

RICHARD FREUND

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EDUCATION	DEGREE	DATE	FIELD
University of Cape Town	Ph.D.	Ongoing	Economics
University of Oxford	M.Sc.	2020	Economics
University of Cape Town	B.Bus.Sci	2018	Economics & Finance

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labour Economics, Public Policy, International Development, Human Capital Investments (Skills, Education and Health), Economic Shocks

EMPLOYMENT

MIDE DEVELOPMENT, Lima, Peru Jan 2023 – to date
Research Associate

YOUNG LIVES, Oxford, U.K. Sep 2020 – Dec 2022
Research Analyst

RECENT CONSULTANCIES

GENESIS ANALYTICS, South Africa (Analysis of a Bill & Melinda Gates funded project in Zimbabwe on the effects of results-based financing on male circumcision outcomes); **OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL, FUTURE OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**, UK (Mapping jobs and skills in the informal economy in South Africa to occupations in the ESCO taxonomy).

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, SOUTHERN AFRICA & LABOUR DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH UNIT
Research Affiliate Jan 2023 – to date

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Research Affiliate, Young Lives Jan 2023 – to date

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

“Social Protection and Foundational Cognitive Skills During Adolescence: Evidence from a Large Public Works Programme” (with M. Favara, C. Porter, and J. Behrman). *World Bank Economic Review*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhad035>

“Entrepreneurial Skills Training for Online Freelancing: Experimental Evidence from Haiti” (with D. Baptista and R. Freund). *Economics Letters*, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2023.111371>.

“Young Lives, interrupted: Short-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on adolescents in low- and middle-income countries” (with M. Favara, C. Porter, D. Scott and A. Sánchez), *Journal of Development Studies*, 2022, 58:6, 1063–1080.

Technical Notes and Policy Briefs

“Two Years of COVID-19 is Threatening Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Emerging Policy Recommendations to Support Young People in Developing Countries” (with K. Ford). *Young Lives Policy Brief* 52, 2022.

“Protecting the Most Vulnerable People in Vietnam from Climate Shocks: Exposure to Flooding and Crop Failures has Unequal Impact on Children’s Development and Learning” (with K. Ford). *Young Lives Policy Brief* 54, 2022.

“Young Lives Under Pressure: Protecting and Promoting Young People’s Mental Health at a Time of Global Crises” (with K. Ford). *Young Lives Policy Brief* 55, 2022.

Working Papers

“From drought to distress: unpacking the mental health effects of water scarcity”, *Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Working Paper WPS/2023-07*, 2023. [Under review: World Development]

“What If It Never Happened? Subjective Treatment Effects of a Negative Shock on Young People’s Labour Market Outcomes in Developing Countries” (with M. Perez-Alvarez and M. Favara). *IZA Discussion Paper Series* No. 16417, 2023.

“The Mental Cost of Job Loss: Assessing the Impact on Young Adults in Vietnam” (with M. Favara, C. Porter, D. Scott, and D. Le Thuc). *IZA Discussion Paper Series* No. 15522, 2022.

“Unpacking the Post-lockdown Employment Recovery of Young Women in the Global South” (with M. Favara, C. Porter, D. Scott, and A. Sánchez). *IZA Discussion Paper Series* No. 14829, 2021. [Under review: Population and Development Review].

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Is Online Training for All? Experimental Evidence on the Effects of a Coursera Program on Labour Outcomes in Costa Rica” (with R. Novella and R. Freund) [Revise and resubmit: Journal of Development Economics]

“Do entrepreneurial skills unlock opportunities for online freelancing? Experimental Evidence from El Salvador” (with R. Novella and M.V. Fazio). [Under review: Journal of Development Economics]

“Construction of an Internationally Comparable Child Multidimensional Poverty Index” (with N.N. Quinn).

SELECTED GRANTS, AWARDS AND HONOURS

2023-to date: Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Postgraduate Scholarship

2020: George Webb Medley prize for second-best overall performance in master’s programme, University of Oxford.

2018: Thembi Losi Memorial Prize for best long paper with a developmental theme in South Africa, University of Cape Town

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023: Centre for the Studies of African Economies (CSAE) conference, Oxford, UK; Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) 5th Annual Psychology and Economics of Poverty Convening, Berkeley, U.S.A; 3rd Annual University of Pretoria – Stellenbosch University PhD Workshop, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

2022: German Development Economics Conference, Hohenheim, Germany; Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit Seminar Series, Cape Town, South Africa; Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), 27th annual conference, Lima, Peru; Economic Development in Africa Workshop (ISSER-CSAE), Accra, Ghana; 6th IZA/World Bank/NJD/UNU-WIDER Jobs and Development Conference, Cape Town, South Africa.

2021: UNICEF Mozambique National Forum on Children (online); UNICEF Innocenti Office of Research Seminar Series (online); UNDP Youth Seminar (online); UNU-WIDER Development Conference (online); 12th IAAH World Congress on Adolescent Health (online)

2020: Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative Seminar Series (online); Oxford Forum for International Development Conference, Oxford, U.K.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

“J-PAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON DEVELOPMENT METHODOLOGIES”

Jul 2023

Lecturers: Prof. Rema Hanna (Harvard Kennedy School and J-PAL) “Advanced designs / Spillovers” and Prof. Karen Macours (Paris School of Economics and J-PAL) “Power calculations; Survey design; Threats to Validity”

“OXFORD SCHOOL OF CLIMATE CHANGE”

Jan 2021 – Mar 2021

Prof. Myles Allen (University of Oxford), Dr. Kaya Axelsson (University of Oxford), Prof. Philip Stier (University of Oxford), Dr Laurence Wainwright (University of Oxford)
Oxford Climate Society

“MEASURING ECONOMIC WELFARE”

Jul 2018

Dr. Andrew Kerr (University of Cape Town)
Southern Africa & Development Research Unit Short Course

DATA COLLECTION AND FIELD WORK EXPERIENCE

2023 Telephone survey in South Africa to informal microentrepreneurs aimed at understanding their occupation, skills, and fit to the ESCO taxonomy

2023 Field research in Ethiopia: fieldwork for pilot of Young Lives Round 7 survey

2022 Field research in Peru: fieldwork for pilot of Young Lives Round 7 survey

VOLUNTEER WORK

PERIODS FOR HOPE, Cape Town, South Africa
Co-founder and Monitoring & Evaluation Lead

Jun 2016 – to date

REFeree FOR: Journal of Development Studies

LANGUAGES: Native English-speaker, basic knowledge of Spanish

NATIONALITIES: South African and Canadian

WRITING: I write for the Daily Maverick, a South African online news publication

Last updated: February 2024