

# Rocco Zizzamia

---

Centre for the Study of African Economies · Manor Rd · Oxford OX1 3UQ, UK

✉ [rocco.zizzamia@economics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rocco.zizzamia@economics.ox.ac.uk) 🌐 [rocozizzamia.github.io](https://rocozizzamia.github.io)

---

## Appointments

Post-doctoral researcher in Economics (Oxford University) Nov. 2022-present  
Fulford Junior Research Fellow (Somerville College, Oxford University) Oct. 2023-present

## Education

University of Oxford, DPhil, International Development 2023  
University of Oxford, MPhil, Development Studies, concentration in Development Economics (Distinction) 2018  
University of Cape Town, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economic History (First Class) 2015  
University of Cape Town, Bachelor of Social Science in Philosophy (First Class) 2014  
Visiting student, University of California, Berkeley

## Research

### SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Jain, R., Budlender, J., Zizzamia, R., & Bassier, I. (2023). [The labor market and poverty impacts of COVID-19 in South Africa](#). *South African Journal of Economics*. 91(4), 419-445.

Schotte, S., & Zizzamia, R. (2022). [The livelihood impacts of COVID-19 in urban South Africa: A view from below](#). *Social Indicators Research*. 1-30.

Zizzamia, R., Schotte, S., & Leibbrandt, M. (2022). [\(Snakes and Ladders and Loaded Dice: Poverty Dynamics and Inequality in South Africa, 2008 to 2017\)](#). *South African Journal of Economics*. 214-242.

Zizzamia, R., Bassier, I., Budlender, J., Leibbrandt, M., & Ranchhod, V. (2021). [Locked down and locked out: Repurposing social assistance as emergency relief to informal workers](#). *World Development*, 139, 105271.

Clementi, F., Fabiani, M., Molini, V., & Zizzamia, R. (2021). [Are We Really Painting the Devil on the Walls? Polarization and its Drivers in Sub-Saharan Africa in the Past Two Decades](#). *Journal of African Economies*.

Zizzamia, R. (2020). [Is employment a panacea for poverty: A mixed-methods investigation into employment decisions in South Africa](#). *World Development*. 130. 104938.

Schotte, S., Zizzamia, R., & Leibbrandt, M. (2018). [A poverty dynamics approach to social stratification: The South African case](#). *World Development*, 110, 88-103.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

[Improved early action interventions through precise targeting, timely cash, and early warning to mitigate the impacts of climate disasters: Field experimental evidence from Bangladesh](#) (with Stefan Dercon, Ashley Pople, Hannah Timmis, Prabhmeet Matta, BIGD Dhaka)

Improving Graduation Scalability through Group Coaching: Evidence from Bangladesh, the Philippines and Uganda (with Stefan Dercon, Ashley Pople, Emily Beam, and others)

The effect of timely cash transfers during an extreme flood shock: Evidence from the 2022 Pakistan Floods (with Muhammad Bin Khalid, Martin Mattsson, Prabhmeet Matta, and Ashley Pople)

The effect of anticipatory action in the context of flood shocks in Somalia (with Stefan Dercon and Michael Green)

Rejection sensitivity and on-the-job search: A lab-in-the-field experiment in South Africa

## Research and Teaching Experience

### RESEARCH

Consultant (International Labour Organization)	2022
Research Assistant (Oxford Department of Social Policy and Intervention)	2022
Research Officer (Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit)	2016 - 2021
Consultant (National Income Dynamics Study-Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey)	2020
Visiting Fellow (GIGA German Institute for Global and Area Studies)	2018
Short-Term Consultant (World Bank Group, Poverty Global Practice Unit)	2017 - 2018

### TEACHING

Teaching Assistant (Oxford Department of International Development)	2020-2022
Teaching Assistant (Philosophy Department, University of Cape Town)	2013 - 2014
Teaching Assistant (Religious Studies Department, University of Cape Town)	2014

## Grants (PI or co-PI)

<i>Anticipatory action for climate disaster response</i> , Weiss Asset Management Foundation	
<b>\$1,000,000</b>	2024 - 2025
<i>Anticipatory action for climate disaster response</i> , J-Pal King Climate Action Initiative	
<b>\$250,000</b>	2023 - 2025
<i>Boosting decent employment for Africa's youth</i> , International Development Research Centre	
<b>CAD\$500,000</b>	2019 - 2022

*Working to learn: an evaluation of an on-the-job training program*, J-Pal Post-Primary Education Initiative  
\$25,000 2019 - 2022

## Awards

Clarendon Scholarship	2019 - 2022
Oxford Dept. International Development Scholarship	2022 - 2023
Papiya Ghosh Thesis Prize (best MPhil thesis)	2018
Skye Foundation Scholarship	2016 - 2018
Michael Wills Scholarship	2016 - 2018

## Presentations

Since 2016 I have presented original research at over 30 international conferences and seminars.

## Public engagement

My research has been featured in the [Financial Times](#), [The Economist](#) ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)), [The Mail and Guardian](#), among others. My own public-facing writing can be found [here](#).

## Service

**Policy engagement:** Policy modeling for the [Special Covid Grant Working group](#) – our proposal for the introduction of a [Social Relief of Distress Grant](#) was adopted by government.

**Mentoring:** Co-founder of the [Oxford Africa Society Mentorship Scheme](#)

**Refereeing:** [Journal of Economic Inequality](#); [Economic Modelling](#); [World Development](#); [Review of Development Economics](#); [Applied Economics Letters](#); [South African Journal of Economics](#).

**Editor:** [CSAE Working Paper Series](#)

**Organiser:** CSAE Workshop on Social Protection and Climate Adaptation (2024)

## Other information

**Software** - Python, Stata, R

**Languages** - English, Italian

**Sport** - Oxford University First Marathon Team and half-Blue (2022/23). Marathon PB: 2h28

## References

Available upon request