

Joshua D. Merfeld

merfeld [at] kdis.ac.kr

KDI School of Public Policy and Management
263 Namsejong-ro, Sejong-si, South Korea, Office 343
+82-44-550-1023
joshmerfeld.github.io/

Academic Positions

KDI School of Public Policy and Management

Associate Professor (2023 - Present)

Assistant Professor (2020 - 2023)

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University

Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Service (2018 - 2020)

Department of Global Economics, Sungkyunkwan University

Lecturer (2017)

Research Affiliations

Global Action for Poverty (GAP)

Affiliated Researcher (2023 - Present)

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

Invited Researcher (2023 - Present)

Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)

Research Affiliate (2020 - Present)

University of Washington Forum on Political Economy

Fellow (2020 - Present)

Publications

“Labor Elasticities, Market Failures, and Misallocation: Evidence from Indian Agriculture.” (2023) *Agricultural Economics*, [54\(5\)](#), 623-637.

“Sectoral Wage Gaps and Gender in Rural India.” (2022) *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, [105\(2\)](#), 434-452.

“The Importance of Specification Choices when Analyzing Sectoral Productivity Gaps” with Peter Brummund (2022). *Agricultural Economics*, [53\(4\)](#): 605-616.

“Should Farmers Farm More? Comparing Marginal Products within Malawian Households” with Peter Brummund (2021). *Agricultural Economics*, [53\(2\)](#): 289-306.

“Protecting Girls from Droughts with Social Safety Nets” with Jagori Chatterjee (2021). *World Development*, [Volume 147](#), 105624.

“Moving up or Just Surviving? Non-Farm Self-Employment in India” (2020). *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, [102\(1\)](#), January 2020: 32-53.

“Spatially Heterogeneous Effects of a Public Works Program” (2019). *Journal of Development Economics*, [136](#), January 2019: 151-167.

“Relating Seasonal Hunger, Coping and Prevention Strategies, and Household Nutrition: A Panel Analysis of Malawian Farm Households” with C. Leigh Anderson, Travis Reynolds, and Pierre Biscaye (2018). *Journal of Development Studies*, [54\(10\)](#), October 2018: 1737-1755.

Working Papers

“Improving Estimates of Mean Welfare and Uncertainty in Developing Countries” with David Newhouse World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 10348, available [here](#). Revision requested, *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

“Combining Survey and Geospatial Data Can Significantly Improve Gender-Disaggregated Estimates of Labor Market Outcomes” with David Newhouse, Michael Weber, and Partha Lahiri. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 10077, available [here](#). Revision requested, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A*.

“Small Area Estimation of Monetary Poverty in Mexico using Satellite Imagery and Machine Learning” with David Newhouse, Anusha Pudugramam Ramakrishnan, Tom Swartz, and Partha Lahiri. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 10175, available [here](#). Revision requested, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*.

“Air pollution and agricultural productivity in a developing country.” Draft available [here](#).

“Minimum wages and economic shocks: Evidence from South Africa” with Matthew Sharp. Draft available [here](#).

“Poverty at Higher Frequency” with Jonathan Morduch. Draft available [here](#).

Works in Progress

“Electricity, pollution, and structural transformation” with Sunghun Lim. Draft soon.

“Gender Norms at Work: Impacts on Women’s Hiring and Workplace Experiences in Bangladesh” with Emily Beam and Asad Islam (funding: £225,000).

“Structural Transformation in a Changing Climate” with Rajeev Dehejia.

“Foreign Direct Investment and Micro-Level Structural Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa” with Sunghun Lim.

“Improving Estimates of Human Capital” with Lanu Kim, David Newhouse, and Michael Weber.

“Does the timing of the school year affect child labor decisions in developing countries?”

Funding

“Gender Norms at Work: Impacts on Women’s Hiring and Workplace Experiences in Bangladesh” Co-PI with Asad Islam and Emily Beam (£225,000)

“The short-term effects of the Covid-19 lockdown on rural communities in India” Co-I with Ashwini Deshpande, Kritika Saxena, and Lore Vandewalle (£19,952)

KDI School research funding (KRW 35,160,000)

Awards

2022 Outstanding Reviewer Award, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

Service

Referee service: Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, World Development, Food Policy, Journal of Official Statistics, Journal of Development Studies, Agricultural Economics, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Social Indicators Research, Agribusiness

Presentations (Including Scheduled)

2024: Peking University; GRIPS; University of Sydney; ANU Crawford; ANU RSE

2023: SNU; EEA; Manchester; Reading; Agricultural Economics Society Annual Conference; UN World Data Forum; AEA/ASSA (discussant)

2022: Tilburg; Penn State; IZA; IFAD; Agricultural Economics Society Annual Conference; IARIW; SMU (Singapore); NUS; IIM Calcutta; ANU Crawford; Yonsei

2021: Sungkyunkwan University; Korea University GSIS; Korea University Economics; Jobs and Development; Big4Small, SAE 2021; UN World Data Forum; ANU Crawford; Sogang University

2020: UC Dublin; KDI School, The Graduate Institute; Seoul National University

2019: NYU; Royal Economics Society; KDIS-3ie-ADB Conference on Impact Evaluation in Development Research; KER International Conference; NEUDC; Columbia; Econometric Society Winter Meetings

2018: AEA/ASSA; NYU

2017: Northwest Development Workshop; KEA/APEA; APPAM

2016: IATUR; Data for Policy; PNW Labor Day

2015: APPAM; STAARS

Teaching Experience (Including Scheduled)

Development Economics (PhD)

Causal Inference/Econometrics (PhD)

Research Methods (PhD)

Analysis of Markets for Public Policy - Microeconomics (Masters)

Agriculture and Development (Masters)

Statistical Methods (Masters)

Using Large Datasets in Policy Research (Masters)

Designing Data Collection for Program Evaluation (Masters)

Capstone: Advanced Research Projects in Quantitative Analysis (Masters)

Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy (Undergrad)

Mathematics for Economics (Undergrad)

Education

University of Washington

Ph.D. - Public Policy and Management (2018)

MS - Public Policy and Management (2015)

Georgia State University

MPP - Public Policy (2013)

University of Georgia

B.A. - Spanish (2008)

Policy Work

“The Gambia poverty assessment” with many others.

“Estimating Poverty in Borno State, Nigeria” with Ryan Engstrom, David Newhouse, and M. Abul Kalam Azad.

“Structural Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa” with Gildas Deudibe, Justin Ndoutoumou, and David Newhouse. Note prepared for the Sub-Saharan Africa Team for Statistical Development, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank.

Languages

English (Native), Spanish (Fluent), Korean (Beginner)