

JESSICA LEIGHT
 Department of Economics
 American University
 4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW
 Washington, DC 20016
 leight@american.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Assistant Professor, American University Department of Economics	2017-present
	Fellow, Federal Office of Evaluation Science	2017-present
	Visiting Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute	2016-7
	Assistant Professor, Williams College Department of Economics	2013-7
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Economics	MIT 2013
	M.Phil. in Economics	Oxford University 2008
	B.A. <i>summa cum laude</i> Ethics Politics & Economics	Yale University 2006
FIELDS OF INTEREST	Development economics, political economy, health economics	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Development microeconomics (Graduate), American University	2016-18
	Economic development (Undergraduate), American University	2016-18
	Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Williams College	2013-16
	Political economy and development (Undergraduate / Master's), Williams College	2013-16
	Economy of China (Undergraduate), Williams College	2013-16
CONSULTING EXPERIENCE	Consultant, 3ie Impact Evaluation: Government of Uganda Youth-Friendly Family Planning Services	2016-present
PUBLICATIONS	Besley, Timothy, Jessica Leight, Rohini Pande and Vijayendra Rao. 2016. "The Regulation of Land Markets: Evidence from Tenancy Reform in India." <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> 118: 72-87.	
	Leight, Jessica. 2016. "Reallocating Wealth? Insecure Property Rights and Agricultural Investment in Rural China." <i>China Economic Review</i> 40: 207-227.	
	Leight, Jessica. 2017. "Sibling Rivalry: Ability and Intrahousehold Allocation in Gansu Province, China." <i>Economic Development and Cultural Change</i> 65 (3): 457-493.	
	Leight, Jessica. 2018. "The Impact of Positive Agricultural Income Shocks on Rural Chinese Households" <i>Forthcoming, World Bank Economic Review</i>	

Leight, Jessica and Elaine Liu. 2018. "Maternal Education, Parental Investment and Non-cognitive Characteristics in Rural China." *Forthcoming, Economic Development and Cultural Change*

**HEALTH
PUBLICATIONS**

Sharma, Vandana, Jessica Leight, Fatima Abdulaziz, Nadege Giroux and Martina Björkman Nyqvist. "Illness Recognition, Decision-making and Care-seeking for Maternal and Newborn Complications: A Qualitative Study in Jigawa State, Northern Nigeria." 2017. *Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition* 36 (Suppl 1) 46: 59-96.

Sharma, Vandana, Willa Brown, Muhammad Kainuwa, Jessica Leight, and Martina Björkman Nyquist. 2017. "High Maternal Mortality in Jigawa State, Northern Nigeria Estimated Using the Sisterhood Method." *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 17:163.

Leight, Jessica, Vandana Sharma, Willa Brown, Laura Costica, Fatima Abdulaziz Sule, and Martina Björkman Nyqvist. "Associations Between Birth Kit Use and Maternal and Neonatal Health Outcomes in Rural Jigawa State, Nigeria: A Secondary Analysis of Data from a Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial." *Forthcoming, PLOS One*

**WORKING
PAPERS**

Economy of China and political economy

Trade Liberalization and Local Labor Market Adjustment in South Africa (Joint with Bilge Erten and Fiona Tregenna) *Revision requested, Journal of International Economics*

Exporting out of Agriculture: The Impact of WTO Accession on Structural Transformation in China (Joint with Bilge Erten) *Under review*

Misallocation, Selection and Productivity: A Quantitative Analysis with Panel Data from China (Joint with Tasso Adamopoulos, Loren Brandt and Diego Restuccia) *Under review*

Value for Money: Vote-Buying and Politician Accountability (Joint with Rohini Pande, Dana Foarta and Laura Ralston) *Under review*

Complementarity between Non-agricultural and Agricultural Shocks in Local Industrialization: Evidence from China

Human capital

Community Health Educators and Maternal Health: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial (Joint with Martina Björkman Nyqvist and Vandana Sharma) *Under review*

"That's a Woman's Problem": A Qualitative Analysis of Male Involvement in Maternal and Newborn Health in Jigawa State, Northern Nigeria. (Joint with Vandana Sharma, Nadege Giroux, Fatima Abdulaziz, and Martina Björkman Nyqvist) *Under review*

**RESEARCH IN
PROGRESS**

Human capital

Engaging Women to Improve Breastfeeding Outcomes in Tamil Nadu (Joint with Simone Schaner)

The Impact of Mentoring and Life Skills Training on Secondary School Progression and Child Labor Among Girls: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Rajasthan (Joint with Eric Edmonds and Benjamin Feigenberg)

Using Cultural Ceremonies to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence and HIV Transmission: A Randomized Controlled Trial (Joint with Vandana Sharma and Negussie Deyessa)

Increasing Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Contributions: A Randomized Controlled Trial (Joint with Nicholas Wilson)

Promoting Community and Labor Force Engagement through Service Learning and Life Skills Training: A Randomized Control Trial in Kazakhstan (Joint with Syon Bhanot, Benjamin Crost, and Eric Mvukiyehe)

Can Entertainment Education be Used to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Use by Young People? (Joint with Laura Costica and Victor Orozco)

**FELLOWSHIPS,
HONORS, AND
AWARDS**

Office of Evaluation Sciences Grant (PI, \$137,001)	2018
Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Young Scholar Grant (PI, \$20,000)	2018
World Bank Economic Review Excellence in Refereeing Award	2017
J-PAL Cash Transfers for Child Health (CATCH) Pilot Grant (Co-PI, \$33,605)	2017
Fondation de France Grant (PI, €30,600)	2017
Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Research Grant (PI, \$23,200)	2016
Anonymous grant (PI, \$299,963)	2016
Government of Tamil Nadu (Co-PI, \$360,615)	2016
J-PAL Post-Primary Education Initiative Grant (PI, \$2662)	2015
U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of International Labor Affairs Grant (PI, \$1,304,957)	2015
J-PAL Governance Initiative Grant (PI, \$49,537)	2014
Government of Tamil Nadu (Co-PI, \$29,649)	2014
Macarthur Foundation Grant Grant (PI, \$345,000)	2014
USAID Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Grant (PI, \$42,185)	2014
USAID Translating Research into Action Grant (PI, \$137,124)	2014
Anonymous Grant (PI, \$841,403)	2013
Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Grant (PI, \$20,700)	2012
Fondation de France Grant (PI, €10,000)	2012
Macarthur Foundation Grant (PI, \$979,883)	2012
NBER Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Aging and Health	2010
MIT Presidential Fellow	2008

Webb Medley Prize (proxime accessit): best M. Phil. performance	2008
Rhodes Scholarship	2008
Yale College, Alpheus Henry Snow Prize – top-ranked graduate	2006
Yale College, Warren Prize – top-ranked humanities graduate	2006
Yale College, Richard U. Light Fellowship for study in Asia	2006
Yale College, Distinction in Ethics, Politics and Economics	2006
Yale College, Hart Lyman Prize – top-ranked junior	2006
Phi beta kappa (junior)	2005
Yale College, Robert C. Bates Fellowship	2005
Yale College, George Leitner Grant in Political Economy	2004

SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS

2010-2012: NEUDC 2010, NEUDC 2012

2012-2013: Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, University of Toronto, University of California – Santa Cruz, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, Barnard College, Williams College, Young Lives Conference

2013-2014: University of Washington China Studies Colloquium, World Bank Land Conference, Cornell Economics Department, Economic Demography Workshop at the Population Association of America, Midwest International Economics and Development Conference, Barcelona Graduate School Economics Forum: Economic Analysis of Voting Behavior

2014-2015: IFPRI Applied Microeconomics and Development, World Bank Governance Group, NBER China Workshop (discussant), USAID / IIE, Beijing University China Center for Economic Research, Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Chinese Economists' Society Conference, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Western Economic Association, NBER Summer Institute (public finance and political economy)

2015-2016: University of Edinburgh Field Days, University of Minnesota Applied Economics, University of North Dakota, Swarthmore College, ASSA-Chinese Economists Society Session, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Dartmouth College, RIDGE / LACEA-PEG Workshop on Political Economy

2016-2017: Hamilton / Colgate University, Northeastern University, World Bank Research Group (Microeconomics), George Mason University Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Sciences, American University School of International Service, Becker Friedman Institute Asian Family in Transition Conference (discussant), University of Washington, University of California – San Diego School of Global Strategy, University of California – Santa Cruz, University of California – Davis, American University (economics, gender and economics), NEUDC, Middlebury College, Virginia Tech, York University - Toronto, University of California – Santa Barbara, Population Association of America, Oklahoma State University, RAND Health Lunch, IMF – Atlanta Federal Reserve Research Workshop on China's Economy (discussant), Stockholm Institute of Transitional Economics, Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society

2017-2018: IFPRI Poverty, Health and Nutrition brown bag, World Bank Research Group (Trade), Chinese University of Hong Kong, American University School of International Service, Academia Sinica – Taipei, National Taiwan University, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, Wellesley College, Hunter College - CUNY, American Economic Association, Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development, World Bank – DIME, Center for Study of African Economies Annual Conference, CEPREMAP India-China Conference at the Paris School of Economics, American Society of Health Economics Annual Conference, Institute of Political Science at the University of Duisburg – Essen

2018-19: IMF – Atlanta Federal Reserve Research Workshop on China’s Economy (discussant), IMPAQ (scheduled), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management conference (scheduled), American Economic Association (scheduled), George Mason University George Schar School of Policy and Development (scheduled), Inter-American Development Bank D.C. Political Economy seminar (scheduled)

REFEREEING

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, China Economic Review, Econometrica, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Inquiry, Economics of Transition, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, International Economic Review, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Behavioral Public Administration, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Rural Studies, Land Use Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics, World Bank Economic Review, World Development

**GRANT
REFEREEING**

J-PAL Governance Initiative, J-PAL Post-Primary Education Initiative, Economic and Social Research Council (U.K.), Center for Disease Control, World Bank DIME

LANGUAGES

Spanish (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (proficient)