Provide empirical predictions on Asia, Africa and Latin America (1960-2020).	
Divergence or Convergence? The Municipal Franchise in England and Wales, 1835-1897 With Toke Aidt (University of Cambridge). • Analyze the uneven expansion of the municipal franchise across different regions and time periods. • Identify strong β-convergence, with faster franchise extension in initially restrictive boroughs.	
Long-Run Plays, Short-Term Wins. Political Business Cycles in the US Congress, 1990 - 2020 Independent paper. • Scrap data of the congress-estimated impact of proposed bills in the fiscal deficit over 10 years. • Analyze senators' roll-call voting behavior based on how far they are from re-election.	

AWARDS AND GRANTS

University of Cambridge, Faculty of Economics Wrensbury Scholarship in Political Economy.	2024 <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology Doctoral Scholarship.	2021 - 2024 <i>Lisbon, Portugal</i>
Mercatus Center Oskar Morgenstern Fellowship in Quantitative Political Economy.	2024 <i>Washington DC, USA</i>
Forethought Foundation Global Priorities Fellowship.	2022, 2023 <i>Oxford, UK</i>

EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

University of British Columbia, Vancouver School of Economics Development and Political Economics Lunch.	February 2025 <i>Vancouver, Canada</i>
European Journal of Political Economy and Silvaplana Political Economy Silvaplana Political Economy Workshop.	July 2024 <i>Pontresina, Switzerland</i>
Spanish Economic Association and University of Salamanca 48th Simposym of the Spanish Economic Association (SAEe).	December 2023 <i>Salamanca, Spain</i>
Aix-Marseille School of Economics Political Economy: Institutions and Media.	June 2023 <i>Marseille, France</i>
CEPR and Max Planck Institute for Tax Law and Public Finance The Political Economy of Conflict and Redistribution.	August 2022 <i>Berlin, Germany</i>
University of Oxford, Global Priorities Institute Early Career Conference.	July 2022 <i>Oxford, UK</i>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Cambridge, Faculty of Economics Teaching Assistant	October 2021 – May 2024 <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
• 3rd year Undergraduate Courses: Microeconomics, Political Economics, Development Economics. • Postgraduate Courses: MPhil Workshop for Dissertation Writing. • Prepared and lead tutorial classes, marked exams, answered students' questions.	
University of Cambridge Bridging Courses Tutor.	November 2021 – September 2023 <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
• Courses: Cambridge Higher Aspirations Program, Corpus Christi Bridging Course. • Prepared and delivered introductory economics courses to socioeconomic minority students.	

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Portuguese Association of Researchers and Students in the UK Financial Council Member.	October 2024 - Present <i>London, UK</i>
• Supervise fiscal and fundraising activities, write and review accounting reports.	
Silvaplana Political Economy Workshop Discussant.	July 2024 <i>Pontresina, Switzerland</i>
• Reviewed research papers and lead discussion sessions at the conference.	
University of Cambridge, Corpus Christi College Admissions Interviewer.	December 2023, 2024 <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
• Conducted admissions interviews for undergraduate study.	
University of Cambridge, Rising Stars Public Engagement Program Contributor.	October 2023 - March 2024 <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
• Created a boardgame on Circular Flow of Income for children, displayed at Cambridge University Festival.	
Oxmedica International Research Program Tutor in Economics and Entrepreneurship.	July - August 2023 <i>Riyadh, Saudi Arabia</i>
• Planed and delivered a three week introductory course to 19 local high school students.	
Economics PhD Applicant Mentoring Program Mentor.	October 2022, 2023 <i>Cambridge, UK</i>
• Supported applicants from underrepresented backgrounds with their PhD applications.	