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Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs
Agricultural and Applied Economics
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Last updated on: July 30, 2019

EMPLOYMENT

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Assistant Professor, Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs (2015–)
Assistant professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics (2016–)
Center for Demography and Ecology: Faculty affiliate (2016–)
UW Center for Financial Security: Faculty affiliate (2017–)
African Studies Program: Faculty affiliate (2018–)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, Davis, Agricultural & Resource Economics (2015)
Lund University, Graduate student, School of Economics and Management (2008-2009)
B.A. Colby College, Economics, (Mathematics minor), *Summa Cum Laude* (2006)

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

MICHLER, J. D., E. TJERNSTRÖM, S. VERKAART, AND K. MAUSCH (2019): “Money Matters: The Role of Yields and Profits in Agricultural Technology Adoption,” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 101, 710–731.

CARTER, M. R., E. TJERNSTRÖM, AND P. TOLEDO (2019): “Heterogeneous impact dynamics of a rural business development program in Nicaragua,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 138, 77–98.

BROWN, P., A. J. DAIGNEAULT, E. TJERNSTRÖM, AND W. ZOU (2018): “Natural Disasters, Social Protection, and Risk Perceptions,” *World Development*, 104, 310–325.

BARRIGA CABANILLAS, O., J. D. MICHLER, A. MICHUDA, AND E. TJERNSTRÖM (2018): “Fitting and Interpreting Correlated Random Coefficient (CRC) Models Using Stata,” *Stata Journal*, 18, 159–173.

TJERNSTRÖM, E., M. R. CARTER, AND P. TOLEDO (2013): “Identifying the Impact Dynamics of a Small Farmer Development Scheme in Nicaragua,” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Papers and Proceedings*, 95, 1359–1365.

TJERNSTRÖM, S. AND E. TJERNSTRÖM (2008): “Rational Foolishness Would Destroy a Public Service Broadcasting System,” *Journal of Media Economics*, 21, 258–263.

TJERNSTRÖM, E. AND T. H. TIETENBERG (2008): “Do Differences in Attitudes Explain Differences in National Climate Change Policies?” *Ecological Economics*, 65, 315–324.

WORKING PAPERS

- Learning from Others in Heterogeneous Environments (being revised)
 - Learning by (Virtually) Doing: Experimentation and Belief Updating in Smallholder Agriculture with Travis Lybbert, Rachel Hernández Frattarola, and Juan Sebastian Correa
- Revisions requested, JEBO

- Media and Motivation: the Effect of Performance Pay on Writers and Content
with Ivan Balbuzanov and Jared Gars
- Can Smallholder Extension Transform African Agriculture?
with Joshua Deutschmann, Maya Duru and Kim Siegal
NBER Working Paper No. 26054
- Seeds of Uncertainty: Information, Subjective Expectations, and Technology Adoption
with Jared Gars
- Filling a Niche: the Impacts of a Local Seed Company on Maize Productivity in Kenya
with Samuel Bird, Michael Carter, Travis Lybbert

WORK IN PROGRESS

- A Group Random Coefficient Approach to Modeling Heterogeneity in Technology Adoption
with Oscar Barriga Cabanillas, Dalia Ghanem, Travis Lybbert, Jeffrey D. Michler, and Aleksander Michuda
- Arrested Development: the Inefficiencies of Electoral Cycles in Infrastructure Projects
with Evan Morier
- Nonlinear Pricing Complexity and Consumer Behavior
with Joshua Deutschmann and Jeff Michler
- The dirt on dirt: soil characteristics and variable fertilizer returns in Kenyan maize systems
with Michael Carter and Travis Lybbert
- When intentions matter—identifying the prevalence and source of poor-quality inputs in Kenya
with Jose Clavijo and Travis Lybbert
- Income Volatility and Technology Choice
with Rachel Hernández Frattarola

OTHER PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS

- Carter, Michael, Mary K. Mathenge, Sam Bird, Travis J. Lybbert, Timothy Njagi, and Tjernström, Emilia. 2017. “[Local Seed Company Fills a Niche to Increase Maize Productivity in Kenya](#).” BASIS Brief No. 2017-01.
- Tjernström, Emilia, Michael Carter, and Travis J. Lybbert. 2017. [Diverse Soils and Inputs Challenge Recommendations to Maize Farmers in Kenya](#). BASIS Brief No. 2017-03
- Tjernström, Emilia. 2016. Learning for Adopting: Signals, Similarity and Seeds: Social Learning in the Presence of Imperfect Information and Heterogeneity. In [Technology Adoption in Developing Country Agriculture](#). Policy Briefs from the Workshop Organized by Ferdi and SPIA, Clermont-Ferrand.
- Tjernström, Emilia. 2015. “[Learning-by-doing vs. Learning-from-others: Heterogeneity Matters](#).” BASIS Brief No. 2015-01
- Carter, Michael R., Travis J. Lybbert, Mary K. Mathenge, and Emilia Tjernström. 2014. “[Spurring Technological Innovation and Poverty Reduction? Evaluating the Impact of a New Seed Market Actor in Kenya](#).” BASIS Brief No. 2014-04
- Carter, Michael R., Emilia Tjernström, and Patricia Toledo. 2012. “[Investing in Small-Farm Productivity: the Nicaragua MCC Compact](#).” BASIS Brief No. 2012-6
- Carroll, Christine, Diane Charlton, and Emilia Tjernström. 2012. [Price Premiums for Organic Strawberries](#). *Agricultural and Resource Economics Update*, 15(6):12–14.
- Tjernström, Emilia. 2009. [Kunnigt och \(o\)kontroversiellt om Råvarumarknaden](#)” (Book Review of ‘*Handbook of Primary Commodities in the Global Economy*’). *Ekonomisk Debatt*, 37(3):85–88.

GRANTS

- 2019-2020: Graduate School Fall Research Competition Grant, UW–Madison (\$63,519)
Pilot: Air Pollution, Human Capital, and Cognition
- 2017-2018: IFREE Small Grants Program (\$9,800) with Ivan Balbuzanov & Jared Gars
Media and Motivation: the Effect of Performance Pay on Writers and Content
- 2017-2018: University of Chicago (\$2,857) with Angelino Viceisza
An Experiment on Framing and Referrals to Boost Impact Investing
- 2017-2018: Economic Development and Institutions (EDI) pilot grant (\$18,027) with Nicole Bonoff
Constructing Compliance: Reducing Tax Evasion Among Market Traders in Ghana
- 2017-2018: PEDL Exploratory Research Grant (\$22,980) with Travis Lybbert
Baseline for an Information Intervention in the Agro-inputs Market in Kenya;
- 2017-2018: Graduate School Fall Research Competition Grant, UW–Madison (\$46,536)
Making sense of Mother Nature: Farmer Learning in the Lab
- 2016-2017: Kohl Competition Award (\$47,100) with Travis Lybbert
Testing Supply Chains for Fraudulent Fertilizer to Improve Regulation, Policy and Market Performance for Agro-inputs in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- 2016: 3ie & AGRA (\$20,000) with Karl Hughes, Sarah Janzen, Judith Oduoul, and Laura Schechter
Impact Evaluation of AGRA’s Financial Inclusion Programmes for Smallholder Farmers in Kenya
- 2016-2020: NSF CRISP Type 2: Collaborative Research Grant (\$1,686,426) with Xiaopeng Li, Xin Wang, Kaibo Liu, Feng Ju, Jianhui Wang
Harnessing interdependency for resilience: creating an “energy sponge” with cloud electric vehicle sharing
- 2016-2017: Daniel Louis and Genevieve Rustvold Goldy Fellowship (\$6,500)
- 2016-2017: Global Center for Food Systems (\$96,000) with Travis Lybbert
Bringing FarmVille to the Tropics: App-based Simulations to Build Farmers’ Understanding of Customized Fertilizer Recommendations
- 2015-2016: Development Impact Lab (DIL) Innovate Grant (\$25,000) with Travis Lybbert
Counterfeit Seed: Using Genetic Markers to Quantify the Prevalence of Counterfeit Maize Seed in Western Kenya
- 2013-2016: USAID BASIS Assets and Market Access Innovation Lab (\$424,000) with Michael Carter, Travis Lybbert and Mary Mathenge
Evaluating the Socio-economic Impacts of Western Seed’s Hybrid Maize Program
- 2013-2016: Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (\$345,000) with Michael Carter, Travis Lybbert and Mary Mathenge
Impact of Mid-altitude Hybrid Maize in Western Kenya
- 2013-2016: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (\$286,000) with Michael Carter, Travis Lybbert and Mary Mathenge
Impact Evaluation of Western Seed Company’s Hybrid Maize Program
- 2006-2007: Watson Fellowship, Thomas J. Watson Foundation (\$25,000) *Nomad’s Land – Development, Conservation and Nomads*

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, 40 for 40 Fellowship, 2018
- Taylor Hibbard award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, 2018 (based on student vote)
- Gordon A. King Best Dissertation Award, UC Davis Agricultural & Resource Economics (2015)
- Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Fellowship, UC Davis (2012-2013)
- Departmental Fellowship, Agricultural and Resource Economics, UC Davis (2009-2010)
- Phi Beta Kappa, Colby College (2016)

INVITED SEMINARS & PANELS

2019: University of Sydney (Economics); Lund University (Economics); University of Evansville (Economics); University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Economics)

2018: University of California, Davis (Ag econ); Michigan State University (Economics); University of Copenhagen (IFRO)

2017: BASIS / Feed the Future conference “[Enhancing Smallholder Productivity in Kenya: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial of New Seed Varieties](#)”; EDI annual conference; Chicago Council on Global Affairs & MSU Alliance for African Partnership panel on the intersection of youth and agriculture in Africa; Feed the Future/USAID Agrilinks Webinar: “[Soil variation and why it matters](#)” ([recording](#))

2016: Paris School of Economics; FERDI: [Learning for adopting](#); What Works Global Summit 2016; University of North Dakota (Economics); USAID Global Development Lab

2015: Oregon State University (Ag econ); Université Laval (Economics); University of Wisconsin–Madison (Public Affairs); Georgetown (GHD); Ohio State University (Ag econ); University of Copenhagen (Ag econ); University of San Francisco; DIME Impact Evaluation Workshop; University of Minnesota (Ag econ); University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Ag econ)

2014: iHub Nairobi; Colby College (Economics); Bowdoin College (Economics); BASIS/I4 Meeting

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2019: MIEDC; CESifo Workshop on the Economics of the Gig Economy; CSAE 2019 conference; NBER Transforming Rural Africa conference

2018: MIEDC; ICABR; ABCA (Annual Bank Conference on Africa); Nordic Conference on Behavioral and Experimental Economics; Advances in Field Experiments; AAEA annual meeting; Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC); HAMOC

2017: PacDev; MIEDC; ICABR; WGAPE annual meeting, AAEA annual meeting, SIFE (University of Chicago Summer Institute on Field Experiments); MGAPE @ Northwestern (Midwest Group in African Political Economy)

2016: Global Center for Food Systems Innovation Grantee Workshop; CSAE; MIEDC; AAEA Annual meeting; Nordic Conference on Behavioral and Experimental Economics

2015: CSAE; UC Berkeley Development lunch; MWIEDC; AAEA Annual Meeting; NEUDC

2013: AAEA session at ASSA

2012: UC Davis Development Workshop; MCC Impact Evaluation Learning Event; UC Berkeley Development Lunch; Nordic Conference in Development Economics; GARESC; NEUDC

WORK EXPERIENCE

Monitoring & evaluation consultant, Millennium Challenge Corporation (2012)

Teaching assistant, Environmental and Resource Economics, Lund University (2008)

Economics teacher, United World College Costa Rica (2007-2008)

TEACHING

- University of Wisconsin, Madison. La Follette School of Public Affairs

International cost-benefit analysis. Masters level. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

International policy analysis. Masters level. 2016

Independent study. Masters level. 2019 (1 student), 2018 (2 students), 2017 (3 students)

- **University of Wisconsin, Madison. Agricultural & Applied Economics**
Applied microeconometrics using replication. PhD field course. 2016, 2017
Economic and Agricultural Development of Africa. Undergraduate. 2018, 2019

ADVISING

Rachel Frattarola, PhD AAE (2018) Dissertation committee member
Justin Delorit, PhD Civil & Environmental Engineering (2018) Dissertation committee member
Norihiro Matsuda, PhD AAE (2018) Dissertation committee member
Jessica Zhu, PhD AAE (2019) Dissertation committee member
Jens Engelmann, PhD AAE (2019) Dissertation committee member
Naoki Nishimura, PhD AAE, Dissertation committee member
Evan Morier, PhD Political Science, Dissertation committee member
Joshua Deutschmann, PhD AAE Dissertation committee member
Eduardo Cenci, PhD AAE, Dissertation committee member

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Development workshop coordinator, Department of Ag & Applied Economics, UW-Madison (2018 & 2019)
Placement committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW-Madison (2018-2019)
Curriculum & Student Services, La Follette School of Public Affairs, UW-Madison (2018-2019)
Family Impact & Committee Connect, La Follette School of Public Affairs, UW-Madison (2018-2019)
Placement director, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW-Madison (2017-2018)
Diversity & inclusion committee, La Follette School of Public Affairs, UW-Madison (2017-2018)
Admissions committee, La Follette School of Public Affairs, UW-Madison (2016-2017, 2017-2018)
Development workshop coordinator, Department of Ag & Applied Economics, UW-Madison (Fall 2017)
Bromley Prize review committee, Department of Ag & Applied Economics, UW-Madison (2016-2017)
Graduate committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW-Madison (2016-2017)
Student diversity & inclusion liaison, La Follette School of Public Affairs, UW-Madison (2015-2017)

OUTSIDE SERVICE

Journal refereeing: Agricultural Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, China Economic Review, Ecological Economics, European Journal of Political Economy, Food Policy, Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Consumer Affairs, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, PNAS

External reviewer & conference reviews: Master's Thesis Award Committee, AAEA 2019-2020; Abstract reviewer for behavioral economics section, AAEA 2018; Abstract reviewer for international development section, AAEA 2018; Scientific committee, 2018 Midwest International Economic Development Conference; Grant reviewer, 3ie, Ag Insurance Thematic Window, 2017; External reviewer, 3ie, Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window, 2017; Abstract reviewer for behavioral economics section, AAEA 2017; External reviewer, CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) 2017; External reviewer, 3ie, Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window, 2016; Scientific committee, 2017 Midwest International Economic Development Conference; Abstract reviewer for Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, 2016

OTHER INFORMATION

Languages: Swedish (Native), English, French, Spanish (Fluent)

Associations: American Economic Association, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Economic Science Association, Australasian Agricultural and Natural Resource Association