

TARYN DINKELMAN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Associate Professor, Department of Economics (with tenure) Jul 2018-present

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Associate Professor, Department of Economics (with tenure) Jul 2017-Jun 2018

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics Jul 2011-Jun 2017

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs Jul 2008-Jun 2011

Department of Economics and

The Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Visiting Fellow, John F. Kennedy School of Government Winter 2011

YALE UNIVERSITY

Visiting Fellow, Economic Growth Center Fall 2010

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Junior Lecturer, Department of Economics 1999-2002

RHODES UNIVERSITY

Junior Lecturer, Department of Economics 1997-1998

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Michigan, 2008

M.Commerce, Economics, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, 2001

B.A. (Honors), Economics, Politics and Journalism, Rhodes University, South Africa, 1997

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development economics, labor economics

AFFILIATIONS

Research Fellow/Associate: CEPR (Fall 2020) BREAD (May 2019) Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame (Fall 2018) Pulte Institute, University of Notre Dame (July 2024) NBER (Aug 2017) IZA (Nov 2014)

Research Affiliate: IGC (May 2016), South African Labour and Development Research Unit, SALDRU (2008)

Research theme leader: Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG)

PUBLICATIONS

- “Reducing parent-school information gaps and improving school outcomes: Evidence from high-frequency text messaging in Chile” with Samuel Berlinski, Matias Busso and Claudia Martínez A., 2025. Vol. 60: 4 (July) *Journal of Human Resources* (doi: 10.3368/jhr.1121-11992R2) Previously circulated as *NBER Working Paper* No. 28581 (March 2021)
- “Labor migration, capital accumulation and the structure of rural labor markets” with Grace Kumchulesi and Martine Mariotti. forthcoming. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2024 (doi: https://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_01419) Also available as *NBER Working Paper* No. 32144 (Feb 2024)
- “Time for clean energy? Potential versus actual time savings from switching to clean fuel” with Farzana Afridi, Sisir Debnath, and Komal Shareen, May 2023, *World Bank Economic Review*, Vol. 37: 2 pp. 283-304 (doi: 10.1093/wber/lhac031)
- “Why are fewer married women joining the workforce in India? A decomposition analysis over two decades” with Farzana Afridi and Kanika Mahajan, September 2017, *Journal of Population Economics* (doi: 10.1007/s00148-017-0671-y)
- “Long run health repercussions of drought shocks: Evidence from South African homelands” *The Economic Journal* September 2017, Vol. 127 (604): 1906-1939 (doi:10.1111/ecoj.12361)
- “The effects of financial aid and returns information in selective and less selective schools: Experimental evidence from Chile” with Matias Busso, Claudia Martínez A. and Dario Romero, 2016, *Labour Economics* (doi: 10.1016/j.labeco.2016.11.001)
- “The long run effects of labor migration on human capital accumulation in communities of origin” with Martine Mariotti, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, October 2016, Vol. 8: No.4: 1-35
- “Migration, congestion externalities and the evaluation of spatial investments” with Sam Schulhofer-Wohl, *Journal of Development Economics*, May 2015, Vol. 114: 189-202
- “Investing in schooling in Chile: The role of information about financial aid for higher education” with Claudia Martínez A., *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, May 2014, Vol. 96 No. 2: 244-257
- “Evidence on the impact of minimum wage laws in an informal sector: Domestic workers in South Africa” with Vimal Ranchhod, *Journal of Development Economics*, September 2012, Vol. 99 Issue 1: 27-45
- “The effects of rural electrification on employment: New evidence from South Africa”, *American Economic Review* December 2011, Vol. 101 No. 7: 3078–3108
- “Linking Poverty and Income Shocks to Risky Sexual Behavior: Evidence from a Panel Study of Young Adults in Cape Town” with David Lam and Murray Leibbrandt, *South African Journal of Economics* September 2008, Vol. 76: S1: 53-74

“How household context affects search outcomes of the unemployed in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: A panel data analysis” *South African Journal of Economics* September 2004 Vol. 72: No. 3: 484-521

“Individual, household and regional determinants of labour force attachment in South Africa: Evidence from the 1997 October Household Survey” with Farah Pirouz, *South African Journal of Economics* June 2002 Vol. 70: No. 5: 865-891

WORKING PAPERS¹

“Home production, Women’s market work, and Structural Transformation”, with L. Rachel Ngai. January 2021, STEG Pathfinding paper

“Leaping or creeping up the energy ladder? Appliance adoption in rural African households” with Mark Collinson, Wayne Twine, and Martin Wittenberg. Working Paper, September 2025

“Electricity access and labor market change: Evidence from rural South Africa”. Working Paper, December 2024

“Schooling, Jobs, Political Attitudes and Actions: Evidence from Free Primary Education Policies in Africa” with Virna Vidal Menezes*. Working paper, June 2024

“Does Education Make Women Work? Labor Market Impacts of Free Primary Education in Africa” Working Paper, December 2025

“Determinants of Free Primary Education Laws and Policies in Africa: A new dataset” with Amadou Jawo* and Virna Vidal Menezes*, January 2026

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Age heaping in African Census data” with Savita Diggs*. Data analysis in progress.

“Returns to Education in Agriculture: Evidence from Malawi” with Anh Hoang* and Grace Kumchulesi. Data analysis in progress.

“Fueling Women’s Work: Women’s work and household energy use in rural India” with Farzana Afridi and Prabhat Barnwal. Baseline data collected, intervention completed, endline completed September 2025, draft in progress.

“Weather shocks and Women’s Time use in India” with Rishita Sankrit*. Data analysis in progress.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Professor Martin Wittenberg: 1962-2024” with Andrew Kerr and Jesse Naidoo, *South African Journal of Economics*, December 2024. Letter to the Editor (doi.org/10.1111/saje.12390)

¹ * denotes graduate student or predoctoral research associate at the time of writing

“Time use and home production in Africa in times of structural transformation” with L. Rachel Ngai. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 36, No. 1, Winter 2022: 57-80

“New cellular networks in Malawi: Correlates of service rollout and network performance” (with Dimitrios Batzilis, Rebecca Thornton, Emily Oster), chapter 6 in **African Successes: Modernization and Development**, 2016 (eds.) S. Edwards, S. Johnson, and D. Weil. University Of Chicago Press

“Rethinking Infrastructure for Development by François Bourguignon and Boris Pleskovic”, Book Review in *Journal of Economic Literature* December 2008, Vol. XLVI No. 4: 1021

“Household and community income, economic shocks and risky sexual behavior of young adults: Evidence from the Cape Area Panel Study 2002 and 2005”, with David Lam and Murray Leibbrandt *AIDS*, November 2007, Vol. 21 No. S7: S49-S56

“The Agincourt HDSS Energy Panel Dataset User Guide, Version 1”, with Martin Wittenberg, Mark Collinson, C. W. Kabudula Takwanisa Machededze, Wayne Twine, Kathy Kahn, and Steve. Tollman. **Technical report**, DataFirst. <https://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/dataportal/index.php/catalog/942/related-materials>.

OTHER WRITING

“[International migration kickstarted structural transformation in Malawi](#)”, with Grace Kumchulesi and Martine Mariotti, *VoxDev.org*, 8 May 2024,

“[Improving school outcomes with better data sharing: Evidence from Chile](#)” *VoxDev.org*, 30 June 2021

“[How remittances affect long-run economic change in rural labor markets](#)” *VoxDev.org*, 29 June 2020,

“[How does access to electricity affect people’s lives?](#)” *VoxDev.org*, 26 July 2019,

“[Using satellite data to track improvements in infrastructure access and service delivery in South Africa](#)” (with Martin Wittenberg) *VoxDev.org*, 15th May 2018

“[How labour migration raises human capital in sending communities over the long run](#)” (with Martine Mariotti) *VoxEU.org*, 20th July 2016

“[Enforcement and compliance: the case of minimum wages and mandatory contracts for domestic workers](#)” (with Clare Hofmeyr and Vimal Ranchhod) *Econ3x3.org*, 14th April 2014

“[Dynamics of development: Infrastructure, migration and crowding](#)” (with Sam Schulhofer-Wohl) *The International Growth Centre Policy Brief*, 15th February 2011

GRANTS AND AWARDS

External

STEG/CEPR “Clean energy and women’s work in Africa” (joint with Rachel Ngai) 2026-2028, GBP100,000

NSF “Does Education Make Africa Work? Assessing the Impact of Human Capital on Jobs and Political Attitudes in Africa”, 2022-2026, \$379,348

STEG/CEPR “Education, Unemployment, Political Attitudes and Aspirations in Africa”, 2022-2025, GBP 20,000

STEG/DFID/CEPR (Co-PI with Joe Kaboski) “Structural Transformation and Economic Growth”, 2020-2025

IGC (PI) “Leaping or creeping up the energy ladder? Challenges to electrification and factors limiting the economic impacts of electricity” (2022-2024, GBP 70,000)

Spencer Foundation (Co-PI): “Leveraging school-generated data to improve parent-school communication and schooling outcomes” with Samuel Berlinski, Matias Busso and Claudia Martínez A., 2015-2016: \$49,990

JPAL Post-Primary Education Initiative Award (Co-PI): “SMS-Based School-Household Communication Technology” with Claudia Martínez A. and Matias Busso, 2014-2016: \$220,248

DFID (PI): “Labor migration and structural change in rural labor markets: Evidence from Malawi” IZA/GLM Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Programme, 2013-2015, \$320,000

National Institutes of Health, NICHD (PI): “Market Integration and the long-term health impacts of drought”, R03-HD069060, 2011-2013: \$161,000

International Growth Center (PI): “Dynamics of development: Infrastructure, migration and crowding” with Sam Schulhofer-Wohl. 2010-2012: ~ US \$99,000

PEP-IDB (Co-PI): “Initiatives to reduce adolescent pregnancy in Chile” with Claudia Martínez A. 2009-2011: \$20,000

Inter-American Development Bank (Co-PI): “Investing in secondary schooling in Chile” with Claudia Martínez A. 2009-2010: \$65,000

NBER African Successes Project (Co-PI): “Cell-phones in Malawi” with Emily Oster and Rebecca Thornton 2008-2011: \$50,000

NSF: Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, 2007: \$10,000

Internal

University of Notre Dame

ND-Democracy Initiative Catalyst Grant co-funded with ND-BIG Lab (FPE and Democracy in Africa), January 2025-December 2026

Kellogg Academic Conference grant and ISLA conference Grant (BIG Forum 2025, September)

Kellogg Working Group Grant: Development Economics Lunch (2023, 2024, 2025)

Kellogg Faculty Fellow Research Award and Ford Program Research Award (Fueling women’s work in India): January 2025-December 2025

ISLA Undergraduate research award, Summer 2023

Kellogg Faculty Fellow Research Award, Summer 2020

Dartmouth College

Russell-Ladd Newcomb 1926 Fellow, 2017/8

Rockefeller-Haney Fellowship, 2016

Junior Faculty Fellowship, 2015
 Burke Research Award, 2011-2014
 Princeton University, Center for Economic Policy Studies
 “Investing in secondary schooling in Chile” 2009: \$20,000
 University of Michigan
 Rackham Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2008
 Eva Mueller Award - New Directions in Demography and Economics, 2007
 Marshall Weinberg International Research Prize, 2007
 Rackham Travel Grant, 2005 and 2007
 Gail R. Wilensky Fellowship in Health Economics, 2006
 Summer Research Assistantship, Department of Economics, 2003 and 2004
 Award for one of the Top Ten Graduate Student Instructors, 2003
 Fogarty Fellowship in Economic Demography, Population Studies Center, 2002

RECENT SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 STEG Annual Conference-Plenary session (Nairobi, Kenya, Jan), Structural Transformation and Macro Dynamics Workshop (Germany, May), CSAE Africa Conference (Oxford, UK, March)
- 2025 ISI-Delhi (Jan), BIG Lab Conference (Notre Dame, Sept) University of Arkansas (Oct), KIEL-CEPR African Economic Development Conference (Germany, Nov), University of Maryland (Dec), ERS/SALDRU Applied Micro Conference (keynote, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Dec)
- 2024 University of South Florida
- 2023 UIUC, UC-Irvine, Wharton (UPenn), UCT, University of Michigan/Population Studies Center
- 2022 ASSA Annual Meeting, World Bank, SALDRU at UCT (April and May)
- 2021 UN-WIDER/World Bank/IZA Jobs and Development Conference (Sept), ISI-Delhi (Sept)
- 2020 STEG Workshop on Home production and structural transformation (August)
- 2019 Stockholm University, Stockholm School of Economics (May), Duke University (Sanford) Workshop in DC on Energy access and productivity effects (Feb)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Associate Editor *Journal of Human Resources* (Fall 2022-)

Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, Demographic Research, Demography, Econometrica, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics of Education Review, Economic Journal, Economic Letters, Energy Journal, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Literature, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Labour and Development, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Labour Economics, Population and Environment, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Science, South African Journal of Economics, World Development, World Bank Economic Review

- Excellence in Refereeing Award 2018 and 2022, World Bank Economic Review (WBER)

External Reviewer

Economic and Social Research Council (UK), Department for International Development (UK)
JPAL- KCAI, National Science Foundation, South African National Research Foundation
(NRF), The World Bank, University of Cape Town and Pretoria: Ph.D. theses in Department of Economics
(2008-2009, 2020, 2025), CERG-EI (Czech Republic): Ph.D. thesis in Department of Economics (2023)

Grants and Fellowships Scientific Committees

Francis Wilson Memorial Prize for Data-Driven Research (UCT): Chair of the committee 2023-2025
STEG Review Panels 2020-
STEG Theme Leader, joint with Rachel Ngai (LSE) 2020-
NSF Scientific Review Panel, 2019-2021, 2023
Kellogg Institute (Notre Dame) Faculty Advisory Committee 2023-2025
Kellogg Institute (Notre Dame) Fellowship Committee, 2019-2021
Kellogg Institute (Notre Dame) Faculty grants committee, 2019-2021
International Growth Centre (IGC), SBG Evidence Fund 2020.
JPAL: Jobs and Opportunity Initiative 2020; King-Climate Action Initiative 2020

Conference Program Committees

NBER Summer Institute 2026, Gender Program, with Jessica Goldberg, Claudia Goldin, Claudia Olivetti
NBER Spring Meetings 2026, Gender Program: Time use and Structural Transformation, with Claudia Goldin
and Claudia Olivetti
ERSA/SALDRU Applied Micro conference, UCT December 2025 – Program committee (Ihsaan Bassier
(University of Sussex), Joshua Budlender (University of Cape Town), Susan Godlonton (Williams
College), and Steve Koch (University of Pretoria)) and Keynote speaker
BIG Forum, September 2025, with Lakshmi Iyer and Joe Kaboski
Conference in Celebration of Martin Wittenberg, University of Cape Town, October 2023 – Organizer (with
Andrew Kerr at UCT and Jesse Naidoo at University of Pretoria)
Conference in Celebration of David Lam, University of Michigan, May 2023 - Organizing committee
Micro-Macro Linkages in Labour Economics workshop (Oxford), September 2022
STEG Annual Conferences, January 2021-2026
Development Day@ND, December 2021
STEG Workshops: Home production, labor markets, and structural change, August 2020, September 2021,
September 2022, January 2023, January 2024-2026
NBER Summer Institute, DEV Program, 2019, with Robin Burgess, Seema Jayachandran, Dean Karlan,
Benjamin A. Olken, Manisha Shah, and Daniel Xu
NEUDC (Northeast Universities Development Conference 2012, 2014, 207, 2018, 2019)

Discussant/Moderator

STEG Annual Conferences, January 2021, January 2023
STEG Workshops August 2020, September 2021, September 2022, January 2023, January 2025
IUSSP Conference on Population, Poverty, and Inequality 2019
American Economic Association Meetings 2018, 2016, 2010
Population Association of America Meetings (DC), 2016
NBER Summer Institute, Development Workshop, 2014

Northeast Universities Development Conference 2016, 2014, 2012

Professional organization membership

American Economic Association, Population Association of America, Econometrics Society

Recent Internal Committees and service activities

ND Department of Economics:

Senior Thesis grader, 2024-

BIG (Building Inclusive Growth) Lab, Executive Committee 2023-

Committee Advisory to the Chair (CAC), 2020-2021, 2023-

Graduate Studies Committee 2020-2021, 2023-2025

Ad Hoc Committee on Field Distribution 2021

Kellogg Institute: Faculty Grants Committee 2018-2020, Faculty Advisory Committee 2023-2025

Co-organizer, Development Economics Working Group (Brown Bag) 2019-2025

Keough School: Kellogg Institute recruiting committee, 2018-2019

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Current	Graduate –Development Economics Undergraduate – Econometrics
Previous	DevData Bootcamp (Undergraduate) Advanced Microeconomics (PhD) Gender, Employment, and Development (CEPR PhD summer school, Italy, September 2023) Topics in Economic Development (Undergraduate) Topics in Infrastructure in Developing Countries (PhD) Quantitative Analysis (Masters) Economics of Population, Public Finance, Mathematics and Statistics for Economists, Introductory Microeconomics and Macroeconomics (Undergraduate) Econometrics of Large Household Survey Data (Professional level: Botswana Distance Learning Project for Central Statistics Office analysts) World Bank/DIME Impact Evaluation Workshop: “Infrastructure and evaluation methods” (Kenya, 2012)
Undergraduate Advising:	University of Notre Dame (senior thesis) - Joanna Murphy (2021), Simone Baravelli (2024-2025) Sonia Zhang (2025-2026) General advising in research work: Brigid Meisenbacher (2022), Olivia Rosenlund (2023), Hannah Edwards (2025) Dartmouth College Presidential Scholars, 2011-2016 Freshman Faculty Advisor, Dartmouth College, 2011, 2012, 2014 Academic advisor and faculty fellow, Whitman College, Princeton University, 2009-2010
Graduate students with first placement (graduation year)	Vivek Moorthy (2022) - College of the Holy Cross – co-advisor with Bill Evans

Lixia Ren (2024) – NYU-Abu Dhabi (postdoc) – secondary advisor

Current Graduate Students

Ge Sun (expected, 2026) – secondary advisor

Virna Vidal Menezes (expected, 2027) – primary advisor

Coleson Weir (expected, 2027) – secondary advisor

Rishita Sankrit

PERSONAL

Nationality	South African/USA
Spouse	Robert C. Johnson
Children	Two, born 2013 and 2015