

# Alexander J. Fertig

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development Economics, Political Economy, Labor Economics

## EDUCATION

**University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI

Ph.D., Economics & Public Policy 2026  
M.A., Economics 2021

**Columbia University**, New York, NY

M.P.A., International Development 2016

**Wesleyan University**, Middletown, CT

B.A., Mathematics-Economics 2010

## JOB MARKET PAPER

[“Technology of Liberation or Control?: The Asymmetric Effects of the Internet on Political Conflict”](#) (with Megan Ryan)

## PUBLICATIONS

[“Measuring Remittances”](#) (with Giuseppe De Arcangelis, Yuna Liang, Peter Srouji, and Dean Yang), *Journal of Development Economics*, **2023**

[“A Field of Her Own: Property Rights and Women’s Agency in Myanmar”](#) (with Alexandra Hartman, Lakshmi Iyer, and Edmund Malesky), *The Journal of Politics* **2025**

## WORKING PAPERS

“The Intergenerational Impacts of Reparations: Evidence from the Eastern Cherokees” (with Achyuta Adhvaryu, Randall Akee, Emilia Simeonova, and Huayu Xu)

“Goal Setting for Remittances” (with Marup Hossain and Dean Yang)

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Bias and Precision in Measurement of Livestock Weight” (with Andrew Dillon, Dylan Groves, and Dean Karlan)

“Mobile Money Agents’ Incentives to Adopt Digital Tools: A Randomized Controlled Pilot Study” (with Emma Riley)

“Innovations in School-Based Learning Programs to Mitigate Risks of Conflict for Youth in the Philippines’ BARMM Region” (with Jeroen Adam and Mahreen Khan)

“Unpacking Bias and Market Power in Bangladesh’s High International Migration Costs (with Mahreen Khan, Sakib Mahmood, and Emir Murathanoglu)

TEACHING

**University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI

Econ 461: Economic Development, **Spring 2022**

Econ 251: Introduction to Econometrics and Statistics, **Fall 2020 / Spring 2021 / Fall 2021**

**Columbia University**, New York, NY

SIPA U6500: Quantitative Analysis for International and Public Affairs I, **Fall 2015**

SIPA U6501: Quantitative Analysis for International and Public Affairs II, **Spring 2016**

HONORS  
AND  
AWARDS

University of Michigan: Population Studies Center (PSC) Fellowship  
*Economic Demography Training Program*, **2022–Present**

University of Michigan: Poverty Solutions Research Award  
*Strategies to Prevent and Alleviate Poverty*, **2022**

Columbia University: Global Leaders Scholarship, **2014**

Columbia University: SIPA Scholarship, **2014**

Wesleyan University: White Prize for Advanced Undergraduate Study in Economics, **2010**

GRANTS

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA): Peace & Recovery Program Exploratory Grant (\$9,541)

*Innovations in school-based learning programs to mitigate risks of conflict for youth in the Philippines’ BARMM region*, **2025**

University of Michigan: Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (\$3,000)

*The Role of Social Media in Conflict Settings: Evidence from Myanmar*, **2024**

William T. Grant Foundation: Major Research Grant on Reducing Inequality (\$239,817)

*The Intergenerational Impacts of Reparations on Youth Outcomes: Evidence from the Eastern Cherokees*, **2023**

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA): Peace & Recovery Program Exploratory Grant (\$11,399)

*The Role of Online Hate Speech in Myanmar’s Ethnic Conflict*, **2021**

PRESENTATIONS

Economic Development Seminar (EDS), University of Michigan

*Technology of Liberation or Control?: The Asymmetric Effects of the Internet on Political Conflict*, **October 2025**

Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC) Research and Policy Conference, National Taiwan University  
*The Asymmetric Effects of Internet Shutdowns on Protests and Armed Conflict: The Case of Myanmar*, **June 2025**

Development Day, Northwestern University  
*The Role of Social Media in Conflict Settings: Evidence from Myanmar*, **December 2024**

Development Economics Workshop, University of Michigan  
*The Role of Social Media in Conflict Settings: Evidence from Myanmar*, **October 2024**

IPA & GPRL Researcher Gathering, Northwestern University  
*Goal Setting for Remittances*, **September 2024**

NBER Summer Institute – Children and Families, Cambridge, MA  
*The Intergenerational Impact of Financial Reparations: Evidence from the Cherokee Nation*, **July 2024**

MDev Conference, University of Michigan  
*The Impact of Social Media on Political Conflict: Evidence from Myanmar*, **May 2024**

68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations, New York, NY  
*Women, Remittances and Digital Finance: Pioneering Gender-Responsive Policies and Practice* (Panel Discussant), **March 2024**

Development Economics Workshop, University of Michigan  
*Goal Setting for Remittances*, **October 2023**

IPA & GPRL Researcher Gathering, Northwestern University  
*Bias and Precision in Measurement of Livestock Weight: Evidence from a Benchmarking Exercise in Namibia*, **October 2023**

The Ninth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS IX), World Bank, Washington, D.C.  
*Bias and Precision in Measurement of Livestock Weight*, **May 2023**

Development Economics Day, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
*Measuring Remittances*, **December 2022**

Human Capital, History, Demography & Development (H2D2) Seminar, University of Michigan  
*The Intergenerational Impacts of Reparations: Evidence from the Eastern Cherokees*, **May 2022**

Methods and Measurement Conference, Northwestern University (virtual)  
*Measuring Remittances*, **October 2021**

PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE

**Innovations for Poverty Action**, Myanmar & Namibia

	Research Manager, Myanmar	2017–2019
	Research Coordinator for Dean Karlan, Namibia	2016–2017
	<b>U.S. Peace Corps, Madagascar</b>	
	Community Economic Development Volunteer	2011–2013
OTHER ACTIVITIES	University of Michigan: Human Capital, History, Demography, & Development (H2D2) Seminar <i>Student Coordinator, 2021–2022</i>	
	University of Michigan: Public Policy & Economics Ph.D. Program <i>Admissions Committee Member, 2022</i>	
CITIZENSHIP	U.S./Austrian Dual Citizen	
REFERENCES	<hr/> The Economics Ph.D. Placement Office handles all reference requests. Please direct inquiries to <a href="mailto:Econ-PhDplacements@umich.edu">Econ-PhDplacements@umich.edu</a> .	
	<b>Dean Yang</b> Professor Department of Economics University of Michigan <a href="mailto:deanyang@umich.edu">deanyang@umich.edu</a> (734) 615-7475	<b>Achyuta Adhvaryu</b> Tata Chancellor’s Endowed Professor of Economics School of Global Policy and Strategy University of California, San Diego <a href="mailto:deanyang@umich.edu">deanyang@umich.edu</a>
	<b>Yusuf Neggers</b> Assistant Professor Ford School of Public Policy University of Michigan <a href="mailto:yneggers@umich.edu">yneggers@umich.edu</a> (734) 615-6905	<b>Kevin Carney</b> Assistant Professor Department of Economics University of Michigan <a href="mailto:kecarney@umich.edu">kecarney@umich.edu</a>

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