

# Rafe (“Rachael”) Meager

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Department of Economics  
UNSW Business School (E12)  
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<b>Academic Positions</b>	Associate Professor University of New South Wales, Department of Economics	2023–
	Assistant Professor The London School of Economics, Department of Economics	2017-2023
<b>Education</b>	Ph.D, Economics & Statistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology <i>Evidence Aggregation in Development Economics using Bayesian Hierarchical Models</i> Committee: Esther Duflo, Anna Mikusheva, Abhijit Banerjee, Rob Townsend	2017
	B.Comm (Honours), Economics, The University of Melbourne	2011
	B.A, History & French, The University of Melbourne	2011
<b>Affiliations</b>	BREAD, Y-RISE, CEPR	
<b>Publications and Accepted Papers</b>	<p><i>Bayesian Impact Evaluation with Informative Priors: An Application to a Colombian Management and Export Improvement Program.</i> Econometrica, Vol. 93, .no 5, September 2025, with David McKenzie and Leonardo Iacovone</p> <p><i>An Automatic Finite-Sample Robustness Metric: When Can Dropping a Little Data Change Conclusions? Part I: Definitions and Experiments,</i> Accepted, Philosophical Transactions A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences, August 2025, with Tamara Broderick and Ryan Giordano</p> <p><i>An Automatic Finite-Sample Robustness Metric: When Can Dropping a Little Data Change Conclusions? Part II: Theory and Intuition,</i> Accepted, Philosophical Transactions A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences, August 2025 , with Tamara Broderick and Ryan Giordano</p> <p><i>Toward a Taxonomy of Trust for Probabilistic Machine Learning,</i> Science: Advances, Volume 9, Issue 7, February 2023, with Tamara Broderick, Andrew Gelman, Anna L. Smith, and Tian Zheng</p> <p><i>Aggregating Distributional Treatment Effects: A Bayesian Hierarchical Analysis of the Microcredit Literature</i> The American Economic Review, Vol. 112, Issue 6, June 2022.</p> <p><i>Understanding the Average Impact of Microcredit Expansions: A Bayesian Hierarchical Analysis of 7 Randomized Experiments</i> American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 11(1), 2019, 57-91.</p> <p><i>Competing Lending Platforms, Endogenous Reputation, and Fragility in Microcredit Markets</i> with Peter Bardsley, The European Economic Review, Volume 112, February 2019, Pages 107-126</p>	

*Fast Robustness Quantification with Variational Bayes* (2016 ICML Workshop on Data4Good: Machine Learning in Social Good Applications, New York) with Ryan Giordano, Tamara Broderik, Jonathan Huggins, Michael Jordan

*How to Get into a Top 10 Economics PhD Program from Australia*, The Australian Economic Review, Volume 47, Issue 4, 2014

#### R packages

*baggr: Bayesian Aggregator* with Witold Wiecek

*Zaminfluence: Z-estimator approximate maximal influence* with Ryan Giordano and Tamara Broderick

#### Available Working Papers

*Implementation Matters: Generalizing Treatment Effects in Education* with Noam Angrist

*Sensitivity of MCMC-based analyses to small-data removal* with Tin D. Nguyen, Ryan Giordano, and Tamara Broderick

*Vitamin A Supplements and Child Mortality: Resolving a Controversy in Meta-analysis* with Witold Weicek

#### Selected Research In Progress

*A Multifaceted Approach to Poverty Alleviation in Six Countries: A Bayesian Hierarchical Analysis of the Graduation Program* with Andrew Gelman, Dean Karlan, Chris Udry, Witold Wiecek

*Data Transforms Are Models* with Edward Jee

#### Selected Grants and Awards

UNSW Dean's Research Fellowship (20,000 AUD plus course reduction)	2025-6
AEJ: Applied Best Paper Award	2022
GiveWell Grant joint with Witold Weicek (50,000 GBP)	2022
CEDIL/DIFD Grant joint with Younglove (250,000 GBP)	2019
Schmidt Future Fund Grant (225,000 USD)	2019
BITSS SSMART Grant (30,000 USD)	2015

#### Teaching

Statistics for Econometrics, Undergraduate level (UNSW)	2025-
Empirical Methods, Undergraduate level (UNSW)	2024-
Applied Econometrics, Masters and Undergraduate level (LSE)	2018-2023
Econometrics, PhD and Undergraduate level (MIT)	2015-2017
Development Economics (Macroeconomics), PhD level (MIT)	2015
Microeconomics, Undergraduate Level (University of Melbourne)	2009-2010

#### Professional Activities

##### *Invited Visits, Lectures and Conference Presentations*

UNSW Step Up Conference, Harvard Econ & Chicago BFI (postponed),  
UP-SU PhD Workshop & UNSW PhD Conference (Discussant/Mentor) 2025

Australasian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics (Keynote),  
UTS, E61 Internal Seminar, UChicago DIL (Brown Bag),  
Stanford (Economics), The World Bank (Applied Micro),  
Society for the Improvement of Psych. Science (SIPS) Annual Meeting,  
Women in Econometrics Conference Bologna, Brown (Econometrics) 2024

AEA Annual Meeting, Chicago Booth (Marketing Group), Australasian Aid Conference, CEMFI (visiting), Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society	2023
UBC, Warwick, UChicago BFI, UNSW, Princeton ESOC, St Andrews University, IIES Stockholm, University of Melbourne, Youth Impact Internal Development Seminar (Botswana), Spanish Health Economics Conference (invited panel)	2022
Chamberlain Seminar, Duke Economics, IIES Stockholm, CEMFI, The New York Federal Reserve (Micro Group), CREST, JPAL, Chicago Booth (Econometrics), Minnesota Applied Economics Group	2021
NBER Summer Institute, Yale Economics, Brown Economics, ETH Zurich, Chicago Booth (Applied Economics), Econometric Society Winter Meeting, Australian Conference in Economics and Business (Keynote)	2020
NBER-NSF SBIES, Bocconi, IAAE, Alliance/Columbia Summer School, Berlin DIW, DIFD London, Oxford CSAE Meta-Analysis Workshop, Paris School of Economics, CIDE, UC-San Diego, ITAM	2019
Northwestern, New York Federal Reserve (Micro Group), EBRD, Georgetown, World Bank DIME, University of Chicago (Development), University of Toronto, St Andrews University, Washington University St Louis, The Econometric Institute Workshop (Erasmus University), NYU, Oxford GPI Conference, ISBA, Penn State, YRISE Conference	2018
AEA Annual Meeting, Columbia Causal Inference Conference, Cambridge, Harvard University, MSR New England, Warwick, INSEAD Singapore, NEUDC Tufts, PSU, Stockholm University, Emory QuanTM, LSE Monash University, UNSW, University of Sydney, Yale SOM	2017

***Editorial Board Service***

Psychological Science

***Ad-hoc Referee***

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Econometrica, American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Policy, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Journal of the European Economic Association

<b>Unprofessional Activities</b>	birdwatching, balcony gardening, interior design, playing Hades (I & II), bafflingly popular twitter and bluesky accounts, bafflingly unpopular experimental nonfiction substack newsletter project
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