

YAOVI JOSUÉ WEND-PANGA DJOSSOU

Ph.D. Student in Economics, University of Pittsburgh
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Fields: Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Research Interests: Gender Economics, Cultural Economics, Economic History

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics <i>University of Pittsburgh</i>	Expected May 2028 <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
M.A. in Economics <i>University of Pittsburgh</i>	December 2024 <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
M.A. in Mathematics, Economics and Statistics <i>African School of Economics</i>	June 2021 <i>Abomey-Calavi, Benin</i>
B.A. in Economics <i>ESCAE-Bénin</i>	June 2019 <i>Abomey-Calavi, Benin</i>

RESEARCH

Working Papers

“Cultural Exposure and Gender Discrimination: Evidence from India”

I examine how exposure to Hindu goddess festivals affects parental investment in daughters' health using a regression discontinuity design. Girls born after Navratri festivals receive approximately 6% more vaccinations compared to those born before, with effects concentrated among TV-watching households and specific to goddess festivals. Results suggest that cultural celebrations featuring powerful female figures can shift gender attitudes and reduce discriminatory behavior.

“Household Responses to Gendered Financial Shocks: Evidence from Sports Betting Legalization”

This paper investigates how sports betting legalization affects household labor supply decisions. Preliminary results show that married women's employment increases by 0.5-2 percentage points following state legalization. I employ difference-in-differences and event study methods using ACS data from 2017-2024.

“The Long Shadow of Slavery: How Historical Racism Shapes Contemporary Occupational Choice Among African Americans in Entertainment”

Using a spatial regression discontinuity design along the Mason-Dixon Line, I examine whether proximity to historical slavery institutions affects African Americans current occupational sorting in entertainment industries. Analysis combines Census microdata with historical slavery records to identify persistent effects on career trajectories.

Work in Progress

“Effects of Anti-Hair Discrimination Legislation on Women Labor Market Outcomes”

“The Great Migration and Occupational Sorting Among African Americans”

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- Troesken Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2026
- Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2025
- Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2023–2024
- Predoctoral Fellowship, African School of Economics, 2021–2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Economics

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2024 – Fall 2025

- Introduction to Macroeconomics
- Introduction to Microeconomics
- Student evaluations: 4.5+/5.0

African School of Economics, Benin

Instructor

August 2021 – June 2023

- Introduction to Stata, R, QGIS, and L^AT_EX

Graduate Teaching Assistant

May 2021 – July 2021

- Econometrics II (Graduate)
- Qualitative Data Analysis
- Impact Evaluation

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

African School of Economics

November 2020 – August 2022

Abomey-Calavi, Benin

Economic Consultant

General Directorate of Taxes, Ministry of Economy and Finance

March 2022

Cotonou, Benin

SERVICE

- Ph.D. Student Mentor, Department of Economics, University of Pittsburgh, 2024–Present
- Organizer, Thematic Reading Group in Political Economy, African School of Economics, 2022
- Student Representative, ESCAE-Bénin, 2017–2019

SKILLS

Statistical Software: Stata, R, Python

Other: Git, QGIS, L^AT_EX, Survey Solutions, R Shiny

LANGUAGES

French (Native), English (Fluent)

Last updated: January 2026