

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
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EDUCATION

- 2027 (Exp) Ph.D. in Economics, [University of Oklahoma](#)
• Awards: Dodge Family Research Fellowship (2024), Summer Research Awards (2025)
- 2024 M.A. in Economics, [University of Oklahoma](#)
- 2018 M.S. in Mathematics, Economics and Statistics, [African School of Economics](#)
• Awards: World Bank ACE Scholarship (2016)

EMPLOYMENT

- 2022 (Fall)– Research Assistant for [Dr. Joan Hamory, University of Oklahoma](#)
• Supported pre-analysis plan development and survey instrument design for primary data collection; prepared large-scale datasets for analysis.
• Performed data cleaning and econometric analysis in **Stata**; drafted sections of technical reports and documented methods.
• Contributed to a J-PAL research grant proposal.
- 2022 Research Assistant & Field Coordinator, [World Bank – DIME2](#)
• Coordinated field implementation of a randomized controlled trial (RCT), including sample tracking and documentation of field protocols.
- 2022 Field Coordinator (Short-Term Consultant), [The Kana Group](#)
• Built and automated high-frequency checks (HFCs) in stata to validate survey logic, monitor missingness/outliers, and deliver rapid feedback loops to the field team.
- 2021 Research Coordinator, [Institute for Economic Research in Political Economy](#)
• Coordinated the *Youth Employment* project funded by IDRC Canada.
• Developed electronic survey instruments (ODK), managed data collection pipelines, cleaned/analyzed data, and led report writing.
- 2020 Field Coordinator Consultant, [Center for Evaluation and Development \(C4ED\)](#)
• Managed logistics for a randomized controlled trial (RCT), ensuring balanced treatment assignment across clusters.
- 2018 Research Assistant, [Institute for Economic Research in Political Economy](#)
• Cleaned raw survey data and produced descriptive statistics for inclusion in project reports.

SKILLS

Coding Expertise: Stata (Advanced), R (intermediate), Git, $\LaTeX$
Coding Experience: SQL, Python, MATLAB, Shell/Bash.
Languages: English (Fluent), French (Native)

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

2020 **Summer School, Essex University** – Geo-spatial analysis using QGIS and R.
2020 **USAID DHS Program** – Survey sampling techniques.
2018 **Data Science School** – Data Engineering with NoSQL, Spark, and Deep Learning (TensorFlow).

DEPARTMENTAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2024- Graduate Student Senate – Development & Philanthropy Committee,
University of Oklahoma

WORKING PAPERS

“Does Internet Expansion Improve Employment and Health Outcomes? Evidence from Broadband Rollout in Kenya”. (Sole Author)

Abstract: This paper investigates how the expansion of broadband internet infrastructure influences reproductive health outcomes in Kenya. Using the surge expansion of fiber-optic backbone nodes in 2019 and repeated cross-sectional data from the Kenya Demographic and Health Surveys (2009–2022), I adopt a difference-in-differences approach to estimate the causal impact of improved internet connectivity on women’s labor market participation and reproductive health behavior. I find that access to fast internet significantly increases employment among women, particularly in non-agricultural sectors. This employment effect is associated with a reduction in the total number of children ever born and shifts in the timing of reproductive events, including delayed age at first intercourse. I also find evidence of increased use of certain contraceptive methods, suggesting greater exposure to family planning information as a complementary mechanism. These findings suggest that internet infrastructure can reshape fertility behavior through both economic empowerment and behavioral change.

“Beyond Effort: Inequality of Opportunity in Adolescent Development” (with Berk Olzer, Sarah Baird, Joan Hamory, and Nicola Jones). *Under review.*

Abstract: This paper analyzes inequality of opportunity in adolescent outcomes in Ethiopia, focusing on how circumstances beyond individual control shape early life trajectories. Using the inequality of opportunity framework developed by Roemer (1998), we quantify the share of inequality attributable to the birth lottery. We draw on longitudinal data from the Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) study and examine outcomes observed in early-to-mid adolescence, including schooling, NEET status, and cognitive achievement measured by Raven’s Progressive Matrices. We extend the literature by incorporating disability and its intersection with gender alongside traditional family background variables such as parental education and region of birth. Using parametric and non-parametric decomposition methods, we find that while disability and gender are negatively associated with outcomes, parental education and birth region account for the majority of inequality of opportunity. Parental secondary education is highly protective across multiple dimensions.

“Gender Norms Transformation to Improve Capabilities of Young Adolescents in Ethiopia: A Cluster Randomized Control Trial” (with Sarah Baird, Joan Hamory, and Nicola Jones)

Abstract: Adolescence is a window for interventions to improve current and longer-term well-being, yet it is also a time when girls face an array of restrictive gender norms, reinforced by peers, families, communities and institutions. Without norms change at each of these levels, it may be difficult to improve girls’ outcomes in a sustainable way. This study analyzes data from a cluster randomized controlled trial in Ethiopia to evaluate near-term impacts of multi-level adolescent-centric inter-

ventions aimed at gender norms transformation—layered to include girls, boys, their families and communities—on the empowerment of approximately 2,300 young adolescent girls (10-14). We find that gender-focused programming can improve a broad range of girls’ capabilities after one year, though we don’t detect sustained improvements after an additional 1-2 years of follow-up. In locations where there is strong community-level support and where interventions are implemented well, there are improvements in girls’ capabilities as a result of the most comprehensive programming, and these improvements are more wide-ranging, more sustainable (at least up to 2.5 years). Impacts are weaker (and sometimes even negative) where support and implementation are less consistent, suggesting the need for tailored and well-monitored implementation approaches in different contexts.

POLICY PAPER

“Economic Opportunities and Reducing Youth Violence in Benin” (with Ian Heffernan, Yannick Ngongang, Yabo Gwladys Vidogbena, Leonard Wantchekon, and Songbian Zimé), *Third Semester Report*, Projet N° 109006, IREEP, July 2020.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Growing Up in Conflict: Conflict and Youth Human Capital trajectory” (with Joan Hamory)
Abstract: Armed conflict can disrupt schooling, work, health, and psychosocial well-being, yet credible evidence on youth impacts remains limited in many settings. This study links Ethiopian household–youth panel data from 2017–2023 with geocoded conflict event data to examine how changes in local conflict exposure affect youth outcomes. Conflict is measured at the local level using events, fatal events, and fatalities, with specifications that capture both the onset of conflict after 2018 and year-to-year variation in intensity. Simple averages suggest substantial differences between conflict-exposed and non-exposed locations, motivating a research design based on location and year fixed effects and dynamic models that track outcomes around conflict timing. The paper evaluates impacts on education, labor participation, food insecurity, health, resilience, social support, and aspirations, aiming to inform youth-focused policies in conflict-affected areas.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024(Sum)	Elements of Statistics, University of Oklahoma
2024 (Fall)	Principles of Economics-Micro, University of Oklahoma