

# RESEARCH SUPERVISION

## WHO?

Students who are expected to complete a research essay as part of their degree requirements, and who are interested in having me as their thesis advisor, should read this document prior to initiating contact.

## WHAT?

My primary research fields are *political economics* and *development economics*. If you have never taken a class in these fields, and do not know what they entail, a good place to start would be the handbook entries for the subjects that I have taught at the University of Melbourne: [Economic Development](#) and [Positive Political Economics](#).

Within those fields, my *current* research projects focus on (i) international conflict resolution, (ii) institutional determinants of economic development, and (iii) long run consequences of large-scale demographic shocks. Therefore, I am most amenable to advising students who intend to work on similar topics, especially if the research involves empirics or applied theory. You can also refer to my [research webpage](#) and the thesis titles that I have supervised in previous years (below) to see if we share intersecting research interests.

My preference is for advisees to typeset their theses in [L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X](#), a high quality typesetting system, and for you to conduct your econometric analyses in [STATA](#). These are the softwares for which I can best provide support.

As advisor, my primary objective is to provide you with research guidance; this is especially important if the thesis constitutes your first piece of “real” research. I will also offer regular feedback and any other necessary assistance along the way to help you develop your thesis. We shall aim to convene fortnightly under normal circumstances.

As advisee, you are neither my research assistant nor my co-author; that is, I will not feed you with research topics/ideas or be an active participant in your thesis. You must take firm ownership of your thesis.

## HOW?

If all of the above sounds reasonable to you, and you think we are a good fit, [email](#) me (1) your most recent university transcript and (2) a research proposal (2-page, maximum), to set up a first meeting.

**PAST THESIS TITLES**

*Titles in alphabetical order. • Honours ◦ Masters*

- A Comparison of the Sex Ratio Elasticity of Crime in US and China
- A Model of Democratisation: Theory and Evidence
- Control and Coordination: Understanding and Combating Cult Behaviour with a Global Games Framework
- Default Outcomes in Microfinance: An Analysis of the Kiva Credit Limits Program
- Determinants of Chinese Aid and its Effectiveness in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Discovery of the Unbalanced Sex Ratio and Analysis of Reasons for its Formation
- Drivers and Influence of Media Bias: Evidence from U.S. Newspaper Presidential Endorsements
- Elite Cohesion and Institutional Persistence: Using the Colonial Experience as a Natural Experiment
- Empty Threat: The Relative Effects of Threats and Impositions of Economic Sanctions on Political Institutions
- Gender Quotas in Rural India
- Heterogeneity Analysis on the Causal Effect of the College Graduate Village Official Program in China
- Peacekeeping: Who Sends Peacekeepers Where and Why?
- Revisiting the Impact of Superstitious Beliefs on Child Development: A Temporal Analysis of Birth Planning and Economic Growth in Vietnam
- Schooling and Political Participation in Non-Democracies
- Vine versus the Vice: A Comparison of the Effects of Grape and Opium Production on Civil Conflict in Afghanistan

Eik Swee. April, 2024.