

**MOFIOLUWASADEMI (MOFFII) ODUNOWO**

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**Office Contact Information**

Department of Economics

Texas A&M University

4228 TAMU, office 3055

College Station, TX 77845

**Employment**

Jan-June 2020      Visiting Fellow, The World Bank Group, Washington DC

**Education**

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

*Committee Chair: Marco Castillo*

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

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

**Research Fields:**

Applied Microeconomics, Behavioral Economics, Development Economics, Economics of Education, Health Economics, Labor Economics, Public Economics

**Publications:**

***“The Economic Effects of Facebook”*** (with Roberto Mosquera, Trent McNamara, Xiongfei Guo, Ragan Petrie), *Experimental Economics* 2019

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.

**Research Papers:**

***“Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital: Effects of Maternal Education on Child Education”*** (*Job Market Paper*)

Research shows that parental education is a good predictor of children's educational outcomes. However, little is known about the underlying mechanisms through which the effects are transmitted. In this paper, I estimate the intergenerational effects of maternal education on child education. To identify effects, I exploit the timing and geographical intensity of Nigeria's 1976 educational reform, one of Africa's largest school construction projects. One extra year of maternal education increases grade-for-age by 13 percent, the probability of children completing primary school by 22 percent, and attending secondary school by 29 percent. I find that the effects are particularly pronounced for girls. The findings are robust across different specifications and validity tests. These results are not due to improved access to education for children whose mothers benefited from the program, as children of slightly older mothers in the same

region are less educated. I also find that the improved outcomes are not driven by better labor market opportunities for the mother or changes in fertility outcomes. Instead, improved living conditions, increased involvement in decisions relating to the child's education and health, as well as having a more educated father are important channels through which maternal education matters for children's schooling.

***“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 14% 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.

**Research Paper(s) in Progress:**

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

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

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

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

**Teaching Experience:**

Spring, 2017	Introduction to Econometrics, Texas A&M University, Teaching Assistant
Fall, 2016	Macroeconomics, Texas A&M University, Teaching Assistant
Spring, 2016	Principles of Microeconomics, Texas A&M University, Teaching Assistant
Spring, 2015	Advanced Econometrics, University of North Texas, Teaching Assistant
Fall, 2014	Mathematical Economics, University of North Texas, Teaching Assistant
Spring, 2014	Principles of Microeconomics, University of North Texas, Teaching Assistant

**Research Experience and Other Employment:**

2017-present	Texas A&M University, Research Assistant
2014-2015	University of North Texas Research Assistant
2010-2013	Deloitte, Business Risk Associate

**Grants, Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

2020	World Bank Group Africa Fellowship
2019	Certificate in Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning Gail Fray Monson Memorial Scholarship, Texas A&M University (\$1,000) Ray C. Battalio Fellow, Texas A&M University (\$5,000) Second Prize Winner (Poster), Student Research Week, Texas A&M University
2018	University of Melbourne Grant, (Co-PI with Marco Castillo) (9,900 AUD) J-PAL Proposal Development Grant, PI (\$9,230)
2015-present	Graduate Assistantship, Texas A&M University
2014	Texas Education Public Grant

	Aaron Wuensch Memorial Scholarship - Top Graduate Student Award in the
	Department of Economics, University of North Texas
	Honors Day Honoree, University of North Texas
2013-2015	Graduate Assistantship, University of North Texas
2013	Institute for Humane Studies Hayek Funds for Scholars
2008	Dean's List, University of Ibadan

**Conferences and Workshops (\*scheduled):**

Sadie Collective (SACE) Annual Conference, 2020\*  
Center for Global Development (CGD) Master Class, 2019  
Southern Economic Association (SEA), 2019  
STATA Applied Microeconomics Conference 2019  
American Economic Association (AEA), 2019  
SEA Southern Economic Association, 2018  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), 2018  
Summer Empirical Workshop, West Virginia University, 2018  
Seminar on Markets and Morals, Elm Institute, Yale University, 2016

**References:**

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