Agricultural & Applied Economics
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Laura Schechter
University of Wisconsin, Madison

EMPLOYMENT

UW Madison, Agricultural & Applied Economics and *Economics:* Professor, 2018-Present.
Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, 2024-Present.
Olav F. and Elsie de Noyer Anderson-Bascom Professor, 2021-2026.

UW Madison, Center for Demography and Ecology: Faculty Affiliate, 2008-Present.

UW Madison, Agricultural & Applied Economics and *Economics:* Associate Professor, 2011-2018.

Yale, Economics: Visiting Associate Professor, 2014-2015.

Michigan State University, Economics: Assistant Professor, 2010-2011.

UW Madison, Agricultural & Applied Economics: Assistant Professor, 2005-2011.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL): Affiliate, 2020-Present.

Bureau for Research in the Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD): Affiliate, 2019-Present.

DEGREES

Ph.D. University of California Berkeley, Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2005.
M.Sc. University of California Berkeley, Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2000.
B.A. University of California Berkeley, Development Studies (Spanish minor), 1996.

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

2017 - 2026: *Economic Journal* - Associate Editor.
2017 - 2022: *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* - Co-Editor.
2016 - 2019: *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* - Associate Editor.
2011 - 2016: *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* - Associate Editor.
2011 - 2015: *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy* - Editorial Board.

PUBLICATIONS

"Spillovers without Social Interactions in Urban Sanitation," with J. Deutschmann, M. Lipscomb, and S.J. Zhu, 2024. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Forthcoming.

"Persuading Voters to Punish Corrupt Vote-Buying Candidates: Experimental Evidence from a Large-Scale Radio Campaign in India," with S. Vasudevan, 2023. *Journal of Development Economics*, 160.

"Privatization of Public Goods: Evidence from the Sanitation Sector in Senegal," with J. Deutschmann, J. Gars, J.-F. Houde, and M. Lipscomb, 2023. *Journal of Development Economics*, 160.

"Country of Women? Repercussions of the Triple Alliance War in Paraguay," with J. Alix-Garcia, F. Valencia Caicedo, and S.J. Zhu, 2022. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 202: 131-167.

"Information Technology and Government Decentralization: Experimental Evidence from Paraguay," with E. Dal Bó, F. Finan, and N.Y. Li, 2021. *Econometrica*, 89(2): 677-701.

"Structural Experimentation to Distinguish between Models of Risk Sharing with Frictions in Rural Paraguay," with E. Ligon, 2020. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 69(1): 1-50.

"Externalities and Spillovers from Sanitation and Waste Management in Urban and Rural

Neighborhoods," with E.P. Kresch and M. Lipscomb, 2020. *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*, 42(3): 395-420.

"Subsidies versus Mental Accounting Nudges: Harnessing Mobile Payment Systems to Improve Sanitation," with M. Lipscomb, 2018. *Journal of Development Economics*, 135: 235-254.

"Receptiveness to Advice, Cognitive Ability, and Technology Adoption," with B.L. Barham, J.-P. Chavas, and D. Fitz, 2018. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 149: 239-268.

"Stability of Social, Risk, and Time Preferences over Multiple Years," with Y. Chuang, 2015. *Journal of Development Economics*, 117: 151-170.

"Social Networks in Developing Countries," with Y. Chuang, 2015. *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, 7: 451-472.

"Risk, Learning, and Technology Adoption," with B.L. Barham, J.-P. Chavas, D. Fitz, and V. Ríos Salas, 2015. *Agricultural Economics*, 46(1): 11-24.

"The Roles of Risk and Ambiguity in Technology Adoption," with B.L. Barham, J.-P. Chavas, D. Fitz, and V. Ríos Salas, 2014. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 97: 204-218.

"Vote-Buying and Reciprocity," with F. Finan, 2012. *Econometrica*, 80(2): 863-881.

"Motives for Sharing in Social Networks," with E. Ligon, 2012. *Journal of Development Economics*, 99(1): 13-26.

"Inequality, Reciprocity, and Credit in Social Networks," with A. Yuskavage, 2012. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Papers and Proceedings*, 94(2): 402-410.

"The Apple and Your Eye: Visual and Taste Rank-Ordered Probit Analysis with Correlated Errors," 2010. *Food Quality and Preference*, 21(1): 112-120.

"Detecting Problems in Survey Data using Benford's Law," with G. Judge, 2009. *Journal of Human Resources*, 44(1): 1-24.

"To Deceive or Not To Deceive: The Effect of Deception on Behavior in Future Laboratory Experiments," with J. Jamison and D. Karlan, 2008. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 68(3-4): 477-488.

"Theft, Gift-Giving, and Trustworthiness: Honesty is Its Own Reward in Rural Paraguay," 2007. *American Economic Review*, 97(5): 1560-1582.

"Risk Aversion and Expected-Utility Theory: A Calibration Exercise," 2007. *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, 35(1): 67-76.

"An Empirical Non-Parametric Likelihood Family of Data-Based Benford-Like Distributions," with M. Grendar and G. Judge, 2007. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications*, 380: 429-438.

"Traditional Trust Measurement and the Risk Confound: An Experiment in Rural Paraguay," 2007. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 62(2): 272-292.

"Measuring Vulnerability," with E. Ligon, 2003. *Economic Journal*, 113(486): 95-102.

WORKING PAPERS

"Brokering Votes with Information Spread Via Social Networks," with R. Duarte, F. Finan, and H.A. Larreguy, 2023. Revision requested by *Review of Economic Studies*.

"Informal Contracts in an Incomplete Market: The Price of Milk in Paraguay," with G. Shi and M. Suzuki, 2023. Revision requested by *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.

"Imperfect Competition and Sanitation: Evidence from Randomized Auctions in Senegal," with J.-F. Houde, T. Johnson, and M. Lipscomb, 2022.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Using Market Mechanisms to Improve Sanitation: Lessons from the Implementation of an Auction Platform in Senegal," with J. Deutschmann, J. Gars, S. Griffith, J.-F. Houde, T. Johnson, M. Lipscomb, M. Mbeguere, S. Nehrling, and S.J. Zhu.

DORMANT WORKING PAPERS

"The Network Architecture of Reciprocated Versus Unreciprocated Sharing," with A. Yuskavage, 2011.

"Evaluating Different Approaches to Estimating Vulnerability," with E. Ligon, 2004. World Bank, Social Protection Discussion Paper No. 0410.

GRANTS

University of Chicago Provost's Global Faculty Award, 2022–2023 ($27,000) (with S. Vasudevan).
National Science Foundation (NSF), 2020–2023 ($480,000) (with M. Duru and E. Tjernström).
Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL), 2020–2023 ($570,000) (with M. Duru and E. Tjernström).
Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI), 2020–2022 ($142,000) (with T. Bernard and J. Deutschmann).
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2019–2021 ($315,000) (with T. Bernard and J. Deutschmann).
International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics (IFREE), 2018–2019 ($10,000) (with J. Sydnor and J. van Rijn).
UW Madison Graduate School Research Committee Award, 2018–2019 ($40,000).
3ie, 2016 ($20,000) (with K. Hughes, S. Janzen, J. Oduol, and E. Tjernström).
International Growth Centre (IGC), 2015-2017 ($285,000) (with E. Dal Bó and F. Finan).
J-PAL Governance Initiative, 2014-2015 ($50,000) (with E. Dal Bó and F. Finan).
UW Madison Graduate School Research Committee Award, 2013–2014 ($40,000).
Gates Foundation, 2011–2015 ($1,500,000) (with J.-F. Houde and M. Lipscomb).
USDA-AFRI, 2010–2013 ($300,000) (with B. Barham and J.-P. Chavas).
USDA Hatch Grant, 2010–2013 ($230,000) (with B. Barham and J.-P. Chavas).
UW Madison Graduate School Research Committee Award, 2009–2010 ($12,000).
Graduate School Research Committee Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2007–2008 ($25,000).
USDA Hatch Grant, 2006–2009 ($50,000).
Chronic Poverty Research Centre Grant, 2006 ($50,000) (with M. Carter).
UW Madison Graduate School Research Committee Award, 2006–2007 ($20,000).
Small Grant in Behavioral Economics, Russell Sage Foundation, 2006–2007 ($2,500).
Small Grant in Behavioral Economics, Russell Sage Foundation, 2002.
Mini-Grant, Institute of Business and Economic Research, 2002.
Mini-Grant, Center for International and Development Economics Research, 2002.
Program in Applied Economics Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, 2001–2002.
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Fellowship, 1999–2001.

AWARDS

IPUMS mug for identifying error in IPUMS data, 2022.
Taylor-Hibbard award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, 2022.
UW Madison Vilas Associates Award, UW Madison, 2020-2022.

Taylor-Hibbard award for Outstanding Contribution to the Graduate Program, 2020.
Slesinger Award for Excellence in Mentoring nominee, 2019.
University Housing Honored Instructor award for undergraduate teaching, 2016.
Taylor-Hibbard award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, 2016.
UW Madison Vilas Faculty Mid-Career Investigator Award, 2015-2017.
"Top 20 most-cited articles" published in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 2005-2009, 2010.
UW Madison Alfred Toepfer Faculty Fellow, 2008-2010.
Taylor-Hibbard award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, 2008.
Phi Beta Kappa, University of California, Berkeley, 1996.
Truman Scholarship Finalist, 1995.

TEACHING

University of Wisconsin, Madison. Agricultural & Applied Economics:
PhD level 'Development Economics'. 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024.
PhD level 'Research Colloquium'. 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024.
Department Seminar. 2008, 2009, 2010, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2024.
Undergraduate level 'Latin American Economic Development'. 2006, 2008, 2009, 2023.
Development Economics Workshop. 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2023.
Undergraduate level 'Economic Problems of Developing Areas'. 2008, 2013, 2016.
Undergraduate level 'Growth and Development'. 2005, 2006.
Yale University. Economics:
Undergraduate senior seminar 'Social Networks in Development Economics'. 2014.
Michigan State University. Economics:
Undergraduate level 'Economic Analysis of Latin America'. 2010.
PhD level 'Growth, Development, and Human Resources'. 2010.
University of California, Berkeley. Agricultural & Resource Economics:
PhD level 'Math for Economists'. 2003.

WORK EXPERIENCE

World Bank: Short Term Consultant for Peter Lanjouw, 2004.
World Bank: Summer Intern for Steve Knack and Vinaya Swaroop, 2001.
Peace Corps, Paraguay: Agricultural Extensionist, 1996–1998.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022-2023: 8th European Meeting on Networks in Budapest.
2020-2021: MIEDC at Northwestern.
2016-2017: ASSA in Chicago, MIEDC at UW Madison.
2014-2015: SITE at Stanford.
2013-2014: ASSA in Philadelphia.
2011-2012: MIEDC at University of Minnesota.
2010-2011: ASSA in Denver.
2009-2010: BREAD Verona-Trento Summer Workshop.
2008-2009: BREAD at Duke, MIEDC at U of Minnesota.
2007-2008: MIEDC at UW Madison, SITE at Stanford.
2006-2007: BREAD at Yale, CPRC in Manchester, ESA in Tucson.
2005-2006: NEUDC at Brown.
2003-2004: NEUDC at Yale.

INVITED SEMINARS

2023-2024: Notre Dame, Penn (Wharton), UC Irvine, UIUC (Ag Econ).
2022-2023: Columbia (SIPA), UC Riverside, Warwick.
2021-2022: Jinan University, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Texas A&M, University of Nottingham, University of Pittsburgh.
2020-2021: Online Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar (OARES), Universidad de los Andes, Virginia Tech (Ag Econ).
2019-2020: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), University of Maryland (Ag Econ).
2018-2019: Georgetown, Purdue (Ag Econ), Trinity College Dublin, UI Urbana-Champaign (Ag Econ), Universidade Nova de Lisboa, UW Madison (Center for Demography and Ecology).
2017-2018: Inter-American Development Bank, University of Minnesota (Ag Econ).
2016-2017: George Mason University, University of Toronto.
2015-2016: Oxford, University of Maryland (Ag Econ).
2014-2015: University of Connecticut, University of Houston, Wesleyan, Yale.
2013-2014: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), UW Madison (Education Sciences).
2012-2013: UI Urbana-Champaign (Ag Econ), University of Washington, UW Madison (Psychology).
2011-2012: Bocconi, Institute for International Economic Studies (IIES), Stockholm School of Economics, World Bank DECRG.
2010-2011: Northwestern, UN Lincoln (Ag Econ).
2009-2010: Michigan State University, Paris School of Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, University of Chicago Harris School (Public Policy), University of Michigan, UW Madison (Political Science).
2008-2009: Dartmouth, Princeton, University of Maryland, UW Madison (Center for Demography and Ecology), Yale.
2007-2008: Duke, Ohio State (Ag Econ), Texas A&M (Ag Econ), University of Maryland.
2006-2007: Purdue (Ag Econ).
2005-2006: Iowa State (Ag Econ), UW Madison (Sociology), World Bank, Yale.
2004-2005: Brandeis, Carnegie Mellon (Social and Decision Sciences), Harvard (Kennedy School), Middlebury, NC State (Ag Econ), Simon Fraser, UC Irvine, University of Maryland (Ag Econ), UW Madison (Ag Econ), Williams.

OTHER INFORMATION

Languages

English (native), Spanish (fluent), Guarani (fluent), and Mandarin Chinese (basic).

Referee

AEJ: Applied Economics, AEJ: Economic Policy, AEJ: Microeconomics, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (J-PAL's ATAI), Alaska EPSCoR, *American Economic Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Austrian Science Fund (FWF), BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Choices, Contemporary Economic Policy,* Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), *Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economics Letters, Empirica, Environmental & Resource Economics, European Economic Review, Experimental Economics*, Governance Initiative (J-PAL's GI), *Health Economics, International Economic Review, International Economics and Economic Policy,* International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics (IFREE), *Journal of African Economies, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of International Development, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the Association of*

Environmental and Resource Economists, Journal of the European Economic Association, King Climate Action Initiative (J-PAL's K-CAI), *Labour Economics, Land Economics*, National Science Foundation, *Nature Communications, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*, Research Grants Council of Hong Kong (RGC), *Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics,* Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), *Southern Economic Journal*, United States - Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD), USAID BASIS CRSP, USDA Hatch Grant, *World Bank Economic Review,* World Bank Research Proposal, *World Development.*

Outside Service

Publications Committee Member, AAEA 2023–2026.
Publications Taskforce, AAEA 2023–2024.
J-PAL ATAI review board, 2023.
J-PAL K-CAI review board, 2023, 2022, 2021.
Midwest International Economic Development Conference Organizing Committee, MWIEDC 2007–Present.
BREAD Scientific Committee, spring 2022.
Research in Color mentor, 2021.
Adopt-a-Paper mentor, 2021.
AEA SP panelist, 2021.
TAMU ASHE Hispanic Student Pipeline Conference panelist, 2021, 2020.
Abstract Reviewer for Behavioral and Institutional Economics Section, AAEA 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015.
Female Mentor, CSWEP Mentoring Program at CeMENT workshop, ASSA 2017.
Female Mentor, CSWEP Mentoring Program at CeMENT workshop, ASSA 2014.
Abstract Reviewer for Experimental Economics Section, AAEA 2013.
Chair of Selected Papers and Posters Committee, AAEA 2010–2011.
Selected Papers and Posters Committee Member, AAEA 2008–2010.
Topic Leader for International Development Section, AAEA 2008.

University Committees and Service

Center for Demography and Ecology (CDE) Executive Committee, UW Madison 2023–Present.
Truman Scholarship Nominating Committee, UW Madison 2015–Present.
Wisconsin Model United Nations Faculty Advisor, UW Madison 2017–2022.
International Committee, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, UW Madison 2008–2009.

Department Committees and Service

Personnel Committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2023–2024, 2021–2022, 2016–2017, 2007–2008.
Hiring Committee Chair, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2022–2023.
Graduate Committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2022–2023, 2019–2021, 2015–2016, 2011-2012, 2009–2010, 2008–2009, 2005–2006.
PhD Placement Director, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2019–2021.
Curriculum Committee Chair, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2017-2019, 2012–2014.
Curriculum Committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2015–2016.
Computer Committee, Department of Economics, MSU 2010–2011.
Undergraduate Committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2006–2007.
Admissions Committee, Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics, UC Berkeley 2003–2004.

Past Ph.D. Advisees and First Placements- Major advisees only

Itzel De Haro Lopez, Navarra Center for International Development, Assistant Professor, 2023.
Mizuhiro Suzuki, Capital One, Principal Quantitative Analyst, 2022.
Eduardo Cenci, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Assistant Professor, 2021.
Joshua Deutschmann, University of Chicago, Postdoctoral Scholar, 2021.
Ana Paula Melo, Howard University, Assistant Professor, 2021.
Naoki Nishimura, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Economist, 2019.
Jessica Siyao Zhu, Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD), Global Team Researcher, 2019.
Jared Gars, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Policy Analyst, 2018.
Srinivasan Vasudevan, American Institutes for Research (AIR), Economic Researcher, 2017.
Mitch Morey, American Institutes for Research (AIR), Economic Researcher, 2015.
Hillary Caruthers, Lawrence University, Assistant Professor, 2013.
Benjamin Schwab, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Postdoctoral Fellow, 2011.
Jeremy Weber, USDA Economic Research Service, Research Economist, 2010.