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HIGHER EDUCATION

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA, 2009-2015
PhD, Political Science and International Relations, 2015
MA, Economics, 2012

Peking University, Beijing, China, 2012-2013
Peking University School of International Studies (affiliated)
Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies, Tsinghua University

San Andrés University, Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO),
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2007-2009
MA, International Relations and Negotiations

Leipzig University, Germany, 1997-2003
BA, MA, Communications

WORK EXPERIENCE (SELECTION)

June 2023 –

World Bank, United States

Consultant

Climate and financial sector specialist in the Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation (FCI) Global Practice. Contributed to a chapter on climate-relevant instruments for prudential supervisory agencies in the WB flagship publication Finance & Prosperity, co-authored a Policy Report on national transition planning, a white paper on transition planning for the South African Treasury, and a transition planning analysis for the Ugandan finance ministry. Provided input and feedback for two technical notes as part of the FSAP review of China. Field interviews and capacity building workshops in Jordan and South Africa.

Mar 2021 -

Council on Economic Policies, Switzerland

Associate

Facilitating policy dialogue between China and the rest of the world in sustainable global financial governance, inclusive green financial policies, and the governance of digital finance. My work for this Swiss think tank includes the publication of discussion notes on green finance policy lessons from China, ongoing engagement with Chinese policymakers and academics to stay abreast of financial policy in China, and preparation of virtual roundtables on specific topics of prudential regulation and sustainable financial governance to help facilitate dialogue between financial experts in China and the West.

January 2020 –

American University, United States

Adjunct Professor

Instructor of the gateway course Global Inequality and Development for undergraduate students at the School of International Service. At the graduate level, teaching an online course on Global Economic Governance for the MA in International Relations Program offered jointly by the School of International Service and Kogod Business School.

May 2022 – June 2023

Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, United States

Consultant

Financial policy analysis for CGAP, a think tank housed at the World Bank. Developed a conceptual framework on the nexus between climate change and financial exclusion. Interviews on climate risk and regulatory responses with financial supervisors from 14 jurisdictions and a field mission to Egypt. Working with a World Bank team and the Central Bank of Jordan, drafted the inclusive green finance chapter of the central bank's Green Finance Strategy.

Sep 2021 – Apr 2022

Oxford University, United Kingdom

Consultant

Co-author of a book that distils lessons learned from the work of the Pathways for Prosperity Commission at Oxford. The Commission developed a toolkit to help developing countries draft a digital transformation strategy for the entire economy. Underlying work for this book included archival research on existing digital economy strategies in developing countries, and semi-structured interviews with several dozen government, business, and civil society stakeholders in the seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and East Asia that implemented the toolkit. Led the development of a theoretical framework for digital transformation that is informed by academic literature on the political economy of reform. The book, co-authored with the late Prof. Benno Ndulu, Prof. Stefan Dercon (economics professor and former UK DFID Chief Economist) and Elizabeth Stuart (Director of the Pathways Commission), was published with Oxford University Press in April 2023.

Nov 2020 – Feb 2022

Alliance for Financial Inclusion

Consultant

Drafted two reports on green inclusive finance for this network of financial supervisors from developing countries. The first, co-authored with Prof. Ulrich Volz (SOAS), develops a theoretical framework for the overlap of green finance and financial inclusion. The second, solo-authored report focuses on digital financial services for inclusive green finance. It shows how digital retail payment (mobile money) platforms allow vulnerable groups to increase their resilience vis-à-vis climate-related economic shocks. Furthermore, it explores the academic and policy literature on five digital financial products, namely savings, lending, PAYG solar, index agricultural insurance, and agro marketplaces. The report looks at regulatory enablers and impediments to such green digital financial services, and derives policy recommendations for financial regulators keen on facilitating digital financial inclusion for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

May 2019 – April 2022

World Bank

Consultant

Conducted desk research and drafted several research papers for the Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice. Topics include old-age financial inclusion, financial repression as an instrument of post-Covid recovery, and regulatory drivers of financial technology (fintech) adoption in developing countries under the umbrella of the Bank-Fund Bali Fintech Agenda. Drafted an internal report on the

economics of financial inclusion, including country notes of 16 emerging economies, drawing lessons from seven years of the Universal Financial Access initiative. The report highlights the differences between old-school and digital financial inclusion, providing insights on the economics of digital platforms and digital financial services, and deriving policy implications for future financial inclusion efforts. In a separate assignment, interviewed former chief economic advisors to African presidents and drafted chapters for a handbook at the Office of the Chief Economist Office of the Africa Region.

November 2018 – June 2019

World Bank Independent Evaluation Group

Consultant

Contributed desk and field research to several World Bank evaluations for the Independent Evaluation Group. Interviewed lead officials in the Bank, the IMF, and external experts on the World Bank Group's global convening power in global financial standard-setting. Evaluated state-society relations and World Bank engagement on field missions in Guatemala and Uzbekistan.

April 2016 – November 2018

University of Oxford United Kingdom

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Research position in Global Economic Governance at the School of Government. The ESRC and DFID-funded research project examines how low and low-middle income countries adapt to global financial standards and explores options for developing country governments to gain voice in global financial regulatory negotiations. Responsibilities include management of a team of researchers working in nine countries, editorial assistance and peer review for an edited volume (OUP). Lead responsibility on the drafting of two policy briefs, a website, and conference presentations for policy dissemination. Organized meetings with 50+ regulators in the US, Switzerland, Cambodia, India, and Argentina as part of stakeholder engagement. In addition, work as a seminar leader in Economics for the Masters in Public Policy program.

September 2017

Peking University China

Visiting Scholar

Visiting scholar at the Institute of New Structural Economics at PKU. Conducted field research on fintech and shadow banking regulation for a joint research project on China in Global Financial Regulatory Governance with the support of grants by DFID and the John Fell Fund of Oxford University Press.

January-March 2016

UCLA USA

Lecturer

Instructor of an undergraduate course in Global Governance and Conflict. This is a core course of the Global Studies Program with 200+ students. Responsibilities include syllabus development, student evaluation, and supervision of three teaching assistants.

August 2005 – July 2006

UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama

Public policy consultant

Concept development, text production, layout and design of information materials on key policy issues including Free Trade Agreements and migration and their relationship to children and adolescents, both in English and Spanish. Contributed to the development and design of various publications on the Millennium Development Goals.

BOOKS

Knaack, P. (2023). Global Financial Networked Governance: The Power and Limits of the Financial Stability Board. London: [Routledge](#).

Ndulu, B., E. Stuart, S. Dercon, and P. Knaack (2023). Driving Digital Transformation: Lessons from Seven Developing Countries. Oxford: [Oxford University Press](#).

POLICY PAPERS AND BOOK CHAPTERS (SELECTION)

Zhang, J. et al, (2025). Inclusive Green Finance for Small Companies: A Case Study of Pilot Cities in China's Zhejiang Province. Zurich: [CEP Policy Brief](#).

Manning, M. et al (2024). [Taking the lead on climate action and sustainable development. Recommendations for strategic national transition planning at the centre of a whole-of-system climate response](#). London: London School of Economics Grantham Institute.

Knaack, P. (2024). Global Financial Governance: A US Perspective on Europe. In S. Biba (ed), [Europe in an Era of US-China Strategic Rivalry](#). Cham: Springer.

Guo, S. and P. Knaack (2024). Financial Regulation and Supervision in China: Grappling with the Ups and Downs of the Property Market. Zurich: [CEP Policy Brief](#).

Knaack, P. and P. Zetterli (2023). Climate Risk and Financial Inclusion: A Regulatory Perspective. [CGAP Working Paper](#).

Volz, U. and P. Knaack (2023). Inclusive Green Finance: A New Agenda for Central Banks and Financial Supervisors. [INSPIRE Sustainable Central Banking Toolbox Policy Briefing 12](#). London: London School of Economics.

Knaack, P. (2023). The Old and the New Economics of Financial Inclusion. In: Cracknell et al., (eds), [Financial Inclusion and Market Development in EAC – Interoperability](#). Nairobi: African Economic Research Consortium.

Alraqueb Z., P. Knaack, and C. Macaire (2022). Does FinTech Promote Entrepreneurship? Evidence from China. [Banque de France Working Paper no. 895](#).

Knaack, P. and U. Volz (2022). Inclusive Green Finance. In D. Schoenmaker and U. Volz (eds.), [Scaling Up Sustainable Finance and Investment in the Global South](#). London: CEPR Press.

Knaack, P. (2022). Leveraging Digital Financial Services in Advancing Inclusive Green Finance. Kuala Lumpur: [Alliance for Financial Inclusion](#).

Knaack, P. (2022). Greening Financial Governance: Lessons from China. Zurich: [CEP Discussion Note](#).

Davis, R.M., F. Stewart, and P. Knaack (2021). Pension Funds and Financial Repression. Washington, DC: [World Bank EFI Insight](#).

Volz, U., P. Knaack, J. Nyman, L. Ramos & J. Moling (2020). Inclusive Green Finance: From Concept to Practice. [Alliance for Financial Inclusion](#) and SOAS, University of London.

Knaack, P., M. Miller & F. Stewart (2020): Reverse Mortgages, Financial Inclusion, and Economic Development : Potential Benefit and Risks. Washington, DC: [World Bank Policy Research Working Paper](#).

Knaack, P. (2020). Bolivia: Pulling in two directions - the developmental state and Basel standards. In Jones (ed), [The Political Economy of Bank Regulation in Developing Countries](#). Oxford University Press.

Beck, T., Jones, E., and Knaack, P. (2018). Basel standards and developing countries: A difficult relationship. Published in [Vox CEPR Policy Portal](#), OMFIF Bulletin, and International Banker.

PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC ARTICLES

Knaack, P. and Gruin, J. (2020). From shadow banking to digital financial inclusion: China's rise and the politics of epistemic contestation within the Financial Stability Board. [Review of International Political Economy](#).

Jones, E. and Knaack, P. (2019). Global financial regulation: shortcomings and reform options. [Global Policy](#).

Gruin, J. and Knaack, P. (2019). Not just another shadow bank: Chinese authoritarian capitalism and the 'developmental' promise of digital financial innovation. [New Political Economy](#).

Gruin, J., Knaack, P. and Xu, J. (2018). Tailoring for Development: China's Post-Crisis Influence in Global Financial Governance. [Global Policy](#).

Knaack, P. (2017). An Unlikely Champion of Global Finance: Why is China Exceeding International Banking Standards? [Journal of Current Chinese Affairs](#).

Knaack, P. (2015). Innovation and Deadlock in Global Financial Governance: Transatlantic Coordination Failure in OTC Derivatives Regulation. [Review of International Political Economy](#).

Knaack, P. and S. Katada (2013). Fault Lines and Issue Linkages at the G20: New Challenges for Global Economic Governance. [Global Policy](#).

Bouzas, R. and P. Knaack (2009). The Inter-American Development Bank and Half a Century of Regional Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Integration & Trade](#).

Languages:

German: mother tongue, fluent

English: fluent: ability to read, write and speak with ease and proficiency

Spanish: fluent: ability to read, write and speak with ease and proficiency

Portuguese: advanced skills at reading, writing and speaking

Chinese: intermediate ability to read, write and speak

French: intermediate ability to read, write and speak

REFERENCES

Fiona Stewart

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World Bank
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