Chiman Cheung

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley — Expected May 2026
Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics
  – *Designated Emphasis in Political Economy*

University of Cambridge — 2015 – 2016
M.Phil. in Economics

University of Warwick — 2012 – 2015
B.Sc. in Economics

VISITING POSITION

Visiting Researcher — 2018 – 2019
Institute for Economic Development, Boston University (Host: Dilip Mookherjee)

PUBLICATION

Digital Payments
Francis Annan, Chiman Cheung, Xavier Giné
Oxford Review of Economic Policy, 2024, 40(1): 118–228.

WORKING PAPERW

Information and Collective Will Against Environmental Harms: Experimental Evidence from Ghana's *Galamsey* (JMP)
Chiman Cheung
Funded by JPAL Governance Initiative ($46,772), Weiss ($45,872), IGC (GBP 20,000), CEGA ($19,208).

Abstract: Information can spur community collective action against environmental harms, but its effectiveness depends on how it is delivered and by whom. Local leaders can legitimize and transmit new information, or distort and suppress it when incentives misalign. We study these trade-offs in the context of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (*galamsey*) in Ghana. In a cluster randomized controlled trial across 99 *galamsey* communities, stratified by leader conflicts of interest, we screened a documentary on mercury's health risks either privately to leaders (traditional local chiefs) or publicly to both leaders and community members. Leader-only screenings improved health-risk learning among chiefs but had no detectable effects on community learning, preferences for local mining rules, or collective action participation. Public screenings, in contrast, increased community learning and participation, as reflected in higher sign-ups for regular assembly meetings and more frequent community discussion of *galamsey*. When paired with non-conflicted leaders, public screenings shifted community preferences toward stricter mining bylaws, whereas under conflicted leaders, they instead polarized these preferences. Together, the results suggest that building consensus and mobilizing community collective action requires both an informed public and non-conflicted leadership; neither alone is sufficient.

Political Economy of Information Disclosure: Evidence from Indian Rural Road Quality Audits
Chiman Cheung
Sidney Hoos Award for the Best Second Year Paper

IN PROGRESS

Eliciting and Utilizing Willingness to Accept Information: Evidence from Mining Communities in Ghana
Chiman Cheung, Ei Thandar Myint
Funded by Weiss ($44,305), CEGA ($4,995).

Digital Innovation in Ghana – Interventions Targeted at Addressing Leakage (DIGITAL)
Francis Annan, Patrick Asuming, Stefano Carattini, Chiman Cheung, Justice Mensah
Funded by JPAL King Climate Action Initiative ($200,054).

Internet Access in Post-Conflict Recovery: Experimental Evidence from Liberated Areas in Myanmar
Chiman Cheung, Ei Thandar Myint
Funded by Weiss ($14,462), CEGA ($5,000).

HONORS	2025 – 2026	Giannini Foundation for Agricultural Economics Mini-grant	$20,000
	2024	Andrew and Mary Thompson Rocca Fellowship, Center for African Studies	$10,000
	2024	Lau Graduate Fellowship in Climate Equity	$10,000
	2023 – 2024	Network for a New Political Economy (N2PE) Research Grant (3×)	$15,000
	2022 – 2023	Law, Economics, and Politics Center Research Fellowship	$9,000
	2020 – 2022	Various Internal Grants, UC Berkeley (6×)	$17,000
	2012 – 2015	C.H. Chan Overseas Full Scholarship	$116,000

EMPLOYMENT	Research Assistant to Francis Annan, UC Berkeley	2023 – 2025
	Research Assistant to Ernesto Dal Bó and Frederico Finan, UC Berkeley	2021
	Research Assistant to Albert Park and Abhiroop Mukherjee, HKUST	2017 – 2018
	Research Assistant to Xiaobo Zhang, Peking University	2016 – 2017

TEACHING	Data and Decisions (MBA)	2025
	Intermediate Microeconomics with Applications to Sustainability (4×)	2022 – 2025
	Environmental Economics	2024
	Introduction to Economics	2021
	Natural Resource Economics	2020

SERVICES	Referee: American Journal of Agricultural Economics	
	CEGA Peer Mentor for Aja Fatou Senghore (University of The Gambia)	2024
	Pre-Doc Mentoring at Economists for Equity at Berkeley (BEE)	2023
	Graduate Student Mentor, Social Sciences Research Pathways, IRLE	2022
	Organizer, Development and Political Economics Student Conference (Berkeley & Stanford)	2022

PRESENTATION	NEUDC; UC Davis; Stanford Environmental and Energy Economics Festival	Scheduled
	CEGA Working Group in African Political Economy Annual Meeting (University of Ghana)	2024

SKILLS	Proficient: Stata, R	Competent: Python, QGIS

LANGUAGES	Cantonese (native), English (fluent), Mandarin (fluent)

CITIZENSHIP	Hong Kong SAR, China

REFERENCES	**Ernesto Dal Bó**	**Francis Annan**	**Frederico Finan**
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