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EVERYDAY CHOICES

*The Role of Competing Authorities
and Social Institutions in Politics and
Development*

Ellen M. Lust

University of Gothenburg



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One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
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Everyday Choices

The Role of Competing Authorities and Social Institutions in Politics and Development

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Ellen M. Lust
University of Gothenburg

Author for correspondence: Ellen M. Lust, ellen.lust@gu.se

Abstract: Scholars and practitioners seek development solutions through the engineering and strengthening of state institutions. Yet, the state is not the only or often even the primary arena shaping how citizens, service providers, and state officials engage in actions that constitute politics and development. These individuals are members of religious orders, ethnic communities, and other groups that make claims on them, creating incentives that shape their actions. Recognizing how individuals experience these claims and view the choices before them is essential to understanding political processes and development outcomes. Taking an institutional approach, this Element explains how the salience of arenas of authority associated with various communities and the nature of social institutions within them affect politics and development. It establishes a framework of politics and development that allows for knowledge accumulation, guides future research, and can facilitate effective programming. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/ellenmlust

Keywords: development, social institutions, political behaviour, authority, service provision

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A further Online Appendix can be accessed at
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