

JUSTIN SANDEFUR

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EDUCATION

- Oxford University, Oxford, UK** 2008
D.Phil. (Ph.D.) in Economics
Thesis title: *Essays on Labour and Credit Markets in Africa*
- Oxford University, Oxford, UK** 2004
M.Phil. in Economics
Thesis distinction; Fields: Labour economics, international economics
- La Sierra University, Riverside, CA, USA** 2002
B.A. in Political Economy
Honors program; *Summa cum laude*

EMPLOYMENT

- Center for Global Development** Washington, D.C.
· *Senior Fellow, Co-director for Education* 2018 - Present
· *Senior Fellow, Research Manager* 2017 - 2018
· *Senior Fellow* 2016 - 2017
· *Research Fellow* 2010 - 2016
- Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University** Washington D.C.
Visiting professor Spring 2020
- Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University** Oxford, UK
Research Officer 2007 - 2010
- Tanzanian National Bureau of Statistics** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Resident Advisor 2008 - 2010
- Keble College, Oxford University** Oxford, UK
Senior College Lecturer, Economics 2004 - 2007

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- World Bank, Doing Business External Panel Review** 2021
- Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Economic Advisory Council** 2019-2020
- La Sierra University, Board of Trustees** 2014-2018

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

“[Teaching and Testing by Phone in a Pandemic](#),” (with L. Crawford, D. Evans, and S. Hares). 2021. Center for Global Development Policy Paper 591.

“[Three New Estimates of India’s All-Cause Excess Mortality during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#),” (with A. Anand and S. Subramanian). 2021. Center for Global Development Policy Paper 589.

- Coverage by the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, etc.

“Do High-Stakes Exams Promote Consistent Educational Standards?,” (with J. Rossiter, M. Abreh, and A. Ali). 2021. Center for Global Development Policy Paper 581.

“The Macroeconomics of Pandemics in Developing Countries: An Application to Uganda,” (with T. von Carnap, I. Almas, T. Bold, and S. Ghisolfi). 2020. Center for Global Development Policy Paper 555.

“Is the World Bank’s COVID Crisis Lending Big Enough, Fast Enough? New Evidence on Loan Disbursements,” (with J. Duggan, S. Morris, and G. Yang). 2020. Center for Global Development Policy Paper 554.

“A Rosetta Stone for Human Capital,” (with D. Patel). 2020. Center for Global Development Policy Paper 550.

- Beautiful graphic based on the paper from *The Economist* data team, “It’s better to be a poor pupil in a rich country than the reverse.”

“Deliberative Democracy and the Resource Curse: Experimental Evidence from Tanzania,” (with N. Birdsall, J. Fishkin, and M. Moyo).

- Blog series: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#)
- Coverage on NPR.

“Measuring Rents from Public Employment: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from Kenya,” (with N. Barton and T. Bold). 2017. Center for Global Development WP 457.

“Costing a Data Revolution,” (with G. Demombynes). 2015. Center for Global Development WP 383.

“We just ran 23 million queries of the World Bank’s website,” (with S. Dykstra and B. Dykstra). 2014. Center for Global Development WP 362.

“The High Return to Private Schooling in a Low-Income Country,” (with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, and G. Mwabu). 2011. Center for Global Development WP 279.

“Delivering Justice to the Poor: Theory and Experimental Evidence from Liberia,” (with B. Siddiqi).

“The Economics of Due Process: Police Monitoring Versus Legal Aid in Sierra Leone,” (with B. Siddiqi and A. Varvaloucas).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Beyond Short-term Learning Gains: The Impact of Outsourcing Schools in Liberia after Three Years.” Forthcoming, *Economic Journal*, with M. Romero.

- Coverage in the Financial Times

“The new era of unconditional convergence.” 2021. *Journal of Development Economics*, with D. Patel and A. Subramanian.

- Blog post, “Everything You Know about Cross-Country Convergence Is (Now) Wrong.”
- Commentary from Paul Krugman in the New York Times and Noah Smith for Bloomberg.

“Predicted COVID-19 fatality rates based on age, sex, comorbidities and health system capacity.” 2020, *BMJ-Global Health*, with S. Ghisolfi, I. Almas, T. von Carnap, J. Heitner, and T. Bold.

“Outsourcing education: Experimental evidence from Liberia.” 2020, *American Economic Review*, with M. Romero and W. Sandholtz.

- Coverage of the project in *The New York Times Magazine* (by Peg Tyre), *The New York Times* (by Tina Rosenberg), *New York Times* op-ed column (by Nick Kristof), *The Economist* (by John McDermott), and *The Financial Times* weekend magazine cover story (by David Pilling)

“Girls’ schooling and women’s literacy: schooling targets alone won’t reach learning goals.” 2020, *International Journal of Educational Development*, with L. Pritchett.

“Regression discontinuity analysis of Gavi’s impact on vaccination rates.” 2019, *Journal of Development Economics*, with S. Dykstra, A. Glassman, and C. Kenny.

“Experimental evidence on scaling up education reforms in Kenya.” 2018. *Journal of Public Economics*, with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, G. Mwabu, and A. Ng’ang’a.

“Internationally comparable mathematics scores for fourteen African countries.” 2018. *Economics of Education Review*.

“Small price incentives increase women’s access to land titles in Tanzania.” 2016. *Journal of Development Economics*, with D. Ali, M. Collin, K. Deininger, S. Dercon, and A. Zeitlin.

“Learning from experiments when context matters.” 2015. *American Economic Review, Papers & Proceedings*, with L. Pritchett.

“The political economy of bad data: evidence from African survey and administrative statistics.” 2015. *Journal of Development Studies*, with A. Glassman.

“Context matters for size: Why external validity claims and development practice do not mix.” 2014. *Journal of Globalization and Development*, with L. Pritchett.

“Can free provision reduce demand for public services? Evidence from Kenyan education.” 2014. *World Bank Economic Review*, with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, and G. Mwabu.

“Public and private provision of education in Kenya.” 2013. *Journal of African Economies*, 22, with T. Bold and M. Kimenyi.

“The returns to formality and informality in urban Africa.” 2011. *Labour Economics*, 18(S1):S23–S31, with P. Falco, A. Kerr, N. Rankin, and F. Teal.

“Labour market flexibility, wages and incomes in Sub-Saharan Africa in the 1990s. *African Development Review*, 18(3):392–427, with G. Kingdon and F. Teal.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“Institutional challenges to scaling up learning in Kenya,” (with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, G. Mwabu, and A. Ng’ang’a). 2013. In L. Chandy, A. Hosono, H. Kharas, and J. Linn (ed.), *Getting to Scale: How to Bring Development Solutions to Millions of Poor People*, Brookings.

“Rights or remedies? Shopping for justice in Liberia’s dualistic legal system” (with B. Siddiqi). 2011. In E. Harper (ed.), *Working with Customary Justice Systems Post-Conflict and Fragile States*. International Development Law Organization.

“Education for prosperity: improving access and quality,” (with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, and G. Mwabu). 2010. In C. Adam, P. Collier, and N. Ndung’u (ed.), *Kenya: Policies for Prosperity*, Oxford University Press.

“African poverty through the lens of labor economics: earnings and mobility in three countries,” (with P. Serneels and F. Teal). 2008. In P. Paci and P. Serneels (ed.) *The Role of Jobs in Pro-Poor Growth*, World Bank.

“Democracy and poverty reduction,” (with L. Barbone, L. Cord, and K. Hull). 2007. In N. Dinello and V. Popov (ed.), *Political Institutions and Development: Failed Expectations and Renewed Hopes*, Edward Elgar.

SELECTED POLICY AND POPULAR WRITING

“The World Bank as a Cash-Transfer Algorithm,” Oct 20, 2021, *Project Syndicate*.

“World Bank grants for global vaccination — why so slow?,” June 22, 2021, *Nature*.

“India is getting richer, but still hoping for a boy,” Feb 6, 2019, *The Print*.

“Cash transfers cure poverty. Side-effects vary. Symptoms may return when treatment stops.,” Apr 22, 2018, *Bloomberg Quint*.

“A radical proposal to fight poverty in the developing world: tax the rich more than the poor,” (with C. Kenny) May 24, 2018, *Vox.com*.

“Three misleading defences from World Bank on India’s doing business ranking,” Feb 16, 2018, *Business Standard*.

“India’s Ease of Doing Business rank improved due to new methodology, not ‘Modi magic’,” Feb 16, 2018, *The Print*.

“Why remittances are good for America,” Apr 13, 2016, *CNN.com*.

“Why the World Bank is changing the definition of the word ‘poor’,” (with C. Kenny) Oct. 7, 2015, *Vox.com*.

“A Self-Interested Approach to Migration Crises: Push Factors, Pull Factors, and Investing In Refugees,” (with M. Clemens) Sept. 27, 2015, *Foreign Affairs*.

“Five charts that may soon be illegal in Tanzania,” April 8, 2015, *Washington Post*.

“Let the People Go: The Problem with Strict Migration Limits,” (with M. Clemens) January/February 2014, *Foreign Affairs*.

“Here’s the Best Thing the U.S. Has Done in Afghanistan,” October 10, 2013, *The Atlantic*.

“Can Silicon Valley Save the World?” (with C. Kenny) June 24, 2013, *Foreign Policy*, cover story.