



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN ECONOMIES

ANNUAL SUMMARY 2025

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ANNUAL SUMMARY 2025



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RESEARCH



Participants take part in the RHISN programme in Ethiopia

RESEARCHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

At the CSAE, we have been researching economic and social development in Africa since 1986. These days, our large team of development economists research not only countries in Africa, but also in other areas of the world.

NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES

We're excited to launch two new innovative research programmes at the Centre this year.

Centre for Macro-Experimental Development (CMED)

The Centre for Macro-Experimental Development will study the regional and nationwide impacts of large unconditional cash transfers in Rwanda and Malawi. Directed by Dennis Egger (Economics), who was awarded the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship in 2024, CMED will evaluate the Scaling Transfers to End Poverty (STEP) programme run by the NGO Give Directly and the governments of Malawi and Rwanda. STEP will give large, almost universal cash transfers amounting to about one year of income at scale to people living in extreme poverty. CMED will support STEP in designing and implementing a rigorous evaluation of the programme,

developing the methodological tools to combine experimentation at-scale and structural economic modelling, and building a robust research-to-implementation pipeline where research findings can improve the programme in real time.

Oxford Digital Public Infrastructure Research Lab

Launched at the end of 2024, the [Oxford Digital Public Infrastructure Research Lab](#) finds itself in full swing in 2025. Directed by Stefan Dercon (Economics and Blavatnik School of Government) and Christian Meyer (Oxford Martin School), the Lab investigates the impacts of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) on inclusion and wellbeing in low- and middle-income countries.

Building on previous efforts by the University's Digital Pathways at Oxford and the Pathways for Prosperity Commission, which examined the challenges of digital transformation and governance in low- and middle-income countries, this new lab extends that work, focusing specifically on the implementation and impact of DPI. The initial focus is on Ethiopia's Fayda system, a digital ID initiative aiming to register all residents by 2026.



I am beyond excited about this agenda. It is the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that every academic dreams of: to bring cutting edge research to implementation at scale, impacting the lives of millions.

Dennis Egger

KEY THEMES

Projects at the Centre are spread across four key areas:

- [firms, farms, and labour;](#)
- [macroeconomics and growth;](#)
- [politics and institutions;](#)
- [welfare and behaviour.](#)

RESEARCH IN NUMBERS



Numbers representing 2024/2025 academic year and accurate as of 02 June 2025. You can search through all of our projects by country on the CSAE website.

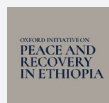
RESEARCH GROUPS



[Economic Research on Identity, Norms, and Narratives](#)



Oxford Martin Programme on African Governance



[Oxford Initiative on Peace and Recovery in Ethiopia](#)



[Mind and Behaviour Research Group](#)

NEW [Oxford Digital Public Infrastructure Research Lab](#)

NEW Centre for Macro-Experimental Development

PROJECT PORTFOLIO

AI, Firms and Wages: Evidence from India

[Convening Research and Evidence on Ethiopia's Digital Public Infrastructure Rollout \(Fayda Lab\)](#)

Cost Effectiveness of Health and Education Interventions

Developing a Scalable Model for Personalised Adaptive Learning in Indian Public Schools Through A/B Testing

[Economic Policy Network](#)

Equity-Like Financing for Women-Led Microenterprises: Experimental Evidence from India

[Female Rickshaw Driver Training in Pakistan](#)

Finance for Development

[Financing Virtual Migration: Freelancing and Income Sharing in Bangladesh](#)

[Getting Online for Jobs: Reducing Information Frictions through Digital Technology in Public Employment Services](#)

[Improving Refugee Integration Through Public Works: Experimental Evidence At-Scale from Ethiopia](#)

Limits to Quality Upgrading in Ugandan Carpentry: Demand and Supply Side Constraints

[Local Revenue Initiative for Rapid Urbanisation Programme](#)

[Occupational Segregation and Gender Gaps in Nairobi](#)

Online Labour Market Interventions for Disadvantaged, Majority-Female Jobseekers in South Africa

[Open Political Economy Analysis Programme](#)

Oxford Martin Programme on Systematic Resilience

[Promoting Job Creation to Save Wildlife: An Experience in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

Reducing Poverty and Unemployment Amongst Young South Africans

Research Initiatives on Poverty and Prosperity in Africa

Returns to International Labour Migration in Ethiopia

Scientific Oversight of Multi-Country Experiment on Drought-Response Cash Transfers in the Sahel

[Shifting Management for Performance in the Ethiopian Civil Service](#)

[Tackling Psychological Barriers to Job Search and Employment in Kenya](#)

[The Welfare and Incentive Effects of Job Displacement Insurance](#)

[Understanding the Benefits of the Digital Sector to Improve Matching between Firms and Jobseekers](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



BUILDING RESILIENT EDUCATION SYSTEMS: EVIDENCE FROM LARGE SCALE RANDOMISED TRIALS IN FIVE COUNTRIES

Over two billion people live in countries where conflict, disease, disasters, and climate events often disrupt education. Systems must withstand these shocks, which frequently close schools. Alternative models are needed, yet rigorous evaluation across countries is rare.

Building on Youth Impact's COVID-19 era work in Botswana, this project tested distance education in five countries—India, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, and Uganda—using large-scale randomised trials.

LOCATION
India, Kenya, Nepal,
the Philippines, and Uganda



CSAE RESEARCHER

Noam Angrist
(BSG)



Michael Ainomugisha
(Building Tomorrow)
Sai Pramod Bathena
(Alokit)
Peter Bergman
(University of Texas)
Colin Crossley
Claire Cullen
Thato Letsomo
Moitshapi Matsheng
(Youth Impact)

COLLABORATORS

Rene Marlon Panti
(Philippines Socioeconomic
Panel Survey)
Shwetlena Sabarwal
(World Bank)
Tim Sullivan
(New Globe)
Karisha Anne Cruz
(Innovations for Poverty Action)

ASSOCIATIONS



ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project tested scalable remote instruction models for primary school children during COVID-19, which disrupted learning for over a billion students. It focused on 'connectEd,' a phone call tutorial programme delivering quality education via mobile phones. Building on Youth Impact's work in Botswana, the project ran five randomised controlled trials in five countries with over 16,000 households participating.

In each household, a primary school student (grades 3–5; grades 1–2 in Kenya) and a caregiver received the intervention. The trials ran from December 2020 to July 2022.

The programme provided targeted one-on-one instruction via mobile phones—a high-access, low-cost, scalable method to reach students and caregivers when schools were closed.

The approach rested on two principles:

- using a widely available platform (phones)
- employing proven pedagogy (targeted instruction).

Treatment groups for each country:

- **Group 1:** Received weekly SMS messages with numeracy content.
- **Group 2:** As group one, but also received weekly 20-minutes one-on-one phone tutorials with content tailored to each student's level through short assessments. Instructors guided students in foundational numeracy (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division).
- **Group 3:** A control group.

Researchers also tested scalable delivery models, comparing implementation by non-government organisations (NGOs) versus government teachers, with provider type randomised in two countries.



RESULTS

Despite the different contexts within this study, the results show that the effectiveness of phone call tutorials can scale across countries. Researchers find consistently large and robust effect sizes on learning, with the weekly phone and SMS programme causing a 0.32 standard deviation increase in learning.

These effects are highly cost-effective, delivering up to four years of high quality instruction per \$100 spent, ranking in the top percentile of education programmes and policies. The SMS intervention had a positive effect on learning but unlike the phone call intervention, SMSs alone were not effective across all contexts.

The programme saw a

with
0.32 **\$100**
standard deviation increase in learning providing four years of high quality instruction

In a subset of trials, researchers randomised whether the interventions were provided by non-government organisation instructors or government teachers. Results here show similar effects, indicating scalability within government systems.

These results reveal it is possible to strengthen the resilience of education systems, enabling education provision amidst disruptions, and to deliver cost-effective learning gains across contexts and with governments.

IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS

1 Simple, low-cost solutions can drive big learning gains

The connectEd programme (phone-based tutoring model using basic mobile phones and SMS messages) led to large improvements in student learning outcomes.

2 Targeted, one-on-one instruction is a key pedagogical lever

Whether in-person or remote, targeted, individualised instruction can significantly improve learning outcomes

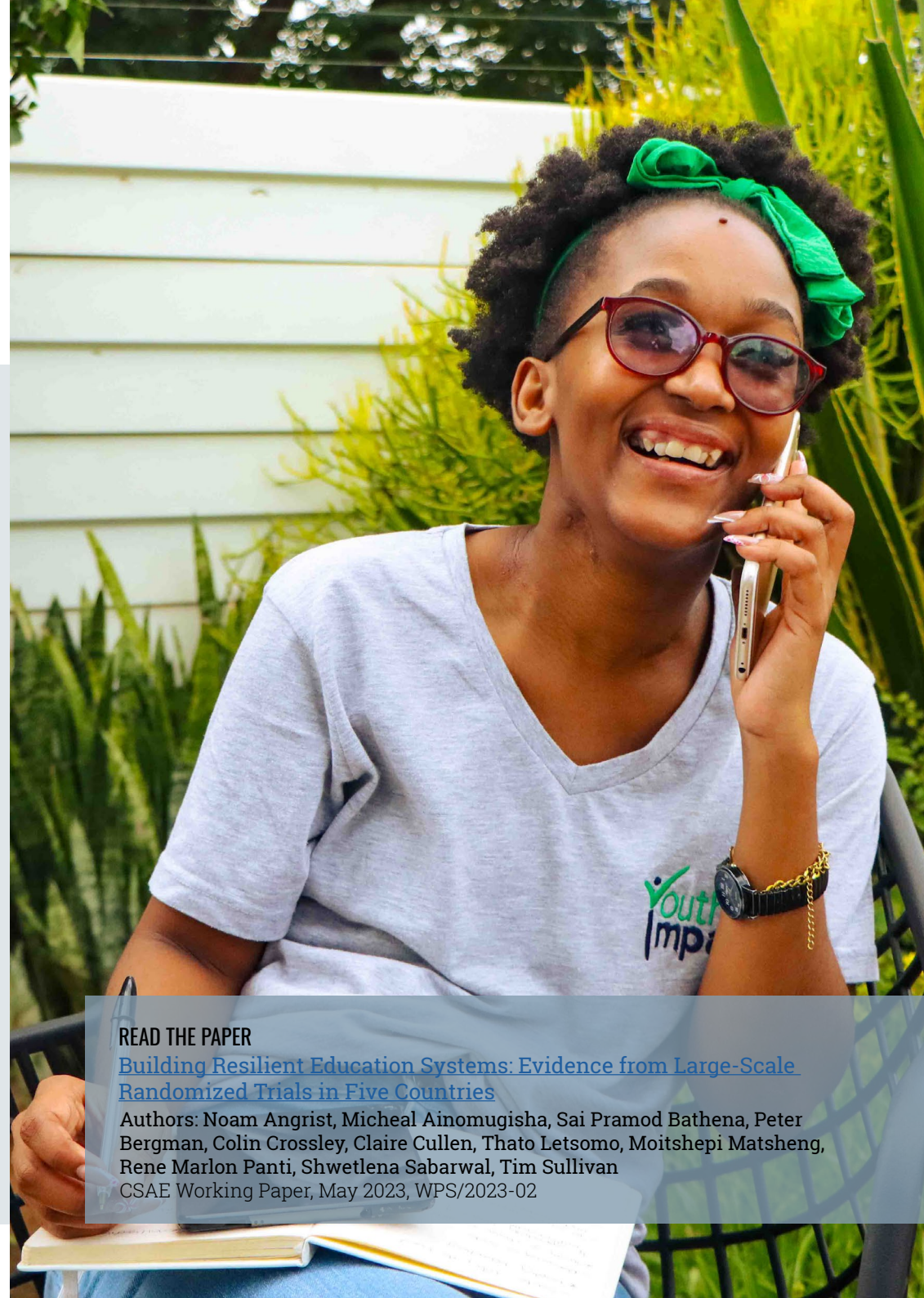
3 Consistent results across five countries and delivery models demonstrates scalability

Global education systems can scale effective interventions if they maintain important core components.

READ THE PAPER

[Building Resilient Education Systems: Evidence from Large-Scale Randomized Trials in Five Countries](#)

Authors: Noam Angrist, Micheal Ainomugisha, Sai Pramod Bathena, Peter Bergman, Colin Crossley, Claire Cullen, Thato Letsomo, Moitshepi Matsheng, Rene Marlon Panti, Shwetlena Sabarwal, Tim Sullivan
CSAE Working Paper, May 2023, WPS/2023-02



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



LEARNING TO SEE THE WORLD'S OPPORTUNITIES

Over 70% of people globally have experienced trauma, and by 2030, over 60% of the world's poor will live in fragile, conflict-affected states. Development programmes often overlook how trauma affects planning and learning.

This project tests if Guided Mental Experiencing (GME) can improve economic decision-making for trauma-affected individuals. GME helps people visualize positive futures and take concrete steps. Two randomized trials—in Ethiopia with Eritrean refugees and in Colombia with displaced communities—explore how integrating psychological tools can improve development outcomes.

LOCATION

Colombia and Ethiopia



ASSOCIATIONS



COLLABORATORS

Nava Ashraf
Gharad Bryan
(London School of Economics)
Alexia Delfino
(Bocconi University)
Emily Holmes
(Karolinska Institutet)
Leonardo Iacovone
(World Bank)

CSAE RESEARCHERS

[Christian Meyer](#)
([Oxford Martin School](#))



[Ashley Pople](#)
([Economics and World Bank](#))



ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project introduces tailored training curricula in Colombia and Ethiopia to teach the use of Guided Mental Experiencing (GME) in economic decision-making.

The training curricula in both Colombia and Ethiopia share three key features:

- Promote mental experiencing about future economic outcomes and the pathway of actions that could materialise these intended outcomes.
- Designed to improve the quality of mental experiencing through increased specificity and emotionality of mental scenarios.
- A focus on promoting more positive images that can compete with the retrieval of negative memories induced by trauma.

Experiment in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Eritrean refugees were randomly assigned to GME or control groups. The GME group attended four one-hour sessions to imagine life in Addis Ababa, build mental resilience, and plan economic actions.

Experiment in Colombia

In Colombia, applicants were assigned to traditional business training or the same training enhanced with GME. Both were identical in delivery except for the inclusion of 3–4 GME exercises per session.

Researchers conducted baseline and follow-up surveys to assess impact. While the Colombia trial targeted entrepreneurship behaviours, the Ethiopia intervention supported broader income-generating activities.



RESULTS

The results show that standard anti-poverty programmes are less effective in trauma-affected populations and can even deepen poverty. They also show that the value of GME in overcoming the negative effects of trauma by having participants mentally simulate pathways between their actions and positive economic outcomes.

Ethiopia

In the Ethiopia experiment, GME increases the ability of refugees to see a positive future, increases their intent to stay in Ethiopia, increases labour force participation, and improves self-reported welfare.

Colombia

In the Colombia experiment, a traditional entrepreneurial training programme reduces the ability to imagine a positive future through business, and worsens economic outcomes. GME added to entrepreneurial training restores positive future thinking and removes negative economic effects.

[Find out more about the project on the CSAE website.](#)

Consistent with empirical evidence that emotional tagging of memory is stronger among women, these impacts are much larger for women in the experiments.

IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1 Address Psychological Barriers, Not Just Economic Ones

Programmes should incorporate mental health-informed approaches to be effective for individuals in fragile or post-conflict settings.

2 Integrate Future-Oriented Mental Training

Techniques like Guided Mental Experiencing (GME), which help participants imagine specific, emotionally grounded future scenarios, can enhance motivation and goal-setting. This strengthens individuals' ability to engage meaningfully with development interventions.

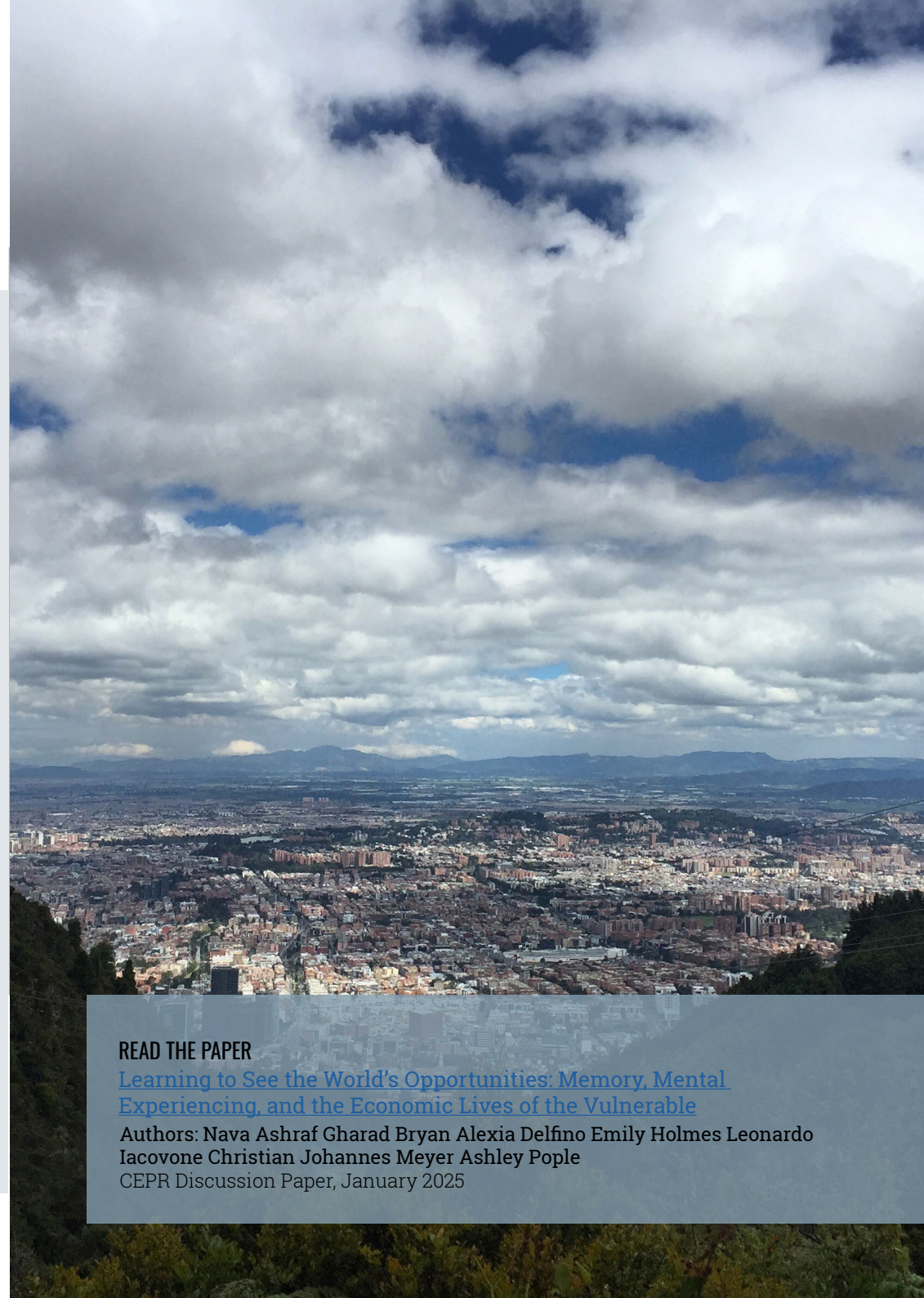
3 Tailor Interventions to Context and Trauma History

Effective programmes should be adapted to local conditions and types of trauma.

READ THE PAPER

[Learning to See the World's Opportunities: Memory, Mental Experiencing, and the Economic Lives of the Vulnerable](#)

Authors: Nava Ashraf Gharad Bryan Alexia Delfino Emily Holmes Leonardo Iacovone Christian Johannes Meyer Ashley Pople
CEPR Discussion Paper, January 2025



RESEARCH IN PROGRESS SNAPSHOTS



INTEGRATING REFUGEES THROUGH PUBLIC WORKS EVALUATING ETHIOPIA'S RHISN PROGRAMME AT SCALE

Together with the Ethiopian government, [Dennis Egger](#) (Department of Economics) has set up a large-scale trial among four main refugee hosting areas in Ethiopia, with over 200,000 occupants, to evaluate the implementation of the Refugee and Host Integration Through the Social Safety Net (RHISN) programme.



CONTEXT

There is debate among academics and policymakers on how best to provide for refugees' humanitarian needs whilst also allowing for their self-reliance and ensuring the stability of host countries. The choice is often between a camp-based model, where aid organisations provide basic services, or an integrative approach with access to schools, healthcare, and legal work. The integrative model is gaining support due to the protracted nature of many refugee crises and limited chances of return to countries of origin.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the welfare impacts for the programme's beneficiaries?
- How does the public work team diversity and contact with the out-group affect productivity and social cohesion?
- What are the spillover effects of the programme on non-recipients, and the overall economy-wide impact on local economic aggregates and social cohesion?

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

RHISN, implemented by the Government of Ethiopia, is an attempt to integrate camp-based refugees into the national social safety net.

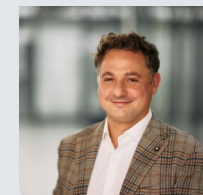
The programme sees refugees and host citizens alike:

- Participate in paid public work activities for up to three years, providing them with a stable source of income.
- Receive graduation-style livelihood support consisting of training and a business grant in the second year.
- Obtain a work permit to legally participate in the local host labour market.



LOCAL REVENUE MOBILIZATION FOR RAPID URBANIZATION

[Niccolò F. Meriggi](#) (Department of Economics) is working on a series of research projects with city councils across Sierra Leone to support the reform of property tax systems. These projects build on collaborations with the central government, and use a combination of field experiments and institutional diagnostics to understand how governments can raise local revenues in ways that are both effective and politically feasible.



FREETOWN PROJECT

In Freetown, he collaborated with the City Council on a large-scale participatory budgeting intervention to explore whether citizen participation in policy decision (a form of direct democracy) can increase perceived government legitimacy and subsequently increase semi-voluntary tax compliance

Research Question

Does citizens' participation in policy decision increase their perception of state legitimacy and in turn semi-voluntary tax compliance?

KENEMA PROJECT

In Kenema, he is testing how targeted enforcement strategies - designed in coordination with local institutions - can improve compliance while remaining politically acceptable.

Research Questions

- Does the dynamic interaction between tax enforcement and tax morale impact compliance?
- What institutional and political constraints limit enforcement?
- What solutions can be used to address institutional and political constraints to enforcement?

The research contributes to broader efforts to understand how weak states can build durable fiscal capacity. Learnings are being used for the formulation of strategies to increase local revenue mobilization in all cities in Sierra Leone, and it is now scaling beyond Sierra Leone.

MAKING AN IMPACT



FROM RESEARCH TO REAL WORLD IMPACT

At the CSAE, we are committed to providing impartial, evidence-based advice to policymakers and their advisers in developing countries, helping to shape effective and sustainable economic strategies. Our work spans national and international engagement—challenging existing approaches, supporting better-informed decision-making, and building strong, collaborative networks.

We also place great importance on fostering long-term partnerships with academic institutions in developing countries. These collaborations create pathways for knowledge exchange and capacity-building, while our funding initiatives ensure that African scholars have meaningful opportunities to engage with CSAE research and events.

HIGHLIGHTS

Policy Advice

This year, CSAE is leading two major policy-oriented initiatives. The [Economic Policy Network](#) continues to offer context-specific, research-informed policy advice, directly supporting governments in delivering on their economic and development goals. Our emphasis on independence and analytical rigour ensures that policy recommendations are both relevant and effective.

In parallel, we are excited to be developing a new initiative—the [Open Political Economy Analysis Programme](#). Led by Executive Director Peter Evans and Academic Director Stefan Dercon, this platform aims to provide open access, quality assured, actionable political economy advice.

Left: A one-to-one feedback session at the CSAE Workshop 2024

Supporting African Researchers

We're proud to introduce [new scholarships](#) for African students applying to the MPhil in Economics at the University of Oxford.

We also continue to fund African researchers through our [Visiting Fellowships](#) and [CSAE Conference Funding schemes](#).

CSAE Economic Development in African Workshop

As part of our annual conference, we fund and organise the Economic Development in Africa Workshop in partnership with an African university.

[This year's workshop was hosted by the University of Pretoria](#), with a full programme of presentations, feedback sessions, and one-to-one mentoring from CSAE faculty. Participants received detailed feedback to prepare for the CSAE Conference and took part in additional training to strengthen their research skills.



ENGAGING WITH POLICYMAKERS

ECONOMIC POLICY NETWORK (EPN)

A partnership between the CSAE and the Blavatnik School of Government, based within the University of Oxford, we work in close partnership with local experts and global collaborators to assist policymakers and their advisers in delivering on their economic and development priorities.

Since its inception in 2023, the EPN has worked with high level officials and professionals in 18 countries across Africa and Asia

WHAT DO WE DO?

We specialise in helping economies address global and local challenges, including:

- the debt and macroeconomic crisis;
- challenges of economic reform, growth, and structural transformation;
- the impact of climate change and the required energy transition;
- effective social protection, health, and education systems;
- the need for more effective government to overcome the governance and implementation deficit in a world of scarcer resources.

Find out more about the [Economic Policy Network](#) on the [CSAE website](#)

CSAE RESEARCHERS

[Stefan Dercon](#)
EPN Academic
Director



[Pascal Mensah](#)
EPN Managing
Director



[Md Abir Hasan](#)
EPN Expert on
Industrial Policy



[Nick Lea](#)
EPN Adviser



[Ndabezinhle Masuku](#)
EPN Officer



OPEN POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS PROGRAMME

The [Open Political Economy Analysis Programme \(OPEAP\)](#) is a new initiative delivering public good, plain language political economy analysis to 'get politics out of the shadows and into the mainstream' of growth and development. The aim is to unlock effectiveness, regardless of funding source (revenue, aid, private sector, philanthropic). A two year start-up phase is seed funded by two philanthropic foundations.

OPEN ACCESS, QUALITY ASSURED, ACTIONABLE POLITICAL ECONOMY ADVICE

Politics is often the hidden determinant of success or failure.

Decades of technocracy have typically overlooked power, elites, and their incentives, leading to disappointment, wasted funds and opportunity – from infrastructure that fails to catalyse growth, to chronic absenteeism that pulls down public services. Nascent demand for political analysis is met by private consulting (of variable quality), or academic research which is rigorous, but not tailored to policy and slow to emerge.

OPEAP seeks to shift the paradigm by delivering open access, quality assured, actionable political economy analysis (PEA) geared to any mainstream policy maker. This builds on the strategy of the Economic Policy Network and the mainstream success of Stefan Dercon's book *Gambling on*

Development: OPEAP puts *Gambling on Development* into action. OPEAP will systematically summarize available evidence by country and major sectors—health, education, climate – as a resource for policymakers, funders, and practitioners. However, open access political analysis is limited, and OPEAP experts will deliver new products, targeting countries and sectors in which binding constraints are political but where there are politically feasible ways around these, and where real-world returns can be greatest.

Ultimately, OPEAP aims to shift mainstream norms, moving beyond the oft-heard refrain of "lack of political will". By bridging the gap between analysis and practice, OPEAP offers a new model for unlocking effectiveness in growth and development – with practical politics at front and centre.

Find out more about [The Open Political Economy Analysis Programme](#) on the [CSAE website](#).

Above Left: Photograph of the Blavatnik School of Government building.

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT



TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH LEADERSHIP

Malawi's introduction of free primary education in 1994 led to a surge in student enrolment, reaching 4.8 million by 2016. However, this rapid growth strained resources, resulting in overcrowded classrooms, under-staffed schools, and declining educational quality.

To address these challenges, researchers initiated a project focusing on enhancing school leadership.

“This was a very good programme, it really encouraged the Ministry to roll out because it was emphasising school culture. There were a lot of things that the Ministry learned that we are currently utilising in schools”

Grace Milner
Director for Basic Education at the
Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
in Malawi.

ASSOCIATIONS



LOCATION

Malawi



COLLABORATORS

Salmin Asim
(World Bank)



Ravinder
Casley Gera
(World Bank)



CSAE RESEARCHERS

Stefan Dercon
(Economics and
BSG)



Donna Harris
(Continuing
Education)



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project implemented a multi-phase training programme targeting headteachers, deputy headteachers, and sub-district education officers. The training included:

- Main Training: 10 days of intensive classroom sessions.
- Follow-Up Visits: Three visits between two and six months post-training to assess and support implementation.
- Refresher Training: Three days of additional training focusing on areas needing improvement.

The programme emphasised three key areas: efficient resource utilisation, effective teacher management, and fostering inclusive school cultures.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

The randomised controlled trial revealed significant improvements.

- Mathematics test scores improved by approximately 0.1 standard deviations, equivalent to eight weeks of learning.
- Repetition rates reduced in lower grades.
- These results demonstrate that targeted leadership training can lead to measurable enhancements in student performance, even in low-resource settings.

POLICY INFLUENCE AND SCALING UP

The success of the pilot programme led to its nationwide adoption.

- National Rollout: All public primary schools in Malawi have implemented the training.
- Education Reforms: Insights from the programme have been integrated into Malawi's National Education Sector Investment Plan, emphasising inclusive school cultures and improved data management.
- Remedial Education: Expansion of remedial classes across the country, supported by international partners.
- Teacher Motivation: Introduction of low-cost reward systems to boost teacher morale.
- Professional Development: Development of a framework for ongoing support for low-performing teachers



[Find out more about the project on the CSAE website.](#)



CSAE CONFERENCE FUNDING

As part of the annual CSAE Conference: Economic Development in Africa, [we fund over 30 African scholars](#), living and working in Africa, to join us in Oxford to present their research. Since 2019, the funded participants of the Conference have also been sponsored to join the CSAE Economic Development in Africa Workshop, hosted by a different academic institution in Africa each year.

FUNDED PARTICIPANTS IN 2025

In 2025 we funded 34 African scholars to present their work at the [CSAE Conference 2025](#), in Oxford, and the [CSAE Economic Development in Africa Workshop 2024](#), hosted by the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

The Workshop gave funded participants the opportunity to present their papers to Oxford and Pretoria faculty and to get

feedback on their work to help them improve ahead of the CSAE Conference.

This year the Workshop also included training sessions on Structural Transformation and Growth (STEG) and implementing randomised controlled trials. There was also the opportunity to have one-to-one research proposal sessions to receive guidance on future projects.

“What I really liked about that workshop were the number of really high calibre researchers there to provide feedback and advice on the research that was presented.

Left: funded participants socialise at the Conference.

Tewodros Gebrewolde
Senior Country Economist,
International Growth Centre



Above: Tewodros Gebrewolde presents at the CSAE Conference

723
applications for funding
for the Conference

34
African speakers
sponsored

speakers from
16
African countries



INTERVIEW
HALEFOM NIGUS
SPONSORED PARTICIPANT 2025

Tell us about yourself.

My name is Halefom Nigus, I'm a research fellow at the Policy Institute in Ethiopia. I conduct research and provide capacity-building trainings on research, particularly focusing on impact evaluation methods.

Why did you choose to come to the CSAE Conference?

I chose this conference because it's one of the leading platforms to discuss rigorous and cutting-edge research, especially research focused on current technology in Africa.

It also offers a great opportunity for young researchers like myself to connect with scholars from around the world, gain exposure to a wide range of topics, and receive detailed feedback on our work.

“The paper I presented at the workshop later secured funding from the International Growth Centre.”

What have you enjoyed about your time at the CSAE Conference?

One of the aspects I appreciate most is the opportunity to

receive detailed and constructive feedback from a discussant who is an expert in your area. At this conference, speakers also serve as discussants, meaning they engage deeply with the papers in their sessions. I also enjoyed the quality of the papers presented, the diversity of topics, and the interactions with well-known scholars and researchers from around the world. Most importantly, I had the chance to meet and connect in person with co-authors

Right: Halefom Nigus in discussion with Dennis Egger at the CSAE Workshop 2024.

I had only collaborated with remotely before.

Let's talk about the CSAE Economic Development in Africa Workshop in Pretoria. What did you enjoy about that experience?

Three aspects stood out for me. First, it was a great opportunity to receive detailed feedback on my research, which helped me prepare well for the main CSR conference at the University of Oxford.

Second, I had a one-on-one session with Professor Dennis Ego from Oxford, who is an expert in my research area. His feedback was incredibly insightful.

Third, I had the chance to present both my

research proposal and paper. I received valuable feedback on both, and the paper I presented at the workshop later secured funding from the International Growth Centre. We are now actively working on that project.

How important has the funding been for you?

The funding has been instrumental in enabling me to attend both the workshop and the conference. Without it, participating would have been very challenging. It's usually difficult to secure funding from my own institution for these kinds of events.

Without CSAE's support, I would have had

to either self-fund or look for alternative funding, which is never guaranteed.

Would you recommend applying to be a sponsored participant?

Absolutely. I highly encourage early-career researchers based in Africa to apply.

The CSAE Conference and the pre-conference workshop are truly transformative experiences that significantly enhance one's academic and professional development.

Halefom Nigus was a CSAE Conference 2025 funded participant. Watch the full interview on the [CSAE YouTube channel](#)





FELLOWSHIPS

The [CSAE Visiting Fellowship scheme](#) supports African scholars to join the CSAE community in Oxford to work on their research and attend events during term.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The scheme is open to African scholars with a doctorate in economics who are currently pursuing a career in economics. Applications are welcomed from citizens of all African countries living anywhere in the world.

HOW TO APPLY?

Applications are collected online. Applicants must complete a form, including a 400 words research statement and a CV, by the deadline in late Spring to be considered. Applicants may also be asked to submit an example of their research work to support their application.

We received

132

applications for the fellowship for 2025

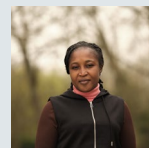
WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

The scheme includes a residency in Oxford from January to March, flights, accommodation, and a small stipend. Fellows are also sponsored to attend both the CSAE Economic Development in Africa Workshop (held in a different African country each year) and the CSAE Conference (held in Oxford, UK).

CSAE VISITING FELLOWS IN 2025

We welcomed a five fellows to the CSAE in 2025. We were also delighted to invite them to join us for the CSAE Economic Development in Africa Workshop 2024 held at the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

MEET THE 2025 FELLOWS



[OLUWABUNMI ADEJUMO](#)

Associate Professor,
Obafemi Awolowo University

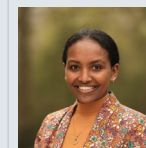
Oluwabunmi Adejumo is an Associate Professor at the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Development Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria; a fellow of the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), University of Berkeley, Berkeley, USA; and an alumnus of the Institute of Housing Studies, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands. She holds a Ph.D (Economics) from Obafemi Awolowo University and is an active member of the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP), Haw Hamburg University, Germany.

Most of her works examine labour and development issues in Nigeria, with specificities in gender, human capital development, entrepreneurship, and environment.



I really enjoyed the trainings and workshops that we had. We had a number of interactions with scholars and that has enlightened me on some skill gaps in my discipline and training where I could improve.

Oluwabunmi Adejumo



[BEZAWIT BAHRU](#)

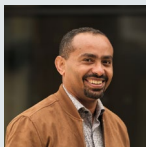
Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
University of Hohenheim

Bezawit Adugna Bahru is a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Hohenheim and an East Africa Social Science Translation (EASST) fellow affiliated with the Center for Effective Global Action at the University of California, Berkeley.

Her research employs survey data and large-scale experiments to investigate the transformative impacts of social protection programs, gender disparities in agricultural productivity, time poverty, women's economic empowerment, and the role of digitalization in shaping rural land markets.

Bezawit earned her PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Hohenheim. Her current research focuses on Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Uganda.





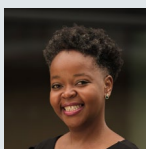
GIDISA LACHISA

Assistant Professor,
Addis Ababa University

Gidisa is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Addis Ababa University. His research focuses on shocks, child labour, labour market outcomes, health, and education.

He is particularly interested in how shocks affect the well-being of households, both in the short- and long-term. He has extensive consultancy experience working with local and international organizations in the area of development economics, which includes poverty, industry, trade, and various policy issues.

He obtained his PhD in Development Economics from Addis Ababa University in a joint programme with the University of Gothenburg.



NOMPUMELELO NYATHI-MOHOHLWANE

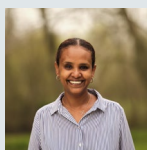
Researcher, National
Department of Basic
Education in South Africa

Nompumelelo Nyathi-Mohohlwane is an education researcher working at the National Department of Basic Education in South Africa.

Her work includes system monitoring and conducting research and evaluation of education interventions. She is part of the research team for the government-led Early

Grade Reading Study randomised control trials (2015-2018, 2018-2021, 2021-2024). She has also led the development of early grade reading benchmarks for 11 South African languages.

She has a Doctorate in Education Policy from Stellenbosch University. She is a non-resident fellow with the Centre for Global Development and a research fellow with the University of Stellenbosch.



ELENI YITBAREK

Associate Professor,
University of Pretoria

Eleni Yitbarek is an Associate Professor at the University of Pretoria and a research fellow of PEP (The Partnership for Economic Policy) and Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA). She obtained her PhD in Development Economics from Maastricht University.

She has a strong background in quantitative analysis and extensive experience designing and analyzing household survey data for poverty and inequality analysis. Her primary research interests are poverty and inequality dynamics, intergenerational mobility, climate change, and behavioural economics.

[Watch interviews with all the fellows on the CSAE YouTube channel.](#)



It has been interesting to be challenged about the cases I'm thinking of, why I should value certain things, and address some concerns I have on measurement in general, that's been stimulating.

Nompumelelo Nyathi-Mohohlwane





SCHOLARSHIPS

We're delighted to be able to offer scholarships to support African post-graduate students focusing on development economics at the University of Oxford.

This year we supported two students, Thomas Amoani (St Antony's DAC African Economics Scholarship, left) and Karim Boudlal (Queen's College Waverley Scholarship, right), both studying on the MPhil in Economics programme.

INTERVIEW WITH CSAE SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS IN 2025

What are your research interests?

TA: My research interests lie in macroeconomics, with a particular focus on monetary theory and policy. I am especially interested in understanding how central bank tools—such as interest rates, quantitative easing, and forward guidance—affect macroeconomic outcomes like inflation, output, and employment.

I'm also particularly curious about how these tools function in the context of large economic shocks or when economies approach the zero lower bound, where traditional policy levers may lose effectiveness.

KB: I am interested in studying structural transformation, that is a country's transition from low-productivity to high-productivity sectors.

Specifically, I want to look at the ways development interacts with technology in a global context

How important has the studentship been for you?

TA: The CSAE studentship has been absolutely transformative. Coming from a small town in Ghana, my journey to Oxford has been marked by immense financial

hardship and uncertainty. The studentship made it financially possible for me to pursue graduate studies at one of the world's leading institutions and reaffirmed my belief in the power of education to change lives. It's not just a scholarship—it's a symbol of hope, and a bridge that connects potential to opportunity.

“**I am immensely grateful for the support I've received. I hope to one day give back by helping shape policies that improve economic outcomes for others, particularly in developing economies.**”
Thomas Amoani

Without it, attending Oxford would have remained a distant dream.

KB: Thanks to the studentship, I have been able to dedicate myself to my classes and coursework as part of the MPhil in Economics without financial worry. Coming

from a lower middle-class background in Morocco, the invaluable opportunity this represents is not lost on me. In particular, the studentship has allowed me to find time for research projects beyond the coursework required for my program and to explore a number of fulfilling extracurriculars. These include a paper on the 1952 land reform in Egypt, a reading group I put together to explore alternative ways of thinking about economics, as well as various creative and athletic pursuits.

What do you enjoy most about being part of the CSAE network

KB: Economists can sometimes fall into a certain kind of aloofness in their work. It can be easy to forget the realities and people behind our models and equations and so forget the reasons we chose to study Economics in the first place. I never felt this was the case at the CSAE. The people I spoke to here seemed not only passionate

“**I very much look forward to contributing further to this community and to growing as a scholar.**”
Karim Boudlal

about their research but also acutely aware of the stakes of it.

TA: I especially appreciate the opportunity to participate in seminars, workshops, and discussions deeply relevant to the issues I care about, such as macroeconomic management in low- and middle-income countries. Most recently, I found the 2025 CSAE Conference particularly beneficial and intellectually stimulating—it offered an excellent platform to exchange ideas, explore new research, and gain insight into the latest empirical work across Africa.

[Read the full interview](#) and find out more about [current scholarship opportunities on the CSAE website](#).

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL OF AFRICAN ECONOMIES

[The Journal of African Economies \(JAE\)](#) is a vehicle to carry rigorous economic analysis, focused entirely on Africa, for Africans and anyone interested in the continent - be they consultants, policymakers, academics, traders, financiers, development agents or aid workers.

The JAE is published by Oxford University Press (OUP), managed at the CSAE, and has an international network of Managing and Associate Editors and referees.

NEW CHIEF EDITOR JOHN HODDINOTT, CORNELL UNIVERSITY



2024 saw the appointment of Professor John Hoddinott, Cornell University as Chief Editor. Professor Hoddinott has deep CSAE and Oxford connections, having done his DPhil at Oxford and subsequently worked as a CSAE Research Officer. He takes over from Professor Francis Teal who ably and diligently served as

Chief Editor from 2017 to 2024.

2024 also saw the appointment of two new Managing Editors, Dr Girum Abebe (World Bank) and Professor Harounan Kazian-ga (Oklahoma State University), joining the JAE's international network of Managing and Associate Editors

In 2024, there were 537 submissions to the journal and 39 papers were published. The journal is grateful for the support and assistance received from the many individuals who volunteered their time to referee these submissions.

As in previous years, the range of topics

published in JAE was wonderfully wide, encompassing the impacts of Covid 19 on migration intentions in the Gambia and on firms in Zimbabwe, food and cash transfers in Egypt, impacts of rising gold prices in Burkina Faso, child labour in Ethiopia, pensions in Nigeria, labour markets in DR Congo, and moderations in the volatility of macroeconomic conditions such as real per-capita growth rates and lower inflation. In 2024, JAE continued in long-standing relationship with the African Economics Research Consortium, publishing two supplements of work presented at the AERC symposium.

517

articles submitted

39

articles published

7

issues published

91

authors

19

open access articles

EDITORIAL BOARD

John Hoddinott
(Cornell University)

Michael Bleaney
(University of
Nottingham)

Harounan Kazianga
(Oklahoma State
University)

Girum Abebe
(International Finance
Corporation)

Brian Dillon
(Cornell University)

Pramila Krishnan
(University of Oxford)

Jenny C. Aker
(Tufts University)

Augustin Fosu
(University of Ghana)

Bob Rijkers
(World Bank)

TOP FIVE DOWNLOADED ARTICLES IN 2024

[Education in Africa: What are We Learning?](#)

David K Evans and Amina Mendez Acosta
Volume 30, Issue 01, January 2021, open access

[Increasing Tax Collection in African Countries: The Role of Information Technology](#)

Oyebola Okunogbe and Fabrizio Santoro
Volume 32, Issue 01, March 2023, open access

[Sources of Slow Growth in African Economies](#)

Jeffrey D. Sachs and Andrew M. Warner
Volume 06, Issue 03, October 1997

[Structural Change, Productivity Growth and Labour Market Turbulence in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Emmanuel Mensah, Solomon Owusu,
Neil Foster-McGregor and Adam Szirmai
Volume 32, Issue 03, June 2023, open access

[From Food Subsidies to Cash Transfers: Assessing Economy-Wide Benefits and Trade-Offs in Egypt](#)

Clemens Breisinger, Yumna Kassim, Sikandra
Kurdi, Josee Randriamamonjy, James Thurlow
Volume 33, Issue 02, March 2024, open access

CSAE WORKING PAPERS

The [CSAE Working Paper series](#) publishes papers by CSAE members on a range of development economics topics.

PAPERS PUBLISHED IN 2024

[Weathering the Storm: Investigating the Role of Remittances as Immediate Disaster Relief in Developing Countries](#)

Deyal Z,
January 2024

[The Impact of Climate Change on Work Lessons for Developing Countries](#)

Feriga M, Lozano Gracia N, Serneels P
April 2024

[The Effects of Mental Health Interventions on Labour Market Outcomes in Low-And-Middle-Income Countries](#)

Lund C, Orkin K, Witte M, Walker J, Davies T, Haushofer J, Murray S, Bass J, Murray L, Tol W, Patel V
May 2024

[Income Risk and Education Investment: Evidence from India](#)

Chakravarty S
June 2024

[The Importance of Being Early: Anticipatory Cash Transfers for Flood-Affected Households](#)

Pople A, Hill R, Dercon S, Brunckhorst B
July 2024

[Does Effective School Leadership Improve Student Progression and Test Scores? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Malawi](#)

Asim S, Casley Gera R, Harris D, Dercon S
August 2024

[Silent Networks: The Role of Inaccurate Beliefs in Reducing Useful Social Interactions](#)

Jain R, Khandelwal V
September 2024

[Poverty without Poverty Line](#)

Sterck O
October 2024

PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHTS

A selection of publications by CSAE researchers in 2024 and 2025

[Public Investment and Human Capital with Segmented Labour](#)

Authors: Christopher Adam, Edward F Buffie, Luis-Felipe Zanna, Lacina Balma, Dawit Tessema, Kangni Kpodar
Oxford Economics Papers, Volume 76, Issue 1, January 2024

[Mothers' Social Networks and Socioeconomic Gradients of Isolation](#)

Authors: Alison Andrew Orazio Attanasio, Britta Augsburg, Jere Behrman, Moni-malika Day, Pamela Jervis, Costas Meghir
Economic Development and Cultural Change, Volume 73, Issue 1, October 2024,

[Human Capital and Climate Change](#)

Authors: Noam Angrist, Kevin Winseck, Harry Anthony Patrinos, Joshua Graff Zivin
The Review of Economics and Statistics, Volume 106, Issue 2, March 2024

[Mind the Gap Between Education Policy and Practice](#)

Authors: Noam Angrist, Stefan Dercon
Nature Human Behaviour, Volume 8, September 2024

[Financial Constraints and Propagation of Shocks in Production Networks](#)

Authors: Banu Demir Pakel, Beata Javorcik, Tomasz Michalski and Evren Ors
Review of Economics and Statistics, Volume 104, Issue 2, March 2024

[Dynamic Determinants of Optimal Global Climate Policy](#)

Authors: Nicolas Cerkez, Michael Grubb, Rutger-Jan Lange, Ida Sognnaes, Claudia Wieners, Pablo Salas
Structural Change and Economic Dynamics, Volume 71, December 2024

[The Political Economy of Economic Policy Advice](#)

Author: Stefan Dercon,
Journal of African Economies, Volume 33, Issue Supplement 2, December 2024

[Adolescent Schooling and Adult Labor Supply: Evidence from COVID-19 School Closures and Reopenings in Kenya](#)

Author: Dennis Egger, Pierre Biscaye
World Bank Economic Review, Volume 39, Issue 3, August 2025

[The Seeds of Misallocation: Fertilizer Use and Maize Varietal Misidentification in Ethiopia](#)

Authors: Douglas Gollin, Tim Deisemann, Frédéric Kosmowski, Travis J. Lybbert
Journal of Development Economics, Volume 171, October 2024

[Enhancing Agency and Empowerment in Agricultural Development Projects](#)

Authors: Marya Hillesland and several co-authors
Journal of Rural Studies, Volume 108, May 2024

[Fading Choice: Transport Costs and Variety in Consumer Goods](#)

Authors: Pramilla Krishnan, Jan Willem Gunning, Andualem T. Mengistu,
Economica, Volume 91, July 2024

[Making Policies Matter: Voter Responses to Campaign Promises](#)

Authors: Julien Labonne, Cesi Cruz, Philip Keefer, Francesco Trebbi
The Economic Journal, Volume 134, Issue 661, July 2024

[The Political Economy of Industrial Policy](#)

Authors: Nathan Lane, Réka Juhász
Journal of Economic Perspectives, Volume 38, Issue 4, Fall 2024

[Designing and Implementing Experiments within Local Bureaucratic Systems: A Cautionary Tale from an Educator Incentive Program](#)

Authors: Clare Leaver, Saher Asad, Masooma Habib, Naureen Karachiwalla, Katrina Kosec, Attique ur Rehman
Education, Finance and Policy, Volume 20, Issue 2, February 2025

[Survival of the Greenest Economic Transformation in a Climate-conscious World](#)

Author: Amir Lebdioui
Cambridge University Press, April 2024

[Role Models and Revealed Gender-Specific Costs of STEM in an Extended Roy Model of Major Choice](#)

Authors: Romuald Méango, Marc Henry, Ismaël Mourifié
Journal of Econometrics, Volume 238, Issue 2, January 2024

[Last Mile Delivery Increases Vaccine Uptake in Sierra Leone](#)

Authors: Niccolò F. Meriggi, Maarten Voors, Madison Levine, Vasudha Ramakrishna, Desmond Maada Kangbai, Michael Rozelle, Ella Tyler, Sellu Kallon, Junisa Nabieu, Sarah Cundy and Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak
Nature, Volume 627, March 2024, 101038

[Microequity: Some Thoughts for an Emerging Research Agenda](#)

Authors: Muhammad Meki , Simon Quinn

Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Volume 40, Issue 1, Spring 2024

[The Impact of Firm Downsizing on Workers: Evidence from Ethiopia's Ready-made Garment Industry](#)

Authors: Christian Meyer, Morgan Hardy, Gisella Kagy, Eyoual Demeke, Marc Witte

World Development, Volume 176, April 2024

[The Participatory Index of Women's Empowerment: Development and an Application in Tunisia](#)

Author: Natalie Nairi Quinn, Simone Lombardini

Oxford Development Studies, Volume. 52, Issue 1, January 2024

[Altruism in Governance: Insights from Randomized Training](#)

Authors: Shaheen Naseer, S. Mehmood, D. Chen

Journal of Development Economics, Volume 170, September 2024

[English Medium Instruction in Multilingual Contexts: Empirical Evidence from Ethiopia](#)

Author: Jennifer Opare-Kumi

International Journal of Educational Development, Volume 105, March 2024,

[Barriers to Search and Hiring in Urban Labour Markets](#)

Authors: Kate Orkin, Stefano Caria, (senior editors), Alison Andrew, Rachel Heath, Robert Garlick, Niharika Singh

VoxDev Lit, Volume 10, Issue 1, February 2024

[The Economic Lives of Refugees](#)

Authors: Olivier Sterck, Alexander Betts, Maria Flinder Stierna, Naohiko Omata

World Development, Volume 182, October 2024, 106693

[School to Work Transition: Employment and Expectations of Former Madrasa Students in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh](#)

Authors: Khandker Wahedur Rahman, Shakil Ahmed, Mohammad Raied Arman, Marjan Hossain, Nuzaba Tahreen Rahman

International Journal of Educational Development, Volume 106, April 2024

[Information and Bargaining through Agents: Experimental Evidence from Mexico's Labour Courts](#)

Authors: Joyce Sadka, Enrique Seira and Christopher Woodruff

The Review of Economic Studies, Open Access, Volume 91, Issue 6, November 2024



READ THE PAPER

[Last Mile Delivery Increases Vaccine Uptake in Sierra Leone](#)

Authors: Niccolò F. Meriggi, Maarten Voors, Madison Levine, Vasudha Ramakrishna, Desmond Maada Kangbai, Michael Rozelle, Ella Tyler, Sellu Kallon, Junisa Nabieu, Sarah Cundy and Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak
Nature, Volume 627, March 2024, 101038

EVENTS



WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS IN OXFORD

We run a termly programme of academic seminars and workshops at the Centre throughout the academic year.

CSAE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

The CSAE Research Workshops are an opportunity for our DPhil students and junior academics to present their work to receive useful feedback to improve their paper and presentation.

CSAE LUNCHTIME SEMINARS

Open to everyone, the CSAE Lunchtime Seminars series runs once a week during term time and features renowned development economists from institutions around the world. The series is sponsored by the Journal of African Economies.

OXFORD DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS WORKSHOP

Organised in partnership with the Department of Economics at the University of Oxford, the Oxford Development Economics Workshop is an annual invitation only event for job market candidates in development economics to present their work ahead of the job market and receive useful feedback from faculty from institutions across Europe.

[Find out more about our events on the CSAE website](#)

Left: delegates fill the lecture theatre at the CSAE Conference 2025

“

I enjoyed the research seminars and workshops. These opportunities were actually very insightful, particularly in terms of the research issues that were being explored.

Gidisa Tato

CSAE Visiting Fellow

In the 2024/25 academic year we had

15

CSAE Lunchtime Seminars

20

CSAE Research Workshops

CSAE CONFERENCE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The CSAE Conference is an annual three-day event hosted in Oxford, UK, bringing together researchers from across the global development economics community to engage with cutting-edge research focused on Africa. With keynote addresses, panels, and over 70 parallel sessions, the conference offers a dynamic platform for presenting new work, receiving constructive feedback, and fostering collaboration.

CSAE CONFERENCE 2025

The CSAE Conference took place from 23 to 25 March 2025 at St Catherine’s College, Oxford, UK.

This year marked a record-breaking number of submissions—1,280 papers were submitted for consideration, with the final number of 263 presented at the event.

The keynote speech ‘Wealth in People’ was delivered by Nobel Prize

winning economist James Robinson (University of Chicago) who challenged conventional narratives arguing that “Africa is not underdeveloped, it is differently developed”.

This year’s opening panel, “Entrepreneurship in Africa”, placed a spotlight on

private-sector development. Tommaso Porzio (Columbia Business School) presented his research on Startups in Africa, followed by a lively discussion featuring Alexandra Fraser (Viridian), Eghosa Omoigui (EchoVC), and Fadilah Tchoumba (ABAN).

263
papers presented

442
registrations

83
sessions and panels

1280
paper submissions

722
applications for funding

34
funded participants

268
CSAE App downloads

The conference closed with the panel “Evidence-Based Policy: Towards an Improved Research-Policy Equilibrium in Africa”, chaired by VoxDev’s Oliver Hanney. The panel brought together key voices in policy and practice, including Ranil Dissanayake (FCDO), Miriam Laker (GiveDirectly), Justice Tei Mensah (World Bank), and Nompumelelo Nyathi-Mohlhane (National Department of Basic Education, South Africa).

In addition to 78 parallel sessions covering ten core conference themes, the

programme featured several special sessions, including:

- Strategic Plan and Policy Challenges for Africa: A Roadmap to 2025-2035 (AERC)
- SA-TIED: Unlocking Data for Economic Research and Policy Impact
- Publishing Research on African Economics in Academic Journals: Pitfalls and Opportunities Session

[Find out more about the CSAE Conference, watch recordings on the CSAE website.](#)

FUNDED SPEAKERS

The CSAE offers financial support for a group of African conference speakers to attend both the CSAE Conference in Oxford, UK, and the CSAE Economic Development in Africa Workshop hosted in a different country in Africa each year.

This year we received 722 applications for funding and were able to sponsor 34 speakers to attend both events.

Below: James Robinson answering questions during the keynote speech.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA WORKSHOP

Each year, as part of the annual CSAE Conference, we support early-career researchers from across Africa to participate in the Economic Development in Africa Workshop. Hosted by a different African university each year, the Workshop provides a unique opportunity for African scholars to receive feedback on their research, access training, and build lasting academic networks. Staff and students from the host institution are also invited to attend both the Workshop and the CSAE Conference in the UK.

CSAE WORKSHOP IN 2024

The 2024 Workshop took place from 03 to 06 December at the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

CSAE faculty were joined by over 30 funded participants, CSAE Visiting Fellows, and members of the University of Pretoria academic community.

The programme featured intensive training sessions designed to strengthen participants' research capacity. Sessions on planning and running randomised controlled trials were delivered by Clare Hofmeyr (J-PAL Africa), Dennis Egger (University of Oxford), and Muhammad Meki (Oxford Department of International Development).

There were also sessions on structural transformation and growth, delivered by Joe Kaboski

Below: delegates at the Economic Development in Africa Workshop in Pretoria 2024



(University of Notre Dame) and Krisztina Orbán (Monash University), providing participants with theoretical insights and practical tools.

Each funded participant presented their research in thematic sessions and received constructive feedback from peers and faculty. Dedicated one-to-one mentoring sessions allowed for in-depth discussion of ongoing work and research proposals.

The opening day of the event also included a public lecture by CSAE Director Stefan Dercon, titled "South Africa's Gamble on Economic Development and Inclusion: Then and Now". The presentation, hosted by ESRA, discussed the subtle interplay between elites and development in South Africa, and what that means for growth and development.

Find out more about the [CSAE Workshop](#) and watch [Stefan Dercon's lecture](#) on the CSAE website.

PREVIOUS WORKSHOP HOSTS

- [Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, 2023](#)
- [University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana, 2022](#)
- [Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2019](#)



Above: delegate registers for the Workshop in Pretoria 2024

WORKSHOP IN NUMBERS

6
training
sessions

31
papers
presented

31
one-to-one
sessions

12
research proposal
sessions

PEOPLE

CSAE Students in the
Manor Road Building

FACULTY

Christopher Adam
Professor of Development
Economics (ODID)

Alison Andrew
Associate Professor in
Economics (Economics)

Noam Angrist
Academic Director, What
Works Hub for Global
Education, and Senior
Fellow (BSG)

Janine Aron
Senior Research Fellow
(OMS)

Banu Demir Pakel
Associate Professor in
Economics (Economics)

Nicolas Cerkez
Departmental Lecturer
(ODID)

**Daniel Crisostomo
Wainstock**
Career Development
Fellowship in Economics
(Queen's College)

Dennis Egger
Associate Professor in
Economics (Economics)

Stefan Dercon
Professor of Economic
Policy (BSG and Econom-
ics) and CSAE Director

Douglas Gollin
Senior Research Fellow
(Economics)

Donna Harris
Director of Studies in
Political Economy
(Department of Continuing
Education)

Md Abir Hasan
Expert on Industrial
Policy for the EPN (BSG)

Marya Hillesland
Research Officer in
International
Development (ODID)

Sanjay Jain
Senior Fellow in
Economics (Economics)

Pramila Krishnan
Professor of Development
Economics (ODID)

Nick Lea
CSAE Adviser at the
EPN (BSG)

Julien Labonne
Associate Professor in
Economics and Public
Policy (BSG)

Nathaniel Lane
Associate Professor in
Economics (Economics)

Clare Leaver
Vice Dean for Academic
Affairs and Professor of
Economics and Public
Policy (BSG)

Amir Lebdioui
Associate Professor of
Political Economy of
Development (ODID)

Anandi Mani
Professor of Behavioural
Economics and Public
Policy (BSG)

Romauld Méango
Associate Professor in
Economics (Economics)

Muhammad Meki
Associate Professor
(ODID)

Pascal Mensah
Economic Policy Network
Coordinator (BSG)

Niccolò F. Meriggi
Postdoctoral Research
Fellow (Economics)

Christian Meyer
Director, Oxford Martin
Programme on the Future
of Development (OMS)

Niclas Moneke
Associate Professor in
Economics (Economics)

Shaheen Naseer
Postdoctoral Fellow (OMS)

Jennifer Opere-Kumi
Postdoctoral Researcher
(BSG)

Jennifer Opere-Kumi
Postdoctoral Researcher
(BSG)

Kate Orkin
Associate Professor in
Economics and Public
Policy (BSG)

Stephen Paduano
Postdoctoral Fellow (BSG)

Natalie Nairi Quinn
Departmental Lecturer
and Tutorial Fellow in
Economics (Economics)

**Khandker Wahedur
Rahman**
Senior Postdoctoral Fel-
low (OMS)

Julio Rodriguez
Postdoctoral Research
Fellow (BSG)

Thiago Scarelli
Departmental Lecturer
(Economics)

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Visiting Professor of
Economics (ODID)

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Senior Research Officer
(ODID)

Uday Wadehra
Research Manager
(Economics)

Martin Williams
Associate Professor in
Public Management (BSG)

Christopher Woodruff
Professor of Development
Economics (ODID)

**Moges Endalamaw
Yigermal**
Research and Policy Of-
ficer at OxDPI (BSG)

Rocco Zizzamia
Postdoctoral Researcher
(Economics)

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Shagnik Chakravarty
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(Economics)

Lottie Fields
(Economics)

Eradil Kabir
(OMS)

Anasuya Narasimhan
(BSG)

Abraham Raju
(BSG)

Dylan Reich
(BSG)

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(World Bank)

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(Wageningen University)

Lukas Hensel
(Guanghua School of
Management, Peking
University)

Vatsal Khandelwal
Junior Research Fellow
(Economics)

**Richard Gilbert
Nikiema**
(Centre d'Economie de
l'Environnement de
Montpellier)

Ashley Pople
(World Bank Climate
Change and Disaster Risk
Management Unit)

Katherine Stapleton
(World Bank)

Verena Wiedemann
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(BSG)

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(BSG)

Jasmin Baier
(BSG)

Jordan Barnard
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Eduard Krkoska
(Economics)

Julia Lawson-Johns
(Economics)

Joseph Levine
(Economics)

Priya Manwaring
(Economics)

Max Marczinek
(Economics)

Lisa Martin
(Economics)

Kristen McCollum
(COMPAS)

Mata Muon
(ODID)

Karthik Narayan A.S
(Economics)

Yacine Ouahioune
(BSG)

Anvita Ramachandran
(ODID)

**Manuel Ramos
Maqueda**
(BSG)

Krittika Ray
(Economics)

Lovisa Reich
(Economics)

Nan Sandi
(BSG)

Nithya Srinivasan
(BSG)

Sharada Srinivasan
(BSG)

Amirah Sumarto
(BSG)

Oliver Harman
(BSG)

Amirah Kaca Sumarto
(BSG)

**Chantawit (Earth)
Tantasith**
(ODID)

Daniel Tate
(DPIR)

Hannah Timmis
(BSG)

John Walker
(Economics)

Yi (Hannah) Wei
(Economics)

Hallelujah Lulie Wondimu
(DPIR)

Dongyi Wu
(ODID)

Tianyi Wu
(BSG)

Yiran Xu
(ODID)

Dilan Yang
(Economics)

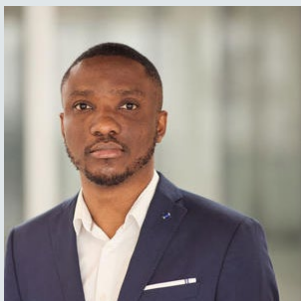
Nusaiba Zakaria
(Economics)

Wenzhang Zhang
(Economics)

CSAE DPHIL NETWORK

The CSAE DPhil Network brings together postdoctoral students with a shared interest in development economics from across the University of Oxford. To join, email csae.communications@economics.ox.ac.uk

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



THIERRY HOUNSA

DPhil Candidate, Department of Economics,
University of Oxford

Before joining the Department of Economics at the University of Oxford, I worked for several years as a Consultant with the World Bank in the Poverty and Equity Global Practice, Africa Region. I have also worked with different UN Agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP and UN-Women

on African and South-East Asian countries. In these various roles, I conducted research on the drivers of poverty and the effects of shocks on household welfare. Regarding my education, I completed Master's degrees from the Paris School of Economics and the Regional School of Economics and Statistics (ENSEA) of Abidjan-Côte d'Ivoire. I pursued my undergraduate studies in Benin, which is my home country.

My research interests lie at the intersection of political economy and development economics with a focus on social identity and social norms in developing countries. In my work, I use experimental and quasi-experimental evidence to examine how language policies implemented in early education influence national identity formation in adulthood and their implications for state and nation building. Another dimension of my research explores how conflicts and peacekeeping missions affect social norms across Africa.



TIANYI WU

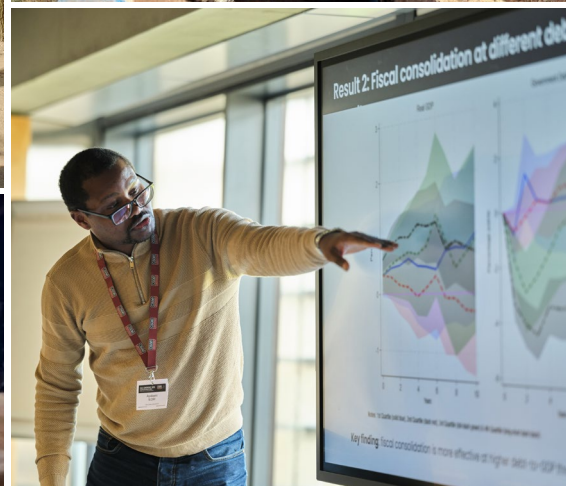
DPhil Candidate, Blavatnik School of Government,
University of Oxford

Before joining the Blavatnik School of Government, I spent several years developing expertise in international infrastructure financing and governance. With a background in International Relations and Development Economics, my work and research center on how the policy-making of infrastructure financing can be leveraged to support financially, environmentally, and socially sustainable projects. Previously, I contributed to research and project development on impact investment, sustainable finance, and public-private partnerships at the Overseas Development Institute, UCL's Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP), the China-Africa Development Fund, UNIDO, and the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation. I completed an MPhil in Development Studies at the University of Cambridge and studied International Relations at Fudan University.

In my current research, I focus on the political economy of infrastructure financing. In my dphil thesis, I examined the drivers and mechanism of Chinese infrastructure creditor diversification across African countries. I am particular interested in how state-business relations in Africa influence engagement with various Chinese financiers as well as the nature of development finance policymaking process within China. Another ongoing project is a survey experiment on how the Zambian government can negotiate public-private partnerships for green renewable infrastructure projects.

Below: CSAE students sit together in the Manor Road Building







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<https://csae.web.ox.ac.uk>

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