Maciej Respekta

Development Management · Impact Evaluation · Applied Machine Learning

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Education

London School of Economics
London, UK

MSc in Development Management
2022 - 2023

- Development Economics - impact evaluation and policy design
- Machine Learning for Social Scientists

Massachusetts Institute of Technology and J-Poverty Action Lab
Remote

MicroMasters program in Data, Economics, and Development Policy
2021

- Designing and Running Randomized Evaluations - power calculations
- Data Analysis with R
- Foundations of Development Policy - design of poverty programs

University College London
London, UK

BSc in Economics and Geography
2017 - 2020

- Issues in Economic Development - counterfactual impact evaluations
- Economic Policy Analysis - applied econometrics
- Geocomputation with R

King's College London
London, UK

BSc in Philosophy, Politics and Economics
2016 - 2017

- Comparing Political Systems
- Introduction to Philosophy

Research Experience

Spark Microgrants
Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi

Research Fellow
Nov 2023 - Present

- **Built a Python-based conversational assistant** leveraging Retrieval-Augmented Generation and fine-tuning.
- **Deployed a chatbot** on WhatsApp (+250 794 000 501) to assist community-based facilitators in Rwanda, Uganda, and Malawi.
- **Built interactive dashboards** in Quarto and deployed on Cloud Run helping track chatbot performance in real-time.
- **Developed 12 interactive data visualizations** using R Shiny to enhance internal data insights.
- **Conducted field research** in remote districts of Rwanda, Uganda, and Malawi, including process tracing and outcome harvesting, in Rhino Refugee Camp and Bulambuli District, Uganda.
- **Analyzed baseline data** from the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund co-design program in Musanze and Nyabihu Districts, Rwanda.
- **Authored over 100 pages of research notes** for the program design team, integrating insights from internal data, counterfactual evidence, and literature to inform strategic planning and evidence-based decisions.
- **Implemented machine learning** to count the number of people in photos, improving attendance data integrity.
- **Extracted GPS data** from community photos to visualize community locations in interactive maps.
- **Revised a Theory of Change** to include income diversification into community-driven development.
- **Improved KPI tracking system** by integrating Slack API and OpenAi API services to deliver automatic progress reports.

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, 3ie
London, United Kingdom

Consultant
Jul 2020 - Nov 2023

- **3ie Development Evidence Portal** - Maintained a comprehensive database with 13,000+ impact evaluations on what works in international development. Extracted data on intervention components, outcomes and indicators.
- **Rule of Law Evidence Gap Map** - Reviewed the effectiveness of law enforcement interventions. Analyzed impact evaluations using experimental and quasi-experimental methods. Conducted literature reviews, quality assurance, and interpretation of econometric analysis.
- **Independent Media Evidence Gap Map** - Prepared a USAID-funded report on the effectiveness of interventions in the media sector. Implemented fuzzy matching deduplication strategies in R.
- **Political Competition Evidence Gap Map** - Supported a USAID-funded review of the effectiveness of electoral process interventions. Applied web scraping techniques in R.
- **Agriculture-led Growth Evidence Gap Map** - Delivered a USAID-funded report on market-based interventions in the agricultural sector. Coded interactive spatial data visualizations in R.
- **Sustainable Energy Evidence Gap Map** - Supported standardization of energy indicators. Led a team of three consultants in dataset cleaning.

Spark Microgrants
Rwanda

LSE Graduate Consultant
Oct 2022 - Apr 2023

- **Delivered a report** on how Spark's community-driven development model could integrate resilience to Rwanda-specific climate shocks, including soil erosion, heavy rains, droughts, and unstable weather patterns.
- **Conducted fieldwork in Rwanda** with 12 key informant interviews and six community focus groups.
- **Designed a climate resilience questionnaire** integrated into Spark Microgrants' midline data collection (N=3,000) funded by the World Bank.

Laidlaw Foundation
London, United Kingdom

Laidlaw Scholar
Feb 2018 - Jun 2019

- **Awarded £10,000** for two self-proposed research projects.
- **Tested Putnam's (1995) hypothesis** on the relationship between social trust and economic growth following a decentralization reform.
- **Applied Mazzucato's (2013) theory** of public sector entrepreneurship to evaluate Polish institutional arrangements.

Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the OECD
Paris, France

Internship
Oct 2019

- **Analyzed OECD publications** on decentralization to inform Polish policy discussions.

Management Experience

Jagiellonian Foundation (NGO)
Poland

Co-founder
2016 - 2020

- **Implemented 4 editions of a scholarship program** for high school students in collaboration with authorities in Podkarpackie Province.
- **Organized conferences** at the Regional Centre for International Debate in Rzeszów, a project managed by Jagiellonian Foundation and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **Introduced a historical simulation game** into student classrooms, a project funded by the Polish History Museum, Santander Bank Poland, and authorities in Podkarpackie Province.

Skills

Programming	Python - flask app, Retrieval-Augmented Generation, fine-tuning LLMs, machine learning
	R - estimation, causal inference, data visualization, Shiny applications, machine learning
	GitHub - version control, Docker containerized applications
Impact Evaluation	RCTs, DiD, PSM, RDD, IVs, Fixed Effects
Big Data	Google Cloud Compute Engine, JupyterLab, and RStudio Virtual Machines
GIS	QGIS, interactive maps in R and Python
Data collection	Commcare, SurveyCTO, WhatsApp API
Typesetting	LaTeX, Overleaf
Dashboards	Quarto with Shiny server, Cloud Run deployment
Literature review	EPPI Reviewer - systematic reviews and data migration
Languages	Polish (native), English (C2), German (A2), French (A2)

Awards

2018	**Research Award**, Laidlaw Scholarship and Leadership programme	*London, UK*
2016	**Finalist**, XLII National Geography Olympiad	*Poland*
2015	**Laureate**, XLII National Geography Olympiad	*Poland*

Publications

Agriculture-led Growth in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

3ie Evidence Gap Map Report 26
2023

- Engelbert, Mark, Zafeer Ravat, Katherine Quant, Maciej Respekta, Fiona Kastel, Carolyn Huang, Dan Frey, et al. 2023. "Agriculture-Led Growth in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Evidence Gap Map." 2023rd ed. International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie). https://doi.org/10.23846/EGM026.