

Molly J. Doruska

Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University
442 Warren Hall, Ithaca, NY 14850
mjd438@cornell.edu • (515) 707-5266

EDUCATION

Cornell University

Ph.D. in Applied Economics and Management 2019 – Present
M.S. in Applied Economics and Management 2022
Thesis: “Poverty, Infectious Disease Control, and Externalities in Rural Economies”
Advisors: Professors Christopher B. Barrett and Brian Dillon

Lawrence University

B.A in Economics & French and Francophone Studies, *summa cum laude* 2019
Capstone: Les discours des présidents français entre 1974 et 2017 : les enjeux pour les pays d’Afrique francophones
Capstone: Do Presidents Give Aid Differently? Evidence from French Foreign Aid from 1960-2016

PUBLICATIONS

Doruska, M. J., Barrett, C. B., and Rohr, J. R. (2024). Modeling how and why aquatic vegetation removal can free rural households from poverty-disease traps. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 121 (52), e2411838121, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2411838121>.

Rohr, J. R., Sack, A., Bakhoun, S., Barrett, C. B., Lopez-Carr D., Chamberlin, A. J., Civitello, D. J., Diatta, C., **Doruska, M. J.**, De Leo, G., Haggerty, C. J. E., J Jones, I. J., Jouanard, N., Lund, A. J., Ly, A. T., Ndione, R. A., Remais, J. V., Riveau, G., Schacht, A., Seck, M., Senghor, S., Sokolow, S. H., and Wolfe, C. (2023). A planetary health innovation for disease, food, and water challenges in Africa. *Nature* 619, 782-787. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06313-z>.
Paper is the United States National Champion for the Frontiers Planet Prize, 2024
Winner of the Sustainability Science Award from The Ecological Society of America, 2024

WORKING PAPERS

Molly J. Doruska, Christopher B. Barrett, Samba Mbaye, and Jason R. Rohr. “Estimating Demand When Turning a Public Bad into an Impure Public Good”

Kira Lanker, Laksmi Iyer, Faraz Usmani, James Allen IV, **Molly J. Doruska**, Samba Mbaye, Amina Sylla, Binta Sow, Jason R. Rohr, and Christopher B. Barrett. “Do private incentives crowd out public good donations? Evidence from a lab-in-the-field experiment”

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Molly J. Doruska and Brian Dillon. “Changes in Surface Water Availability and Adaptation by Herders in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Molly J. Doruska. “Flood Risk and Differential Firm Investment: Evidence from Dakar, Senegal”

Christopher B. Barrett, Jason R. Rohr, Laksmi Iyer, Faraz Usmani, **Molly J. Doruska**, Nicolas Jouanard, Gilles Riveau, Samba Mbaye, Doudou Sow, Bruno Senghor, Tidjani Ly, Sidy Bakhoun, James Allen IV, and Kira Lanker. “Integrating Socio-Economic and Environmental Interventions to Improve Well-Being in Vulnerable Communities”

OTHER WRITING

Doruska, M. and Hoddinott, J. (2020) What works to reduce extreme poverty? A selective review. DEEP Working Paper 01. Data and Evidence to end Extreme Poverty Research Programme: Oxford. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.55158/DEEPWP1>

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching Assistant at Cornell University

AEM 2555: Corporate Sustainability: The Business Challenge	Spring 2020
AEM 4940/6940: Sustainable Business	Fall 2023
AEM 2000: Contemporary Controversies in the Global Economy	Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant at Lawrence University

ECON 380: Econometrics	Winter 2019
ECON 223: Quantitative Decision Making	Fall 2018

RELEVANT POSITIONS

Cornell University – Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management

Graduate Research Assistant for Christopher B. Barrett June 2020, June 2021 – Present

- Funded on NSF EEID grant for 2021 – 2022 and 2022 – 2023 academic years.
- Led field data collection in Senegal, designing survey instruments, coordinating with local partners, receiving IRB approvals, supervising enumerators and data entry in the field.

Graduate Research Assistant for John Hoddinott July 2020 – December 2020

Lawrence University

Research Assistant for Jonathan Lhost September 2018 – May 2019

World Food Prize Foundation

Symposium Planning & Logistics Intern June 2018 – August 2018

GRANTS

PEDL Exploratory Research Grant *Flood Risk and Differential Firm Investment: Evidence from Dakar, Senegal* [£31,678], 2024

STEG PhD Research Travel Grant *Flood Risk and Differential Firm Investment: Evidence from Dakar, Senegal* [£14,161], 2024

Einaudi Center for International Studies Research Travel Grant [\$1,700], 2024

Cornell University Graduate School Research Travel Grant [\$1,550], 2024

J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative *Adaptation to Long-Term Changes in Surface Water Availability by Herders in West Africa* [\$9,600], 2023

Cornell University Graduate School Conference Travel Grant [\$400], 2023

PRESENTATIONS

AERE Summer Conference *Estimating Demand When Turning a Public Bad into an Impure Public Good*, May 2024

Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev) *Estimating Demand When Turning a Public Bad into an Impure Public Good*, March 2024

AAEA Annual Meeting *Selected Presentation: Modeling how and why aquatic vegetation removal can free rural households from poverty-disease traps*, July 2023

HONORS AND AWARDS

William A. McConagha Prize, Lawrence University, 2019
(Senior student who best exhibits excellence in the study of economics)

Iden Charles Champion Award in Commerce & Industry, Lawrence University, 2019
(Best economics paper)

Philip and Rosemary Wiley Bradley Achievement Scholarship in Economics, Lawrence University, 2018
(Scholarship awarded to junior student to encourage talented and industrious students to major in the field of economics)

SERVICE

Referee Service, *Food Policy*

Peer Mentor, STARS program, 2022 – 2023, 2024 – 2025

Reviewer, STARS program, 2021 – Present

President, Applied Economics and Management Graduate Student Association, 2021 – 2022

Founder and Co-Chair, Dyson Diversity Council, 2021 – Present

President, Diversity in Cornell Economics, 2024 – 2025

Chair, Graduate Students for Gender Equity in Economics, 2023 – 2024

Vice President, Diversity in Cornell Economics, 2022 – 2023

Member, Diversity in Cornell Economics, 2021 – Present

Co-Founder, Development Tea, 2023

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages: English (native); French (advanced), Wolof (beginning)

Software: Stata, R, Julia, QGIS, Google Earth Engine, SurveyCTO, LaTeX, Microsoft Office Suite

Athletic: Marathoner; Women's Open age group captain, Finger Lakes Running Club cross country; Competed in varsity cross country, indoor, and outdoor track for Lawrence University, 2015-2019; MVP of Women's Track & Field 2019; Breakthrough female athlete of the year, Lawrence University Athletics Department, 2019