

Richard Akresh

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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 Economics, Health Economics, Labor Economics, Africa

Professional Affiliations and Other Employment

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)

Research Associate, 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, Affiliated Faculty, November 2004-present

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

“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.
- “Alternative Cash Transfer Delivery Mechanisms: Impacts on Routine Preventative Health Clinic Visits in Burkina Faso” (with Damien de Walque and Harounan Kazianga), *NBER Africa Project*, University of Chicago Press, 2013.
- “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”)
- “Heath and Civil War in Rural Burundi” (with Tom Bundervoet and Philip Verwimp), *Journal of Human Resources*, 2009, 44(2): 536-563.

Working Papers

- “Armed Conflict and Schooling: Evidence from the 1994 Rwandan Genocide” (with Damien de Walque), February 2011. Revise and resubmit at *Review of Economics and Statistics*. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4606.
- “Sibling Rivalry, Residential Rivalry, and Constraints on the Availability of Child Labor” (with Eric Edmonds), November 2012. (Previous title: “Residential Rivalry and Constraints on the Availability of Child Labor”) NBER Working Paper 17165.
- “Cash Transfers and Child Schooling: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation of the Role of Conditionality” (with Damien de Walque and Harounan Kazianga), January 2013. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 6340.
- “Altruism, Cooperation, and Efficiency: Agricultural Production in Polygynous Households” (with Joyce Chen and Charity Moore), July 2012. IZA Discussion Paper 6265.

“Child Labor, Schooling, and Child Ability” (with Emilie Bagby, Damien de Walque, and Harounan Kazianga), September 2012. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 5965.

“School Enrollment Impacts of Non-traditional Household Structure” November 2008. BREAD Working Paper 89, IZA Paper 1379, Yale Economic Growth Center Paper 897.

“(In)Efficiency in Intrahousehold Allocations” August 2008. (Previous title: “Understanding Pareto Inefficient Intrahousehold Allocations”) 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

“First and Second Generation Health Impacts of Nigeria’s Biafran War” (with Sonia Bhalotra, Marinella Leone, and Una Osili)

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

“GPS Data, War Exposure, and Child Health” (with German Caruso and Harsha Thirumurthy)

“Cash Transfers to Mothers or Fathers: Evidence of Child Health and Education Impacts from a Randomized Evaluation” (with Damien de Walque and Harounan Kazianga)

“Intrahousehold Bargaining and Inter-Vivos Transfers” (with Veronica Alaimo)

External Research Grants and Fellowships

“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), 2008-2011

World Bank, Trust Fund for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development, 2012, \$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, 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

University of Illinois, Center for Advanced Study Fellow, Release-Time Research Appointment, 2010
Outstanding Ph.D. Field Course Instructor Award (Awarded by Department of Economics Graduate Student Organization), University of Illinois, 2007
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
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)

2013-2014: Inter-American Development Bank; University of Colorado, Denver

2012-2013: Dalhousie University; Oklahoma State University; University of Chicago Booth School of Business; University of Ouagadougou, Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population; Midwest International Economic Development Conference; Northeast Universities Development Conference (NEUDC); Oxford University Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) 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; American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting; National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Africa Conference; World Bank “Second Generation of CCTs’ Evaluation Conference”

2010-2011: Notre Dame; AEA Annual Meeting; NEUDC; Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference

2009-2010: London School of Economics/University College London; McGill University; 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; 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; Population Association of America, 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, France; 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; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Center for African Studies; University of Michigan; University of Montreal, HEC Business School; Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) 5th Conference; Econometric Society 9th World Congress; International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) International Population Conference, France; Midwest International Economic Development Conference; NBER Summer Institute, Children’s Workshop; NEUDC; PAA Annual Conference

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

Teaching

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Topics in Development Microeconomics (Ph.D.)

Development Economics (Undergraduate)
Burkina Faso 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); Maghaisvarei Sellakumaran*; Christine Jachetta; German Caruso*; Rafael Ribas, Leonardo Bonilla*; Nicolas Bottan*; Andres Ham Gonzalez*; Seyed Karimi; Santiago Fernandez

Professional Service

Referee: *Africa Today*; *AIDS Care*; *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (x4); *American Economic Review* (x2); *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*; *Asian Development Review*; *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*; *Canadian Journal of Economics*; *Demography*; *Economic Development and Cultural Change* (x10); *Economic Inquiry*; *Economic Journal* (x2); *Economics and Human Biology* (x6); *Economics Bulletin*(x2); *Economics of Education Review*; *Education Economics Journal*; *Health Economics*; *Industrial Relations*; *International Migration Review* (x2); *Journal of African Economies* (x4); *Journal of Applied Econometrics*; *Journal of Development Economics* (x15); *Journal of Development Studies* (x2); *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*; *Journal of Health Economics* (x2); *Journal of Human Resources*(x6); *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*; *Journal of Peace Research*; *Journal of Political Economy* (x2); *Journal of Population Economics* (x4); *Journal of Public Economics*; *Journal of the European Economic Association*; *National Science Foundation* (x4); *Population Research and Policy Review* (x2); *Population Studies*(x2); *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*; *Research in Labor Economics*; *Review of Economic Studies* (x2); *Review of Economics and Statistics*; *Review of Economics of the Household*; *World Bank Economic Review* (x3)

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