

# Jack Willis

<http://sites.google.com/view/jwillis>  
[jack.willis@columbia.edu](mailto:jack.willis@columbia.edu)

## Personal Information

Born: 12 March 1984, London

Citizenship: British

## Office Contact Information

1113 IAB  
420 W 118th  
New York, NY 10027  
+1 857 928 1494

Last updated: 05/04/2022

## Employment

Columbia University, Jan 2018 -  
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

Paris School of Economics, Jul - Dec 2017  
Visiting Researcher, Department of Economics

## Education

Harvard University, 2011 – 2017  
Ph.D. in Economics  
Thesis: “Essays in Development Economics”

Paris School of Economics, Université Paris 1, 2007 to 2009  
Masters in Economics (ETE-QEM)

Cambridge University, Trinity College, 2002 to 2006  
Masters (Part III) and B.A. in Mathematics

## Affiliations

2019 - NBER Faculty Research Fellow, CEPR Research Fellow

## Publications

“Converging to Convergence” (with Michael Kremer, Yang You), *NBER Macro Annual*, 2021

“Time vs. State in Insurance: Experimental Evidence from Contract Farming in Kenya” (with Lorenzo Casaburi), *American Economic Review*, 2018

“Guns, Latrines, and Land Reform: Dynamic Pigouvian Taxation” (with Michael Kremer), *American Economic Review Papers & Proceedings*, 2016

## Selected Research in Progress

“Land Rental Markets: Experimental Evidence from Kenya” (with Michelle Acampora, Lorenzo Casaburi)

“Learning vs. Unlearning: An Experiment on Retractions” (with Duarte Gonçalves, Jonathan Libgober)

“Frictions in Information Diffusion Among Smallholder Farmers” (with Raissa Fabregas)

“Health Insurance Subsidies and Asymmetric Information: Experimental Evidence from Kenya” (with Lorenzo Casaburi, Kim Cramer)

“The Impact of Contract Farming” (with Lorenzo Casaburi)

“Subsidizing Natural Disaster Risk Mitigation Through Conditional Digital Loan Forgiveness” (with

Harrison Hong, Neng Wang)

“ICT for Environmental Adaptation: Mitigating Arsenic Exposure in Bangladesh” (with Lex Van Geen, Prabhat Barnwal, Michael Best)

## **Teaching**

### Instructor:

- 2020 - Topics in Micro Development (Ph.D.), ECON 6290, Columbia University
- 2018 - Development Economics (undergraduate), ECON 4321, Columbia University

### Teaching Fellow:

- 2015 Development Economics (Ph.D.), Ec 2390, Harvard University
- 2014, 2013 Development Policy Strategy (masters), PED-309, Harvard Kennedy School
- 2014 Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate), Ec 1010a, Harvard University
- 2014 Development Macroeconomics (Ph.D.), Ec 2390c, Harvard University
- 2013 International Trade (Ph.D.), Ec 2530a, Harvard University
- 2009 Advanced Analysis (masters), Université Paris 1
- 2008 Multivariate Calculus (masters), Université Paris 1

## **Professional Activities**

### Presentations

- 2022 Berkeley, WEFIDEV
- 2021 HKUST, IMF, Berkeley, NBER macro annual, UK FCDO, NBER / BREAD development, NYU, Trinity College Dublin, Yale
- 2020 USC, Columbia, NEUDC
- 2019 AEA meetings (discussant x 2), NYU, NYC-area junior development conference
- 2018 ECBE conference (discussant), EIEF, Wisconsin-Madison, CEAR/MRIC workshop, NYC-area junior development conference
- 2017 ABCA conference, Cambridge, Columbia, Cornell, CREST, DIAL conference, ECBE conference, IIES, INSEAD, Lindau meetings, NBER / BREAD development, NBER insurance, Paris School of Economics, Princeton, Sciences Po, Toulouse School of Economics, UCL, UCSD
- 2016 NEUDC conference, BREAD pre-conference, NOVAFRICA conference
- 2015 CSAE Oxford conference, SAET conference
- 2013 SAET conference

### Referee (papers and grants):

*American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Econometrica, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Journal, Food Policy, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Risk and Insurance, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, PNAS, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, The Economics of Transition, 3ie, PEDL*

## **Research Grants**

- 2020 USAID DIV, “Nolkup: an app to access low arsenic water in Bangladesh” (with Lex Van Geen, Prabhat Barnwal, Michael Best)
- 2020 ISERP, Columbia, “Incentivizing Un(der)banked Households to Socially Distance Through Conditional Digital Loan Forgiveness.” (with Harrison Hong, Neng Wang)
- 2020 NBER Social Learning, “Understanding Information Diffusion in Poor and Rural Environments” (with Raissa Fabregas)
- 2019 IC2, UT Austin, “Understanding Information Diffusion in Poor and Rural

	Environments” (with Raissa Fabregas)
2019	SwissRe, “Health Insurance, Impact and Price Effects: Experimental Evidence from Kenya” (with Lorenzo Casaburi)
2018	PEDL, “The Impact of Contract Farming: Experimental Evidence from Kenya” (with Lorenzo Casaburi)
2018	ATAI, “The Impact of Contract Farming: Experimental Evidence from Kenya” (with Lorenzo Casaburi)
2016	ATAI, “Time vs. State in Insurance: Experimental Evidence from India” (with Lorenzo Casaburi, Bheeshm Chaudhary, Siddharth George)
2015	Weiss Fund, “Time vs. State in Insurance: Experimental Evidence from India” (with Lorenzo Casaburi, Bheeshm Chaudhary, Siddharth George)
2014	World Bank Big Data Innovation Challenge, “Targeting Poverty by Predicting Poverty: Using Machine Learning in Targeted Transfer Programs” (with Melissa Adelman, Sendhil Mullainathan, Paul Niehaus)
2012	Weiss Fund, “The Causes and Effects of Improved Health Supply: Evidence from Rwanda” (with Martin Rotemberg)

### **Supervising**

	<u>Graduate students</u> (my role; first placement)
2021	Kim Fe Cramer (letter writer; AP at London School of Economics)
	Louise Guillouet (letter writer; Economist at OECD)
2020	Ye Zhang (co-sponsor; AP at Stockholm School of Economics)
2019	Han Huynh (letter writer; Economist at Bates White)
	Suanna Oh (letter writer; AP at Paris School of Economics)
2018	Qiuying Qu (letter writer; Economist at Capital One)
	<u>Pre-docs</u> (first placement)
2021	Malavika Mani (PhD at Warwick)
2019	Hamza Husain (PhD at Berkeley ARE)
	<u>MA students</u> (my role; first placement)
2020	Amol Raswan (dissertation supervisor, predoc for Dean Karlan)

### **Awards**

2017	Padma Desai Dissertation Prize in Economic Science, Harvard University
2007 - 2009	Paris School of Economics Scholarship
2003 - 2005	Junior and Senior Scholarships, Cambridge University

### **Languages**

English (native), French (fluent)