

JEDEDIAH (JED) SILVER

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Contact Information

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Academic Appointments

Lecturer (equiv. Assistant Professor) (2024-)
 The Department of Environmental Economics and Management
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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 31-35% relative to the status quo, while only 15% (7%) gains could be achieved by eliminating financial (input) distortions in isolation. Positive interaction effects from addressing multiple distortions simultaneously account for the remaining 9% TFP gains. Meanwhile, other common methods would produce larger 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 Progress

in **“Offering Postharvest Credit to Improve Farmer Welfare”** with E. Ligon
Analysis stage: AEA RCT Registry (#AEARCTR-0008022).

“Measuring Farm-Household Non-Separability with E. Ligon
Analysis stage

“The Impacts of Large-Scale Land Transactions: Evidence from Ethiopia ” with Y. Admasu, W. Kassie, and S. Walelign
Data collection stage

“Technology Adoption and the Commercialization of Staple Crops: Evidence from Ugandan Cassava Processing” with A. Ijala, M. Kato and J. do Nascimento Miguel
Pilot stage

Publications

Diao, Xinshen, Eduardo Magalhaes, and Jed Silver. [“Cities and rural transformation: A spatial analysis of rural livelihoods in Ghana.”](#) *World Development* 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.”](#) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119, no. 23 (2022).

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	Professor Edward Miguel	
	ligon@berkeley.edu	emiguel@berkeley.edu	
	+1 (510) 859-3266	+1 (510) 642-4361	
	Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics	Department of Economics	
	Professor Jeremy Magruder		
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	Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics		
Prior Education	Tufts University	BA International Relations & English	2013
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	2015-18
		Development Strategy and Governance Division	
	RAISE Uganda	Deputy Director	2013-14
	2023	NEUDC Conference, Harvard University	
		1st Annual Macro Development Workshop, Deakin University	
		DEVPEC PhD Student Conference, UC Berkeley	
	Earlier	UC Berkeley Development Lunch	
Teaching		UC Berkeley Trade Lunch	
	UC Berkeley	<i>International Poverty and Economic Development</i> M. Shah	2024
		<i>Introductory Applied Econometrics</i> , J. Magruder	2020 & 2021
		<i>Case Studies in African Economic Development</i> , E.Miguel	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	