

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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Undergraduate Studies

M.Sc. in Economics, Bocconi University, 110/100 *cum laude* 2017
 B.A. in Economics, Università degli Studi di Torino, 110/110 *cum laude* 2014
 Diploma in Economics, Collegio Carlo Alberto, *with distinction* 2014

Graduate Studies

Harvard University, 2017
 Ph.D. Candidate in Political Economy and Government (Economics Track)
 Expected Completion Date: May 2023

References

Professor Emily Breza
 Harvard University
 EBREZA@FAS.HARVARD.EDU

Professor Gautam Rao
 Harvard University
 GRAO@FAS.HARVARD.EDU

Professor Rema Hanna
 Harvard University
 REMA_HANNA@HKS.HARVARD.EDU

Professor Nathan Nunn
 University of British Columbia
 NATHAN.NUNN@UBC.CA

Teaching and Research Fields

Development Economics (primary)
 Political Economy, Economic History (secondary)

Teaching Experience

Harvard University – Teaching Assistant for:

Behavioral Economics of Poverty and Development, Prof. Gautam Rao Spring 2020, Fall 2021
 – *Certificate of Distinction in Teaching*
 EPoD Executive Education Program on Policy Design Spring 2021, Fall 2021
 Analyzing Education Policy, Prof. Michela Carlana Spring 2020, Fall 2020
 Economics of Morality, Prof. Ben Enke Fall 2019
 Poverty and Development, Prof. Nathan Nunn Spring 2019
 – *Certificate of Distinction in Teaching*

Research Experience

National Bureau of Economic Research Feb 2020 - Feb 2021
 Research Assistant for Professor Emily Breza.
Precision Agriculture for Development May 2018 - Dec 2018
 Consultant, Microeconomic analysis of an RCT in Rwanda
Bocconi University Jul 2015 - Jul 2017
 Research Assistant for Professor Eliana La Ferrara

Professional Activities

Co-chair of the <i>Harvard Economics PhD Students Diversity and Inclusion Group</i>	2019-2021
Core Team Member of <i>Harvard Graduate Women in Economics</i>	2018-2021
Organizer of the Alberto Alesina Graduate Student Workshop in Political Economy	2019-2020
Reviewer for <i>The Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> , <i>The Journal of Political Economy</i> , <i>The Review of Economic Studies</i> , and <i>The Journal of Urban Economics</i> .	

Invited talks

Conference on Culture and Economic Development UCSD/UCLA (forthcoming)	2022
Warwick Applied Microeconomic Seminar	2022
Quebec Political Economics Webinar Series	2022
LEAP Seminar at Stellenbosch	2022
Center for African Studies - Addressing the Legacies of Colonialism in Africa	2022
Wheeler Institute - African history through the lens of Economics	2022
Frontiers of Development Symposium on Resilient Resource Use	2020

Conferences

2022: NBER Development Fall Meeting (forthcoming), African Meeting of the Econometric society,
2021: NEUDC, Young Economist Symposium, CEPR/LEAP Workshop in Development Economics, DEVPec - Stanford and Berkeley
2020: World Bank and UNHCR Conference on Forced Displacement, The Sadie Collective Conference

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

Harvard University, Doctoral Fellowship	2017-2022
Association for Comparative Economic Studies, ACES Research Grant	2021
Banca d'Italia, Borsa di Studio Bonaldo Stringher	2019-2020
Istituto Lombardo Accademia di Scienze e Lettere, Premio di Laurea Fondazione Grazioli	2017
Unicredit and Universities Foundation, Marco Fanno Scholarship	2017-2018

Selected Grants

<i>En Route: The Colonial Origins of Francophone Africa's Emigration.</i> (Co-PI Ariane Salem)	
NSF, Dissertation Improvement Grant - \$ 24,145	2022
Weiss Fund Research Grant - \$ 29,415	2022
Schmidheiny Fund Grant - \$ 8,550	2022
Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) SR Grant - \$ 20,569	2021
The Lab for Economic Applications and Policy (LEAP) at Harvard - \$ 7,373	2021
HKS-REStat Research Funding - \$ 4,990	2021
<i>Migration, Misreporting and Selection Neglect (pilot stage)</i>	
Warburg Foundation Research Prize	2021
<i>The Economic and Social Integration of Asylum Seekers in Italy.</i> (Co-PI Francesca Miserocchi)	
Roberto Franceschi Research Grant for PhD Students	2019

Academic Affiliations

Center for International Development at Harvard
Evidence for Policy Design at Harvard
Laboratory for Effective Anti-Poverty Policies at Bocconi

Working Papers

“*En Route: The French Colonial Army, Emigration, and Development in Morocco*”

with Ariane Salem. Job Market Paper n.1

Abstract: Between 1830 and 1962, 6 million Africans living under colonial rule served in the French army. Most were deployed internationally to maintain order or fight French wars. After independence, all were repatriated and granted the right to move to France. We estimate the effect of military deployment on the soldiers' long-term outcomes, as well as on their communities of origin, using historical data on Moroccan soldiers, and exploiting the arbitrary assignment of troops to international locations. We show that, within a municipality, cohorts with a higher share of soldiers deployed to France were more likely to relocate there after independence, whereas deployment to other locations did not affect emigration. Consistent with the establishment of emigration networks, we find that the effects have persisted for decades after independence. Furthermore, communities with a higher share of soldiers deployed to France have experienced better economic outcomes, and a shift from the agricultural to the service sector today. These results highlight the role that colonial rule played in shaping emigration networks from the colonies and in contributing to persistent changes in their patterns of economic development.

“Age Set vs. Kin: Culture and Financial Ties in East Africa”

with Jacob Moscona. Job Market Paper n.2

Revise and Resubmit at the American Economic Review

Abstract: We study how social organization shapes patterns of economic interaction and the effects of national policy, focusing on the distinction between age-based and kin-based groups in sub-Saharan Africa. Motivated by ethnographic accounts suggesting that this distinction affects redistribution, we analyze a cash transfer program in Kenya and find that in age-based societies there are consumption spillovers within the age cohort, but not the extended family, while in kin-based societies we find the opposite. Next, we document that social structure shapes the impact of policy by showing that Uganda's pension program had positive effects on child nutrition only in kin-based societies.

“Mass Media and Racial Protests: Evidence from the United States”

Abstract: Do mass media affect protests? And how? I address these questions studying racial protests in the United States between 1954 and 1970. I first exploit the exogenous variation in timing of television introduction caused the Federal Communications Commission “freeze” in order to estimate the causal effect of TV on protest outbreak. I then complement the analysis with variation in over-the-air signal strength due to topography and climate, as additional source of exogeneity. I find a positive and significant effect of TV on the probability of protest outbreak and on the likelihood that protest is initiated by African Americans. Finally, I extend the analysis disentangling the channels through which television has influenced demonstrations. I find that TV served as a mean to overcome a collective action problem but also that African American role models depicted in TV series are likely to have influenced demonstrators' ambitions.

Work in Progress

“Migration, Misreporting and Selection Neglect.”

with Francesca Miserochi.

“Digitizing the Ethnographic Survey of Africa: New Data on Pre-Colonial sub-Saharan African Culture and Politics.”

with Sara Lowes, Jacob Moscona and Nathan Nunn