

Kevin Donovan

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Yale University
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Education

Ph.D. Economics, Arizona State University, 2013
B.S. Mathematics, Bentley College, 2007

Employment

Yale University

Associate Professor of Economics (untenured), School of Management	2024 –
Associate Professor (by courtesy), Jackson School of Global Affairs	2024 –
Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Management	2018 – 2024
Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Management	2017 – 2018

University of Notre Dame

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics	2013 – 2018
Concurrent Faculty, Keough School of Global Affairs	2015 – 2018

Research

Journal Articles

“The Role of Labor Market Frictions in Structural Transformation,” with Todd Schoellman. *Oxford Development Studies*, 2023, 52(4): 362 – 374. (special issue on STEG’s review of structural transformation).

“Labor Market Dynamics and Development,” with Will Jianyu Lu and Todd Schoellman. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2023, 138(4): 2287 – 2325.

“Cash Transfers as a Response to COVID-19: Experimental Evidence from Kenya,” with Wyatt Brooks, Terence Johnson, and Jackline Oluoch-Aridi. *Journal of Development Economics*, 2022, 158: 102929.

“The Equilibrium Impact of Agricultural Risk on Intermediate Inputs and Aggregate Productivity.” *Review of Economic Studies*, 2021, 88(5): 2275 – 2307.

“Eliminating Uncertainty in Market Access: The Impact of New Bridges in Rural Nicaragua,” with Wyatt Brooks. *Econometrica*, 2020, 88(5): 1965 – 1997.

“Factors Affecting College Attainment and Student Ability in the U.S. since 1900,” with Christopher Herrington. *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 2019, 31(1): 224 – 244.

“Mentors or Teachers? Microenterprise Training in Kenya,” with Wyatt Brooks and Terence Johnson. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2018, 10(4): 196 – 221.

Other Publications (lightly refereed or in non-economics journals)

"Engineering environmental resilience: A matched cohort study of the community benefits of trail-bridges in rural Rwanda" with Evan Thomas, Abigail Bradshaw, Lambert Mugabo, Laura MacDonald, and Wyatt Brooks. *Science of the Total Environment*, 2021, 771: 145275.

"Is there a Cost-Effective Way to Train Microenterprises?" with Wyatt Brooks and Terence Johnson. *World Bank Economic Review (Supplement)*, 2020, 34(1): 63 – 67.

Working Papers

"From Micro to Macro in an Equilibrium Diffusion Model," with Wyatt Brooks and Terence Johnson. Conditionally accepted, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

"Labor Market Anatomy of a Macroeconomic Crisis," with Will Jianyu Lu, Joseph Pedkte, and Todd Schoellman. Revision requested, *Journal of Monetary Economics*

"Industrial Policy with Development Characteristics: Fertilizer Policy in Rwanda," with Wyatt Brooks

"Spousal Insurance Around the World," with Annika Bacher, Philipp Grüber, Lukas Nord, and Todd Schoellman.

In Progress/In the Field

"Market Access and Economic Development: Experimental Evidence from New Bridges in Rwanda," with Wyatt Brooks (*fieldwork complete*)

Recent Presentations and Discussions

(including scheduled)

2026: Columbia

2025: Minneapolis Fed, NYU, Trinity, World Bank, Barcelona Summer Forum (Macro-Development; Micro-Development), NBER Summer Institute (Growth)

2024: McGill, World Bank Chief Economist Seminar, World Bank DRG, STEG Labor Markets Conference, World Bank East Asian Employment Conference, EIEF "Pizzanomics" Macro Conference, SED, STEG Conference on Spatial and Sectoral Gaps (discussant)

2023: Boston University, Cornell, Peking, Macro-Development Conference (Princeton), Y-RISE

2022: Berkeley, Georgetown, Monash, Econometric Society, ASU Conference in Honor of Berthold Herrendorf, Development Labor Workshop (Oxford), Small Business and Growth Conference (Bank Al-Maghrib), NBER Summer Institute Growth (discussant)

2021: Dartmouth, Richmond Fed, NYU, Universidad Diego Portales, AEA Meetings, PEGNet-DIE Workshop on Social Protection During Pandemics, SED

2020: UC Santa Cruz, Oxford, Penn State, Central Bank of Chile, Fed Board, Fudan, UC San Diego, National University of Singapore, AEA Meetings, NBER Summer Institute (EFG)

Students

(committee member unless otherwise noted; placement in parentheses)

Yale: [Matthew Schwartzman](#) (2025, Michigan)

Notre Dame: [Jianyu Lu](#) (2019, Central Bank of Chile), [Sara Esfahani](#) (2018, Sam Houston State University), [Eva Van Leemput](#) (2015, Federal Reserve Board)

Teaching

Yale: International Experience: Kenya (MBA elective), The Global Macroeconomy (MBA and EMBA core), Market Failures and Policy in the Developing World (MBA elective)

Notre Dame: Development Economics (PhD), Poverty in the Developing World

Arizona State: Intermediate Macroeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics

Grants

(all translated to USD at current exchange rates)

2025: STEG/CEPR Large Research Grant (136,217), Weiss Foundation (25,000)

2024: Weiss Foundation (25,000)

2022: STEG/CEPR Large Research Grant (121,814), J-PAL K-CAI Climate Fund (400,000), STEG Small Grant (24,550)

2021: ATAI (417,061), J-PAL Gender and Economic Agency (17,490)

2020: Wellspring Foundation (1,534,000), USAID DIV (600,000), J-PAL Jobs and Opportunity Initiative (50,000)

2019: PEDL Small Grant (44,307)

2018: Wellspring Foundation (220,759)

Other Affiliations

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Affiliate

Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Affiliate

International Growth Centre (IGC), Research Affiliate

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Faculty Research Fellow

Structural Change and Economic Growth Consortium (STEG) at CEPR, Agriculture Program Leader (with Julieta Caunedo and Doug Gollin)

Yale Economic Growth Center, Affiliate

Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE), Affiliate