

EDUCATION

Columbia University, PhD in Economics (2020 – present)

Fields: Econometrics and development

Dean's Fellow

NSF Graduate Research Fellow

Columbia University, MA in Economics (May 2022)

Georgetown University, BSFS in International Political Economy with a minor in Mathematics (2016-2020)

School of Foreign Service

GPA: 3.99/4.0, Dean's Medal for highest GPA

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Alpha Sigma Nu National Honor Society

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant/Short-Term Temporary, World Development Report 2023.

February 2022 – present.

Department Research Assistant, Columbia University Department of Economics

May 2021 – August 2021. Working with Professor Alessandra Casella.

Short-Term Temporary, World Bank Poverty & Equity Global Practice Group, Africa

August 2019 – August 2020. Working with Victor Sulla, Task Team Leader and Senior Economist, and Professor Erwin Tiongson. Developing, executing, and writing up simulation of COVID-19 poverty and inequality impacts in five Southern African countries. Estimating potential impact of social protection packages. Using geospatial data sources and household surveys to study the impacts of droughts and climate change on poverty and inequality in Southern Africa.

Short-Term Temporary, World Bank Poverty & Equity Global Practice Group, East Asia

April 2019 – June 2020. Working with Xubei Luo, Task Team Leader and Senior Economist, and Professor Erwin Tiongson. Preparing analysis and visualizations of three survey data sources to support research on profiles of the middle class and social mobility in the Philippines.

Research Assistant, Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University

June 2019 – October 2020. Working with Professor Katharine Donato, Donald G. Herzberg Professor of International Migration and Director of ISIM. Analysis of several datasets to prepare profiles of refugees in the United States, including wage differentials between refugees and other immigrants, and to determine the relationship between mental health and migration for migrants from Mexico, paper published. Cleaning and preparing analysis of Bangladesh migration survey to climate and weather impacts on the decision to migrate.

Carroll Round Research Scholar, Georgetown University

June 2019 – December 2019. Under Professors Shareen Joshi (Georgetown) and S. Anukriti (Boston College). Preparing analysis of large health surveys in India to study the modern-day impacts of historical violence on health and access to healthcare.

Independent Consultant, Precision Agriculture for Development, Boston, MA

Research Intern June 2018 – August 2018, Independent Consultant August 2018 – May 2019. Working with Tomoko Harigaya, Director of Research. Conducting quantitative impact evaluation and supporting analysis for programs (run under the guidance of Professors Shawn Cole and Michael Kremer among others) to improve agricultural productivity for smallholder farmers in Kenya, India, and other developing countries. Using econometric techniques to evaluate randomized control trials (RCTs) run by PAD and our partner organizations, preparing results for dissemination and publication. Tasks include data cleaning, difference-in-difference models, heterogeneity analyses, power calculations, data visualization.

MSFS Research Scholar, Master of Science in Foreign Service Program at Georgetown University

September 2017 – June 2019. Under Professor Erwin Tiongson, Chair, International Development Concentration. Conducting quantitative and qualitative research in support of several partner organizations:

- World Resources Institute

Using Google Analytics data to support the first-ever impact evaluation of the internationally-recognized Global Forest Watch program. Presented quantitative text analysis in R to analyze determinants of return-usership from referring media articles. Linking Google Analytics data with OpenStreetMap locations to perform geospatial analysis of program engagement.

- International Finance Corporation

Writing blog posts for the IFC Responsible Finance blog on emerging best practices for sustainable digital financial services (DFS) in development settings. Published two blog case studies (one co-authored) on data privacy and consumer protection for East African fintechs.

- World Bank, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, South Asia

Analysis of KNOMAD-ILO Migration Cost Survey (MCS) data to understand dimensions of vulnerability in the working conditions of migrant workers from South Asia. Wage regressions to determine the significance of a migrant worker's country of origin in determining earnings, preparing paper for conference presentation and in support of a regional flagship on the issue of South Asian labor migration.

- World Bank, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice, West Africa

Analysis of a Senegal household survey to understand dimensions of social exclusion and steer program design for socially marginalized youth.

- Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD)

Review, classify, and summarize literature on programs to facilitate the labor market integration of refugees and use these findings to help guide research priorities for the Forced Migration Global Working Group.

Research Assistant, Professor Erik Voeten, Peter F. Krogh Professor of Geopolitics and Global Justice, Georgetown University

June 2018 – August 2018. Documenting and summarizing cases of backlash against international institutions and their connection to populist leaders. Reviewed the literature on quantitative measures of populism and helped prepare a dataset of populist leaders using R. This material

was used in “Populism and Backlashes against International Courts,” *Perspectives on Politics* 18(2). June 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592719000975>.

Krogh Honors Seminar, Georgetown University

January 2018 – May 2018. Partnered with the State Department on the Multilateral Moneyball Project to use quantitative analysis to promote data-driven policy in US diplomacy. Worked on a semester-long research project using text analysis methods in R to analyze geopolitics in the Arctic region. Won Krogh Millennial Award for best project.

Constituent Affairs Intern, Office of State Senator Jason Lewis

May 2017 - August 2017. Researched and presented findings on lead poisoning across the state (currently [SD.1463/H.2278](https://legis.maryland.gov/family/legislation/senate/2017/SD.1463/H.2278)). Drafted and filed legislation to address gaps in existing legislation. Managed communications with constituents by phone, email, and mail. Presented findings to National Conference of State Legislatures forum on disclosure of lead service lines.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistantships

Spring 2017. Macroeconomics with Professor Carol Rogers, Georgetown University Department of Economics. Evaluation 4.1/5.

Fall 2021. Political Economy with Professor Alessandra Casella, Columbia University Department of Economics. Evaluation 4.5/5.

Spring 2022. Intermediate Microeconomics with Professor Ingmar Nyman, Columbia University Department of Economics. Evaluation 4.8/5.

Awards

Wueller Award for Best TA in Undergraduate Core Courses for the 2021-2022 academic year.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

President, Georgetown University Astronomical Society

December 2016 – May 2020. Independent research project on the historical Heyden Observatory to organize restoration and recognition. Organizing events with guests from SpaceX, the European Space Agency, US Naval Observatory, and NASA, including a former astronaut. Astrophotography and membership engagement.

Presented on Heyden Observatory history at the American Astronomical Society Winter 2018 Meeting as the only undergraduate to speak in the Historical Astronomy Division. Co-authored presentation on Father Angelo Secchi’s time in the US for the "Science, Territory, and Civil Protection" Conference sponsored by the Istituto Superiore Antincendi.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Caron, Laura. “Empty Digital Wallets: New Technologies and Old Inequalities.” *Oxford Open Economics* 1 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1093/ooec/odac001>.

Caron, Laura. 2020. “Disability, Employment and Wages: Evidence from Indonesia.” *International Journal of Manpower* 42 (5): 866–88. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJM-01-2020-0022>.

- Ahmed, S., Bossavie, L. L. Y., Bartl, E. M., Caron, L. K., Khadka, U., Khan, M., ... & Wang, H. (2020). *Towards Safer and More Productive Migration for South Asia* (No. 147272, pp. 1-153). The World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33559>.
- Donato, Katharine M, Laura Caron and Erin Hamilton (2020) Migration and Mental Health in Mexico: Domestic Migrants, Return U.S. Migrants, and Non-Migrants. *Front. Psychiatry* 10:970. doi: 10.3389/fpsyt.2019.00970.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Caron, Laura; Tiongson, Erwin. Households in Transit: COVID-19 and the Changing Measurement of Welfare. *IZA Discussion Paper No. 15670* (2022). <https://docs.iza.org/dp15670.pdf>.
- Caron, Laura. Train Wreck: The Political Economy of Public Transit Failures and their Welfare and Distributional Impacts. In progress.
- Caron, Laura. Cross-Sectional Identification of Disability Wage Discrimination: Approaches and New Evidence. In progress.
- Caron, Laura. From Drought to Dust: Agriculture and Health Consequences of Dry Spells in South Africa. In progress.
- Caron, Laura; Casella, Alessandra; Mooers, Victoria. Women, Men, and Poly Urns. Underrepresentation at Equal Talent in the Absence of Discrimination. In progress.
- Schuettler, Kirsten; Caron, Laura. 2020. Jobs Interventions for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. Jobs Working Paper; No. 47. World Bank, Washington, DC. World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33953>.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

- Sulla, Victor; Zikhali, Precious; Cuevas, Pablo Facundo. *Inequality in Southern Africa : An Assessment of the Southern African Customs Union*. World Bank, Washington, DC. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099125303072236903/P1649270c02a1f06b0a3ae02e57eadd7a82>
- World Bank. 2020. The Kingdom of Eswatini Toward Equal Opportunity: Accelerating Inclusion and Poverty Reduction. Systematic Country Diagnostic; World Bank, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34970>
- World Bank. 2020. The Middle Class in the Philippines: An Exploration of the Conditions for Upward Mobility. World Bank, Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34099>
- World Bank. 2020. Namibia Systematic Country Diagnostic. World Bank, Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35434>
- World Bank. 2020. Eswatini - Economic Recovery Development Policy Loan Project. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/366911606100452341/Eswatini-Economic-Recovery-Development-Policy-Loan-Project>

COMMENTARY & BLOG POSTS

- Caron, Laura. 2022. "Digital banking is the in-thing – but it excludes many users in Tanzania and Senegal." *The Conversation*. April 17, 2022. <https://theconversation.com/digital-banking-is-the-in-thing-but-it-excludes-many-users-in-tanzania-and-senegal-180092>
- Caron, Laura. 2021. "Disability and labour markets in Indonesia." *Devpolicy*. November 3, 2021. <https://devpolicy.org/disability-and-labour-markets-in-indonesia-20211102/>

- Caron, Laura and Erwin R. Tiongson. 2021. "The Pandemic Drove Savings Rates Sky-High. They Still Haven't Fallen to Earth." *Barron's*. June 23, 2021. <https://www.barrons.com/articles/the-pandemic-changed-how-we-save-spelling-trouble-for-the-recovery-51624476916>
- Caron, Laura and Erwin R. Tiongson. 2021. "The pandemic poverty penalty: how COVID-19 complicates our measure of household well-being." *London School of Economics COVID-19 Blog*. June 15, 2021. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/covid19/2021/06/15/the-pandemic-poverty-penalty-how-covid-19-complicates-our-measure-of-household-well-being/>
- Caron, Laura and Erwin R. Tiongson. 2020. "China, India lead in Asia but new growth sources will shake up the global economy." *South China Morning Post*. November 12, 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3109263/china-india-lead-asia-new-growth-sources-will-shake-global-economy>
- Caron, Laura and Erwin R. Tiongson. 2020. "Immigrants are still sending lots of money home despite the coronavirus job losses – for now." *The Conversation*. October 21, 2020. <https://theconversation.com/immigrants-are-still-sending-lots-of-money-home-despite-the-coronavirus-job-losses-for-now-148387>
- Caron, Laura. 2019. "How Can Digital Finance Support Agriculture? Using Alternative Data Sources to Support Consumer Protection." *Responsible Finance Forum* (blog). September 30, 2019. <https://responsiblefinanceforum.org/can-digital-finance-support-agriculture-using-alternative-data-sources-support-consumer-protection/>
- Caron, Laura. 2019. "Fintechs and Big Data: Opportunities, Risks, and Approaches to Consumer Data Protection in Kenya and East Africa." *Responsible Finance Forum* (blog). February 26, 2019. <https://responsiblefinanceforum.org/fintechs-big-data-opportunities-risks-approaches-consumer-data-protection-data-protection-kenya-east-africa/>
- Smith, Isabelle, and Laura Caron. 2019. "Leveraging Digital Presence for Consumer Relationships." *Responsible Finance Forum* (blog). January 31, 2019. <https://responsiblefinanceforum.org/leveraging-digital-presence-consumer-relationships/>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Caron, Laura. "The Heyden Observatory at Georgetown University." *Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) News: The Newsletter of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society*. October 2018.

PRESENTATIONS

- Caron, Laura and Erwin Tiongson. "Households in Transit: COVID-19 and the Changing Measurement of Welfare." Presented at 5th IZA Labor Statistics Workshop: The Measurement of Incomes, Living Costs and Standards of Living, July 2022; Korean Development Institute (KDI) School Impact Evaluation Conference, August 2022.
- Caron, Laura. "Empty Digital Wallets: New Technologies and Old Inequalities in Digital Financial Services Among Women". Presented at the Better than Cash Alliance, June 2022.
- Caron, Laura. "Women's Work: Can the Burden of Household Work Explain the Gender Wage Gap?" Presented at Carroll Round Conference, May 2019.
- Caron, Laura. "Where do Global Forest Watch users come from and how do we know?" Presented at the World Resources Institute, May 2019.
- Caron, Laura. "Disability, Employment, and Wages: Evidence from Indonesia". Presented at Georgetown University Undergraduate Research Colloquium, April 2019.
- Caron, Laura. "Drivers of Returning Users to the Global Forest Watch Site". Presented at the World Resources Institute, January 2019.

Other presentations.

Caron, Laura, Grace Maglieri, and Patrick Seitzer. 2018. "The Legacy of the Georgetown College Observatory (D.C.)." 231:126.02.

<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2018AAS...23112602C>.

Del Gado, Emanuela, and Laura Caron. 2018. "'L'esperienza Di Padre Angelo Secchi Negli USA' (The Experience of Father Angelo Secchi in the USA)." presented for the Science, Territory, and Civil Protection Conference, Istituto Superiore Antincendi, October 23.

Caron, Laura, Cathy Bailey, Tom Neltner, and Doug Farquhar. 2017. "Lead in the Water: Disclosing Lead Service Lines." presented for the National Conference of State Legislatures, December. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/lead-in-the-water-disclosing-lead-service-lines.aspx>.

SERVICE AND MENTORING

Program organizer, Columbia University Economics Department Diversity Initiative's Undergraduate Mentoring Program. September 2021 – present.

Mentor to undergraduates, Columbia University Economics Department Diversity Initiative's Undergraduate Mentoring Program. January 2021 – present.

Mentor to PhD first-years, Association of Graduate Economics Students at Columbia. September 2021 – present.

Mentor to undergraduates, Women in Science at Columbia Mentoring Program. September 2020 – present.

Mentor to Master's student, Women in Economics Initiative. November 2022 – present.