

JAMES AHABYONA

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EDUCATION

M.Sc. in Economics 2022–2024

Nova School of Business and Economics, Portugal

Relevant coursework: Microeconomic Analysis, Microeconometrics, Machine Learning

- Best student in Development Economics class (19/20)
- Awarded Nova Africa Fellowship Merit-Based Scholarship

B.A. Development Economics (*Honors, top 1%*) 2017–2021

Makerere University, Uganda

Relevant coursework: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Quantitative Methods, Mathematics for Economists

- Graduated on Dean's List (GPA > 3.90)
- Awarded Kapadia Education Foundation Scholarship

National Diploma in Civil Engineering (*top 3%*) 2014–2016

Uganda Technical College Bushenyi

Relevant coursework: Engineering Mathematics I, II, and III

- Awarded Uganda Government Tertiary Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The World Bank Group Institute for Economic Development 2025

Reproducible Research Fundamentals

Nova School of Business PhD Summer School 2022

- Practical Issues in Designing & Analyzing Field Experiments – Prof. David McKenzie, World Bank
- Political Economy and Development – Prof. Claudio Ferraz, University of British Columbia

London Business School 2022

Wheeler Institute's GIS for Quantitative Spatial Data Analysis Workshop Series

QuantEcon Summer Course in Quantitative Economics 2022

Instructors: Thomas J. Sargent (New York University) and John Stachurski (Australian National University)

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Analyst February 2024–August 2024

Learn More, Milan, Italy

- Designed the learner assessment survey using Survey CTO for the midline evaluation of the Enhancing Quality and Inclusive Education (EQIE) Project in Lebanon including sections on the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) and International Social and Emotional Learning Assessment (ISELA) ([Access code](#))
- Assisted in econometric analysis and drafting of the final evaluation report for the EQIE project in Mozambique
- Led a review of the Council of Europe's Digital Citizenship Education (DCE) Recommendation (CM/Rec(2019)10), aiming to integrate digital citizenship education across Council of Europe Member States

Research Assistant for Professor Melissa Prado March 2023– May 2023

Nova School of Business and Economics

Research Assistant for Professor Catia Batista

Nova School of Business and Economics

August 2022– March 2023

Research Assistant for Professor Christopher Neilson

Yale University (Remote)

August 2021– February 2022

Enumerator

Policy Analysis and Development Research Institute (PADRI)

June 2021–July 2021

- Contacted and scheduled meetings with respondents during the data collection phase of the impact evaluation of the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP)
- Completed training in KoboCollect, a data collection tool, to effectively gather and manage data in various research projects

PUBLICATIONS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Artisanal Mines and Women Empowerment

Abstract: Does proximity to economic opportunities empower women? To answer this question, we combine several dataset sources including Demographic Health Surveys, Historical Gold Prices, and a unique dataset that geolocates mining activities across Africa etc

Can Games Measure Mobile Money Adoption? Evidence from Mozambique

Advisor: [Professor Catia Batista](#) — [Download](#)

Abstract: Forecasting the adoption of technological innovations is difficult but potentially impactful, particularly in rural low- income communities worldwide. This paper tests a novel method to measure mobile money adoption by employing behavioral measures to elicit preferences for saving or remitting using mobile money. I link these game decisions to individual-level mobile money administrative transaction data; my findings show that while willingness to remit through mobile money strongly predicts adoption in the second and third years after mobile money was introduced, willingness to save in the mobile money game is a strong predictor of future mobile money cash-in and any mobile money transaction in the first, second, and third years.

Child Labour in Uganda: An Annotated Bibliography

Co-author: Vanessa Cordeiro — [Download](#) — [Project Website](#)

Abstract: We provide a comprehensive overview of child labour in Uganda, offering insights into its causes, consequences, and potential solutions. We use sources such as research articles , reports, and policy documents , making it a valuable resource for researchers, policy makers and civil society organizations interested in understanding and addressing this critical problem

Monitoring Floods in Uganda (2021-2022) using Google Earth Engine

[Access Link](#)

Abstract: In August 2022, Uganda experienced increased rainfall that led to floods, especially in the eastern part of the country, where over 23 people died. In this project I visualize the extent of the floods by comparing pre-flood period and flood periods.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Co-founder, [Move Network International](#)

2019–Present

- Designed the Girl Space program where over 25 teenage mothers in my community accessed counseling, mentorship and skills development
- Secured \$1,500 grant from The Little Big Fund to empower 35 teenage mothers with entrepreneurship training and micro-grants; this project featured in [2024 Little Big Fund Impact Report](#)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming & Software: Stata, Python, Advanced Microsoft Excel, L^AT_EX, QGIS, Survey CTO, Qualtrics, Dedoose

Data Analysis: Data Cleaning, Data Aggregation, Data Visualization, Geospatial Analysis

Statistical Methods: OLS, Logit/Probit, Panel Data Models, Propensity Score Matching, Instrumental Variables, Difference-in-Difference, Machine Learning (Supervised/Unsupervised)

Languages: English (Fluent), Swahili (Basic), Luganda (Fluent), Ruyankore-Rukiga (Fluent)

CONFERENCES

Energy Access Investment Forum – Kampala, Uganda	2025
LESE - Lisbon Economics and Statistics of Education – Lisbon, Portugal	2024
15th International Conference on Migration and Development – Lisbon, Portugal	2022
NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development – Lisbon, Portugal	2022

Referees available upon request