

Edward Wiles (né Davenport)

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Education

PhD Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2019-
MSc Economics, London School of Economics (with Distinction)	2017-2018
BSc Economics, London School of Economics (with First Class Honours)	2012-2015

Research Interests

Development Economics, International Trade, Organizational Economics

Publications

Losing Prosociality in the Quest for Talent? Sorting, Selection, and Productivity in the Delivery of Public Services (with Nava Ashraf, Oriana Bandiera, and Scott S. Lee). *American Economic Review*, 2020, 110(5): 1355-1394. Awarded the Arrow Award for the best paper published in health economics in English in 2020 by the International Health Economics Association.

We embed a field experiment in a nationwide recruitment drive for a new health care position in Zambia to test whether career benefits attract talent at the expense of prosocial motivation. In line with common wisdom, offering career opportunities attracts less prosocial applicants. However, the trade-off exists only at low levels of talent; the marginal applicants in treatment are more talented and equally prosocial. These are hired, and perform better at every step of the causal chain: they provide more inputs, increase facility utilization, and improve health outcomes including a 25 percent decrease in child malnutrition.

Teaching Experience

Political Economy and Development, Profs Ben Olken and Abhijit Banerjee (MIT 14.75)	2022, 2024
<i>Intermediate undergraduate level.</i>	
The Challenge of World Poverty, Profs Esther Duflo and Frank Schilbach (MIT 14.73)	2021, 2023
<i>Introductory undergraduate level.</i>	
Development Economics (Micro), Profs Esther Duflo and Ben Olken (MIT 14.771)	2021
<i>PhD level.</i>	
MSc Macroeconomics, Prof Alwyn Young (LSE EC413)	2018
<i>Masters level.</i>	

Awards and Honors

MIT Undergraduate Economics Association TA of the Year Award	2023-2024
<i>Awarded to one TA in economics annually by the UEA.</i>	
MIT Graduate Student Council Teaching Award	2021-2022
<i>Given to one instructor in each of MIT's five schools for excellence in teaching a graduate level course. Awarded for PhD Development Economics (14.771) for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.</i>	
Arrow Award, with Nava Ashraf, Oriana Bandiera & Scott S. Lee	2020
<i>Awarded to the best paper published in health economics in English in 2020, by the International Health Economics Association.</i>	

Kennedy Scholarship	2019-2020
<i>National merit scholarship awarded to up to 10 British graduate students to study at MIT or Harvard.</i>	
John Hicks Prize	2018
<i>Awarded to the highest ranked student in LSE MSc Economics.</i>	

External Research Grants

International Growth Centre (£19,981), with Nava Ashraf and Oriana Bandiera	2024
International Growth Centre (£20,000), with Nava Ashraf and Oriana Bandiera	2023
Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (£31,000), with Deivy Houeix	2023
Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (£20,720), with Tishara Garg	2023
Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (£11,960), with Tishara Garg	2021
International Growth Centre (£9,346), with Nava Ashraf and Oriana Bandiera	2019