

Jack Willis

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Office Contact Information

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Personal Information

Born: 12 March 1984, London
Citizenship: British

Employment

Columbia University, Jan 2018 to present
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

Paris School of Economics, Jul to Dec 2017
Visiting Researcher, Department of Economics

Education

Harvard University, 2011 to 2017
Ph.D. in Economics
Thesis: "Essays in Development Economics", awarded Padma Desai Prize in Economic Science

Paris School of Economics, Université Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne), 2007 to 2009
Masters in Economics (ETE-QEM)

Cambridge University, Trinity College, 2002 to 2006
Masters (Part III) and B.A. in Mathematics

Teaching Experience

2018	Development Economics (undergraduate), ECON 4321, Columbia University
2015	TF, Development Economics (Ph.D.), Ec 2390, Harvard University
2014, 2013	TF, Development Policy Strategy (masters), PED-309, Harvard Kennedy School
2014	TF, Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate), Ec 1010a, Harvard University
2014	TF, Development Macroeconomics (Ph.D.), Ec 2390c, Harvard University
2013	TF, International Trade (Ph.D.), Ec 2530a, Harvard University
2009	TF, Advanced Analysis (masters), Université Paris 1
2008	TF, Multivariate Calculus (masters), Université Paris 1

Other Employment

2009 to 2011 Oxford Policy Management, Assistant Consultant
2006 to 2009 Phasor Solutions Ltd., Mathematical Engineer (part time 2007 to 2009)

Professional Activities

Presentations

2017	ABCA conference, Cambridge, Columbia, Cornell, CREST, DIAL conference, ECBE conference, IIES, INSEAD, Lindau meetings, NBER / BREAD development, NBER insurance, Paris School of Economics, Princeton, Sciences Po, Toulouse School of Economics, UCL, UCSD
2016	NEUDC conference, BREAD pre-conference, NOVAFRICA conference
2015	CSAE Oxford conference, SAET conference
2013	SAET conference

Referee (papers and grants)

American Economic Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, The Economics of Transition, 3ie

Research Grants

- 2018 ATAI, “The Impact of Contract Farming: Experimental Evidence from Kenya” (with Lorenzo Casaburi) \$50,000
- 2016 ATAI, “Time vs. State in Insurance: Experimental Evidence from India” (with Lorenzo Casaburi, Bheeshm Chaudhary, Siddharth George) \$28,062
- 2015 Weiss Fund, “Time vs. State in Insurance: Experimental Evidence from India” (with Lorenzo Casaburi, Bheeshm Chaudhary, Siddharth George) \$31,600
- 2014 World Bank Big Data Innovation Challenge, “Targeting Poverty by Predicting Poverty: Using Machine Learning in Targeted Transfer Programs” (with Melissa Adelman, Sendhil Mullainathan, Paul Niehaus) \$100,000
- 2012 Weiss Fund, “The Causes and Effects of Improved Health Supply: Evidence from Rwanda” (with Martin Rotemberg) \$6,400

Awards

- 2017 Padma Desai Dissertation Prize in Economic Science, Harvard University
- 2007 to 2009 Paris School of Economics Scholarship
- 2004 Senior Scholarship, Cambridge University
- 2003 Junior Scholarship, Cambridge University

Languages

English (native), French (fluent)

References: (all Harvard University)

Professor Michael Kremer
Littauer Center M-20
mkremer@fas.harvard.edu
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Professor Sendhil Mullainathan
Littauer Center M-18
mullain@fas.harvard.edu
+1 617-496-2720

Professor David Laibson
Littauer Center M-12
dlaibson@harvard.edu
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Publications

“Time vs. State in Insurance: Experimental Evidence from Contract Farming in Kenya” (with Lorenzo Casaburi), *American Economic Review*, Forthcoming

“Guns, Latrines, and Land Reform: Dynamic Pigouvian Taxation” (with Michael Kremer), *American Economic Review Papers & Proceedings*, 2016, 106(5): 83-88

Selected Research in Progress

“(Machine) Learning to Target” (with Melissa Adelman, Jonathan Glidden, Sendhil Mullainathan, Paul Niehaus)

“Identifying Spillovers by Predicting Compliance” (with Martin Rotemberg)

“Converging Towards Convergence” (with Michael Kremer)