

Richard Akresh

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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Current Position

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Economics, Associate Professor
(with tenure), August 2013-present

Education

Yale University

Ph.D., Economics, December 2004

M.A., Economics, May 1999

University of California, Berkeley, May 1993

B.S., Political Economy of Natural Resources (*with Highest Distinction*)

B.A., Economics (*with Highest Honors*)

Research Interests

Development, Health, Education, Africa

Professional Affiliations and Other Employment

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)

Research Associate (Development, Children), October 2013-present

Faculty Research Fellow, May 2013-September 2013

Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)

Research Affiliate, March 2009-present

Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn, Germany

Research Fellow, October 2006-present

Research Affiliate, January 2004-September 2006

Households in Conflict Network, Senior Affiliate, January 2006-present

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Department of Economics, Assistant Professor, August 2005-July 2013

Department of Economics, Lecturer, August 2004-July 2005

Center for Advanced Study, Research Fellow, University of Illinois, 2010-2011

Center for African Studies, Core Faculty, November 2004-present

Cline Center for Advanced Social Research, Faculty Affiliate, 2017-present

Visiting Associate Professor, Paris School of Economics, May-June 2019

Visiting Associate Professor, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, June-July 2015

Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population, Université de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso,

Visiting Researcher, March 2000, September 2000-October 2001, July 2006

U.S. Peace Corps, Togo, West Africa, Environmental Protection Specialist, 1995-1997

Publications

- “Long-term and Intergenerational Effects of Education: Evidence from School Construction in Indonesia” (with Daniel Halim and Marieke Kleemans). *Economic Journal*, 2023, 133(650): 582-612.
- “First and Second Generation Impacts of the Biafran War” (with Sonia Bhalotra, Marinella Leone, and Una Osili). *Journal of Human Resources*, 2023, 58(2): 488-531.
- “Detailed Geographic Information, Conflict Exposure, and Health Impacts” (with German Caruso and Harsha Thirumurthy). *World Development*, 2022, 155: 105890.
- “Climate Change, Conflict, and Children.” *Future of Children*, 2016, 26(1): 51-71.
- “Altruism, Cooperation, and Efficiency: Agricultural Production in Polygynous Households” (with Joyce Chen and Charity Moore), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2016, 64(4): 661-696.
- “Alternative Cash Transfer Delivery Mechanisms: Impacts on Routine Preventative Health Clinic Visits in Burkina Faso” (with Damien de Walque and Harounan Kazianga), *NBER Africa Successes: Human Capital*, volume 2. Editors, Sebastian Edwards, Simon Johnson, and David Weil. University of Chicago Press, 2016.
- “Wars and Child Health: Evidence from the Eritrean-Ethiopian Conflict” (with Leonardo Lucchetti and Harsha Thirumurthy), *Journal of Development Economics*, 2012, 99(2): 330-340.
- “Child Ability and Household Human Capital Investment Decisions in Burkina Faso” (with Emilie Bagby, Damien de Walque, and Harounan Kazianga), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2012, 61(1): 157-186.
- “War and Stature: Growing Up During the Nigerian Civil War” (with Sonia Bhalotra, Marinella Leone, and Una Osili), *American Economic Review, Papers & Proceedings*, 2012, 102(3): 273-277.
- “Productive Efficiency and the Scope for Cooperation in Polygynous Households” (with Joyce Chen and Charity Moore), *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2012, 94(2): 395-401.
- “Using Achievement Tests to Measure Language Assimilation and Language Bias among the Children of Immigrants” (with Ilana Redstone Akresh), *Journal of Human Resources*, 2011, 46(3): 647-667.
- “Civil War, Crop Failure and Child Stunting in Rwanda” (with Tom Bundervoet and Philip Verwimp), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2011, 59(4): 777-810.

“Flexibility of Household Structure: Child Fostering Decisions in Burkina Faso,” *Journal of Human Resources*, 2009, 44(4): 976-997. (Previous title: “Risk, Network Quality, and Family Structure: Child Fostering Decisions in Burkina Faso”)

“Health and Civil War in Rural Burundi” (with Tom Bundervoet and Philip Verwimp), *Journal of Human Resources*, 2009, 44(2): 536-563.

Working Papers

“Cash Transfers and Child Welfare: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation of the Role of Conditionality and Transfer Recipient” (with Damien de Walque and Harounan Kazianga), May 2023. Updated version of World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 7730 and World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 6340.

“Child Labor, Schooling, and Child Ability” (with Emilie Bagby, Damien de Walque, and Harounan Kazianga), April 2016. World Bank Research Working Paper 5965.

“Sibling Rivalry, Residential Rivalry, and Constraints on the Availability of Child Labor” (with Eric Edmonds), November 2012. NBER Working Paper 17165.

“Armed Conflict and Schooling: Evidence from the 1994 Rwandan Genocide” (with Damien de Walque), February 2011. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4606.

“School Enrollment Impacts of Non-traditional Household Structure” November 2008. IZA Paper 1379.

“(In) Efficiency in Intrahousehold Allocations” August 2008. IZA Discussion Paper 1858.

“The Analytical Returns to Measuring a Detailed Household Roster” (with Eric Edmonds), February 2010. IZA Discussion Paper 4759.

“Risk and Schooling in Family Networks when Children are Mobile” (with Eric Edmonds), December 2009.

Work in Progress

“Early Childhood Development: Cash Transfers, Information, and Parental Home Visits” (with Damien de Walque, Harounan Kazianga, and Abigail Stocker)

“Shocks in Early Childhood and Cash Transfers” (with Damien de Walque, Harounan Kazianga, and Wilfried Adohinzin)

“Civil Wars and Household Structure: Panel Data Evidence from Burundi” (with Philip Verwimp and Juan Carlos Munoz)

“Long-term and Intergenerational Effects of Family Planning: Evidence from Indonesia” (with Daniel Halim and Zhuo Chen)

“Selection and Child Fostering” (with Tamara McGavock)

External Research Grants and Fellowships

“Understanding School-Based Violence Networks in Ghana” (with Rebecca Thornton), 2019
J-Pal Post-Primary Education (PPE) Initiative, \$49,892.

“Famines and Adolescents” Research Workshop (with Jose Cuesta, UNICEF Office of Research), 2017

Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), \$50,000

“Impact Evaluation of the Early Childhood Development and Nutrition Component of Burkina Faso’s Safety Net Project” (with Damien de Walque, Harounan Kazianga, and Victoria Monchuk), 2014-2017

World Bank, Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund, \$480,000

World Bank, Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund Seed Funding, \$25,000

“Saving Babies: Conditional Cash Transfers and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS,” (with Svetha Janumpalli), 2014-2016

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges in Global Health, \$100,000

Lampert Family Foundation, \$100,000

Good Ventures, \$100,000

“Gender and Social Protection Programs in Developing Countries: A Randomized Evaluation of Conditional and Unconditional Cash Transfers in Rural Burkina Faso,” (with Damien de Walque and Harounan Kazianga), 2008-2012

World Bank, Trust Fund for Socially Sustainable Development, \$18,650

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Africa Project, \$65,000

World Bank, Netherlands Partnership Program Evaluation Fund, \$195,000

World Bank, Gender Action Plan, \$285,000

World Bank, Spanish Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund, \$224,600

World Bank, Global HIV/AIDS Program Evaluation Fund, \$80,000

World Bank, Luxemburg Poverty Reduction Partnership Fund, \$70,000

World Bank-UK Department for International Development (DFID), Evaluation of Community Response to HIV and AID, \$50,000

“Children at Risk: Economic Motivations of Child Fostering in Burkina Faso,” 2000-2001

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship, \$7,500

Social Science Research Council Dissertation Field Research Fellowship, \$10,000

J. William Fulbright Award for dissertation research in Burkina Faso, \$27,800

Institute for Study of World Politics Dissertation Research Fellowship, \$11,500

David Boren National Security Education Program Fellowship, \$20,000

Internal Research Grants

University of Illinois, Center for African Studies, Course Development Grant, 2023, \$4,000

University of Illinois, Arnold O. Beckman Award, Campus Research Board, Research Assistant Grant and Travel Funds, 2008, \$17,440

University of Illinois, International Programs and Studies, William and Flora Hewlett International Research Travel Grant, 2008, \$2,000

University of Illinois, Campus Research Board, Research Assistant Grant, 2006, \$6,750
University of Illinois, Center for African Studies, Course Development Grant, 2006, \$7,500
University of Illinois, Center for African Studies, Africa Research Grant, 2005, \$3,000
Yale Center for International and Area Studies Dissertation Research Grant, 2001, \$10,000

Academic Fellowships and Honors

World Bank Economic Review, Excellence in Refereeing Award 2015-2016; 2018; 2019
University of Illinois, List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students: Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Fall 2007 (2 courses), Fall 2008 (2 courses), Fall 2009, Spring 2011, Spring 2012 (2 courses), Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017 (2 courses), Spring 2018 (2 courses), Spring 2019, Fall 2019 (3 courses), Fall 2020, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023
University of Illinois, Center for Advanced Study Research Fellow, Release-Time Research Appointment, 2010-2011
Outstanding Ph.D. Field Course Instructor Award (Awarded by Department of Economics Graduate Student Organization), University of Illinois, 2007
Yale University, Dissertation Fellowship, 2002
Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship, 1999-2000
Yale University Doctoral Fellowship, 1997-2001
Phi Beta Kappa, University of California, Berkeley, 1993

Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations (all Economics Department unless noted)

2021-2022: Grinnell College; University of Houston

2019-2020: Aix-Marseille School of Economics; Institute for Global Innovation, University of Birmingham, UK; Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Psychology (postponed due to COVID); From School to Work: Education and Employment of Young People in Africa Workshop (keynote speaker), University of Birmingham, UK; American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting, German Economic Association, Research Group on Development Economics Annual Conference; NBER Summer Institute, Children's Program; Pacific Development Conference (PACDEV-cancelled); International Economic Association World Congress (Indonesia-cancelled)

2018-2019: Paris School of Economics; Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Nova School of Business and Economics, Portugal; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Psychology; University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics; Wellesley; Development Day Conference, University of Chicago; Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIEDC); 3rd Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) Workshop on Gender and Family Economics joint with Universidad Adolfo Ibanez, Chile

2017-2018: University of Texas at Austin; AEA Annual Meeting; PAA Annual Conference; UNICEF Workshop "Famines and Adolescents"

2016-2017: Northeastern University; SUNY Stony Brook; Northeast Universities Development Conference (NEUDC)

2015-2016: Colgate; Cornell; George Washington; Georgia Institute of Technology; Georgia; University of Los Andes, Colombia; AEA Annual Meeting; MWIEDC

2014-2015: University of Illinois at Chicago; Households in Conflict Network-World Bank Conference; NEUDC; PACDEV; Princeton University Future of Children Conference
2013-2014: Inter-American Development Bank; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); University of Colorado, Denver; PAA Annual Conference

2012-2013: Dalhousie; Oklahoma State; University of Chicago Booth School of Business; University of Ouagadougou, Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population; MWIEDC; NEUDC; Oxford University Center for the Study of African Economies, Economic Development in Africa Conference; University of Illinois Conference “Bridging the Domestic and International Food Security Research Areas”

2011-2012: New York University, Steinhardt School of Education; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Political Science; University of Virginia, School of Public Policy; AEA Annual Meeting; NBER Africa Conference; World Bank “Second Generation of CCTs’ Evaluation Conference”

2010-2011: Notre Dame; AEA Annual Meeting; NEUDC; PAA Annual Conference

2009-2010: London School of Economics/University College London; McGill; Oxford University, Center for the Study of African Economies; Paris 1 Sorbonne University; Southern Illinois University; NEUDC; Paul Schultz Festschrift Conference; World Bank Conference “Survey Design and Measurement in Development Economics”

2008-2009: Colby College; Iowa State; University of Illinois at Chicago; IZA Child Labor Workshop; NEUDC; PAA Annual Conference (2 papers)

2007-2008: NEUDC

2006-2007: Brown University; Brown University, Population Studies & Training Center; Harvard University, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs; SUNY Stony-Brook; UC, Berkeley; UC, Berkeley, Demography; UC, Davis, Agricultural Economics; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Agricultural & Consumer Economics; Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting; NEUDC; PAA, Economic Demography Workshop; PAA Annual Conference; Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting; USAID, DIW Berlin, Households in Conflict Network Conference, “Poverty Reduction in Conflict and Fragile States: Perspectives from a Household Level”

2005-2006: Dartmouth College; Illinois Wesleyan University; Paris School of Economics; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Middlebury College; University of Illinois at Chicago; University of Toulouse, France; University of Washington; World Bank, Development Economics Research Group; University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of Agricultural Economics; Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) 8th Conference; Econometric Society North American Winter Meeting; IZA/SOLE

Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economists; NEUDC; PAA Annual Conference (2 papers); World Bank and International Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) Workshop, “Political Institutions, Development and a Domestic Civil Peace,” Oslo, Norway

2004-2005: Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Michigan State; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Center for African Studies; Michigan; University of Montreal, HEC Business School; BREAD 5th Conference; Econometric Society 9th World Congress; IUSSP International Population Conference, France; MWIEDC; NBER Summer Institute, Children’s Program; NEUDC; PAA Annual Conference

2003-2004: Boston University; William and Mary; Columbia; Federal Reserve Chicago; Florida State; Georgetown Public Policy Institute; IZA; Resources for the Future; Tufts; University College London; UC, Irvine; Chicago; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Montreal; Yale; World Bank, Development Economics Research Group; BREAD 3rd Conference; Inter-University Student Conference, Columbia; NEUDC

Teaching

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Topics in Development Microeconomics (Ph.D.)

Economic Development: Theory and Policy (Masters)

Development Economics in Africa (Undergraduate)

Burkina Faso Study Abroad Program (Undergraduate)

Benin Study Abroad Program (Undergraduate)

Graduate Student Advising (Degree year, Initial placement, * indicates chair)

Pablo Acosta (2006, World Bank Young Professionals Program); Veronica Alaimo (2007, Inter-American Development Bank); Aparajita Zutshi (2007, Mathematica Policy Research); Jason Dunick (2010, Birmingham-Southern College); Emilie Bagby (2011, Mathematica Policy Research); Leonardo Lucchetti (2011, World Bank); Vidisha Vachharajani (2012, RW Ventures); Rafael Ribas (2014, University of Amsterdam); Seyed Karimi* (2014, University of Washington, Tacoma); German Caruso* (2014, World Bank); Leonardo Bonilla* (2016, Central Bank of Colombia); Andres Ham Gonzalez (2017, University of Los Andes, Colombia); Eduardo Malasquez* (2017, World Bank); Sen Ma* (2018, Jinan University, China); Daniel Halim* (2019, World Bank); Chitra Jogani (2019, Hamilton College); Sofia Fernandez Guerrico* (2020, Université Libre de Bruxelles post-doc); Natalia Cantet (2020, EAFIT, Colombia); Mateo Arbelaez (2023, Wayfair); Mahounan Yedomiffi*, Wilfried Adohinzin*, Abby Stocker*, Vini Okada*, Chenxi Tang*, Aditi Arvind, Hesong Yang, Lovepreet Singh*, Ronald Cueva Chavez, Zhuo Chen, Youngjoo Jung, Shivangi Ambardar, Reza Salehi, Zichang Liu, Sharanya Bhattacharjee

External Thesis Examiner: Samuel Weldeegzie (Australia National University, 2017); Rozenn Hotte (Paris School of Economics, 2019)

Professional Service

Referee: *Africa Today*; *AIDS Care*; *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*; *American Economic Review*; *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*; *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*; *Asian Development Review*; *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis &*

Policy; Canadian Journal of Economics; Demography; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Economic Inquiry; Economic Journal; Economics and Human Biology; Economics Bulletin; Economics Letters; Economics of Education Review; Education Economics; Education Finance and Policy; Environment and Development Economics; Health Economics; Industrial Relations; International Migration Review; IZA Journal of Development and Migration; IZA World of Labor; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Applied Econometrics; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of Family and Economic Issues; Journal of Health Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization; Journal of Peace Research; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Population Economics; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of the European Economic Association; Labour Economics, National Science Foundation; Oxford Development Studies; PLOS One; Population Research and Policy Review; Population Review; Population Studies; Private Enterprise Development for Low Income Countries (PEDL grant); Quarterly Journal of Economics; Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance; Research in Labor Economics; Review of Economic Studies; Review of Economics and Statistics; Review of Economics of the Household; Social Science and Medicine; World Bank Economic Review; World Development; World Politics

Discussant: AEA Annual Meetings (2008, 2011, 2012, 2015); Center for the Study of African Economies Economic Development in Africa Conference (2013); German Economic Association, Research Group on Development Economics Conference (2019); Midwest Economics Association (2007); Midwest International Economic Development Conference (2005, 2013, 2016, 2019); Northeast Universities Development Conference (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012; 2016); Paul Schultz Festschrift Conference (2010); Society of Labor Economists (2007)

University of Illinois, Chancellor's Strategic Planning Task Force, "Food (In)Security," 2018

University of Illinois, Department of Economics

Senior and Junior Recruiting Committee, Applied Micro Positions: 2011-2017

Chair, Tenure Review Committee: 2022-2023

Chair, 3rd Year Tenure Review Committee: 2018-2019

Department Head 5-year Review Committee: 2015-2016

Development Seminar Coordinator: 2005-2015

Advisory Committee: 2005-2007, 2020-2021

Ph.D. Admissions Committee: 2004-2005, 2020-2021

M.S. Admissions Committee: 2021-2022

Awards Committee: 2009-2010, 2021-2022, 2022-2023

University of Illinois, Global Studies and Center for African Studies

Advisory Committee: 2013-2021

Grants Committee: 2012-2015

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Committee: 2005-2006

Library Committee: 2016-2018