

Meet the CSAE Visiting Fellows 2024

– Monica Lambon-Quayefio Video Transcript



Christian Meyer

Hi, everyone. My name is Christian Meyer. I'm with the University of Oxford and with the Centre for the Study of African Economies. I'm super excited today to be joined by one of our key visiting fellows this term, Monica Lambon-Quayefio from the University of Ghana. Monica, thank you so much for being here. Today we'd love to chat a little bit more about your research, your research interests, your work, and what you're going to be doing while you're here at CSAE for this term. Why don't we start with a quick introduction about your research interest and who you are and what you are working on.

Monica Lambon-Quayefio

Thank you very much for and thank you for having me at the CSAE. My name is Monica Lambon-Quayefio from the Department of Economics at the University of Ghana and I'm an applied microeconomist with research interests in gender and labour markets, education, social protection, and digital agriculture. Aside from being a CSAE Visiting Fellow, I'm also a Transfer Project fellow in the Centre for Effective Global Action and, in addition, I'm also an invited researcher from the various J-PAL initiatives, including agriculture, digital agriculture, education and social protection as well as the jobs initiative.

Christian Meyer

That's amazing. So, tell us a little bit more about some of your current work in these areas of interest.

Monica Lambon-Quayefio

I'm doing exciting work in labour markets for instance, so my recent work has to do with trying to understand the gender profit gap amongst entrepreneurs. So, here the interest is trying to explore various interventions that could potentially be used to minimise these gaps that we find in that particular sector. Aside from that, I'm also very much interested or focussed on trying to use technology to be able to minimise the massive inefficiencies that we find in the labour market. So, it's just leveraging technology to make it easy for job seekers and employers to actually find themselves. Also very much interested in trying to understand how education policies actually affect women's labour market choices as well as their well-being. Another part of gender I'm very much interested in is how unpaid work and domestic work actually affect women's labour market decisions and how all these decisions come together to actually affect the household and also children. With respect to digital agriculture, again it comes back to the use of technology, how do

we use technology to actually de-risk lending more in the general agricultural sector so that small scale farmers can have access to credits, can have access to insurance, can have access to markets so that their well-being can be improved. So, in a nutshell, these are the kinds of things that I've been working on recently.

Christian Meyer

That's super exciting. Maybe one more question, what do you think you're going to be spending your time on here? Is there a specific project that you think you're going to be working on? Do you want to talk a little bit about this project?

Monica Lambon-Quayefio

Sure, I actually wanted to use this visit to be able to focus a bit more on writing. I have a few uncompleted papers that I wanted to use this quiet time to be able to focus on and finish up and also leverage on the very vibrant research community here, not only at the CSAE and the department, but also at OMS and the other different departments that are doing development related work. So having the opportunity to present my work, get feedback and also talk to people about potentially collaborating on common areas of interest. These are all really good things about this visit that I'm hoping to be able to take away. So ultimately, the goal would be to go back with a finished paper that could be submitted to a journal.

Christian Meyer

Amazing. Cool, and we are certainly super excited to have you here as part of our research community. We look forward to seeing what papers come out of this. Thank you so much again for being with us and I looking forward to working together. Thank you so much, Monica.

Monica Lambon-Quayefio

Thank you for having me. Thank you so much.