

Yabo Gwladys Vidogbena

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EDUCATION	University of Houston	Ph.D. in Economics	Expected 2025
	African Institute for Mathematical Sciences	MS in Mathematical Sciences	2018-2019
	African School of Economics	MA in Economics	2015-2017
	Ecole Nationale d'Economie Appliquée et de Management	BA in Applied Statistics	2010-2013

FIELD OF SPECIALIZATION
Primary: Development Economics
Secondary: Economics of Education

WORKING PAPERS
[Exposure to Heat and Student Cognitive Functioning in Ghana \(Job Market Paper\)](#)

This paper examines the effect of heat on children's executive function behavior in Ghana. Executive function behavior reflects the ability to stay focused in the presence of external stimuli. Heat may affect executive function behavior through changes in brain chemistry and functioning, leading to decreases in attention, memory, information retention and processing. Using rich longitudinal data on children, this paper estimates child fixed-effects models to obtain the contemporaneous effects of temperature on executive function behavior and tests scores. The results suggest that an increase in UTCI temperature decreases children's executive function, measured as a decrease in enumerator-reported attentiveness. The paper also finds that poorer children's executive function is more affected under heat. There is no effect on test scores, which may reflect both skills and effort.

[Temperature and Learning in West and Central Africa](#), with Risto Conte Keivabu, Julia Behrman, and Liliana Andriano

In this paper, we combine georeferenced temperature data with newly released learning data from 8 West and Central African (WCA) countries in the Programme on the Analysis of Education Systems (PASEC). In the first part of the paper, we provide benchmark estimates of the effect of high temperatures on learning outcomes in WCA, thus providing an important comparison point with other parts of the world. We find preliminary evidence of a temperature-learning gradient with higher temperatures associated with worse math and reading scores for students in our sample.

[Structural Change in Africa: An Open Economy Perspective](#), with Gaaitzen de Vries, Hagen Kruse, Emmanuel Mensah, and Kei-Mu Yi

We study the evolution of manufacturing value added shares in 11 sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries through the lens of an open economy model of structural change. Our analysis leverages recent developments in input-output tables in SSA countries. Our model allows for income effects via non-homothetic preferences, substitution and relative price effects, as well as comparative advantage and specialization effects. We calibrate our model to include each SSA country with nine other major economies for each year between 2000 and 2018. We also do a similar set of calibrations for 11 developing Asia (DA) countries. Our main results are that domestic and foreign sectoral TFP matter. Trade integration over time plays only a small role. However, trade as a transmission mechanism is important. Finally, the drivers and mechanisms of industrialization are similar in low-income SSA and DA countries.

WORK IN PROGRESS
Secondary School Subsidy for Girls and Educational Attainment: Evidence from Benin
[Abstract](#)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	University of Houston: Doctoral Researcher		2023-Present
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSF-funded project Climate Risk, Pollution, and Childhood Inequalities in Low- and Middle-Income Countries 		
	Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (Ab-Calavi, Benin): Research Assistant		2018-2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDRC-funded project “Youth Employment and Violence” 		
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	University of Houston	Principles of Macroeconomics, Instructor	Spring 2024
	CERAP-Evidence in Governance and Politics	Causal Inference & Hypothesis Testing, Instructor	June 2024
	CERAP-Evidence in Governance and Politics	Randomization, Instructor	June 2023
TEACHING ASSISTANT	University of Houston	Principles of Macroeconomics, TA	Spring 2023
	University of Houston	Principles of Macroeconomics, TA	Fall 2022
	University of Houston	Introduction to Economic Data Analysis, TA	Spring 2022
	University of Houston	Introduction to Economic Data Analysis, TA	Fall 2021
	African School of Economics	Microeconomics	Spring 2020
FELLOWSHIP & AWARDS	Presidential Graduate Fellowship, University of Houston, 2020-2022		
	CLASS Dean's Scholarship, University of Houston, 2020-2021		
	Pre-Doctoral Scholarship, African School of Economics, 2018-2019		
	Mastercard Foundation Scholarship, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, 2017-2018		
	Centre d'Excellence Africain Scholarship, African School of Economics, 2015-2017		
CONFERENCE PRESENTATION	Population Association of America 2025 Annual Meeting (Scheduled), Washington, DC, US, April 2025		
	CSAE Conference 2025: Economic Development in Africa (Scheduled), Oxford, UK, March 2025		
	Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Dallas, TX, Nov 2024		
	Kiel-CEPR African Economic Development Conference, Berlin, Sept 2024		
	2nd Texas Applied Microeconomics Students Workshop, Houston, Apr 2024		
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	Discussant at Citizen-State Interactions in Comparative Perspective , November 2023		
	“The impact of Biometric Voter Registration on African Elections” by Paul Friesen & Nicolas van de Walle		
OTHER SKILLS	Programming Languages: LaTeX, MATLAB, Python, Stata Languages: Fon, French, English, Spanish (beginner)		
REFERENCES	Aimee Chin (Primary), Professor of Economics, University of Houston Email: achin@uh.edu		
	Willa Friedman, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Houston Email: whfriedman@uh.edu		
	Fan Wang, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Houston Email: fwang26@uh.edu		
	Jere R. Behrman, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Economics, University of Pennsylvania Email: behrman@econ.upenn.edu		
	Kei-Mu Yi, M.D. Anderson Professor of Economics, University of Houston Email: kyi3@central.uh.edu		