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Education

Ph.D. Economics, Texas A&M University, Degree Expected May 2020

M.S. Economics, University of North Texas, 2015

B.S. Economics, University of Ibadan (First Class), 2009

Research Fields

Applied microeconomics: Education, Development Economics, Health Economics, Behavioral/Experimental Economics, Public economics

Research

Working Papers:

“Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital: Effects of Maternal Education on Child Education”

High numbers of out-of-school children exist globally but the evidence on how parental education and home environments address this concern is limited. In this paper, I estimate the effects of maternal education on child education by exploiting Nigeria’s 1976 educational reform, one of Africa’s largest school construction projects. Using a fuzzy regression discontinuity design, I compare the outcomes of school-age children whose mothers were born shortly before and after 1970 and instrument for maternal education with the reform eligibility. The results show that maternal education improves children’s educational outcomes. Further evidence reveals that improved outcomes are partly driven by having more educated fathers and improved quality of home environments.

“Exposure to Negative Shocks and Child Development: Evidence from Boko Haram Attacks”

Growing evidence shows that exposure to violent attacks during early childhood impairs the physical development of children. In this paper, I show that these effects extend to psychological development. By exploiting exogenous variation in the location and timing of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria and new measures of physical and psychological development, I estimate the effects of exposure to violence on child development. Children exposed to terror attacks are 0.35 SDs shorter and lag in cognition by 0.18 SDs. The deficits are largest in children exposed to violence at younger ages. Mediation analysis shows that 6% of the effect on height is mediated by nutrition and parental investment can explain 22% of the effect on psychological development. This research therefore highlights areas in which interventions in early childhood can lessen the adverse impacts of negative shocks.

“The Economic Effects of Facebook” (with Roberto Mosquera, Trent McNamara, Xiongfei Guo, Ragan Petrie)

Social media permeates many aspects of our lives, including how we connect with others, where we get our news and how we spend our time. Yet, we know little about the economic effects for users. In 2017, we ran a large field experiment with over 1,765 individuals to document the value of Facebook to users and its causal effect on news consumption and awareness, well-being and daily activities. Participants reveal how much they value one week of Facebook usage and are then randomly assigned to a validated Facebook restriction or normal use. One week of Facebook is worth \$67. Those who are off Facebook for a week reduce news consumption, are less likely to recognize politically-skewed news stories, report being less depressed and engage in healthier activities. Our results further suggest that after a restriction, Facebook’s value increases, consistent with information loss or that using Facebook may be addictive.

Work in Progress:

“Reassessing the Effects of Education on Fertility Outcomes: Causal Evidence from Nigeria”

“Intergenerational Impacts of the Peruvian Conflict on Education ”, with Raisa Sara

“Gender, Information and Education Outcomes: Experimental Evidence from Nigeria”, with Marco Castillo

“Women’s circles: Testing the Impact of Female Support Groups on Goal Achievements”, with Alessandra Cassar, Danila Serra, Linc Gasking

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

Gail Fray Monson Memorial Scholarship , Texas AM University, 2019

Second Prize Winner (Poster), Student Research Week, Texas A&M University, 2019

Ray C. Battalio Fellow, Texas A&M University, 2019

J-PAL Proposal Development Grant, PI, 2018

Graduate Assistantship, Texas A&M University, 2015 to present

Texas Education Public Grant, 2014

Aaron Wuensch Memorial Scholarship - Top Graduate Student Award in the Department of Economics, University of North Texas, 2014

Graduate Assistantship, University of North Texas , 2013-2015

Dean’s List, University of Ibadan, 2008

Research Experience and Other Employment

Research Assistant, Texas A&M University, 2017-present

Research Assistant, University of North Texas, 2014-2015

Business Risk Associate, Deloitte, Touche & Tohmatsu, 2010-2013

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Texas A&M University, Econometrics, 2017

Teaching Assistant, Texas A&M University, Macroeconomics, 2017

Teaching Assistant, Texas A&M University, Principles of Microeconomics, 2016

Teaching Assistant, University of North Texas, Advanced Econometrics, 2015

Teaching Assistant, University of North Texas, Mathematical Economics, 2014

Conferences, Seminars and Workshops (Including Planned)

American Economic Association Meetings, Atlanta, 2019

Southern Economic Association Conference, Washington DC, 2018

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington DC, 2018

Summer Empirical Workshop, West Virginia University, 2018

Seminar on Markets and Morals, Elm Institute, Yale University, 2016