REBECCA L. THORNTON

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University of Notre Dame
3082 Jenkins Nanovic Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Current Academic Positions

2025- University of Notre Dame, Department of Economics, Professor
2026- University of Notre Dame, Keough School of Global Affairs Faculty Affiliate
2025- University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame Population Analytics Faculty Affiliate
2022- Claremont Graduate University, Adjunct Faculty

Professional Affiliations

Affiliated Professor Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab
Affiliate Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development

Prior Academic Positions

2022-2025 Baylor University Department of Economics, Herman Brown Chair and Professor
2015-2022 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Dept. of Economics, Associate Professor
2020-2021 Center for Advanced Study, University of Illinois, Faculty Associate
2008-2015 University of Michigan Department of Economics, Assistant Professor
2008-2015 University of Michigan Population Studies Center, Research Affiliate
2006-2008 University of Michigan Population Studies Center, NIA Post-doctoral Fellow

Education

2006 Ph.D., M.A., Political Economy and Government, Harvard University
1998 B.S., Applied Mathematics & German, University of Michigan

Publications

* indicates student co-author at time of first draft.

Ramirez, Irina*, Rebecca Thornton, and Julie Buhl-Wiggers. "Girls Outperforming Boys: Pre-school Gender Gap in Literacy and Numeracy Skills in Sub-Saharan Africa." Accepted at *International Journal of Educational Development.*

Ciancioa, Alberto, Fabrice Kampfen, Hans-Peter Kohler, and Rebecca Thornton. 2025. "Surviving Bad News: Health Information Without Treatment Options." *American Economic Review Insights*, 7(1):1-18.

Buhl-Wiggers, Julie, Jason Kerwin, Juan Sebastián Muñoz*, Jeffrey Smith, and Rebecca Thornton. 2024. "Some Children Left Behind: Variation in the Effects of an Educational Intervention." *Journal of Econometrics,* 243(1-2).

Ghosh, Priyasmita*, and Rebecca Thornton. 2024. "The Mother-in-Law Effect: Heterogeneous Impacts of Counseling on Family Planning Take-up in Jordan." *Review of Economics of the Household.*

Gualavisi, Melani*, Marieke Kleemans, and Rebecca Thornton. 2024. "Moving in Academia: Who Moves and What Happens After?" *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 114: 232-237.

Kamei, Akito, Ryoko Sato and Rebecca Thornton. 2023. "Factors associated with knowledge and use of home pregnancy test kits in Uganda." *PLOS Global Health*, 3(7): e0002165.

Kleemans, Marieke and Rebecca Thornton. 2023. "Fully Promoted: The Distribution and Determinants of Full Professorship in the Economics Profession." *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 111:117-112.

Cawley, John, Michael Daly*, and Rebecca Thornton. 2022. "Effect of Soda Taxes on Youth Consumption: Evidence from a Developing Country." *Health Economics*, 31(6): 1033-1045.

Halim, Daniel*, Elizabeth Powers, and Rebecca Thornton. 2022. "Gender Differences in Economics Course-Taking and Majoring: Findings from an RCT." *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 112: 597-602.

Isabel Musse*, Rebecca Thornton, and Dirgha Ghimire. 2022. "How do Women Learn they Are Pregnant? The Introduction of Clinics and Pregnancy Uncertainty in Nepal." *Studies in Family Planning,* 53 (1): 43-59.

Kleemans, Marieke, and Rebecca Thornton. "Who Belongs? The Determinants of Selective Membership into the National Bureau of Economic Research." 2021. *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings.* 111: 117-122.

Delavallade, Clara, Alan Griffith*, and Rebecca Thornton. "The Effects of a Multi-Faceted Education Program on Enrollment, Equity, Learning and School Management: Evidence from India." 2021. *World Bank Economic Review*. 35(4): 950–968.

Kerwin, Jason* and Rebecca Thornton. 2021. "Making the Grade: The Sensitivity of Education Program Effectiveness to Input Choices and Outcome Measures." *The Review of Economics and Statistics.* 103 (2): 251–264.

Akito Kamei*, Ryoko Sato, and Rebecca Thornton. 2021. "Effect of Pregnancy Tests on Demand for Family Planning: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Uganda." *Reproductive Health*, 18 (1): 231.

Buhl-Wiggers, Julie, Sam Jones, and Rebecca Thornton. "Boys lagging behind: Unpacking Gender Differences in Academic Achievement across East Africa." 2021. *International Journal of Educational Development.* Volume 83, 102382.

Fitzpatrick, Anne* and Rebecca Thornton. 2019. "The Spillover Effects of Health Insurance within Families: Experimental Evidence from Nicaragua." *World Bank Economic Review.* 33 (3): 736–749.

Kohler, Hans Peter, and Rebecca Thornton. Making Marriages Last: Trust is Good, Credible Information is Better. 2018. In Siwan Anderson, Lori Beaman and Jean-Philippe Platteau (Ed.), *Towards Gender Equity in Development*. Oxford University Press; UNU-WIDER.

Godlonton, Susan*, Alister Munthali, and Rebecca Thornton. 2016. "Responding to Risk: Circumcision, Information, and HIV Prevention." *Review of Economics and Statistics,* May; 98(2): 333-349.

Shacham, Enbal, Rebecca Thornton, Susan Godlonton*, Ryan Murphy, and Jake Gilliland. 2016. "Geospatial Analysis of Condom Availability and Accessibility in Urban Malawi." *International Journal of STD & AIDS,* Jan; 27(1): 44-50.

Batzilis, Dimitrios, Taryn Dinkelman, Emily Oster, Rebecca Thornton, and Deric Zanera. 2016. "New Cellular Networks in Malawi: Correlates of Service Rollout and Effects on Employment." in NBER Volume on African Economic Successes, (eds.) S. Edwards, S. Johnson, and D. Weil. University of Chicago Press.

Godlonton Susan*, and Rebecca Thornton. 2016. "Medical Male Circumcision: How Does Price Affect the Risk-Profile of Take-Up?" *Preventive Medicine,* 92:68-73.

El-Khoury, Marianne Rebecca Thornton, Minki Chatterji, Sarah Kamhawi, Phoebe Sloane, Mays Halassa. 2016. "Counseling Women and Couples on Family Planning: A Randomized Study." *Studies in Family Planning,* 47(3): 222-238.

Friedman, Willa, Michael Kremer, Edward Miguel, and Rebecca Thornton. 2015. "Education as Liberation?" *Economica,* 83(329): 1-30.

El-Khoury, Marianne Rebecca Thornton, Minki Chatterji, Maha Shadid, and Soonie Choi. 2015. "Effectiveness of Evidence-Based Medicine on Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Family Planning Providers: a Randomized Experiment in Jordan." *BMC Health Services Research,* 15:449.

Maughan-Brown, Brendan, Susan Godlonton*, Rebecca Thornton, and Atheendar S. Venkataramani. 2015. "What Do People Actually Take Away from Public Health Education Campaigns? Incorrect Inferences about Male Circumcision and Female HIV Infection Risk in a Cluster Randomized Trial in Malawi." *AIDS and Behavior,* Jul; 19(7): 1170-1177.

Chinkhumba, Jobiba, Godlonton, Susan*, and Rebecca Thornton. 2014. "Demand for Medical Male Circumcision." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics,* 6(2): 152-77.

Kohler, Hans-Peter, Susan C. Watkins, Jere R. Behrman, Philip Anglewicz, Iliana V. Kohler, Rebecca L. Thornton, James Mkandawire, Hastings Honde, Augustine Hawara, Ben Chilima, Chiwoza Bandawe, and Victor Mwapasa. 2014. "Cohort Profile: The Malawi Longitudinal Study of Families and Health (MLSFH)." *International Journal of Epidemiology,* 44(2):394-404.

Shacham, Enbal, Susan Godlonton*, and Rebecca Thornton. 2014. "Perceptions of Male Circumcision among Married Couples in Rural Malawi." *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care,* Sept-Oct; 13(5): 443-449.

Godlonton, Susan*, and Rebecca Thornton. 2013. "Learning from Others' HIV Testing: Updating Beliefs and Responding to Risk." *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings,* 103(3): 439-444.

Kerwin, Jason*, Rebecca Thornton, and Sallie M. Foley. 2013. "Prevalence of and Factors Associated with Oral Sex among Rural and Urban Malawian Men." *International Journal of Sexual Behavior,* 26(1): 66-77.

Oster, Emily and Rebecca Thornton. 2012. "Determinants of Technology Adoption: Peer Effects in Menstrual Cup Take-Up." *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 10(6): 1263-1293.

Thornton, Rebecca. 2012. "HIV Testing, Subjective Beliefs and Economic Behavior." *Journal of Development Economics,* 99(2): 300–313.

Kohler, Hans-Peter and Rebecca Thornton. 2012. "Conditional Cash Transfers and HIV/AIDS Prevention: Unconditionally Promising?" *World Bank Economic Review,* 26: 165-190.

Godlonton, Susan* and Rebecca Thornton. 2012. "Peer Effects in Learning HIV Results." *Journal of Development Economics,* 97(1): 118-129.

Burns, Justine, Malcolm Keswell, and Rebecca Thornton. 2012. "Evaluating the Impact of Health Programmes on Productivity." *African Development Review,* 24(4): 302-315.

Oster, Emily and Rebecca Thornton. 2011. "Menstruation, Sanitary Products and School Attendance: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics,* 3(1): 91-100.

Kerwin, Jason T*., Sallie M. Foley, Rebecca L. Thornton, Paulin Basinga, and Jobiba Chinkhumba. 2011. "Missing Safer Sex Strategies in HIV Prevention: A Call for Further Research." *African Population Studies Journal,* 25(2):267-285.

Thornton, Rebecca, Laurel Hatt, Erica Field, Mursaleena Islam, Freddy Solís, and Martha Azuzena González Moncada. 2010. "Social Security Health Insurance for the Informal Sector in Nicaragua: A Randomized Evaluation." *Health Economics,* 19(S1): 181–206.

Kremer, Michael, Edward Miguel, and Rebecca Thornton. 2009. "Incentives to Learn." *Review of Economics and Statistics,* 91 (3):437-456.

Obare, Francis, Peter Fleming, Philip Anglewicz, Rebecca Thornton, Francis Martinson, Agatha Kapatuka, Michelle Poulin, Susan Watkins, Hans-Peter Kohler. 2009. "Acceptance of Repeat Population-Based Voluntary Counseling and Testing for HIV in Rural Malawi." *Sexually Transmitted Infections,* 85: 139-144.

Angotti N, Bula A, Gaydosh L, Kimchi E, Thornton R, and Yeatman S. 2009. "Increasing the Acceptability of HIV Counseling and Testing with Three C's: Convenience, Confidentiality and Credibility." *Social Science & Medicine,* 68(12): 2263-2270.

Thornton, Rebecca. 2008. "The Demand for, and Impact of, Learning HIV Status." *American Economic Review,* 98(5): 1829–1863.

Jensen, Robert and Rebecca Thornton. 2003. "The Consequences of Early Marriage in the Developing World." *Oxfam Journal of Gender and Development,* 11(2): 9-19.

Working Papers

"The Effects of Increasing Community Participation on School Management Outcomes: Evidence from India", with Natalia Cantet*, Clara Delavallade, Alan Griffith, and Zhe Liu. Revisions requested from to *Development Effectiveness*.

"Early Childhood Marriage, an Update", with Robert Jensen, Noelia Romero*, and Abigail Stocker*.

"The Impact of Bible Translation Exposure on Education", with Guadalupe Gorostiaga, Vinicius Okada Da Silva*, Noelia Romero*, and Abigail Stocker*.

"Teacher Effectiveness in Africa: Longitudinal and Causal Estimates", with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jason Kerwin, and Jeffrey Smith.

"Reading for Life: Lasting Impacts of a Literacy Intervention in Uganda," with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jason Kerwin, Ricardo Montero de la Piedra*, and Jeffrey Smith.

"A Meta-Analysis of Heterogeneity in Education Program Impacts," with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Hanna Han*, Jason Kerwin, Juan S. Muñoz, and Jeffrey Smith.

"The Gender Gap in Wages at Childbirth: Evidence across 15 Countries", with Wilfried Adohinzin*, Allen Hardiman*, Marieke Kleemans, and Theodoros Velentzas*.

"Network Partitioning and Social Exclusion under Different Selection Regimes" with Clara Delavallade, and Alan Griffith*.

"Program Scale-up and Sustainability", with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jason Kerwin, and Jeff Smith.

"Boosting Enrollment in Health Insurance through Subsidies and Enrollment Assistance: What Works, and Who is Selected", with Erica Field and Anne Fitzpatrick.

"Determinants and Effects of Divorce in Cook County", with Morgan Stockham* and Greg DeAngelo

"Contemplating Circumcision: The Influence of Social Networks on Decision-Making", with Rachael Pierotti*.

"Are Rural Road Investments Alone Sufficient to Generate Transport Flows?", with Gaël Raballand, Dean Yang, Jessica Goldberg*, Niall Keleher, and Annika Mueller*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series, Number 5535, 2011.

Work in Progress

The Politics of Cause of Death: Coroner Elections and Death Statistics, with Zhijin Huang* and Cameron Milani*.

Policies to Support Youth in Allegheny County, with Felipe Diaz.

Attorney Value-added, with Felipe Diaz.

The Affordable Care Act, Breastfeeding, and Women's Labor Force Participation, with Mark Borgschulte and Alok Ranjan*.

Migration and Family Planning Response in Nepal, with Dirgha Ghimire and Akito Kamei.

Pregnancy Tests and Family Planning Take-up, with Maureen Babine, Akito Kamei, and Ryoko Sato.

Understanding School-Based Violence Networks in Ghana, with Sarah Kabay

Teacher and Parent Engagement – a Negative Cycle? with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Natalia Cantet*, Jason Kerwin, and Abigail Stocker.

Slates, with Julie Buhl-Wiggers and Jason Kerwin.

Mother-Tongue Interventions and English Reading, with Julie Buhl-Wiggers and Jason Kerwin.

Transitions to Parenthood: Changes in Spending, Behavior, and Expectations, with Anna Kyriazis*.

Transportation Costs and Prices in Rural Malawi, with Protensia Hadunka* and Katherine Baylis.

Reports and Reviews

Scaling up Male Circumcision Service Provision: Results from a Randomized Evaluation in Malawi, with Susan Godlonton*, Jobiba Chinkhumba, and Rachael Pierotti*. 3ie Impact Evaluation Report 13. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), 2014.

Risks across Borders: A Study of the Potential of Micro-insurance Products to Help Migrants Cope with Cross Border Risks, with Barbara Magnoni, Annette Lovoi, and Julia Brown. Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank Group, 2010.

Micro-insurance Utilization in Nicaragua: A Report on Retention, Effects on Children, and Health Claims, with Anne Fitzpatrick* and Barbara Magnoni. Report to the ILO, 2010.

Price Sensitivity and Impacts of Formal Transportation in Rural Africa: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment in Malawi, with Jessica Goldberg*, Niall Keleher, Annika Muller*, and Dean Yang. Report to the World Bank, 2010.

Book Review: Global Lessons from the AIDS Pandemic: Economic, Financial, Legal and Political Implications. Bradly J. Condon and Tapen Sinha. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 47(4): 1126–1160, 2009.

Extending Social Insurance to Informal Sector Workers in Nicaragua via Microfinance Institutions: Results from a Randomized Evaluation, with Laurel Hatt, Barbara Magnoni, and Mursaleena Islam. USAID/PSP-one Report, 2009.

Extending Health Insurance to Informal Sector Workers in Nicaragua, with Laurel Hatt, Barbara Magnoni, and Mursaleena Islam. USAID/PSP-one Policy Brief, 2009.

Hand Out or Hand Up: Microfinance, Remittances and Entrepreneurship in Nicaragua, with Barbara Magnoni and Benjamin, Matranga. EA Consultants Technical Brief 0011107, 2007.

Incentives to Learn: Merit Scholarships that Pay Kids to Do Well, with Edward Miguel and Michael Kremer. Education Next. Spring, 2005.

External Grants

2024 Learning for All Initiative. "The Long-Run Benefits of Improved Literacy in Uganda" - $399,998 (Co-PI, with Jason Kerwin, Ricardo Montero De La Piedra, Jeffrey Smith, and Julie Buhl-Wiggers).

2023 Learning for All Initiative. "Teacher Trainees as Tutors: Improving Foundational Skills in Morocco" - $398,091 (Co-PI, with Marc Gurgand, Sara Deschenes, Hosam Ibrahim, and Andy de Barros).

2020 NBER. "Women, Victiminzation, and Covid" - $20,000 (Co-PI, with Anuar Assamidanov, Scott Cunningham, Greg DeAngelo, and Yunie Le).

2020-2022 ESRC/DFID RLO Follow-on Fund. "Solid Foundations and the Transition to Post-Primary School" - £100,000 (Co-PI, with Victoria Brown).

2019-2021 J-Pal Post Primary Initiative. "Understanding School-Based Violence Networks in Ghana" - $49,892 (PI, with Sarah Kabay).

2019-2022 Russell Sage Foundation. "Labor Market Effects of ACA Breastfeeding Provisions" - $115,200 (PI, with Mark Borgschulte).

2019-2021 J-Pal Post Primary Initiative. "Solid Foundations and the Transition to Post-Primary School" - $148,647 (Co-PI, with Victoria Brown and Jason Kerwin).

2017 J-PAL Africa Incubation Fund. "Pregnancy Tests in South Africa" - 188,606 Rand (Co-PI, with Deborah Constant).

2016-2019 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Grand Challenges. "Access to Pregnancy Tests in Uganda" - $100,000 (Co-PI, with Alison Comfort).

2015-2020 Economic and Social Research Council. "The Literacy Laboratory Project" - £989,202 (PI, with Mango Tree Educational Enterprises).

2014 International Growth Centre (London School of Economics). "The Literacy Laboratory Project" - £50,000 (PI, with Mango Tree Educational Enterprises).

2014 Economic & Social Research Council. "Labor Outmigration, Agricultural Productivity and Food Security" - $882,017 (Co-PI, with Dirgha Ghimire, William Axinn, and Prem Bhandari).

2012 Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Africa Youth Initiative Pilot Funding. "Cash Grants and Young Men in South Africa" - $10,000 (Co-PI, with Susan Godlonton, David Lam, and Brendan Maughan-Brown).

2010 International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie). "Scaling up Male Circumcision Service Provision" - $320,000 (PI, with Jobiba Chinkhumba, Brendan Hayes, and Susan Godlonton).

2009 The World Bank. "Rural Transport in Malawi" - $50,000 (Co-PI, with Gaël Raballand and Dean Yang).

2009 International Labour Organization. "Micro-insurance Utilization in Nicaragua: The Demand for and Effects of Insurance Enrollment among Informal Sector Workers" - $40,000 (PI, with Anne Fitzpatrick and Barbara Magnoni).

2008 National Bureau of Economic Research Africa Initiative. "Leapfrogging the Neighbors: The Penetration and Socioeconomic Effects of Information Communications Technologies in Landlocked Malawi" - $75,000 (Co-PI, with Taryn Dinkelman, Emily Oster, and Deric Zanera).

2007 Global Development Network. "Randomized Evaluation of a Program Extending Social Security Health Insurance to the Informal Sector via MFIs in Nicaragua" - $250,000 (Co-PI, with Barbara Magnoni, Erica Field, and Martha González).

2006 Center for Health and Social Sciences Grant, University of Chicago. "Menstruation and Education in Nepal" - $12,500 (Co-PI, with Emily Oster).

Internal Grants (University of Illinois)

2021 Research Initiative for Fieldwork in Developing Countries. "The Determinants and Effects of Selective Membership in the Economics Profession" (Co-PI, with Marieke Kleemans).

2021 Research Initiative for Fieldwork in Developing Countries. "Long-Term Impact of Solid Foundations in Learning."

2017 Research Initiative for Fieldwork in Developing Countries. "Men's Beliefs and Partner Pregnancy Status."

Internal Grants (University of Michigan)

2014 Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies Spring/Summer Research Grant

Elizabeth Caroline Crosby Faculty Grant

MITRE Undergraduate Research Experience. "Gender Inequities in School Performance and School Completion"

2013 MITRE Faculty Research and Professional Development Program. "Resolution of Uncertainty through Testing: Pregnancy Tests and Adolescent Reproductive Health" (Co-PI, with Susan Godlonton)

2012 The Office of the Vice President for Research Faculty Grants and Awards Program. "Family Dynamics and Family Planning in Jordan"

Population Studies Center Ronald and Deborah Freedman Fund. "Impact of Cash Grants among South African Youth"

International Policy Center Small Research Grant. "Family Dynamics and Family Planning in Jordan"

International Policy Center Small Research Grant. "Job Search among Youth in South Africa"

Institute for Research on Women and Gender Faculty Research Grant. "South African Women in the Workforce"

2011 Center for Global Health. "Research on Health in Developing Countries"

2010 African Social Research Initiative Seed Grant. "Sugar Daddies and Empowered Women"

Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies Spring/Summer Research Grant. "Scaling up Male Circumcision Service Provision"

Riecker Undergraduate Research Fund, Center for the Education of Women. "A Gender Perspective on Attitudes towards Male Circumcision in Rural Malawi"

Population Studies Center Small Grant. "Unconventional Safer Sex Strategies"

2009 Institute for Research on Women and Gender Faculty Research Grant. "Circumcision, Information, and HIV Prevention"

The Office of the Vice President for Research Small Scale Grant. "Circumcision, Information, and HIV Prevention"

Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies Faculty Research Grant. "Circumcision, Information, and HIV Prevention"

2007 Population Studies Center Small Grant Ford Funds. "Isolation, AIDS, and the Elderly: Data Collection and a Field Intervention in Malawi" (Co-PI, with Dean Yang)

Population Studies Center Small Grant Mueller and Freedman Funds. "Menstruation and Education in Nepal" (Co-PI, with Emily Oster)

Center for Demography of Aging Pilot Grant. "Subjective Life-Expectancy, Beliefs about HIV Transmission and Long-term Planning"

Internal Grants (Harvard University)

2005 Women in Public Policy Grant. "Menstruation and Education in Nepal" (Co-PI, with Emily Oster)

Warburg Foundation Economics of Culture Research Grant. "Menstruation and Education in Nepal" (Co-PI, with Emily Oster)

Center for International Development Research Grant. "Menstruation and Education in Nepal" (Co-PI, with Emily Oster)

Warburg Foundation Economics of Poverty Research Grant. "HIV Testing in Malawi"

2004 Center for International Development Research Grant. "HIV Testing in Malawi"

2003 Mortimer Spiegelman Fellow in Demography and Population Studies

Awards and Recognition

2021 University of Illinois, Department of Economics. EGSO Excellence in Teaching.

2018 Excellence in Refereeing Award, World Bank Economic Review

2014 University of Michigan, Department of Economics. Golden Widget Award for Best Faculty Advisor

2013 Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research. Distinguished Mentoring Award

2011 United States Agency for International Development. Award for Evaluation of Excellence Micro-insurance Utilization in Nicaragua

2011 Center for Global Health Mini Sabbatical, University of Michigan

2010 Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan. Instructional Development Fund (x2)

2009 University of Michigan, Department of Economics. Golden Widget Award for Best Faculty Advisor

2005 National Bureau of Economic Research. National Institutes of Health Fellowship in Aging

Research Presentations

2025 American Economic Association; Association for Education Finance Policy Education Development Group; Scottish Economic Society; Global Health Economics Seminar; University of Mississippi, University of Notre Dame Development Lunch

2024 Notre Dame University, University of California Riverside, Department of Economics; Gender Gaps in Education, World Bank

2023 Baylor University, Institute for Faith and Learning Symposium on Faith and Culture; Michigan State University, Department of Economics; University of Maryland, Population Research Center; Baylor University, Department of Sociology; Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies

2022 Texas A&M; Baylor University, Hankamer School of Business; Claremont Graduate University; University of Washington; University of Alabama; University of Missouri; University of Arkansas; University of Houston; American Economic Association

2021 Southern Economic Association (x3); University of Illinois, Masters of Science: Policy Economics

2020 University of Illinois, Department of Political Science; Boston College

2019 William and Mary; University of Abu Dhabi; Monash University; Williams College; University of Copenhagen; Georgetown University

2018 New York University Steinhardt; Northeastern University; International Food Research Policy Institute; FHI360; Comparative International Education Society annual meetings, Mexico City; University of Tennessee

2017 University of Tennessee; University of Northern Illinois, Department of Economics; University of Toronto; University of Namur and UNU-WIDER Towards Gender Equity in Development Workshop Labor Outmigration, Agricultural Productivity and Food Security, University of Michigan

2016 WGGP and Center for African Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign RAND Corporation; George Washington University Conference on Economics and Political Economy of Africa; Wilfrid Laurier University, Department of Economics; Centre for the Study of African Economies: "Economic Development in Africa"; ESRC-DFID Joint Fund Poverty Conference: "Lessons from a Decade's Research on Poverty: Innovation, Engagement and Impact"; Comparative and International Education Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver (x3)

2015 University of Vermont, Vermont Center on Behavior and Health "Behavior Change, Health and Health Disparities"; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, ACES; University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics

2014 Population Association of America, Boston; University of Paris, Dauphine; Johns Hopkins University, Department of Economics; University of Missouri, Department of Economics; Cornell University, Policy Analysis and Management; Harvard Medical School; University of California, Riverside, Department of Economics; McGill University, Social Statistics and Population Seminar

2013 International Food Policy Research Institute; American Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Diego; Western Michigan University, Department of Economics; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: Generating Demand for Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision, Lusaka, Zambia; University of Illinois Champaign Urbana, Department of Economics

2012 Global projects seminar, University of Michigan Medical School; Baylor University, Department of Economics; Southern Methodist University, Department of Economics; Marie Stopes International, Cape Town, South Africa; The Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Grassroots Soccer, Cape Town, South Africa; University of Maryland, Population Research Center

2011 University of California, Berkeley, Department of Economics; DePaul University, Department of Economics; Princeton University, Office of Population Research; Yale University, Department of Economics; University of Georgia, Department of Economics; Georgia State University, Department of Economics; Union for African Population Studies Sixth African Population Conference, Burkina Faso; Center of Evaluation for Global Action, University of California Berkeley Evidence to Action: The Returns to Investment in Girls; Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab Africa launch, Cape Town, South Africa

2010 University of Illinois-Chicago, Department of Economics; Amsterdam Institute for International Development 5th Annual Workshop on the Economic Consequences of HIV/AIDS; London University College/London School of Economics, Department of Economics; Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm, Sweden; Bocconi University, Department of Economics; Ohio State University, Institute for Population Research; Harvard University Women and Public Policy Program; Amsterdam Institute for International Development 5th Annual Workshop on the Economic Consequences of HIV/AIDS; Toulouse School of Economics, Toulouse, France, Department of Economics; Paris School of Economics, Paris, France, Department of Economics; American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta; The World Bank Impact Evaluation Meetings, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009 Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Detroit; African Population and Health Research Center, Nairobi, Kenya; University of Michigan: Institute for Research on Women

and Gender; International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) Conference, Cairo, Egypt; Michigan State University, Department of Economics; Global Development Network Meetings, York, United Kingdom; The World Bank, Washington, D.C.

2008 Harvard University, Department of Economics; Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal; Duke University, Department of Economics; National AIDS Dissemination Conference, Lilongwe, Malawi; Population Association of Iran, University of Tehran, Iran; Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans; Global Development Network Meetings, Brisbane, Australia; Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

2007 Women and HIV/AIDS Symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; National AIDS Dissemination Conference, Lilongwe, Malawi; United States Agency for International Development, Washington, D.C.; Global Development Network Meetings, Cairo, Egypt; Population Impacts on Economic Development, Hewlett Foundation and Population Reference Bureau Research Conference, Cape Town, South Africa; Union for African Population Studies Fifth African Population Conference, Tanzania; The Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Subjective Probabilities and Expectations: Methodological Issues and Empirical Applications to Economic Decision-making, Jackson Hole, Wyoming; National AIDS Dissemination Conference, Lilongwe, Malawi

2006 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston; Abt Associates, Washington, D.C.; World Bank Human Development Forum, Washington D.C.; Experimental Economics Association Annual Meeting, Arizona; Johns Hopkins, Department of Economics; The Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, University of Cape Town; Center for Global Development, Washington D.C.; University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Public Health; Johns Hopkins, Bloomberg School of Public Health; University of Michigan, Department of Economics; University of Virginia, Department of Economics; University of Toronto, Department of Economics; Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute; Washington University, Department of Economics; Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Harvard University Development Seminar; Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Los Angeles; American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Boston

2005 University of Pennsylvania, Population Studies Center; Johns Hopkins Population Center; Northeast Universities Development Consortium, Brown University; Harvard University, Eric M. Mindich Conference on Experimental Social Science: Action Research in Psychology and Economics

Other Presentations

2026 Masterclass in Health Economics, Galway Ireland, Keynote Talk (planned);

2024 Joint Asia Conference on Business and Economic Studies, Keynote Talk, Bali Indonesia; Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies Annual Workshop, Notre Dame University

2022 Baylor University Global Health Day

2021 Gender, Power and HIV in South Africa: Disparities in risk for girls and women, Discussant for a seminar for Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program

2019 American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Discussant for Gender and Identity in Developing Economies, Discussant for Cultural Practices and Women's Lives; ESRC-DFID Research Programme Grant Holder Panelist

2018 Johns Hopkins University, Discussant for the Annual Health Econometrics Workshop; American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Discussant for Session on Health and Development; ESRC-DFID Research Programme Grant Holder Panelist

2017 American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Discussant for Session on Economic Demography

2016 American Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Discussant for Session on Experimental Impacts of Vocational Education in Low and Middle Income Countries

2015 American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Boston, Discussant for Session on Economics Altruism and Religiosity

2014 Improving Take-up and Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services in Developing Countries, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Cambridge MA: Resolving uncertainty through testing: Work in progress

2013 Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Chair and Discussant for Session on Human Capital in Developing Countries

2012 Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Evidence-Based Education: Policy-Making and Reform, Accra, Ghana, Panelist for Session on Secondary Education and Girls: Directions for Future Research

2011 Union for African Population Studies Sixth African Population Conference, Burkina Faso, Chair for Session on Behavioral responses to HIV/AIDS; University of Michigan: Population Studies Center 50th Anniversary Session on International Efforts: A Long Tradition Randomized Experimental Design; Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington D.C, Discussant in Session on The Effect of Transfer Payments on Household Decisions; Navara Foundation Global Development Conference, Moderator for Panel on Measuring Up the Millennium Development Goals

2010 National Bureau of Economic Research Meeting on Africa Successes, Accra, Ghana: Discussant for Session on Schooling and Health

2009 Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Detroit, Discussant for Session on Interface between HIV and Family Planning Programs and Services in Africa; University of Michigan: Institutional Review Board, Research on Male Circumcision; Center for Global Development, Washington DC, Randomized Evaluations of HIV Prevention Programs; American Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Discussant for Session on HIV/AIDS and Economic Development

2008 The World Bank, Washington, D.C. Randomized Evaluations of HIV Prevention Programs; Global Development Network, Brisbane, Australia, Discussant for Session on 2005 Global Development Network Award Winners: Outstanding Research on Development; Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Discussant for Session on Economic Growth, Gender, and Intergenerational Relations; Union for African Population Studies, Fifth African Population Conference, Tanzania, Discussant for Session on HIV and AIDS and Families; Union for African Population Studies, Fifth African Population Conference, Tanzania, Discussant for Session on Measuring Behaviour Change Related to HIV Infection

Teaching

University of Notre Dame

Economics 30401 Economics of Education: Fall 2025

Baylor University

Economics Undergraduate Evaluating What Works in Economic Development: Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025

Economics Graduate Research Methods: Fall 2023

Economics Graduate Writing: Spring 2024

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Economics 490/451 Undergraduate Evaluating What Works in Economic Development: Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2021

Economics 590 Graduate Development Economics: Fall 2015, Spring 2021, Fall 2021

Economics 590 Masters Development Economics: Fall 2017

University of Michigan

Economics 462 Undergraduate Topics in Development Economics II: Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2012, Winter 2013, Winter 2014

Economics 665 Graduate: Economic Development and Transition I: Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2012, Winter 2014

Guest Lecturer for:

Center for Sexual Health Certificate Program: 2009, 2010, on-going

Program Evaluation, Ford School of Public Policy: 2006, 2007, 2008

Evaluation of Social Programs Seminar: 2006

Biology of Sex: 2012, 2013

Interdisciplinary Approaches to African Studies: 2013

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab

Executive Education Course

2012 Cape Town, South Africa
Accra, Ghana
2011 Cape Town, South Africa
2010 Cape Town, South Africa
2009 Cairo, Egypt

Evaluating Social Programs

2006 Cambridge, Massachusetts
2004 Cambridge, Massachusetts

Harvard (Teaching Fellow)

Health, Education, and Development: Spring, 2006

Political Economy of Development: Fall, 2003

Formal Advising

Ph.D. Thesis Supervision (In Process)

Corina Nicoara (Committee member)
James Malo (Committee member)
Hosam Ibrahim (Committee member)
Cameron Milani
Zhijin Huang

Ph.D. Thesis Supervision (Completed)

2025 Ryan Quandt (Committee member, placed at Cicero Institute)
Yue Bao (Committee member, placed at Dominican University)
Alok Ranjan (Committee member, placed at Plaksha University)

2024 Hyoyoung Han (Committee member, placed at a Post-Doc at Rutgers University)
Mahounan Yedomiffi (Committee member, placed at Dartmouth College)

2023 Felipe Diaz (Chair, placed at Allegheny County)
Noelia Romero (Chair, placed at Universidad de San Andres)
Irina Valenzuela (Committee member, placed at International Fund for Agricultural Development)

2022 Anahid Bauer (Committee member, placed at Institut Mines-Télécom Business School)
Anna Kyriazis (Chair, placed as Post-Doctoral Fellow at Social Science Research Council 's Prosecution Research initiative and the NYU Public Safety Lab)
Morgan Stockham (External committee member, placed at Blisspoint Media)

2021 Akito Kamei (Committee member, placed at University of Chicago Development Innovation Lab)

2020 Brian Feld (Chair, placed at Universidad EAFIT)
Natalia Cantet (Chair, placed at Universidad EAFIT)
Isabel Musse (Chair, placed at Mathematica)
Heepyung Cho (Committee member, placed at Korea Institute of Public Finance)
Sofia Fernandez Guerrico (Committee member)
Juan Morales Munoz (Committee member, placed at IÉSEG Business School, Paris)

2019 Lokendra Phadera (Committee member, placed at The World Bank)
Chitra Jogani (Chair, placed at Trinity College)
Eunhye Kwak (Committee member, placed at Korea Labor Institute)
Ninja Ritter (External Reviewer, University of Copenhagen)

2017 Jianfeng Xu (Co-chair, placed at Shanghai Technical University)
Rodrigo Schneider (Chair, placed at Skidmore College)

2016 Alan Griffith (Co-chair, placed at University of Washington)
Jason Huh (Committed member, placed at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

2014 Jason Kerwin (Co-chair, placed at University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics)
Anne Fitzpatrick (Co-chair, placed at University of Massachusetts, Boston)
Ryoko Sato (Co-chair, placed at National University of Singapore post-doc)

2013 Rachael Pierotti (Committee member, placed at The World Bank)

2013 Kate Ambler (Committee member, placed at International Food Policy Research Institute)

2013 Emily Beam (Committee member, placed at National University of Singapore)

2013 Susan Godlonton (Co-chair, placed at Williams College)

2011 Annika Mueller (Committee member, placed at The Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics, Xiamen University, China)

Formal Master's Student Advising

2024 Sujey Soori (Committee member, Baylor University)

2023 James Malo (Committee member, Baylor University)
Karleigh Schilling (Committee member, Baylor University)
Coco Sun (Committee member, Baylor University)

Formal Undergraduate Advising

2024 Trent Rothell (Senior Honors Theses, Baylor University)
Hannah James (Senior Honors Theses, Baylor University)

2013 Michael Schmid (Senior Honors Thesis, University of Michigan)
Emily Chiu (Senior Honors Thesis, University of Michigan)

Other External advising

2009 Anthony Foso (Ghana)

Professional Memberships

Member Academic Freedom Alliance
Member American Economic Association
Member Academic Network for Sex Education and Research
Member Population Association of America
Member Union for African Population Studies

Referee Activity

African Journal of Reproductive Health
American Economic Journal: Applied American Economic Review
Asian Women
B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis Policy
BMC Public Health
Comparative Education Review
Demography
Economic Development and Cultural Change
Economic Journal
Economics Letters
Economics of Education Review
Economica
Health Economics
Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes
Journal of African Economies
Journal of the European Economic Association
Journal of Development Economics
Journal of Development Effectiveness
Journal of Development Engineering
Journal of Development Studies
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization
Journal of Economic Literature
Journal of Empirical Legal Studies
Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics
Journal of Human Resources
Journal of Health Economics
Journal of Labour Economics
Journal of Political Economy
Journal of Public Economics
Journal of Social Aspects of HIVAIDS
PLOS Medicine
Population Reference Bureau
Preventive Medicine
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Quarterly Journal of Economics
Review of Economics and Statistics
Review of Economic Studies
Social Science and Medicine
Society for Labor Economists
South African Journal of Economics
Waterlines
World Bank Economic Review
World Development

Professional Service

Department and other academic service (University of Notre Dame)

2025	Search Committee, Notre Dame Population Analytics

Department and other academic service (Baylor University)

2024	Dean Search Committee
2023-2026	Faculty Dismissal Committee
2023	Faculty Senate
2022-2024	Standards Committee
2023-	Ph.D. Health Service Research Graduate Program Co-Director
2022, 2023	Faculty Search Committee

Department and other academic service (University of Illinois)

2015-2024	Faculty Affiliate, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives, University of Illinois
2020-2022	Ph.D. Admissions Committee
2015-2017, 2019	Applied Micro Search Committee
2015-2022	Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Executive Committee
2015-2021	Women and Gender in Global Perspectives, Graduate Student Award Selection Committee
2019	Academic Integrity Appeal Committee, Department of Economics

Department and other academic service (University of Michigan)

2013, 2014	Computing Resources Committee
2012, 2013	MITRE visiting faculty selection committee
2010, 2012	Graduate student and junior faculty female mentoring organizer
2010	Executive committee
2008, 2010	1st and 3rd year graduate student advising presentations
2009	Undergraduate education committee
2008	Graduation commencement committee
2011	Including Gender into Social Science Research, Panelist
2010	Center for Global Health on Doing Research Abroad, Panelist
	Center for Global Health on Global Research Ethics, Panelist
	Knight Wallace, Guest Speaker
2006-2008, 2010	Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Seminars

Other professional service (External)

2025-present	Association for Christian Economists (ACE), Secretary
2025	J-PAL Invited Researcher Nomination Reviewer
2025	Proposal Reviewer, J-PAL Learning for All Initiative
2025	Proposal Reviewer, J-PAL Gender and Economic Agency Initiative
2019-present	Research Group mentorship leader
2024-present	G²LM|LIC/BREAD Mentor
2022-present	Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies Mentor
2024	Award Selection Committee, Joint Asia Conference on Business and Economic Studies
2023	Department Review, Georgia Institute of Technology School of Economics
2023	Department Review, University of Arkansas Department of Economics
2020-2023	Coeditor, Economics of Education Review
2019-2022	Institutional Review Board (IRB), committee member, University of Illinois
2022	CSWEP Panel Paper Selection Committee
2018-2021	Midwest International Economic Development Conference Selection Committee
2016, 2017	Population Health Science Workshop Selection Committee, Boston University
2014, 2015, 2016	WGAPE Selection Committee
2012-2013	Union for African Population Studies, North American Representative
2012, 2013	Institute for the Study of Labor Growth and Labor Markets in Low Income Countries, Grant Reviewer
2011	Union for African Population Studies, International Scientific Committee
2011	Population Association of America, Program Committee Member
2008, 2009	Hewlett Population Fellows Program, Reviewer
2011-2017	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Consultant
2010-2019	Center for Global Development, Advisory Board Member
2010-	EA Consultants, Advisory Board Member
2010-	Center for Sustainable Development, Board Member
2008-	Ruben J. Williams Foundation, Advisory Board Member
2006-	EA Consultants, Consultant
2006-2018	Abt Associates, Consultant Associate Fellow, African Institute for Development Policy

Training

2023	Academic Leadership Seminar, Baylor University Participant
2022	Missio Participant
2020	Co-Active Fundamentals, Co-Active Training Institute
2020	Positive Intelligence Coach Training

2020	Positive Intelligence Training
2008	Post-Tenure Pathways, National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity
2011	CSWEP Mentoring Workshop, Participant
2010-2012	Center for Sexual Health Certificate Program, University of Michigan, Participant
2010	Summer Biomarker Institute, Northwestern University, Participant
2008	Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity
2003	Summer Program in Survey Methodology, University of Michigan, Participant

Popular Press

Why knowing your HIV status can be fatal when there are no treatment options, with Alberto Ciancio, Fabrice Kampfen, and Hans-Peter Kohler. VoxDev Health. April 2, 2025. https://voxdev.org/topic/health/why-knowing-your-hiv-status-can-be-fatal-when-there-are-no-treatment-options

A Multifaceted Education Program in Rajasthan, India, with Clara Delavallade. 2021. Video

The Winners and Losers from Partial Health Insurance, with Anne Fitzpatrick. VoxDev Health and Education. April, 1, 2018. https://voxdev.org/topic/health-education/winners-and-losers-partial-health-insurance

The World Bank, Human Development Network, Debate on The ethics of material incentives for HIV prevention February 14, 2011.

EA Consultants Micro-insurance Utilization in Nicaragua. 2010. Video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6LyKqo7BRg

USAID award for evaluation of excellence Micro-insurance Utilization in Nicaragua. 2011. Video at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lvau_mp_-rE

J-PAL Briefcase. Menstruation as a barrier to education? June, 2011.

J-PAL Briefcase. Know your status? August, 2011.

Oster, Emily and Rebecca Thornton. Are 'Feminine Problems' Keeping Poor Girls Out of School?. New York Times Economix Blog. April 27, 2010.

New York Times Pssst. Does Menstruation Keep Girls Out of School? Nicholas Kristof. On the Ground. September 4, 2009.

Jezebel In Developing Countries, Periods Aren't the Problem. Anna North, 2009.

WASH news Asia Pacific Nepal: new study says impact of menstruation on school attendance is overstated? May 10, 2010.