Kensuke Maeba

Contact Information	Department of Economics	(+1) 312-874-9284
	Northwestern University	kensukemaeba2022@u.northwestern.edu
	2211 Campus Drive	https://kensukemaeba.github.io
	Evanston, IL 60208	Citizenship: Japanese

Research Fields

Primary: Development Economics

Secondary: Industrial Organization, Economics of Education

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, 2023 (Expected)
- Dissertation: Essays on Education Policies in Developing Countries
- Committee: Seema Jayachandran (Co-Chair), Lori Beaman (Co-Chair), Christopher Udry, Vivek Bhattacharya

M.A., Economics, Northwestern University, 2018

M.A., Economics, The University of Tokyo, 2017

B.A., Economics, Keio University, 2015

Fellowships & Awards

2022-2023: Graduate Dissertation Fellowship

2021-2022: Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award

2017-2020: WCAS External Fellowship

2017-2020: Japan Student Service Organization (JASSO) Student Exchange Support Program (Graduate Scholarship for Degree Seeking Students)

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University
- 2023 Spring: Introduction to Applied Econometrics (Prof. Richard Walker)
- 2022 Winter: Introduction to Microeconomics (Prof. Scott Ogawa)
- 2021 Fall: Microeconomics (Prof. Scott Ogawa)
- 2021 Winter: Introduction to Microeconomics (Prof. Sara Hernández-Saborit)
- 2020 Fall: Introduction to Applied Econometrics (Prof. Daley Kutzman)

Teaching Assistant, The University of Tokyo
- 2017 S1: Case Study (Poverty and Development I) (Prof. Yoshito Takasaki)
- 2016 S2: Development Economics: Microeconomic Approach (Prof. Yoshito Takasaki)

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Northwestern University
- 2021 Spring: Prof. Frank Limbrock

Research Assistant, The University of Tokyo
- 2017-2018: Prof. Malek Mohammad Abdul
- 2016-2017: Prof. Hiroyuki Nakata
- 2016-2017: Prof. Hideo Owan
- 2016-2017: Prof. Yasuyuki Sawada

Conferences

2022: Development Day

2017: GRIPS-UTokyo Empirical Workshop, International Association for Applied Econometrics Conferences

Working Papers

"Extrapolation of Treatment Effect Estimates Across Contexts and Policies: An Application to Cash Transfer Experiments," May 2023, JMP

> Predicting the effects of a new policy often relies on existing evidence of the same policy in other contexts. However, cross-contexts predictions may fail because those contexts may have distinct characteristics and the same policies may function differently across contexts. In such cases, one might want to make predictions based on similar policies in one's own context to hold local factors constant. This paper compares these approaches using cash transfer programs in Malawi and Morocco. By predicting the treatment effect of Moroccan CCTs on school enrollment rates based on either Malawi CCTs or Moroccan labeled cash transfers (LCTs), I show that predictions based on the Moroccan LCTs (across policies) are more accurate than the Malawi CCTs (across contexts). To shed light on the sources of the difference, I estimate a dynamic model of schooling decisions under each intervention separately and compare the estimated parameters across the interventions. I find that perceived returns to schooling relative to outside options explain the differential predictions. I suggest that differences in the underlying mechanisms of the Malawi and Moroccan CCTs are reflected in the cross-contexts variation of the relative returns.

"How the Political Power of Teacher Unions Affects Education" (joint with Eduardo Campillo Betancourt), May 2023

> Teacher unions play an important role in determining the quality of public education, especially when they have political power. However, the effects of the unions on education outcomes are theoretically ambiguous and empirical evidence is limited, particularly in developing countries. This paper studies how politically powerful teacher unions affect public education, focusing on the largest corporatist teacher union in Mexico and a performance-pay program regarded as the union's patronage tool for rewarding teachers based on their electoral support. We show that the number of public secondary school teachers who got promoted in the program increased in the municipalities supporting the union-affiliated candidate during the 2006 presidential election, compared to less supportive municipalities, after that election. However, we also show that the increased promotion was not associated with improved learning outcomes, suggesting that the implementation of the program was distorted by the political influence of the union.

Work in Progress

"Is Workfare a Good Anti-Poverty Policy? An Assessment Based on Household Welfare, School Enrollment, and Program Expenditures," May 2023

"Birth Order Effect Under a Cash Transfer Program," July 2019, Pre-doctoral thesis, Available at SSRN

Professional Services

2020: A committee member & a discussant for EMCON

2019: A committee member for Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference (EMCON)

Languages

English (fluent), Japanese (native)

References

Professor Seema Jayachandran (Co-Chair)
Department of Economics &
School of Public and Intl. Affairs
Princeton University
126 Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building
Princeton, NJ 08544
jayachandran@princeton.edu

Professor Lori Beaman (Co-Chair)
Department of Economics
Northwestern University
2211 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
l-beaman@northwestern.edu

Professor Christopher Udry
Department of Economics
Northwestern University
2211 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
christopher.udry@northwestern.edu

Professor Vivek Bhattacharya
Department of Economics
Northwestern University
2211 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
vivek.bhattacharya@northwestern.edu