

## Jack Willis

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### Personal Information

Born: 12 March 1984, London

Citizenship: British

### Office Contact Information

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### Employment

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

Sciences Po, Sep 2023 - Dec 2023  
Visiting Professor, Alliance Exchange Program, 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 - 2009  
Masters in Economics (ETE-QEM)

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

### Affiliations

2022 - BREAD, J-PAL  
2019 - CEPR, NBER, CDEP

### 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), *R&R at American Economic Review*

“Learning vs. Unlearning: An Experiment on Retractions” (with Duarte Gonçalves, Jonathan Libgober), *R&R at Review of Economic Studies*

“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)

“Value Chain Microfinance” (with Lorenzo Casaburi)

“Dynamic Poverty Targeting” (with Eric Teschke)

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

“Private vs. Public Infrastructure” (with Michael Kremer)

“Conditional Digital Loan Forgiveness” (with Harrison Hong, Neng Wang)

## **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, 13 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**

2023 Sciences Po (scheduled), Toulouse School of Economics (scheduled)

2022 Berkeley, WEFIDEV, BREAD (co-author), CEPR / Misum / SITE, NOVAFRICA, Chicago

2021 Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 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

2018 ECBE (discussant), EIEF Rome Junior Conference on Applied Microeconomics, Wisconsin-Madison, CEAR/MRIC workshop, NYC-area junior development

2017 ABCA, Cambridge, Columbia, Cornell, CREST, DIAL, ECBE, IIES, INSEAD, Lindau meetings, NBER / BREAD development, NBER insurance, Paris School of Economics, Princeton, Sciences Po, Toulouse School of Economics, UCL, UCSD

2016 NEUDC, BREAD / LEAP pre-conference, NOVAFRICA

2015 CSAE, SAET

2013 SAET

### **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, Economics of Transition, 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, PEDL, PNAS, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, 3ie*

## **Research Grants**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2023 | Weiss Fund, “Decentralized Escrow” (with Duarte Gonçalves)   |
| 2023 | NBER Social Learning, “Understanding Information Diffusion in Poor and Rural Environments” (with Raissa Fabregas)  |
| 2023 | USAID DIV, “Crop Insurance at Scale” (with Lorenzo Casaburi)   |
| 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**

### **Graduate students** (my role; first placement)

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2022 | Kim Fe Cramer (letter writer; AP at London School of Economics) |
|      | Louise Guillouet (letter writer; Economist at OECD)             |
| 2021 | Ye Zhang (co-sponsor; AP at Stockholm School of Economics)      |
| 2020 | Han Huynh (letter writer; Economist at Bates White)             |
|      | Suanna Oh (letter writer; AP at Paris School of Economics)      |
| 2019 | Qiuying Qu (letter writer; Economist at Capital One)            |

### **Pre-docs** (first placement)

|      |                                    |
|------|------------------------------------|
| 2021 | Malavika Mani (PhD at Warwick)     |
| 2019 | Hamza Husain (PhD at Berkeley ARE) |

### **MA students** (my role; first placement)

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2020 | Amol Raswan (dissertation supervisor, predoc for Dean Karlan) |
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## **Awards**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2023      | Long-term Faculty Exchange, Alliance Program, Columbia University – Sciences Po |
| 2017      | Padma Desai Dissertation Prize in Economic Science, Harvard University          |
| 2007 - 09 | Paris School of Economics Scholarship   |
| 2003 - 05 | Junior and Senior Scholarships, Cambridge University                            |

## **Languages**

English (native), French (fluent)