Research Assistantship on Taxation, Inequality, and Development

Assistant Professor Anders Jensen seeks two research assistants.

**Background:**
The analysis of inequality, growth and taxation has attracted considerable attention in recent years. An emerging literature studies how the state’s capacity to tax varies across the development spectrum, and its implications for tax policy. In parallel, there has been a surge in the study of income and wealth inequality, both across and within countries at different levels of per capita income. Yet we still face important limitations in our ability to measure the evolution of tax systems over the long run and in our ability to link changes in tax systems to changes in inequality over development. In this project, we overcome these limitations by creating novel empirical evidence that combines micro and macro data, and which allow us to study the linkages between tax capacity, tax structure, and inequality over the long run of development.

**Scope of work:**
We are seeking two research assistants that will work together with graduate students from Harvard and the team of researchers. The project is a joint collaboration between Harvard University (more info [here](#)), UC Berkeley (more info [here](#)), and the Research Department at the World Bank (more info [here](#)). The work will include contributing to the data-collection process, and participating in the design of empirical analysis.

**Requirements:**
- Third/fourth year undergraduate or recently graduated individuals from the College with coursework in economics as a prerequisite and ideally also in applied statistics; an interest/familiarity with the literature in public finance and/or development would be a plus.
- Strong attention to detail
- Ability to organize data in excel; prior experience in using Stata a plus
- Fluency in French or Spanish would be a plus

The position will begin as soon as **December 1st, 2017**, and will continue until **April 1st, 2018**. The expected workload is **12 hours/week on average** – the schedule can be made flexible to accommodate for student class commitments. The pay is competitive. Review of applications will take place on a rolling basis.

*Please submit your CV and a short cover letter to my Faculty and Program Assistant Anthony Elias at Anthony_elias@hks.harvard.edu*