

Rocco Zizzamia

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

✉ rocco.zizzamia@economics.ox.ac.uk 🌐 roccozizzamia.github.io

Appointments

Post-doctoral researcher in Economics (University of Oxford) 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 Dev. Econ. (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

[Acting early under uncertainty: Anticipatory cash transfers in the context of flood disasters](#) (with Stefan Dercon, Ashley Pople, Hannah Timmis, Prabhmeet Matta, BIGD Dhaka)

Optimal household targeting of cash transfers in a shock setting (with Hannah Timmis, Stefan Dercon, Ashley Pople, Prabhmeet Matta, BIGD Dhaka)

Group Coaching and the Scalability of Graduation Programs: Evidence from Three Field Experiments (with Stefan Dercon, Emily Beam, Dean Karlan, and others)

Floods and temporary internal migration (with Prabhmeet Matta)

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

Timely cash transfers during floods: Evidence from the 2022 Pakistan Floods (with Muhammad Bin Khalid, Martin Mattsson, Prabhmeet Matta, and Ashley Pople)

Ultra-poor graduation programmes and resilience to climate shocks: A mixed-methods investigation in flood-prone Pakistan (with Nasir Iqbal, Prabhmeet Matta, and Saima Nawaz)

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

Research and Teaching Experience

RESEARCH

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| 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

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| Lecturer, Quantitative Methods (Oxford Dept. of International Development) | 2024-2025 |
| TA, Quantitative Methods (Oxford Dept. of International Development) | 2020-2022 |
| TA, Various (Philosophy Dept., University of Cape Town) | 2013 - 2014 |
| TA, Religion, Conflict and Violence (Religious Studies Dept, University of Cape Town) | 2014 |

Grants (PI or co-PI)

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| <i>Anticipatory action for climate disaster response</i> , Weiss Asset Management Foundation | |
| \$1,000,000 | 2024 - 2025 |

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| <i>Anticipatory action for climate disaster response</i> , J-Pal King Climate Action Initiative | 2023 - 2025 |
| \$250,000 | |
| <i>Boosting decent employment for Africa's youth</i> , International Development Research Centre | 2019 - 2022 |
| CAD\$500,000 | |
| <i>Working to learn: an evaluation of an on-the-job training program</i> , J-Pal Post-Primary Education Initiative | 2019 - 2022 |
| \$25,000 | |

Awards

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| 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 |
| UCT Humanities Scholarship | 2012, 2013, 2014 |
| UCT Council Scholarship | 2014, 2015 |
| Twamley Scholarship | 2012, 2013 |
| Hyman Liberman Prize | 2012 |

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](#) – proposal to introduce a [Social Relief of Distress Grant](#) adopted by the South African 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 \(2024\)](#); [CSAE Research Seminar \(2024-2025\)](#)

Other information

Software - Python, Stata, R

Languages - English, Italian

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

References

Stefan Dercon (stefan.dercon@economics.ox.ac.uk); Pramila Krishnan (pramila.krishnan@qeh.ox.ac.uk); Murray Leibbrandt (murray.leibbrandt@uct.ac.za)