

ISAAC AHIMBISIBWE

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2166 Social Sciences and Humanities
University of California, Davis
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis	(Anticipated) June 2024
DISSERTATION: <i>Essays in Development Economics</i>	
MSc. in Applied Economics, Illinois State University	May 2017
Bachelor in Statistics (<i>Honors</i>), Makerere University	Jan 2013

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Prof. Travis Lybber (Chair)
Dept. of Agricultural and
Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
tlybbert@ucdavis.edu

Prof. Scott Carrell
Dept. of Economics
University of California, Davis
secarrell@ucdavis.edu

Prof. Stephen Boucher
Dept. of Agricultural and
Resource Economics
University of California, Davis
srboucher@ucdavis.edu

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Development Economics

Secondary: Economics of Education, Rural Agriculture

RESEARCH PAPERS

Peer Group Composition and Academic Outcomes: Exploring the Impact of Coethnic and High-Ability Peers in Uganda's University Setting **Job Market Paper**

This paper explores the effects of two types of peers in a group, coethnic and high ability, on academic outcomes at a large public university in Uganda, a setting with a high degree of ethnic heterogeneity. I link student-level proprietary data at this university, where living arrangements are randomly assigned conditional on gender and admission. The results show that the share of coethnic peers in a peer group does not affect academic outcomes on average. In contrast, the share of high-ability peers positively affects academic performance, irrespective of ethnicity. However, students experiencing a ‘culture shock’ (those that have lived and studied high school in their ethnic regions prior to college) benefit from having a higher share of coethnic peers. This preliminary evidence suggests psychological mechanisms, other than ethnic-based sorting into study groups, drive these results.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Gendered preferences and Affirmative Action in Ugandan public universities. (with Saloni Chopra)

Beliefs and the Demand for Employee Training: A Field Experiment with Small Firms in Uganda (with Andy Brownback , Sarojini Hirshleifer , and Arman Rezaee

PRE-PHD RESEARCH

“The contribution of millennium development goals towards improvement in major development indicators, 1990–2015.” (2019) *Applied Economics* 44(2), 337-58. (with Rati Ram)

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Jastro & Shields Graduate Research Award	2021
Scott Elliott Graduate Academic Excellence Scholarship, ISU.	2017
National Merit Sponsorship for Academic Excellence, Makerere University	2009 -2013

RESEARCH AND OTHER EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher, University of California, Davis

With Prof. Travis Lybbert: Upstream Seed systems in Uganda	2021- 2022
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With Prof Arman Razaee: RCT on employer beliefs in Uganda’s metal fabrication.	Summer 2022,
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Consultant, Context Global Development

Data analysis and visualization	Summer 2022-present
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Data analysis skills training with country teams	Summer 2022
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Field Work

Uganda	Summer 2012, 2022, and 2023
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TEACHING FIELDS

Microeconomics, Development Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Davis

Graduate: Applied Microeconomics	Spring 2019
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Undergraduate: Microeconomic development Economics	Fall 2020, 2021, Winter 2021, 2022, Spring 2020, 2021
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Undergraduate: Intermediate Microeconomics	Summer 2020, Winter 2019
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Part-time Instructor, University of California, Davis

Undergraduate: Applied Summer Research	Summer 2023
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PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Invited presentations and conferences

Working Group on African Political Economy (WGAPE)	Summer 2022
Gianni Agriculture and Resource Economics Student Conference	Spring 2023

MENTORING AND SERVICE

Student Cafe Co-coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion in Research, Education, and Career Training program, [\(DIRECT\)](#) ARE UC Davis. 2021-2022

Mentor, The Graduate Applications International Network [GAIN](#). 2021, 2023

Assistant director and volunteer in charge of local Community Engagement, The Bwoga Elementary Library [BEL](#) Initiative. 2019-Present.

OTHER

Languages: English (First language); Runyakitara (Native); French (basic)

Software: R (intermediate); Stata (advanced); Python (basic) \LaTeX (advanced)

Field Work: Uganda

Hobbies: Books; podcasts