Ian A. Davis

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December 1, 2025

Dr. Michael Mulford
601 University Place, Scott Hall,
Evanston, IL 60208

Dear Senior Director Mulford:

I share GPRL's passion for reducing poverty via evidence-based solutions. I am excited to pursue this passion with GPRL as a Research Data Analyst Associate.

My experience contributing to USAID-funded policy evaluations in Africa and Latin America has prepared me to deliver robust, publication-ready data analyses to GPRL affiliated researchers and the populations they serve. At the Penn Development Research Initiative-DevLab, I have used survey data, R, Stata, matching techniques, and regression modeling to quantify the effects of agroforestry training programs and land documentation initiatives in rural Côte d'Ivoire and Colombia. Additionally, I used Python-powered computer vision and gigabytes of GIS satellite raster imagery to evaluate the impact of local governance initiatives on forest health in Zambia. Also at the University of Pennsylvania, I leveraged complex survey data, vignette questionnaires, and regression modeling to illuminate how survey interfaces affect Americans' responses about expected income uncertainty. This work is currently under review at behavioral science journals.

Previously, at Stanford SPARQ, I used longitudinal survey data and elastic net regressions to show that increased belief in the benefits of government welfare for society at large, not only for the poor, explained a temporary surge in support for welfare among American conservatives during the COVID-19 pandemic. Concurrently, at the Stanford Cohen Lab, I used Python, spaCy large language models, JavaScript, and AWS EC2 to develop and deploy a natural language processing (NLP) application that provides survey participants with live feedback on their use of smart communication techniques in difficult political conversations.

All of the above projects required me to quickly grasp relevant literature, translate complex data into actionable insights, and communicate recommendations to stakeholders in reports, manuscripts, and presentations. Beyond these core research skills, I also bring advanced knowledge of STATA, R, Python, and JavaScript for causal inference, machine learning, text analytics, geospatial analysis, and data visualization. Furthermore, teaching and learning languages in Mexico and the United States has honed my fluency in Spanish and my capacity for clear, patient communication. I am excited to apply these skills and my enthusiasm for teamwork to identifying mechanisms for reducing poverty globally. I am also eager to grow alongside field-leading researchers before pursuing an economics doctorate. Thank you for your consideration; I look forward to discussing how I can contribute to GPRL's mission.

Sincerely,

Ian A. Davis