

# LUKE HEATH MILSOM

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## RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Urban and Spatial, Development, Public

Secondary: Labor, Trade

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## EDUCATION

University of Oxford

2018 - 2023 (expected)

*Doctor of Philosophy in Economics*

- Visiting Student: UC Berkeley, 2022

- Visiting Student: National University of Singapore, 2019

### References

Prof. Douglas Gollin

*University of Oxford*

[douglas.gollin@economics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:douglas.gollin@economics.ox.ac.uk)

Prof. Ferdinand Rauch

*Heidelberg University*

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Prof. Gabriel Ulyssea

*University College London*

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Prof. Niclas Moneke

*University of Oxford*

[niclas.moneke@economics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:niclas.moneke@economics.ox.ac.uk)

University of Oxford

2016 - 2018

*Master of Philosophy in Economics*

London School of Economics and Political Science

2013 - 2016

*BSc. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics*

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## RESEARCH

### Working Papers

- Moving Opportunity. Local Connectivity and Spatial Inequality. ([JOB MARKET PAPER pdf](#))

*Within-country inequality across space is large. How does the connectivity of place determine underlying spatial inequality of opportunity? To answer this question, I derive a theoretical sufficient statistic result linking local opportunity to market access terms, developing a framework consistent with a broad class of spatial general equilibrium models. I empirically validate this result using a novel not-on-least-cost-path identification strategy and data from historical road maps in Benin, Cameroon, and Mali covering 1970 to 2020, that I digitize. Using these estimates to parameterize a structural case of the spatial model, I show that road building alters the spatial distribution of opportunity. By considering each possible road upgrade I show that although some roads decrease the standard deviation of opportunity by more than 2%, others increase inequality by a similar amount. Policymakers also face an equity-efficiency trade-off: On average only 6 of the top 10 aggregate opportunity-increasing roads also decrease inequality of opportunity. A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that between 13% and 44% of people living in low-opportunity locations would need to migrate to high-opportunity areas to achieve reductions in inequality similar to those I estimate to be possible through road upgrades.*

- Spatial Inequality of Opportunity in West Africa. *R&R Journal of Public Economics* [pdf](#)

- The Butcher, the Brewer, or the Baker: The Role of Occupations in Explaining Wage Inequality. (With Shihang Hou) [pdf](#)
- Minimum Wages and the China Syndrome: Causal Evidence from US Local Labour Markets. (With Isabelle Roland) [pdf](#)
- Gravity in International Finance: Evidence from Fees on Equity Transactions. (With Vladimir Pazitka, Isabelle Roland, Dariusz Wojcik) [pdf](#)

### Work in Progress

- Moving to Possibility. Migration and Deviations from Expected Utility in Spatial Equilibrium.
- Labours of Love: The Search for Occupational Meaning & Worker Welfare (With Hannah Zillessen & Shihang Hou)
- Reference Dependent Social Planners (With Hannah Zillessen)

### Publications

- The Epidemiological Impact of the NHS Covid-19 App (2021). (With Chris Wymant, Luca Ferretti, Daphne Tsallis, Marcos Charalambides, Lucie Abeler-Dörner, David Bonsall, Robert Hinch, Michelle Kendall, Mathew Ayres, Chris Holmes, Mark Briers, Christophe Fraser) [Nature](#)
- Epidemiological changes on the Isle of Wight after the launch of the NHS Test and Trace programme: a preliminary analysis (2020). (With Michelle Kendall; Lucie Abeler-Dörner; Chris Wymant; Luca Ferretti; Mark Briers; Chris Holmes; David Bonsall; Johannes Abeler; Christophe Fraser) [The Lancet Digital Health](#)
- Acceptability of App-Based Contact Tracing for COVID-19: Cross-Country Survey Study. (2020). (With Samuel Altmann; Hannah Zillessen; Raffaele Blassone; Frederic Gerdon; Ruben Bach; Frauke Kreuter; Daniele Nosenzo; Séverine Toussaert; Johannes Abeler) [JMIR](#) [mhealth](#) [uhealth](#)

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### EXTERNAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2022: ES European Winter Meeting, NEUDC, LEAP, OxDev, CEP Junior trade workshop, American Urban Economics Association Summer Meeting, 7th Lindau Meeting on Economic Sciences, Infra4Dev, Development Economics Workshop ARE UC Berkeley, European Urban Economics Association Meeting, Royal Economic Society Young Economist Symposium, African Meeting of the Econometric Society, Warwick Ph.D. Conference, Royal Economic Society 2022 conference.

2021: Newcastle Ph.D. Economics Conference, CSAE conference, Warwick PhD conference.

2020: American Urban Economics Society Workshop.

2019: Applied Microeconomics Workshop at the National University of Singapore, CSAE Conference.

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### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

<b>Department of Economics, University of Oxford</b> <i>Research Assistant to Prof. Johannes Abeler</i>	<b>2016 - 2021</b>
<b>Department of Economics, University of Oxford</b> <i>Research Assistant to Dr Isabelle Roland</i>	<b>2018 - 2020</b>
<b>World Bank, DC</b> <i>Short term consultant</i>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Department of Economics, University of Oxford</b> <i>Research Assistant to Prof. Sophocles Mavroeidis</i>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Center for Economic Performance, LSE</b> <i>Research Assistant to Prof. Steve Machin and Prof. Sandra McNally</i>	<b>2016-17</b>

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>Stipendiary Lecturer at Corpus Christi College, Oxford (2018-2023)</b> <i>Courses: (undergraduate) introductory and intermediate macroeconomics, introductory and intermediate microeconomics, intermediate and advanced econometrics.</i>
<b>Teaching Assistant MSc Economics for Development, Oxford (2020-21)</b> <i>Courses: (graduate) International Trade.</i>
<b>Teaching Assistant, The LSE (2017-18)</b> <i>Courses: (undergraduate) intermediate macroeconomics.</i>

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## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

<b>Department of Economics, University of Oxford</b> <i>George-Webb-Medley Endowment Grant</i>	<b>2020 - 2022</b>
<b>Department of Economics, University of Oxford</b> <i>Doctoral Bursary</i>	<b>2020 - 2022</b>
<b>Oxford Radcliffe ESRC Scholarship, University of Oxford</b> <i>Full scholarship partly funded by University College, Oxford.</i>	<b>2016 - 2021</b>
<b>Chelgren Scholarship, Oxford</b>	<b>2016 - 18</b>

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## MISCELLANEOUS

<b>Software skills</b>	<b>Stata, Matlab, Python, ArcGIS, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X</b>
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