

# Kehinde F. Ajayi

Africa Gender Innovation Lab  
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## Appointments and Affiliations

2018-     Economist, Africa Gender Innovation Lab, The World Bank  
2011-18   Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Boston University  
2017-18   Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research  
2014-15   Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Duke University  
2014     Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (August)

## Education

2011     Ph.D. in Economics, University of California, Berkeley  
2005     B.A. in Economics (Honors), Stanford University

## Research Interests

Gender, Human Capital, Development, Labor

## Research Papers

1. “The Effects of Education on Financial Outcomes: Evidence from Kenya” with Phillip Ross (2018), forthcoming, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*
2. “The Importance of Information Targeting for School Choice” with Willa Friedman and Adrienne Lucas (2017), *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*, 107(5): 638-43.
3. “Gender Parity and Schooling Choices” with Marris Buessing (2015), *Journal of Development Studies*, 51(5): 503-522.
4. “School Choice and Educational Mobility: Lessons from Secondary School Applications in Ghana”, revise and resubmit
5. “Explaining Gender Differences in Preference for Self-Employment among Tertiary Graduates in Ghana” with Nana Akua Anyidoho, revise and resubmit
6. “An Empirical Analysis of School Choice under Uncertainty” with Modibo Sidibe
7. “Student Performance and the Effects of School Quality versus School Fit”
8. “Consumer Perceptions and Saving Behavior”
9. “When Information is Not Enough: Evidence from a Centralized School Choice System” with Willa Friedman and Adrienne Lucas

## Book Chapter

10. “The Adoption of the Common External Tariff in Nigeria” with Philip Osafo-Kwaako (2009). In D. Tussie, ed., *The Politics of Trade: The Role of Research in Trade Policy and Negotiation*. Dordrecht, Leiden, Boston: Republic of Letters Publishing, pp. 121-149.

**Research Grants**

- 2015-17 Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Post-Primary Education and Youth Initiatives (Co-PI, \$436,859), “Information Targeting, School Choice, and School Quality”
- 2016 BU Center for Finance, Law & Policy (PI, \$12,000), “Consumer Perceptions and Saving Behavior”
- 2014-16 Weiss Family Program Fund (PI, \$80,948), “Guidance and Information for Improved Decisions in Education”
- 2013-16 International Growth Center (PI, £24,750), “Panel Study of Tertiary Graduates in Ghana”
- 2013 Weiss Family Program Fund (PI, \$7,040), “Consumer Perceptions and Saving Behavior”
- 2012 International Growth Center (PI, £10,000), “Imperfect Information and School Choice in Ghana”

**Fellowships and Awards**

- 2014 Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession Summer Fellow
- 2013 Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics Fellow
- 2011 U.C. Berkeley, Journal of Development Economics Dissertation Prize
- 2010 Spencer Dissertation Fellowship
- 2010 U.C. Berkeley Institute for Business and Economic Research & Center of Evaluation for Global Action, Dissertation Research Award
- 2009 U.C. Berkeley Center for African Studies, Rocca Pre-Dissertation Research Award
- 2008 U.C. Berkeley Center of Evaluation for Global Action, Lowenstein Training Grant
- 2007 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Training Grant
- 2006 U.C. Berkeley, Chancellor’s Fellowship for Graduate Study
- 2005 Fulbright Fellowship, Economic Development, Nigeria
- 2004 Stanford-in-Government Fellowship, Development Research Group, The World Bank

**Invited Seminars**

- 2019 Howard University
- 2018 Pennsylvania State University, World Bank, Michigan State University, Georgetown University
- 2017 Barnard College
- 2016 Harvard University (Graduate School of Education); Northeastern University; Indian School of Business (Hyderabad); Delhi School of Economics; Dartmouth College
- 2015 University of Virginia; Columbia University (Teachers College); World Bank Development Research Group
- 2014 Brandeis University; Clark University; Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Cornell University (Institute for African Development)
- 2013 Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa (Abuja, Nigeria); Tufts University

- 2012 The Fletcher School at Tufts University; Columbia University; Northwestern University
- 2011 Boston University; Cornell University; Mathematica Policy Research (Cambridge); RAND Corporation (Santa Monica); Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research; World Bank Development Research Group; Wellesley College

### **Conferences and Workshops**

- 2018 Eastern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Boston)
- 2017 American Economic Association Annual Meeting (Chicago)
- 2016 UNU-WIDER Conference on Human Capital and Growth (Helsinki, Finland); UNU-WIDER Gender and Development Workshop (Helsinki, Finland); BU Center for Finance, Law, and Policy; African Studies Association Annual Meeting (Washington DC)
- 2015 American Economic Association Annual Meeting (Boston); Innovations for Poverty Action (Accra, Ghana); Research on Improving Systems of Education (Washington, D.C.); Association for Educational Assessment in Africa Annual Conference (Accra, Ghana); Gender and Development Workshop (University of Namur); Harvard University (GSE)
- 2014 Centre for the Study of African Economies Annual Conference (Oxford University); Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics (Duke University); Population Association of America Annual Meetings (Boston); Society of Labor Economists Annual Meetings (Arlington); Global Development Network Annual Conference (Accra, Ghana); Northeastern Universities Development Consortium Conference (Boston University)
- 2013 NBER Summer Institute Joint Education and Labor Studies Session; Centre for the Study of African Economies Annual Conference (Oxford University); Population Association of America Annual Meetings (New Orleans); Research and Education Policy in Secondary Schools (Accra, Ghana)
- 2012 Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference (Boston); Society of Labor Economists Annual Meetings (Chicago); Green Line Labor Seminar (Boston University); Evidence-Based Education Policy-Making and Reform in Africa Conference (Accra, Ghana)
- 2006-11 Population Association of America Annual Meetings (Washington, D.C.); NEUDC (Tufts University); APHRC/IUSSP International Seminar on Gender and Empowerment (Nairobi, Kenya); Women in Africa and the African Diaspora Conference (Abuja, Nigeria); Population Association of America Annual Meetings (Detroit); Pacific Conference on Development Economics (San Francisco State University); Latin American Trade Network and International Development Research Center Workshop (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

### **Teaching**

Boston University

- EC 722, Topics in Economic Development II (Ph.D.)
- EC 522, Development Strategy (M.A.)
- EC 320, Economics of Less-Developed Regions (B.A.)

### Short Courses and Trainings

July 2012: “Applying Evidence on Education Quality, Girl Child Education, School Participation and Governance” Innovations for Poverty Action (Accra, Ghana)

June 2012: “Quantitative Evaluation” Regional Institute for Population Studies, University of Ghana

May 2012: “Evaluating Social Programmes” J-PAL Executive Education (Accra, Ghana)

### Dissertation Advising (degree, year of graduation, first placement) \*committee chair

Phillip Ross (Ph.D., 2019, Analysis Group)

Mario Cruz Gonzalez (Ph.D., 2018, Harvard Medical School post-doc)

Shree Ravi (Ph.D., 2018, TWS Partners)

Shunan Wu\* (Ph.D., 2016, Central University of Finance and Economics)

Amrit Amirapu (Ph.D., 2015, University of Kent)

Karim Naguib (Ph.D., 2014, Evidence Action post-doc)

Olesya Baker (Ph.D., 2013, Harvard Medical School post-doc)

### Professional Service

Department: Undergraduate Instruction Committee (2011-14, 2015-18); Junior Faculty Recruiting Committee (2011-14, 2015-18); Institute for Economic Development Seminar Co-organizer (2013-14, 2015-18); PhD Admissions Committee (2012, 2016-18); Merit Equity Advisory Committee (2016); MA Recruitment Committee (2015); Microeconomics Seminar Co-organizer (Fall 2012)

University: Social Sciences Curriculum Committee (2013-14)

Referee: *Demographic Research, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics of Education Review, Education Finance and Policy, Feminist Economics, International Journal of Educational Development, International Labor Review, Journal of African Development, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of the European Economic Association, Review of Economics and Statistics, Socio-Economic Review*

Grant Review: National Science Foundation (NSF), IZA/DFID Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme (GLM-LIC)

Discussant: UNU-WIDER Conference on Human Capital and Growth (2016); American Economic Association Annual Meeting (2015); Northeastern Universities Development Consortium Conference (2014); Center for the Study of African Economies Annual Conference (2013, 2014); Improving Learning Outcomes in Developing Countries: Emerging Lessons from the QEDC Initiative (Hewlett Foundation and Wellesley College, May 2012); Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference (2011, 2012)

### Professional Activities

Consultant: UNU-WIDER Project on Gender and Development (2016)  
Girls’ Education Unit of Ghana Education Service and Camfed Ghana (Sept-Dec 2013)

Member: American Economic Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy, African Finance and Economics Association, Association for the Advancement of African Women Economists, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, Population Association of America, Society of Labor Economists