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Position

Associate Professor of Economics, Economics Department, The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, since 2022.

Assistant Professor of Economics, Economics Department, The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, since 2013–2022.

Education

Stockholm University, Institute for International Economic Studies, Ph.D. in Economics, June 2013.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Economics Department, Visiting Graduate Student, September 2009 - June 2010.

M.Sc. Economics, Copenhagen University, 2007.

BA in Economics, Addis Ababa University, 2003.

Research Interest

Economic growth and development, political economy, macroeconomics.

Research Grant

Sponsor: International Center for Taxation and Development, UK, London. *Project period:* March 2015–March 2016. *Total project budget:* 110k USD.

Consulting

International Growth Center (on the macroeconomics of natural resource revenue)

African Development Bank (on building fiscal capacity of the state)

Professional Membership

The American Economic Association, The Econometric Society, European Economic Association, Ethiopian Economic Association, Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics

Journal Articles

1. *The Dual Policy in the Dual Economy - The Political Economy of Urban Bias in Dictatorial Regimes*
[Journal of Development Economics](#), Volume 105, November 2013, Pages 77-85.
2. *Does Agricultural Growth Cause Manufacturing growth?*
[Economica](#), vol. 82, pages 1107-1125, December 2015.
3. *Should Developing Countries Constrain Resource-Income Spending? A Quantitative Analysis of Oil Income in Uganda* [with Per Krusell, Johans Hassler and Daniel Spiro]
[Energy Journal](#), Volume 38, p. 103-131, 2017.
4. *Colonial Legacy, State Building and the Salience of Ethnicity in Sub-Saharan Africa* [with Merima Ali, Odd-Helge Fjeldstad, Boqian Jiang]
[The Economic Journal](#), Volume 129, Issue 619, April 2019, p. 1048–1081.
5. *European colonization and the corruption of local elites: The case of chiefs in Africa*,
[with Merima Ali, Odd-Helge Fjeldstad]
[Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization](#), Volume 179, November 2020, Pages 80–100.
6. *Building fiscal capacity in developing countries: Evidence on the role of information technology*,
[with Merima Ali, Abebe Shimeles and Firew Woldeyes].
[National Tax Journal](#), Volume 74, Number 3, 2021, Pages 591–620.
7. *Trade in human capital: A quantitative theory of economic growth and the import of higher education*
[Macroeconomic Dynamics](#), Volume 26, Number 2, 2022, Pages 452–490.
8. *Urban bias, migration control and rural land policy: the case of Hukou in China*
[with Wei Xiao]
[Journal of Economic Geography](#), Volume 23, Issue 2, March 2023, Pages 251–74.
9. Colonial rule and the power of chiefs over land resources
[Accepted for publication, Journal of Development Studies](#)

Working papers

1. *Urban-rural inequality in capital allocation: Evidence from China*,
[with Piyusha Mutreja, Wei Xiao]
2. *Redistributive Land Reforms, Agricultural Productivity, and Structural Change: New Cross-National Evidence*
[with Devashish, Mitra, Lan Anh Tong and Mehmet A. Ulubasoglu]
[Revise and resubmit, American Journal of Agricultural Economics](#)

Teachings

1. Macroeconomics I (PhD course)
2. Economic growth (upper level undergrad)
3. Intermediate macroeconomics (intermediate level undergrad)

Research Presentations

1. Seminar at the African Development Bank, 2021. Title of paper presented:
 - *The impact of land reforms on agricultural productivity and structural change*
2. Seminar at Deakins University, 2021. Title of paper presented:
 - *Urban bias and the political economy of rural land policy in China*
3. Seminar at Lemoyne College, October, 2019. Title of paper presented:
 - *Urban Bias in Capital Allocation: Empirical Evidence from China*
4. Annual conference by Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics, Stockholm, Sweden, June 21–23, 2019. Title of papers presented:
 - *Urban Bias in Capital Allocation: Empirical Evidence from China*
 - *The Corruption of Local Elites in Francophone and Anglophone Africa*
5. Co-organizer of Data-Drive Development in Africa, May 2019, Dalhousie University, Canada.
6. Australasian Public Choice Conference, December 10–11, 2018. Melbourne, Australia. Title of paper to be presented:
 - *Structural change, urban bias and the political economy of land policy in China*
7. American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, Jan 4–6, 2019. Title of paper presented:
 - *Colonial origins and the persistence of communal land ownership*
8. National Tax Association's 111th Annual Conference on Taxation, November 15–17, 2018. New Orleans, Louisiana. Title of paper presented:
 - *Building Fiscal Capacity in Developing Countries: Evidence on the Role of Information Technology*
9. Annual conference by Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics, Montreal, Canada, June 21–23, 2018. Title of paper to be presented:
 - *Structural change, urban bias and the political economy of land policy in China*
10. Co-organizer of conference on Data-Driven Development in Africa, Indiana University, May 18–19, 2018.
11. North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, June 15–18 2017. Title of paper presented:
 - *Building Fiscal Capacity in Developing Countries: Evidence on the Role of Information Technology*

12. Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, June 3–5 2017, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Titles of papers presented:
 - (a) *Colonial Legacy, State Building and the Salience of Ethnicity in Sub-Saharan Africa*
 - (b) *Economic Growth and Trade in Human Capital*.
13. Visiting Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (China), May 23–June 1 2017.
14. Penn State Conference on Data-Driven Development in Africa, May 12–13 2017, Penn State. Title of paper presented:
 - *Building Fiscal Capacity in Developing Countries: Evidence on the Role of Information Technology*
15. Cornell University, Economics Department Seminar. 2016. Title of presented paper:
 - *Building Fiscal Capacity in Developing Countries: Evidence on the Role of Information Technology*
16. Working Group in African Political Economy, NYU- Abu Dahbi, Jan 2016. Title of presented paper:
 - *Building Fiscal Capacity in Developing Countries: Evidence on the Role of Information Technology*
17. American Economic Association annual meeting (session organized by the Econometric Society), San Francisco, Jan 2016. Title of presented paper:
 - *Colonial Legacy, State Building and the Salience of Ethnicity in Sub-Saharan Africa*
18. Econometric Society World Congress, Montreal, Canada, August 2015. Titles of presented papers:
 - (a) *Building Fiscal Capacity in Developing Countries: Evidence on the Role of Information Technology*
 - (b) *Economic Growth and Trade in Human Capital*.
19. Annual Bank Conference on Africa, UC Berkley, June 2015.
 - *Building Fiscal Capacity in Developing Countries: Evidence on the Role of Information Technology*
20. American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Boston, January 2015.
21. Midwest Macro Meeting, Miami (Florida), November 2014
22. International Center for Taxation and Development Annual Meeting, Arusha (Tanzania), December 2014.
23. Development Economics Research Group, World Bank, Washington DC (USA), February 2013.
24. Norwegian School of Economics, Bergen (Norway), February 2013.
25. 27th European Meeting of the Econometric Society, Malaga (Spain), August 2012.
26. 2012 North American Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society, Northwestern University, USA.
27. Development workshop at the Department of Economics, Gothenburg University, May 2012.
28. European Association of Agricultural Economics congress 2011, Zurich, Switzerland.
29. Nordic Conference in Development Economics, Copenhagen, June 2011.
30. University College of London, Economics Department, Lunch seminar, Spring 2011.
31. Oxford University, Center for the Study of African Economies, annual conference on Economic Development in Africa, 2011.

32. 26th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Oslo, Norway, 25-29 August, 2011.
33. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Economics Department, Development Lunch Seminar, 2010.
34. Harvard University, Department of Government, Research Workshop in Political Economy, 2010.
35. The 25th Annual Conference on Macroeconomics, National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, MA, USA, 2010.
36. The 6th International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy, Ethiopian Economic Association, 2008.