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Office Contact Information

Department of Economics

Texas A&M University

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College Station, TX 77845

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/Experimental Economics: Education, Development Economics, Health Economics, Public Economics

Research Papers:

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

I estimate the 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. Maternal education increases the probability of children completing primary school by 22 percent and attending secondary school by 29 percent. One extra year of maternal education also increases children’s education by 13 percent, as measured by grade-for-age. I find that the effects are particularly pronounced for girls. 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.

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

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.

“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, Linc Gasking

Teaching Experience:

Spring, 2019	Certificate in Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning
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:

2019	Gail Fray Monson Memorial Scholarship, Texas A&M University Ray C. Battalio Fellow, Texas A&M University Second Prize Winner (Poster), Student Research Week, Texas A&M University
2018	University of Melbourne Grant, (Co-PI with Marco Castillo) J-PAL Proposal Development Grant, PI
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):

- SEA Southern Economic Association, 2019*
- STATA Applied Microeconomics Conference 2019*
- AEA American Economic Association, 2019

SEA Southern Economic Association, 2018
APPAM Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, 2018
Summer Empirical Workshop, West Virginia University, 2018
Seminar on Markets and Morals, Elm Institute, Yale University, 2016

References:

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