Nicholas Swanson
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BUSINESS ADDRESS:
Department of Economics
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Berkeley, CA 94720-3880

FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION:

Primary:	Development Economics
Secondary	Psychology and Economics, Labor Economics

DISSERTATION TITLE: "Essays in Development Economics"

Expected Date of Completion:	May 2024	
Principal Advisors:	Professors	Supreet Kaur and Ted Miguel
Other References:	Professors	Ned Augenblick and Frederico Finan

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:	DEGREE	DATE	FIELD
LSE	M.Sc.	2015	Economics
Distinction			
University of Cambridge	B.A.	2011	Economics
First-Class Honors			

JOB MARKET PAPER:

"Under-training by Employers in Spot Labor Markets: Evidence from Burundi"
    with Luisa Cefala, Pedro Naso and Michel Ndayikeza

Abstract: An extensive labor economics literature suggests employers may underinvest in worker's general human capital because they do not capture the returns from training, but there is limited empirical evidence showing that this mechanism generates meaningful economic distortions. We test whether such models contribute to an important phenomenon in low income countries: a failure by farmers to adopt seemingly profitable agricultural technologies, because farmers invest too little in training local laborers when they do not "appropriate" the returns. First, to test for the presence of appropriability failures, we induce a subset of employers to train workers in some local labor markets (villages) and not others. Consistent with labor models of general skills, we document that many of the trained workers subsequently work for other employers in the local labor market, so that the training employer captures only a portion of the returns from training. The spillovers onto the other employers (who did not train) are large, leading to increases in use of the new technology and increased profits. Second, we randomize employers into a contract condition that increases the chances that the trained worker will work for the training employer in the future, shifting more of the training surplus to the training employer. This contract increases employers' willingness to train by 50 percentage points. The wedge that we measure between private and social returns suggests an important role for policies that incentivize those that acquire skills or information to diffuse this among others in the population.

OTHER WORKING PAPERS:

"Kinship Pressure and Firm Worker Matching Distortions"

"Retrieval Failures and Consumption Smoothing: A Field Experiment on Seasonal Poverty"
    with Ned Augenblick, Kelsey Jack, Supreet Kaur and Felix Masiye

PUBLICATIONS:

Swanson, N., Christensen, G., Littman, R., Birke, D., Miguel, E., Paluck, E.L. and Wang, Z., 2020, May. Research transparency is on the rise in economics. In *AEA Papers and Proceedings* (Vol. 110, pp. 61-65).

Ferguson, J., Littman, R., Christensen, G., Paluck, E.L., Swanson, N., Wang, Z., Miguel, E., Birke, D. and Pezzuto, J.H., 2023. Survey of open science practices and attitudes in the social sciences. Nature communications, 14(1), p.5401.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS:

"The Impacts of Liquidity on Low-Income Workers: Evidence from Earned Wage Access" with Luisa Cefala and Eric Koepcke

"Measuring Slums from Space" with Michael Gechter, Minas Sifakis and Nick Tsivanidis

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

RESEARCH:
Research Assistant (with Nick Tsivanidis), Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley (2021-2022)
Research Assistant (with Supreet Kaur), Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley (2017-2018)
Research Assistant (with Ted Miguel), Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley (2017-2018)
Research Assistant (with Nava Ashraf), Department of Economics, LSE (2015-2016)
Research Assistant (with Heather Schofield, Frank Schilbach) Cornell and MIT (2013-2014)

TEACHING:
Teaching Assistant, MBA Programs, Haas School of Business (Spring 2020)
    Strategic Leadership
Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)
    Introduction to Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics

OTHER:
M&A Analyst, Evercore Partners, 2013-2014
Equity Research Analyst, HSBC, 2011-2012

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS
2024	CSAE Conference *(scheduled)*
2023	PacDev, Warwick PhD Conference, All UC Labor*,* Advances in Field Experiments, IZA/CREST Conference: Labor Market Policy Evaluation, World Bank Dime-KDI *(scheduled),* NEUDC *(scheduled)*
2022	Advances in Field Experiments, STEG Workshop, IPA GPRL, NEUDC
2021	PEP Convening, PacDev, Early-Career Behavioral Economics Conference
2020	Yale Whitebox Conference

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:
2023	Stone Center Fellowship
2023	IRLE Dissertation Fellowship
2022	Global Priorities Fellowship
2021/2022	Rocca Dissertation Fellowship
2009, 2011	Kings Scholar, Gerald Shove Prize

RESEARCH GRANTS:
PI
2023	IGC (~$25,000)
2023	Strandberg Research Grant ($9,300)
2022	SurveyCTO Research Grant Awardee ($2,000)
2022	Weiss Fund ($48,120)
2022	Weiss Fund ($44,660)
2022	Strandberg Research Grant ($10,000)
2021-23	Psychology and Economics of Poverty Grants (multiple) ($39,000)
2021	ATAI ($8,527)
2021	JPal-JOI ($7,310)
2020	PEDL Exploratory Grant (~$40,000)
2020	EASST Grant Award ($54,250)
2018-23	CEGA Development Challenge (multiple) ($23,500)

Co-PI
2022	IGC (~$25,000)
2020	USAID-DIV ($426,146)
2020	MRR ($256,716)
2019	Weiss Foundation ($75,862)

SERVICE
Referee: *Journal of Development Economics*

OTHER INFORMATION:
Citizenship: UK, USA