

Mofioluwasademi (Moffii) Odunowo

Department of Economics, Texas A&M University
4228 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4228
www.moffiiodunowo.org || moffii.odunowo@tamu.edu
(301) 312-0424

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:

“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. 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. One week of Facebook is worth \$67, and this increases by 19.6% after experiencing a Facebook restriction (33% for women), reflecting information loss or that using Facebook may be addictive.

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

This study examines the intent-to-treat effects of exposure to negative shocks on child development. Given that early exposure to adverse events has long-term consequences, this research identifies short-term effects. By exploiting temporal and spatial variation in violent attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria, I find that children exposed to violence are shorter and lag in cognitive and motor skills development. These effects are more pronounced in those exposed at younger ages. The results are robust to different model specifications and falsification tests. I performed some mediation analysis to explore potential pathways through which violence affects these outcomes. I find that malnutrition, parental investments, and morbidity can explain part of the effect of violence. This analysis therefore highlights areas in which interventions in early childhood can lessen the negative impact of violence. I conclude that the effects of early life exposure on health and development could help explain the non-negligible impacts in the long run.

“Intergenerational Persistence of Human Capital: Evidence from a School Construction Program”

With a large focus on achieving universal primary and secondary education in developing countries, a pertinent question is to what extent such programs have direct and spillover effects. In this paper, I study the long-term impacts of the 1976 large school construction program in Nigeria-one of Africa’s largest school expansions- on the educational outcomes of direct beneficiaries and their children. Using a difference-in-differences identification strategy, I exploit variation in the timing and differential intensity of the program in different areas. The program increased schooling for women who were exposed to the program. The effects persist to the next generation, as children of these women are more likely to complete primary, attend secondary school and progress through school normally. I find that these effects may be driven by assortative mating, as more educated women marry more educated men, and improved home environment that are conducive for children’s learning.

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

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

Ray C. Battalio Fellow, Texas A&M University, 2018-2019

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: mathematical economics, econometrics, macroeconomics and principles of microeconomics, 2014-2016

Conferences, Seminars and Workshops (Including Planned)

ASSA Meetings, Atlanta, 2019

Southern Economic Association Conference, Washington DC, 2018

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Washington DC, 2018

Summer Empirical Workshop, West Virginia University, 2018

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