

PAMELA JAKIELA

pjs@williams.edu | <https://pjakiela.github.io>

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Department of Economics, Williams College

Professor, 2024 – present

Associate Professor, 2020 – 2024

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland

Associate Professor, 2017 – 2019

Assistant Professor, 2011 – 2017

Department of Economics, Washington University in St. Louis

Assistant Professor, 2008 – 2012

OTHER APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

Gender co-chair and board member, 2026 – present

Affiliate, 2020 – present

Bureau for Research in the Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)

Fellow, 2025 – present

Affiliate, 2018 – 2025

Center for Global Development (CGD)

Non-Resident Fellow, 2020 – present

Senior Fellow, 2018 – 2020

Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)

Research Fellow, 2014 – present

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, Department of Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 2008


MSc. in Development Studies (with Distinction), London School of Economics, 2000

BA in Sustainable Development / English, Residential College, University of Michigan, 1999

PUBLICATIONS

1. Xavier Giné, Pamela Jakiela, Dean Karlan, and Jonathan Morduch. (2010) “Microfinance Games,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2(3): 60-95.
2. Pamela Jakiela. (2011) “Social Preferences and Fairness Norms as Informal Institutions: Experimental Evidence,” *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*, 101(3): 509-513.

3. Pamela Jakiela. (2013) “Equity vs. Efficiency vs. Self-Interest: on the Use of Dictator Games to Measure Distributional Preferences,” *Experimental Economics*, 16(2): 208–221.
4. Pamela Jakiela. (2014) “Using Economic Experiments to Measure Informal Institutions,” in *Institutions, Property Rights, and Economic Growth: the Legacy of Douglass North*, Cambridge University Press (Sebastian Galiani and Itai Sened, editors).
5. Raymond Fisman, Pamela Jakiela, and Shachar Kariv. (2015) “How Did Distributional Preferences Change During the Great Recession?” *Journal of Public Economics*, 128: 84–95.
6. Pamela Jakiela, Edward Miguel, and Vera te Velde. (2015) “You’ve Earned It: Estimating the Impact of Human Capital on Social Preferences,” *Experimental Economics*, 18(3): 385–407.
7. Raymond Fisman, Pamela Jakiela, Shachar Kariv, and Daniel Markovits. (2015) “The Distributional Preferences of an Elite,” *Science*, 349(6254).
8. Pamela Jakiela. (2015) “How Fair Shares Compare: Experimental Evidence from Two Cultures,” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 118: 40–54.
9. Pamela Jakiela and Owen Ozier. (2016) “Does Africa Need a Rotten Kin Theorem? Experimental Evidence from Village Economies,” *Review of Economic Studies*, 83(1): 231–268.
10. Raymond Fisman, Pamela Jakiela, and Shachar Kariv. (2017) “Distributional Preferences and Political Behavior,” *Journal of Public Economics*, 155: 1–10.
11. Edward J. Mills, Achyuta Adhvaryu, Pamela Jakiela, Joesphine Birungi, Stephen Okobi, Teddy Chimulwa, Wangisi Jonathan, Tina Achilla, Evan Popoff, Shirin Golchi, and Dean Karlan. (2018) “Unconditional Cash Transfers for Clinical and Economic Outcomes among HIV-Affected Ugandan Households: A Bayesian Randomised Trial,” *AIDS*, 32(14): 2023–2031.
12. Knauer, Heather A., Patricia Kariger, Pamela Jakiela, Owen Ozier, and Lia C. H. Fernald. (2019) “Multilingual Assessment of Early Child Development: Analyses from Repeated Observations of Children in Kenya,” *Developmental Science*, 22(5): e12875.
13. Pamela Jakiela and Owen Ozier. (2019) “The Impact of Violence on Individual Risk Preferences: Evidence from a Natural Experiment,” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 101(3): 547–559.
14. Knauer, Heather A., Pamela Jakiela, Owen Ozier, Frances Aboud, and Lia C. H. Fernald. (2020) “Enhancing Young Children’s Language Acquisition Through Parent-Child Book-Sharing: A Randomized Trial in Rural Kenya,” *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 50: 179–190.
15. Uttara Balakrishnan, Johannes Haushofer, and Pamela Jakiela. (2020) “How Soon Is Now? Evidence of Present Bias from Convex Time Budget Experiments,” *Experimental Economics*, 23: 294–321.
16. David K. Evans  Maryam Akmal  Pamela Jakiela.¹ (2021) “Gender Gaps in Education: The Long View,” *IZA Journal of Development and Migration*, 12(1).
17. David K. Evans, Pamela Jakiela, and Heather A. Knauer. (2021) “The Impact of ECD Interventions on Mothers,” *Science*, 372(6544): 794–796.

¹  indicates that the order of authors was randomized using the American Economic Association’s author randomization tool.

18. David K. Evans, Pamela Jakiela, Heather A. Knauer, and Amina Mendez Acosta. (2022) “Tools to Measure the Impact of Early Childhood Development Interventions on Maternal Mental Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries,” *SSM – Mental Health*, 2: 100127.
19. Raymond Fisman, Pamela Jakiela, Shachar Kariv, and Silvia Vannutelli. (2023) “The Distributional Preferences of Americans, 2013-2016,” *Experimental Economics*, 26: 727–748.
20. David K. Evans, Pamela Jakiela, and Amina Mendez Acosta. (2024) “The Impacts of Childcare Interventions on Children’s Outcomes in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review,” *AEA Papers & Proceedings*, 114: 463–466.
21. Pamela Jakiela, Owen Ozier, Lia Fernald, and Heather Knauer. (2024) “Preprimary Education and Early Childhood Development: Evidence from Government Schools in Rural Kenya.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 171: 103337.
22. Andrew Brudevold-Newman, Gerald Ipapa, Maddalena Honorati, Pamela Jakiela, and Owen Ozier. (2024) “A Firm of One’s Own: Experimental Evidence on Credit Constraints and Occupational Choice.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, forthcoming.
23. David K. Evans and Pamela Jakiela. (2025) “The Role of Fathers in Promoting Early Childhood Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Review of the Evidence.” *World Bank Research Observer*, 40(2): 211–228.
24. Pamela Jakiela, Owen Ozier, Lia Fernald, and Heather Knauer. (2025) “Big Sisters,” *Journal of Human Resources*, forthcoming.
25. Utteeyo Dasgupta, Pamela Jakiela, Pushkar Maitra, Owen Ozier, Danila Serra, and Angelino Viceisza. (2025) “Experimental development economics: current scope and future directions,” in *Handbook of Experimental Development Economics*, Edward Elgar Publishing (Utteeyo Dasgupta and Pushkar Maitra, eds.).
26. David K. Evans and Pamela Jakiela. (2025) “The role of fathers in early childhood: Five insights from around the world,” *International Journal of Birth and Parent Education*, 13(1).

WORKING PAPERS

1. Elizabeth Upton, Xizhen Cai, Pamela Jakiela, Owen Ozier, and Shyam Raman. (2026) “The Software Behind the Stats: A Student Exploration of Software Trends Across Disciplines.”
2. Achyuta Adhvaryu, Jean-François Gauthier, Pamela Jakiela, and Dean Karlan. (2026) “Great Expectations: Responses to Current and Future Transfers for Low-Income Individuals.”
3. Lillian Bates, Oliver Hall, and Pamela Jakiela. (2025) “Understanding the Impacts of Maternity Leave on Women’s Labor Market Outcomes.”
4. Pamela Jakiela and Owen Ozier. (2021) “Gendered Language.”
5. Pamela Jakiela. (2021) “Simple Diagnostics for Two-Way Fixed Effects.”
6. Pamela Jakiela, Owen Ozier, Lia Fernald, and Heather A. Knauer. (2020) “Evaluating the Effects of an Early Literacy Intervention,” accepted after Stage 1 pre-results review at *Journal of Development Economics*. AEA Trial Registry: AEARCTR-0004425.

7. Vivian Hoffman, Pamela Jakiela, Michael Kremer, Ryan Sheely, and Matthew Goodkin-Gold. (2017) “There’s No Place Like Home: Theory and Evidence on Decentralization and Politician Preferences.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics, Williams College, Fall 2020 – present

- Data Science for Economic Analysis (last taught 2025)
- Global Poverty and Economic Development (last taught 2023)
- Price and Allocation Theory (last taught 2022)
- Program Evaluation for International Development (last taught 2025)
- Women, Work, and the World Economy from 5,000 B.C. to the Present (last taught 2024)

Department of Economics, University of Maryland, Fall 2016, Fall 2019

- Empirical Microeconomics (PhD-level, co-taught with Owen Ozier)

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, 2011 – 2019

- Experimental and Behavioral Economics (PhD-level)
- Global Poverty and Economic Development (undergraduate)

Department of Economics, Washington University in St. Louis, 2008 – 2010

- Behavioral Economics (undergraduate and PhD-level)
- The Political Economy of Development in Africa (undergraduate)

Department of Economics, University of San Francisco, 2007

- Development Microeconomics (masters-level)

Department of Economics, University of California at Berkeley, 2003 – 2007

- Teaching assistant for PhD-level Microeconomics
- Teaching assistant for Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate)
- Teaching assistant for Development Economics (undergraduate)

Mini-Courses, Trainings, and Capacity Building:

Randomized Control Trials (RCTs) in Development Economics: Design and Data Analysis, Barcelona School of Economics Summer School, 2019–2025

World Bank SIEF Impact Evaluation Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya, 2015

IZA/DFID/AERC Short Course on Evaluation of Training Programs, Nairobi, Kenya, 2013

Mini-Course on Experimental and Behavioral Economics, el Colegio de México, 2010

JPAL/IPA/CMF Staff Training, Limuru, Kenya, 2010

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Associate Editor, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2016 – 2025

Associate Editor, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 2017 – 2022

INVITED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PAST 5 YEARS)

- 2021: Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
University of Massachusetts, Boston
Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin
Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota
Loyola Marymount University
University of Newcastle
- 2022: Wilfrid Laurier University
Columbia University
NBER Summer Institute, Children's Program
- 2023: Hamilton College
HEC Montreal
Laval University
Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of Maryland
Center for Global Development
- 2024: Center for Economic and Social Research, University of Southern California
World Bank Development Research Group
Centre for the Study of African Economies Conference, Oxford
University of St. Andrews
Texas Development Economics Workshop, University of Texas, Austin
Bozeman Applied Economics Summer Conference, Montana State
All Bank Conference on Development Economics, Center for Global Development
NBER Summer Institute, Gender in the Economy Program
- 2025: University of Texas, Austin
University of Michigan

SELECTED MAJOR GRANTS

1. International Labor Organization Youth Employment Network, "Evaluating the Impact of the Girls Empowered by Micro-franchise Pilot in Kenya," \$72,161, 2012–2014, with co-PIs Maddalena Honorati and Owen Ozier
2. National Science Foundation Award, "Direct and Indirect Impacts of Credit Scoring for Small and Medium Enterprises," \$287,846, 2013–2015, with co-PIs Dean Karlan, Gharad Bryan, and Daniel Keniston
3. IZA/DFID Growth and Labour Markets in Low-Income Countries Programme Research Grant, "The Impacts of Microfranchising on Young Women in Nairobi," €378,886.56, 2013–2015, with co-PIs Maddalena Honorati and Owen Ozier
4. National Science Foundation Award SES-1357332, "Estimating the Impacts of a Microfranchising Intervention," \$113,092, 2014–2016, PI
5. Center for Economic Policy Research Program on Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL) Major Research Grant, "The Impacts of Microfranchising on Young Women in Nairobi," £121,047, 2014–2016, with co-PIs Maddalena Honorati and Owen Ozier
6. World Bank Research Support Budget, "The Impacts of Microfranchising on Young Women in Nairobi," \$99,708, 2014–2015 with co-PIs Maddalena Honorati and Owen Ozier

7. World Bank Gender Innovation Lab, “Lab Experimental Measures of Women’s Empowerment,” \$48,896, 2015–2016, with co-PI Owen Ozier
8. World Bank Strategic Research Program, “The Impacts of Microfranchising on Young Women in Nairobi,” \$80,000, 2014–2016 with co-PIs Maddalena Honorati and Owen Ozier
9. World Bank Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund, “Encouraging Multilingual Early Reading as the Groundwork for Education,” \$595,952, 2015–2019 co-PIs Owen Ozier and Lia Fernald
10. IZA/DFID Growth and Labour Markets in Low-Income Countries Programme Research Grant, “The Long-Term Impacts of Microfranchising on Young Women’s Occupational Choices,” €100,000, 2018–2020, with co-PIs Andrew Brudevold-Newman, Maddalena Honorati, and Owen Ozier

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

Sidney J. and Irene Shipman Scholarship, University of Michigan

Phi Beta Kappa, University of Michigan

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley

Journal of Development Economics Award, UC Berkeley

American Economic Review Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2018

OTHER INFORMATION

Languages: English (native), Spanish (advanced), French (intermediate), German (beginner), Swahili (beginner)

Citizenship: United States

Date of Birth: September 2, 1978

Last updated February 1, 2026