

Owen Whitfield Ozier

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EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Williams College	July 2020 - present
Senior Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank	2019 - January 2022
Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank	2011 - 2019
Visiting Post-Doctoral Scholar, Center of Evaluation for Global Action	January - June 2011
Evaluation Consultant for Michael Kremer, Edward Miguel, and Esther Duflo, World Bank / Internationaal Christelijk Steunfonds (ICS), Kenya	2003-2005
Researcher / Software Engineer, Whitehead Institute for Molecular Biology	2001-2003
Software Engineer, E Ink Corporation	1999-2001

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of California, Berkeley Primary fields: Development, Econometrics	December 2010
M.Eng., Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1999
S.B., Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1999
S.B., Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1999

PUBLICATIONS

- Big Sisters.** *Journal of Human Resources*, 2025, DOI 10.3368/jhr.0623-12969R1, with P. Jakiela, L. Fernald, and H. Knauer.
- Experimental Development Economics: Current Scope and Future Directions.** With U. Dasgupta, P. Jakiela, P. Maitra, D. Serra, A. Viceisza, Chapter 14 in *Handbook of Experimental Development Economics*, edited by U. Dasgupta and P. Maitra, 337-349. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025.
- A Firm of One's Own: Experimental Evidence on Credit Constraints and Occupational Choice.** *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2024, DOI 10.1162/rest_a_01529, with A. Brudevold-Newman, M. Honorati, G. Ipapa, and P. Jakiela.
- Preprimary Education and Early Childhood Development: Evidence from Government Schools in Rural Kenya.** *Journal of Development Economics*, 2024, 171: 103337, with P. Jakiela, L. Fernald, and H. Knauer.
- Recruitment, effort, and retention effects of performance contracts for civil servants: Experimental evidence from Rwandan primary schools.** *American Economic Review*, 2021, 111(7): 2213-46, with C. Leaver, P. Serneels, and A. Zeitlin
- Replication Redux: The Reproducibility Crisis and the Case of Deworming.** *World Bank Research Observer*, 2021, 36(1): 101-130.

Motivating Bureaucrats through Social Recognition: External Validity – a Tale of Two States.

Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes, 2021, 163: 117-131, with V. Gauri, J. Jamison, and N. Mazar.

Randomized control trial as social observatory: A case study. *World Development*, 2020, 127: 104787, with S. Baird and J. Hamory Hicks

Enhancing young children's language acquisition through parent-child book-sharing:

a randomized trial in rural Kenya. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 2020, 50(Part 1): 179-190, with H. A. Knauer, P. Jakiela, F. Aboud, and L. C. H. Fernald.

Multilingual Assessment of Early Childhood Development: Analyses from Repeated Observations of Children in Kenya. *Developmental Science*, 2019, 22(5): e12875, with H. A. Knauer, P. Kariger, P. Jakiela, and L. C. H. Fernald.

The Impact of Violence on Individual Risk Preferences: Evidence from a Natural Experiment

Review of Economics and Statistics, 2019, 101(3): 547-559, with P. Jakiela.

Exploiting Externalities to Estimate the Long-term Effects of Early Childhood Deworming

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics 2018, 10(3): 235-262

The Impact of Secondary Schooling in Kenya: A Regression Discontinuity Analysis

Journal of Human Resources 2018, 53(1): 157-188

Commentary. Fixed effects and risks of miscommunication: a comment on Jullien, Sinclair, and Garner

International Journal of Epidemiology 2016, 45(6): 2156-2158

Does Africa Need a Rotten Kin Theorem? Experimental Evidence from Village Economies

Review of Economic Studies 2016, 83(1):231-268, with P. Jakiela.

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of national school-based deworming in Kenya: study design and baseline results, *Parasites & Vectors* 2013, 6:198 with CS Mwandawiro, B Nikolay, JH Kihara, DA Mukoko, MT Mwanje, A Hakobyan, RL Pullan, SJ Brooker, and SM Njenga.

WORKING PAPERS

The Software Behind the Stats: A Student Exploration of Software Trends Across Disciplines, with E. Upton, X. Cai, P. Jakiela, and S. Raman. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2504.06507

Can Education be Standardized? Evidence from Kenya (BFI WP 2022-68), with G. Gray-Lobe, A. Keats, M. Kremer, and I. Mbiti.

Gendered Language (Williams WP 2021-13; CGD WP 500; World Bank WPS 8464), with P. Jakiela.

Evaluating the Effects of an Early Literacy Intervention, with P. Jakiela, L. Fernald, and H. Knauer accepted after Stage 1 pre-results review at *Journal of Development Economics*. AEA Trial Registry: AEARCTR-0004425.

Perils of Simulation: Parallel Streams and the Case of Stata's Rnormal Command (World Bank WPS 6278, 2012)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

J-PAL Affiliate
BREAD Affiliate
IZA Research Fellow

2020-present
2017-present
2017-present

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024: Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (World Bank / CGD), University of Houston, Utrecht University, CSAE (Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford)
2023: Colgate University/Hamilton College, Princeton University, Université de Montréal, Yale University, University of Zurich, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore / Bocconi University LEAP, Stockholm School of Economics
2022: University of Washington, NBER SI (Education, Children), FAO Rome, NBER Development
2021: Williams College (Faculty Lecture Series; Center for Development Economics), SEA
2020: IFPRI, Williams College, Stockholm School of Economics, University of Gothenburg (*Pandemic cancellations: Essex, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, CSAE*)
2019: NBER SI, American University, SEA, RISE CRT Meeting (at the Center for Global Development, CGD). World Bank: Poverty GP, Education GP, DECIE, SIEF/REACH, Kenya Country Office
2018: University of Michigan, Duke University, CSAE, University of Warwick, Institute for Fiscal Studies, CERGE-EI (Prague), World Bank DECRG
2017: ASSA, University of Maryland, iHEA Boston, USAID, Iowa State University, World Bank Poverty GP
2016: PopPov (at IFPRI), University of Maryland MPRC, WADES (Washington Area Development Economics Symposium), IPAK/Kenya Vision 2030 Youth Employment Conference (Nairobi), Maseno University (Kisumu), CSAE, World Bank Kenya Country Office
2015: NBER/BREAD Pre-Conference, University of Maryland AREC, Georgetown University *gui²de*, NEUDC (at Brown), University of Oklahoma, SEEDEC (at CERGE-EI Prague), World Bank DECRG
2014: Pacific Development Conference (at UCLA), CSAE, World Bank Big Ideas for Africa, IFPRI Applied Microeconomics and Development, CGD, CEPR/PEDL Workshop
2013: 24th BREAD Conference (Joint World Bank – BREAD Conference on Sub-Saharan Africa)
2012: Bocconi University, Middlebury College, Dartmouth College, CSAE
2011: Dartmouth College, University of Virginia, Notre Dame, USC, UC Irvine, Bocconi University, George Washington University, University of Chicago Becker Center, Case Western Reserve University, University of Maryland AREC, World Bank DECRG, IFPRI, IZA/DIW DC, IZA Bonn, CGD, Pacific Development Conference (UC Berkeley), CSAE, MWIEDC (at University of Wisconsin), Maseno University (Kisumu), Fordham University, NEUDC (Northeastern Universities Development Consortium Conference, at Yale)
2010: El Colegio de México, Washington University in St. Louis, NEUDC (at MIT), MWIEDC (at Minnesota)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics, Williams College

Statistics/Econometrics (Advanced Section)	Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2024
Econometrics	Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2024
Advanced Microeconometrics	Spring 2025
Advanced Methods for Causal Inference	Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023
Human Capital and Development	Spring 2022, Spring 2023
Mathematics/Statistics Orientation	Summer 2023, Summer 2024

Barcelona School of Economics Summer School

Randomized Controlled Trials in Development Economics (co-instructor) Summer 2019, 2021-2023, 2025

Department of Economics, University of Maryland

Applied Microeconomics (2nd year Ph.D. course; co-instructor) Fall 2016, Fall 2019

Department of Economics, UC Berkeley

Graduate Econometrics (TA for Michael Jansson)	Fall 2007, Fall 2008, Fall 2009
Graduate Game Theory (TA for Matthew Rabin)	Fall 2006
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley	2009

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT

Probabilistic Systems Analysis (TA for John Tsitsiklis, Head TA for Dimitri Bertsekas)

1998-1999

Shorter courses

ECD Master Class at CGD

December 2019

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona Applied Microeconomics Mini-course

May 2018

SIEF-APHRC Impact Evaluation Training, Nairobi, Kenya

May 2015

IZA-AERC-DfID Evaluation of Training Programs, Nairobi, Kenya

December 2013

Guest lectures

Georgetown University – Impact Evaluation for Development (Master's, 2019); University of Pennsylvania – International Education (Master's, 2018, 2019); American University – Global Health and Economic Development (Undergraduate, 2019); University of Maryland – Economic Development (PhD, 2015), World Poverty (Undergraduate, 2011-2016); SIEF Impact Evaluation Training, Dakar, Senegal (2013); Middlebury College- Christian A. Johnson Lecture (2012); Washington University in St. Louis - Development Economics (PhD level, 2010), African Development (Undergraduate, 2010)

THESIS AND DISSERTATION ADVISING

Department of Economics, Williams College

Oliver Hall (Undergraduate thesis 2022-2023)

Lily Levin (Undergraduate thesis 2022-2023)

Chrispine Lwekaza (Undergraduate thesis 2021-2022)

ETH Zurich

Frank Otieno Odhiambo (Ph.D. 2025) – External Examiner

Copenhagen Business School

Stefano Tripodi (Ph.D. 2022) – External Examiner

School of Economics, Universitat de Barcelona

Jeffrey Pagel (Ph.D. 2022) – External Examiner

Department of Economics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Augustin Tapsoba (Ph.D. 2019) – External Examiner

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland

Andrew Brudevold-Newman (Ph.D. 2017) – Committee member

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for: *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Review: Insights*, *Science*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *The Economic Journal*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Demography*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *World Development*, *World Bank Economic Review*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Education Economics*, *Journal of African Economies*, etc.

J-PAL Invited Researcher Selection Committee	2023-present
Scientific Committee, Northeastern Universities Development Conference	2020, 2022, 2023, 2024
Scientific Committee, LAC DEV	2024
IZA Mentor (for researchers in Sub-Saharan Africa)	2021
Research In Color Mentor	2021
Adopt-a-Paper Mentor	2021

INTERNAL SERVICE

Director of Research	2024-present
Committee on Priorities and Resources:	Member, 2022-2023
Department of Economics Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee:	Member, 2020-2021; Chair, 2021-2023

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Rwanda - Teacher incentives and recruitment (STARS) project

Agence Française de Développement, Fund for Innovation in Development (co-PI)	2022
United States Agency for International Development, Development Innovation Ventures (co-PI)	2022
Economic Development and Institutions (co-PI)	2017
International Growth Centre (co-PI)	2016
World Bank REACH Funding – Teacher recruitment and retention in Rwanda (co-PI)	2015
World Bank SIEF Seed and IE funding (Basic Education Service Delivery Cluster / Rwanda) (co-PI)	2015

Kenya - Study of Bridge Academies

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant (co-PI)	2017
World Bank Knowledge for Change Program III (co-PI)	2017
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Post-Primary Education Initiative Grant (co-PI)	2016
World Bank Early Learning Partnership Funding – Low cost ECD centers in Kenya (co-PI)	2015
World Bank Research Support Budget Preparation Grant – Low cost private schools in Kenya (co-PI)	2015
World Bank SIEF Seed and IE Funding (ECD and Basic Education Clusters / Kenya) (co-PI)	2015

Kenya - Multilingual Early Reading

World Bank Research Support Budget – measurement validation (co-PI)	2019
World Bank Research Support Budget – “Phase II” study (co-PI)	2018
World Bank Early Learning Partnership Funding – “Phase II” and scale-up (co-PI)	2018
Echidna Giving (co-PI)	2017
World Bank Research Support Budget – Validation study (co-PI)	2016
World Bank Research Support Budget – “Phase I” study (co-PI)	2015
World Bank Early Learning Partnership Funding – Reading interventions in Kenya (co-PI)	2015
World Bank Research Support Budget Preparation Grant –Reading Interventions in Kenya (co-PI)	2014
World Bank SIEF Seed and IE Funding (ECD and Basic Education Clusters / Kenya) (co-PI)	2014

Kenya – A Firm of One’s Own

World Bank Research Support Budget – long-term follow-up study (co-PI)	2018
IZA GLM Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme (co-PI)	2018
CEPR PEDL Major Research Grant (co-PI)	2014
World Bank SRP Business Panel Data and Microfranchising IE Extensions (co-PI)	2014
World Bank Research Support Budget, i2i, Gender Innovation Lab – Impact of Microfranchising (co-PI)	2014

IZA GLM Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme (co-PI)	2013
CEPR PEDL Exploratory Research Grant (co-PI)	2012
ILO Youth Employment Network Grant (co-PI)	2012

Funding for Earlier Work

World Bank SIEF IE and Seed Funding (Basic Education Service Delivery Cluster / South Africa) (co-PI)	2014
World Bank Research Support Budget Preparation Grant – Post-Primary in Kenya (co-PI)	2014
Journal of Development Economics Award, UC Berkeley	2010
Student Fellow, Center for Equitable Growth, UC Berkeley	2010
Graduate Division Summer Grant, UC Berkeley	2010
Big Ideas Award, Henry Wheeler Center for Emerging and Neglected Diseases, UC Berkeley	2009
Rocca Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Award, Center for African Studies, UC Berkeley	2009
IBER/CEGA Dissertation Research Award, UC Berkeley	2009
Shapiro Fellow, UC Berkeley	2005

OTHER INFORMATION

Languages: English (native), Swahili (intermediate), Spanish (elementary)
Nationality: US Citizen