

Joshua W. Deutschmann

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Academic Employment

Development Innovation Lab, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics,
University of Chicago

Evidence Synthesis and Research Lead, April 2023–

Postdoctoral Scholar, July 2021–April 2023

Affiliations

Secretariat, Innovation Commission for Climate Change, Food Security, and Agriculture,
2023–

Advisor, Grassroots Capital, 2025–

Education

Ph.D. Agricultural & Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021

M.A. Economics, Boston University, 2013

B.A. Economics (Honors Scholar), B.S. Mathematics (In Honors), *Magna Cum Laude*,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, 2012

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Recognizing a good deal: short-term subsidies and the dynamics of public service use
Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Vol. 130, 2025

Relaxing multiple agricultural productivity constraints at scale

with Maya Duru, Kim Siegal, and Emilia Tjernström.

Journal of Development Economics, Vol. 174, 2025

Blog coverage: [VoxDev](#)

Spillovers without social interactions in urban sanitation

with Molly Lipscomb, Laura Schechter, and Siyao Jessica Zhu.

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Vol. 16, No. 3, 2024.

Privatization of public goods: Evidence from the sanitation sector in Senegal

with Jared Gars, Jean-François Houde, Molly Lipscomb, and Laura Schechter.

Journal of Development Economics, Vol. 160, 2023.

Blog coverage: [VoxDev](#)

Measuring willingness to pay for reliable electricity: Evidence from Senegal

with Agnieszka Postepska and Leopold Sarr.

World Development, Vol. 138, 2021.

The reform of energy subsidies in Iran: The role of cash transfers

with Djavad Salehi-Isfahani and Bryce Stucki.
Emerging Markets Finance and Trade, Vol. 51, Issue 6, 2015.

Working Papers

Flexible contracting and quality upgrading under market volatility: experimental evidence from Senegal (*Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Development Economics*)

with Tanguy Bernard and Ouambi Yameogo.

Blog and podcast coverage: [World Bank Development Impact Blog](#); [NOVAFRICA Development Economics Job Market Talks Podcast](#)

Does others' health count for peanuts? Health, market returns, and pro-sociality

with Gashaw Abate, Tanguy Bernard, and Fatou Fall

Using auctions to improve sanitation at scale

with Jared Gars, Shoshana Griffith, Jean-François Houde, Terence Johnson, Molly Lipscomb, Mbaye Mbeguere, Sarah Nehrling, Laura Schechter, and Siyao Jessica Zhu

Long-run impacts of increased access to asset-collateralized loans

with Michael Kremer, Alex Lehner, and Giulio Schinaia

Contagion in financial cooperatives: evidence from guarantor networks in Kenya

with Paul Brimble and Kevin Carney

Microfinance and microequity for agricultural asset investment

with Kevin Carney, Tomoko Harigaya, and Michael Kremer

Does infrastructure mitigate the impact of rain fluctuations on health?

with Hugh Cole, Paul Court, and Molly Lipscomb

Policy Publications

Evidence Review for Food Security, Nutrition, and Climate-Resilience Interventions (2024)

with Murphy, K., Rudder, J., Cappucci, M., Cherian M., Elmera, C., Fundukova, L., Kaiser-Tedesco, A., Ortiz-Riomalo, A., Puri, J., Salas, I., Songsermsawas, T.

Press Appearances

"The Poop Cartel," July 25, 2018: [Planet Money](#) (Episode 855); July 27, 2018: [All Things Considered](#) and [Goats and Soda](#). NPR

Grants & Fellowships

~ \$2.8 million raised

AGFUND (2025): *Supporting the work of the Innovation Commission*, with Michael Kremer and the Development Innovation Lab [\$250,000]

J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (2025): *Disseminating weather forecasts to farmers to promote climate adaptation*, with Michael Kremer and Sabareesh Ramachandran [\$143,000]

Weiss Fund (2025): *Credit for Social Change: Water Access and Improved Farming through Better Borrowing*, with Suleiman Asman, Kevin Carney, Michael Kremer, and Gautam Rao [\$200,000]

- AIM for Scale (2025): *Supporting the design of an innovation scaling package for digital agriculture*, with Raissa Fabregas, Michael Kremer, and the Development Innovation Lab [\$450,000]
- PEDL ERG (2024): *Green growth: can solar adoption in Lagos boost firm profits while reducing emissions?* with Lori Beaman and Emilia Tjernström [\$51,000]
- International Growth Centre (2024): *Reducing Sewer Blockages through Improved Targeting*, with Molly Lipscomb [\$43,500]
- Wellspring-DIL Ag fund (2022): *Social learning and technology diffusion over the medium run*, with Michael Kremer [\$290,000]
- PEDL-CDC Major Research Grant (2022): *Credit for climate change: Water tanks as a means of resilience*, with Tomoko Harigaya and Michael Kremer [\$610,000]
- J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (2021): *Promoting asset-collateralized loans using digital advisory services*, with Tomoko Harigaya and Michael Kremer [\$208,000]
- J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (2021): *Sustainable spillovers: the health and environmental impacts of solar energy adoption*, with Lori Beaman, R Subramanian, and Emilia Tjernström [\$62,000]
- PEDL Exploratory Research Grant (2020): *The effect of government relief measures on SME employment and survival in Burkina Faso during the COVID-19 crisis*, with Soumaila Gansonre, Louise Guillouet, and Aristide Ouedraogo [\$40,000]
- J-PAL/CEGA Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (2019): *Credit, uncertainty, and monitoring for technology adoption: The case of Aflasafe in Senegal*, with Tanguy Bernard, Laura Schechter, and Ouambi Yameogo [\$141,000]
- PEDL Capacity Building Grant (2019): *Exploring the structure of maize markets in Burkina Faso*, with Soumaila Gansonre, Louise Guillouet, and Aristide Ouedraogo [\$6,000]
- CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (2019): *Enhancing returns to technology adoption through independent certification: the case of Aflasafe in Senegal*, with Tahiro Abdoulaye, Tanguy Bernard, Konlambigue Matieyedou, Laura Schechter, and Ouambi Yameogo [\$315,000]
- Kenneth and Pauline Parsons Graduate Fellowship Fund Research Travel Grant (2019)
- UW-Madison Student Conference Travel Grant (2020)
- UW-Madison Student Research Travel Grant (2019)
- UW-Madison AAE Conference Presentation Travel Grants (2018, 2020)
- UW-Madison / Mellon Foundation Area and International Studies Research Fellowship (2017)
- UW-Madison University Fellowship (2015–2016; 2018–2019)

Invited Seminars

- 2025 Oregon State University; FAO Junior Economist Research Club; BII*
- 2024 World Bank; Oberlin College; IFPRI
- 2023 Cornell University, Kennesaw State University
- 2022 University of Virginia
- 2021 Toulouse School of Economics; Sherbrooke University
- 2020 USDA Economic Research Service
- 2019 IDinsight Dakar

Conferences and Workshops

- 2025 AEA/ASSA; WASHecon; AIM for Scale Nairobi Weather Convening; AIM for Scale DC Digital Agriculture Convening; Advances with Field Experiments; PEDL/BII London Workshop*; WEFIDEV*; World Bank DIME/KDI Conference*
- 2024 Advances with Field Experiments; AGFUND High-Level Workshop; Workshop on the Economics of Food Safety and Agricultural Quality (organizer); World Water Week/ADBI; UNGA79 Science Summit; UNCCD COP16 Riyadh
- 2023 Advances with Field Experiments; IPA/GPRL Annual Researcher Gathering; Brazilian Econometric Society
- 2022 Advances with Field Experiments; NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development; AAEA Annual Meeting; IPA/GPRL Annual Researcher Gathering; NEUDC
- 2021 AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting (Poster); CEPR STEG 2021 Annual Conference; Oxford Centre for the Study of African Economies; AAEA Annual Meeting (International Section); MWIEDC; NBER Risks in Agricultural Supply Chains; ADBI-IFS Workshop on Sanitation and Development
- 2020 Oxford Centre for the Study of African Economies (cancelled); AAEA Annual Meeting (Selected Presentation, cancelled); LEAP/LdA Virtual Summer School in International and Development Economics; NEUDC; SEA Annual Meeting; APPAM Annual Conference (Poster); PEDL 2020 Conference on Firms in Low-income Countries
- 2019 Midwest International Economic Development Conference; Global Poverty Research Lab Pre-Analysis Plan Mini-Conference; NBER/African Development Bank: Transforming Rural Africa
- 2018 Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop; IDEAS Summer School in Development (Poster); AAEA Annual Meeting (Organized Symposium); North American ESA Conference; PEDL/NYU Abu Dhabi Workshop: The Frontiers of Research in Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries; CEAR/Huebner Summer Risk Institute; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Dakar WASH MEDS Convening

* planned

Teaching Experience

TA, World Hunger & Malnutrition, UW-Madison, Spring 2020 (mean evaluation: 4.8/5)

Professional Service

Referee service: Agricultural Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Food Policy, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of International Development, Journal of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Lahore Journal of Economics, Q Open, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economics of the Household

Grant review service: IGC SGB Evidence Fund, USAID DIV

Conference review service: MWIEDC 2025

Department service: Taylor Hibbard Club President (2016–2017); Graduate Committee Student Representative (2017–2018); Coordinator, AAE Development/Political Economy Lab (2017)

Service to the profession: Mentor for prospective Economics MA and PhD students from African countries, through the Graduate Applications International Network (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

Advising

PhD Students - committee member

Jose Velarde Morales, UChicago Booth (current)

Predoctoral Fellows

Primary supervisor at DIL:

Jack Marshall (UChicago Economics)

Henrique Mota (UChicago Economics)

Rathan Sudheer (UChicago Economics)

Shengning Zhang (UChicago Economics)

Cynthia Ji (current)

(subsequent placement in parentheses)

Previous Research Experience

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Student PI (Aflasafe Senegal project), 2019–2021

Research Assistant for Emilia Tjernström, 2017–2018

Research Assistant for Laura Schechter, 2015–2016

Innovations for Poverty Action, Dakar Urban Sanitation Project, 2013–2016

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

Research Assistant for Djavad Salehi-Isfahani, 2012

Other Professional Experience

Independent Consultant [Analysis, Survey Programming, Data Management] (2015–2021)

Research Analyst, The Clark Group/Vela Environmental [now Kcoe Isom] (2010–2012)

Intern, groSolar and Chesapeake Solar [now SolarCity/Tesla Solar] (2008, 2009)

Miscellaneous

Professional Associations: American Economic Association, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, Economic Science Association, Royal Economic Society, European Economic Association, Econometric Society

Technical Proficiencies: Adobe Creative Suite, FrontlineSMS, L^AT_EX, Linux, Matlab, ODK, Python, QGIS, R, Stata, SurveyCTO, Web Design

Foreign Languages: English (native), French (fluent), Portuguese (intermediate), Wolof (basic)

Honors and Awards: National Merit Scholar, National AP Scholar, Eagle Scout

Erdős Number: 4

References

Available upon request.

Last updated: November 5, 2025