

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Office Contact Information

Post-doctoral Research Fellow
Program on the Global Demography of Aging
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Legal Status: Permanent resident (in process; expected March 2009)

Graduate Studies

PhD.-M.Phil, Economics, DELTA/Mediterranean U. - Oxford University, 2008 (with Honors)
M.A., International Relations, School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University,
2004 (joint degree with Oxford University)
M.A., International Business Administration, University of Vienna, 2000 (with Honors)

References

Professor David Bloom Harvard School of Public Health 617.432.0866 dbloom@hsph.harvard.edu	Professor David Canning Harvard School of Public Health 617.496.4060 dcanning@hsph.harvard.edu	Harold Alderman (Professional Reference) Lead Economist, World Bank 202.473.0372 halderman@worldbank.org
Professor Erica Field Economics Department Harvard University 617.496.1895 efield@latte.harvard.edu	Professor Jean-Paul Moatti Mediterranean University +33 (0)4 91 22 35 02 moatti@marseille.inserm.fr	

Teaching and Research Fields

Development Economics, Population Economics, Health Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Research Experience

2007 – 2009: Post-doctoral Research Fellow working with Profs. David Bloom and David Canning, *Program on the Global Demography of Aging (PGDA), Harvard University*
2005 – 2007: Summer intern and external consultant for Harold Alderman, *The World Bank, Development Economics Research Group: Analysis of a nutrition program in Senegal*
2005 – 2007: Research assistant to Pierre Jacquet, Chief Economist, *French Development Agency: Research on migration, aid effectiveness, informal sector development*

Teaching Experience

2008/2009: GHP274 Applied Quantitative Methods, Harvard School of Public Health, Instructor
2007/2008: Teaching Assistant to Prof. Erica Field, Harvard University; Health, Education, and Development Economics

Scholarships and Awards

2008 : Derek Bok Award for Distinction in Teaching (Harvard University)
2005 – 2008: Doctoral scholarship from the Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
2000: Grove Haines Prize for the best paper in International Economics at Johns Hopkins SAIS

Field Work and Survey Experience

2006, 2007: *Unit for the Fight against Malnutrition*, Dakar; Evaluation of a nutrition intervention in Senegal
2005: *Center for Health Systems Research*, Bloemfontein; Field work for HIV/AIDS survey in South Africa

Selected Conferences

Amsterdam Institute for Intl. Development Workshop on Economics of HIV 2008, Amsterdam (invited)
African Economic Conference 2008, Tunis
RAND Summer Institute 2008, Los Angeles
Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, 2008, New Orleans
Center for the Study of African Economies Conference 2008, Oxford University
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population Conference 2005, Cape Town, S.Africa

Papers published and under revision

- “Determinants of Malnutrition in Senegal: Individual, Household, Community Variables and Their Interaction,” with Harold Alderman and Abdoulaye Ka, *Economics and Human Biology*, July 2008, 252-63.
- “Effectiveness of a Community-based Intervention to Improve Nutrition in Young Children in Senegal: A Difference in Difference Analysis,” with Biram Ndiaye et al., *Public Health Nutrition*, forthcoming.
- “Anemia In Low Income Countries Is Unlikely To Be Addressed By Economic Development Without Additional Programs,” with Harold Alderman, submitted.
- “Longevity and fertility: evidence from 34 low- and middle-income countries,” submitted.
- “Consumption Smoothing and HIV/AIDS: The Case of Two Communities in South Africa,” invited for resubmission to *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.

Job Market Paper

Title: “Almost random: Evaluating a large-scale randomized nutrition program in the presence of crossover.”

Abstract: Large-scale randomized interventions have the potential to uncover the causal effect of programs applying to a large population, thereby improving on the insights gained from currently dominant smaller randomized studies. However, the external validity gained through larger interventions typically comes at the cost of more pronounced deviation from the randomization plan that needs to be addressed in order to unleash the full potential of such studies. This article investigates the impact of the Nutrition Enhancement Program that aims to improve child nutrition in Senegal based on a large-scale randomized community intervention. We explicitly deal with deviation from the planned treatment and suggest different approaches for combining ex-post adjustments such as propensity score matching with the randomized treatment plan. We do not detect a strong overall program impact on the outcome measure of weight-for-age based on planned treatment status, but find an effect when using the alternative estimators of two-stage least-squares and propensity score matching. Children who benefitted from the program during their whole lives show a significant nutritional improvement, irrespective of the empirical method used. The findings of this article underscore the importance of addressing the shortcomings of large-scale randomization interventions in a systematic manner in order to understand the selection process that can guide further implementation of such projects, as well as to expose the true, causal effect of such programs.

Working Papers and work in progress

Population economics

- “Social Interactions and Fertility in Developing Countries,” with David Bloom, David Canning, and Isabel Guenther, PGDA Working Papers 3408, Program on the Global Demography of Aging.
- “Mortality Expectations and Fertility Decisions,” with David Bloom, David Canning, and Isabel Guenther, Work in progress.

HIV economics

- “HIV and fertility: what can time-series data tell us?,” with Guenther Fink, Work in progress.
- “More Knowledge, More Condom Use, More HIV? Long-term evidence from 7 African countries,” with Guenther Fink, Work in progress.
- “Do civil wars contribute to the spread of HIV?,” with Gabriel Leon (LSE), Work in progress.

Languages

German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Italian (Intermediate), Spanish (Basic), Armenian (Basic)