

JEDEDIAH (JED) SILVER

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**Contact
Information**

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**Doctoral
Studies**

University of California, Berkeley
PhD, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Expected completion: May 2024
DISSERTATION: "Essays on Agricultural Productivity and Consumption Smoothing Under Incomplete Markets"

PRIMARY FIELD: Development Economics

SECONDARY FIELDS: International Economics (Trade), Applied Econometrics

Professor Ethan Ligon
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& Resource Economics

Professor Edward Miguel
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**Placement
Officers**

Professor Sofia Villas-Boas
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Diana Lazo
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**Prior
Education****Tufts University**

BA International Relations & English

2013

**Working
Papers****"Farm Household Misallocation" (JOB MARKET PAPER)**

Agricultural markets often fail to allocate resources efficiently across farmers in developing countries. However, policymakers require knowledge of which markets fail and how the distortions they generate are correlated. Using data from rural Thailand, I characterize how distortions in land, labor, credit, and insurance markets each contribute to misallocation. I use moments in household consumption and production data to separately identify these distortions and develop a novel method using them to structurally estimate the production function. I find that the efficient allocation would increase aggregate productivity by 29-46% relative to the status quo, while only 12-19% (10-16%) gains could be achieved by eliminating input (financial) distortions in isolation. Positive interaction effects from addressing multiple distortions simultaneously account for the remaining 7-11% TFP gains. Meanwhile, other common methods would produce 45% higher estimates of misallocation and suggest that a financial market intervention would decrease aggregate productivity. Accounting for multiple correlated distortions is therefore crucial for measuring misallocation and designing policies to address it.

Research in Progress	“Offering Postharvest Credit to Improve Farmer Welfare” with E. Ligon <i>Analysis stage: AEA RCT Registry (#AEARCTR-0008022).</i>		
	“Measuring Farm-Household Non-Separability with E. Ligon <i>Analysis stage</i>		
	“The Impacts of Large-Scale Land Transactions: Evidence from Ethiopia ” with Y. Admasu, W. Kassie, and S. Walelign <i>Data collection stage</i>		
	“Technology Adoption and the Commercialization of Staple Crops: Evidence from Ugandan Cassava Processing” with A. Ijala, M. Kato and J. do Nascimento Miguel <i>Pilot stage</i>		
Publications	Diao, Xinshen, Eduardo Magalhaes, and Jed Silver. “ Cities and rural transformation: A spatial analysis of rural livelihoods in Ghana. ” <i>World Development</i> 121 (2019): 141–157.		
	Zilberman, David, Thomas Reardon, Jed Silver, Liang Lu, and Amir Heiman. “ From the laboratory to the consumer: Innovation, supply chain, and adoption with applications to natural resources. ” <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 119, no. 23 (2022).		
Prior Employment	UC Berkeley	Graduate Student Researcher (E. Ligon)	2022-23
		Graduate Student Researcher (D. Zilberman)	2020-21
		Graduate Student Researcher (S. Kaur)	2019-20
	International Food Policy Research Institute	Senior Research Assistant Development Strategy and Governance Division	2015-18
	RAISE Uganda	Deputy Director	2013-14
Talks	2023	NEUDC Conference, Harvard University 1st Annual Macro Development Workshop, Deakin University DEVPEC PhD Student Conference, UC Berkeley	
	Earlier	UC Berkeley Development Lunch UC Berkeley Trade Lunch	
Teaching	UC Berkeley	<i>Introductory Applied Econometrics</i> , J. Magruder <i>Case Studies in African Economic Development</i> , E.Miguel	2020 & 2021 2021
Languages	English (native), Hebrew, Kiswahili, Luo (Lango/Acholi), Spanish (intermediate)		
Grants, Fellowships, and Awards	2023	International Growth Center Pilot Grant (£40,000)	
	2021	STEG Small Projects Grant (£25,000)	
	2020	ATAI Exploratory Grant (\$6,000)	
	2019	Weiss Family Foundation Travel Grant (\$3,200)	
Activities	2020-2022	Student Representative: ARE Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee	
	2021-2022	Small Grants Coordinator: Berkeley Economists for Equity	
	2021	Mentor: Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN)	
	2020-2021	Co-organizer: UC Berkeley Development Lunch	