

Daniel Agness

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EDUCATION	University of California - Berkeley	Expected June 2024
	PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics	
	University of California - Berkeley	2020
	MSc in Agricultural and Resource Economics	
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	Stanford University	2010 - 2014
	B.A. in Economics	
	Graduate Student Researcher	2020 - 2023
	Professor Jeremy Magruder	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Consultant	2019 -
	World Bank - Development Impact Evaluation Group	
	Pre-Doctoral Fellow	2017 - 2018
	Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR)	
	Research Manager	2015 - 2017
	Stanford Center on Global Poverty and Development	
	Research Associate	2014 - 2015
	Innovations for Poverty Action - Kenya	
REFERENCES	Masters of Development Practice - Calculus Bootcamp	Summer 2022
	Instructor of Record	
	Development Economics	Fall 2020
	GSI for Professor Marco Gonzalez-Navarro	Avg. rating: 6.3/7.0
	<i>Winner: Outstanding GSI (TA) Award</i>	
	Workshop Leader - Public Service Provision in Ethiopia - with K. Casey	2016
REFERENCES	Dr. Jeremy Magruder, UC Berkeley Agricultural & Resource Economics	
	jmagruder@berkeley.edu 510-643-8742	
	Dr. Marco Gonzalez-Navarro, UC Berkeley Agricultural & Resource Economics	
	marcog@berkeley.edu 510-642-3345	
REFERENCES	Dr. Christopher Walters, UC Berkeley Economics	
	crwalters@econ.berkeley.edu 510-643-8596	
	Dr. Florence Kondylis, World Bank Development Impact Group	
	fkondylis@worldbank.org 202-473-0965	

1. [Housing and Human Capital: Condominiums in Ethiopia](#) - with T. Getahun (**Job Market Paper**)
[[3ie Registry](#)] *Presented at: ACLEC (2023); NEUDC (2023)*
Abstract: Rapid urbanization has led to an urgent need for new housing in cities throughout the developing world. We use randomized evidence from the largest expansion of public housing in Africa to estimate the effects of housing on children's human capital. Winning random lotteries for the ownership of condominium houses in urban Ethiopia leads to significant gains in educational attainment: educational enrollment increases by 4.5-11%, secondary school completion rates by 10.5% and post-secondary attendance rates by 16% as well as significant increases in measures of children's cognitive and socio-emotional development. Heads of winning households experience 8p.p. increases in formal sector employment rates, which increases household income. To unpack mechanisms, we use instruments derived from spatial variation in randomly assigned condominium locations and show that treatment effects are concentrated amongst households which own and occupy the unit that they win. A structural model allows us to characterize selection into condominium occupation, ruling out that policy impacts can be explained through a wealth effect alone. Our results suggest that effects of neighborhood residence are an important channel through which housing policy can improve children's outcomes and that in-situ development or an allocation mechanism accounting for household residential location would increase policy impacts.
2. [Valuing the Time of the Self-Employed](#) - with T. Baseler, S. Chassang, P. Dupas, E. Snowberg
[[NBER WP](#)] [[World Bank Blog](#)] [*R&R - Review of Economic Studies*]
Abstract: People's value for their own time is a key input in public policy evaluations—these should account for time taken away from work or leisure as a result of policy. Using rich choice data collected from farming households in western Kenya, we show that households exhibit non-transitive preferences. As a result, neither market wages nor standard valuation techniques correctly measure participants' value of time. Using a structural model, we identify the behavioral wedges in participants' choices, and find that distortions appear when households exchange cash either for time or for goods. Our model estimates suggest that valuing the time of the self-employed at 60% of the market wage is a reasonable rule of thumb.
3. [New Technology and Network Change: Experimental Evidence from Kenya](#)
[Draft available upon request.]
Abstract: How do village social networks respond to the introduction of a new technology? Using a new panel of social network data collected for a randomized controlled trial in Western Kenya, this paper shows that receiving a new technology significantly increases that individual's centrality within their network. This change is driven by individuals differentially maintaining existing network links and creating new network links with technology recipients, irrespective of their own treatment status. However, treatment does not induce detectable changes in overall village network structure. Applying these results to an extended model of peer-effects which accounts for endogenous network response to the intervention, I provide evidence that failing to consider endogenous network change overestimates the direct effect of treatment and underestimates peer effects. These results highlight the importance of policy-induced network change in treatment effect estimation.

IN PROGRESS

1. [Land Market Frictions, Technology Adoption, and Farm Profits](#) - with F. Kondylis, J. Loeser, J. Magruder
[[AEA RCT Registry - 0004697](#)] [Data collection complete.]
2. [Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Food Security Project](#) - with F. Kondylis, J. Loeser, J. Magruder
[Data collection in progress.]
3. [Self-timed Credit Contracts: Evidence from Kenyan Farmers](#) - with S. Chassang, P. Dupas, E. Snowberg
[[AEA RCT Registry - 0002949](#)] [Data collection complete.]
4. [The Role of Information, Accountability and Resource Gaps in Urban Service Provision](#) - with P. Dupas
[[AEA RCT Registry - 0002114](#)] [Data collection complete.]
5. [Wages, Labor Poaching, and Foreign Competition: Evidence from Ethiopia](#) - with G. Abebe
[Pilot in progress.]

OTHER
WRITING

1. African Urbanization and Development Research Initiative - [[Addis Ababa First Round Report](#)], 2018
2. IGC Policy Brief - [[Covid-19 and School Re-openings - Evidence from Ethiopia](#)], 2021

AWARDS

2019-2023	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship	
2023	ARE Data Grant	\$2,000
2023	ARE Summer Grant	\$3,000
2023	Andrew & Mary Thompson Rocca Fellowship	\$10,000
2022	PEDL Exploratory Grant - with T. Getahun	\$38,000
2022	ARE Travel Grant	\$3,000
2022	Andrew & Mary Thompson Rocca Fellowship	\$6,000
2022	CEGA Development Economics Challenge	\$18,000
2022	CEPR STEG - with T. Tekleselassie, T. Getahun	\$20,000
2021	CGIAR SPIA - with F. Kondylis, J. Loeser	\$65,000
2021	Sacheti Family Fellowship	
2021	ARE Summer Grant	\$1,500
2021	Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics - with T. Tekleselassie	\$50,000
2020	IGC COVID-19 Response - with P. Dupas, M. Fafchamps, T. Getahun	\$17,000
2019	ARE Summer Grant	\$3,500
2017	JPAL Urban Service Initiative - with P. Dupas, G. Abebe, and T. Getahun	\$60,000

REFEREEING

Economic Development & Cultural Change, National Science Foundation

SERVICE

2023	CEGA Non-resident Fellow	PhD Partner
2021-2023	Berkeley Undergraduate Research × 5	Mentor
2021-2022	The Primary School (East Palo Alto)	Mentor
2021-2022	Berkeley Economist for Equity - Undergrad Outreach	Member
2021	ARE Admissions Committee	Member
2020-2021	Development Working Group	Organizer
2019-2020	ARE Brownbag Seminar	Organizer

SKILLS

Proficient: Stata, R, SurveyCTO/ODK, Git
Competent: Python, ArcGIS, Java