



## Curriculum Vitae

# Ed Laws

Senior Research Officer, Politics and Governance Programme  
Overseas Development Institute  
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### Personal profile

Ed Laws joined the Politics and Governance programme at ODI in February 2018. He previously worked as a researcher for the Developmental Leadership Program (DLP) and the University of Birmingham. He is a DLP associate and a Fellow with the Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice. He specialises in political economy and political settlements analysis, and has a particular interest in politically smart approaches to aid delivery, flexible and adaptive programming, and the politics of service delivery.

### QUALIFICATIONS

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| <b>2005-2010</b> | Politics PhD, University of York                          |
| <b>2004-2005</b> | Political Philosophy MA (Distinction), University of York |
| <b>2001-2004</b> | Philosophy BA (First Class), University of Durham         |

### CAREER

#### Current post:

<b>Feb 2018 – present</b>	<b>Senior Research Officer, Overseas Development Institute</b> I conduct research and policy engagement activities across the programme, including political economy analysis, desk-based and field research, literature reviews and policy briefings, with a particular focus on politically smart approaches to aid delivery, flexible and adaptive programming, and the politics of service delivery.
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<b>June 2017- present</b>	<b>Research Fellow, Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice, University of Birmingham</b> I conduct research activities including the production of synthesis studies, original case study analysis, and learning resources. I provide research support to working groups within the community, and liaise with the steering committee and related communities of practice.
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## Previous posts include:

- Apr 2016–Feb 2018**      **Research Fellow, University of Birmingham**  
I provided research support on issues of governance, social development, humanitarian response and conflict to organisations including the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the Australian Government and the European Commission.
- Aug 2012–June 2016**      **Freelance research consultant**  
*Balloon Ventures*: Consultant on a project investigating sustainability in the informal sector in Kenya.  
*Overseas Development Institute (ODI)*: Consultancy support on a range of projects with the Politics and Governance Programme including:
- Flexible and adaptive programming. I produced a series of analytical case studies of DFID programmes for an internal review, looking at whether those programmes followed practices of flexible and adaptive management.
  - Political settlements and the rule of law. I advised on the inception phase of a new research agenda, which included designing an agenda and leading a stakeholder event.
  - Political Settlements and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Project. Consultant on a cross-programme project applying political settlements analysis to understand pathways to more effective health coverage in developing countries.
- The University of York*: Qualitative research into the social and political impact of the Politics Department.
- Mar 2010–Feb 2013**      **Researcher/Research Associate, The Developmental Leadership Program**  
Research position with an AusAID-funded international development project. I conducted independent and collaborative research leading to publication, provided briefs and summarised reports for the Director and presented research findings to relevant stakeholders.
- Jan 2010–Mar 2011**      **Teaching Assistant, University of York**  
Post-graduate and post-doctoral teaching positions in the Department of Politics. Responsibilities included tutoring, formal assessment, designing undergraduate modules and writing and updating on-line and printed course information.

## Publications

Laws, E. (2018). 'Thinking and working politically in Somalia: A case study on the Somalia Stability Fund'. University of Birmingham: Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice.

Laws, E. and Marquette, H. (2018) 'Thinking and working politically: Reviewing the evidence on the integration of politics into development practice over the past decade'. University of Birmingham: Thinking and Working Politically Community of Practice.

Laws, E., Brigden, S. and Ahluwalia, K. (2018). 'Thinking Politically about Gender: What the Literature Says'. University of Birmingham: DLP.

Laws, E., Thorpe, J. and Ayele, S. (2017). 'The social and political economy of business influence in DFID countries and how this affects development outcomes'. K4D Learning Journey Report. University of Sussex: Institute for Development Studies.

Kelsall, T. Hart, T. and Laws, E. (2016) 'Political Settlements and Pathways to Universal Health Coverage'. ODI Working Paper. London: ODI.

Leftwich, A. and Laws, E. (2014) 'Political Settlements'. DLP Concept Brief 01. Birmingham: DLP.

Laws, E. (2013). 'Governance, Politics and Development in the Pacific'. DLP Background Paper 14. Birmingham: DLP.

Laws, E. (2012) 'Political Settlements, Elite Pacts and Governments of National Unity: A Conceptual Study'. DLP Background Paper 10. Birmingham: DLP.

Leftwich, A. and Laws, E. (2012a) 'Riker in the Tropics: *The Theory of Political Coalitions* (1962) and the politics of change in developing countries'. DLP Concept Paper 02. Birmingham: DLP.

Leftwich, A. and Laws, E. (2012b) 'Bringing History Back In: Three Big Books, Summaries and some Questions'. DLP Background Paper 09. Birmingham: DLP.

Laws, E. (2010a) 'The 'Revolutionary Settlement' in 17<sup>th</sup> Century England: Deploying a Political Settlements Analysis'. DLP Background Paper 08. Birmingham: DLP.

Laws, E. (2010b) 'Book Review: Robert F. Clark, *Giving Credit Where Due: A Path to Global Poverty Reduction*'. Basic Income Studies, Volume 5, Issue 2, Dec.