

MIRA KORB

<https://makorb.github.io>
makorb@ucdavis.edu
(703) 624-3435

Dept. of Agriculture and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis	(Anticipated) 2020-2025
DISSERTATION: <i>Three Essays in Development Economics</i>	
B.A. in Economics (<i>summa cum laude</i>), University of Virginia	May 2014-2018
B.A. in Mathematics (<i>summa cum laude</i>), University of Virginia	May 2014-2018

REFERENCES

Prof. Ashish Shenoy (**Co-chair**)
Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
(530) 752-0824
shenoy@ucdavis.edu

Prof. Jamie Hansen-Lewis (**Co-chair**)
Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
(530) 752-1534
jhansenlewis@ucdavis.edu

Prof. Travis Lybbert
Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
(530) 554-1393
tlybbert@ucdavis.edu

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Development Economics
Secondary: Environmental Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Isolating the Effects of Pollution Externalities from Natural Resource Extraction on Local Agricultural Output in Africa **Job Market Paper**

This paper explores the extent to which pollution externalities and market-based effects from industrial mining affect local agricultural output in Sub-Saharan Africa. I combine mine geolocations, topographical data and satellite-based measures of pollution, yields and weather, to identify areas around mines that are disproportionately exposed to pollution but not market-specific effects. Leveraging the staggered openings of mines across Sub-Saharan Africa, I find that air and water pollution externalities from mines account for almost 50% of the overall reduction in yields caused by industrial mining. Finally, I use both standard heterogeneity analysis as well as machine learning methods to document that pollution externalities are larger for mines in countries with poor governance and regulatory environments, as well as for mines located in areas with low initial levels of pollution.

The Economic Potential for Area-Yield Crop Insurance: An Application to Maize in Ghana
(Conditionally accepted, Journal of Agricultural Economics) with Ashish Shenoy

Causal Inference with Predicted Outcomes: A satellite-based impact assessment of 'Direct Seed Marketing' in Ethiopia

(Submitted, Journal of Development Economics) with Johanne Pelletier, Solomon Alemu, Manex Bule Yonis, Travis J. Lybbert and Matthieu Stigler

The Cost and Cost-Effectiveness of Vitamin A Supplementation: An Assessment of a Vitamin A Days-Plus Event in Burkina Faso

(Submitted, Maternal and Child Health Journal) with Stephen Vosti, Melissa Baker, Rolf Klemm, Romance Dissieka, David Doledec and Regina Khassanova

WORK IN PROGRESS

Responsiveness to Environmental Risk in Developing Countries

AEA RCT Registry: AEARCTR-0014166

Time is (Not) Money: The decay of machine learning models using cellphone data to predict wealth levels over time

With Travis Lybbert and Oscar Barriga-Cabanillas

Unearthing Inequality: The Impact of Mining Operations on Politically Marginalized Communities

With Ebad Ebadi

Contract Complexity and the Demand for Agricultural Insurance

With Ashish Shenoy, Anujit Chakraborty, Jon Einar Flatnes, Richard A. Gallenstein, Sabastain Awondo and Irene Egyir

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of California, Davis, Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics

Research Assistant: Prof. Eric Edwards	2024 - present
Research Assistant: Prof. Ashish Shenoy	2022 - 2024
Research Assistant: Prof. Travis Lybbert	2022 - 2024
Research Assistant: Prof. Jamie Hansen-Lewis	2023

The World Bank

Short Term Consultant: Office of the Chief Economist of the Sustainable Development Practice	2024
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Helen Keller International

Consultant	2022
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of California Davis

Undergraduate: Financial Management of the Firm

Fall 2021

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

International Growth Center Grant, \$35,000, London School of Economics

2023-2025

Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) Grant, \$12,000, London School of Economics
2023-2024

Henry A. Jastro Graduate Research Scholarship Award, \$6,000, UC-Davis

2023-2024

Agriculture and Resource Economics Summer Research Fellowship, \$4,000, UC-Davis

2024

Provost's 1st Year Ph.D. Fellowship, \$25,000 Stipend, UC-Davis

2020-2021

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conferences

North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), Boston, MA

2024

NetMob World Bank, Washington D.C.

2024

Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) Matchmaking Event, Cali, Colombia

2022

OTHER

Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate)

Software: R, Julia, Stata, MATLAB, Python, ArcGIS, L^AT_EX, Google Earth Engine

Affiliations:

American Economic Association

Agricultural and Applied Economics Association

Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG)

International Growth Centre