

DEBORAH NAKKUNGU

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EDUCATION

PhD in Public Policy

Cornell University

Major: Economics

Ithaca, NY

August 2024–

MA in Economics

CUNY Hunter College(HASPERE)

Major: Economics

New York, NY

August 2021 - Summer 2024

BA in Economics

Makerere University

Major: Economics

Kampala, Uganda

November 2020

Relevant Coursework

Undergraduate: Statistics, Mathematical Economics, Micro and Macro Economics, Health Economics, Economic Policy, and Planning, Public Sector Economics, Ugandan Economy

Graduate: Microeconomic Theory, Macroeconomic Theory, Game Theory, Linear Econometric Analysis, Nonlinear Econometric Analysis, Data Analytics and Research Methods, Policy and Program Evaluation, Math Proofs

MASTER'S THESIS

Impact of Coal On Birth Weight

Air pollution is a critical health concern, particularly in developing countries, but its specific impact on children remains inadequately explored. India, a major coal consumer, is rapidly expanding its coal-fired capacity to meet growing electricity needs, leading to increased air pollution and significant health risks for vulnerable infants. This study focuses on the relationship between exposure to coal plants and birth weight. Building on prior research on air pollution's detrimental effects in less developed nations, it extends Professor Sangita Vyas' work on coal's impact on child height by examining birth weight. Geocoded data from the India DHS is combined with information on coal plants from the India Central Electricity Authority. I employ a linear regression approach that considers various confounding factors, including fixed effects for villages, birth cohorts, and other relevant variables to study the relationship. The findings are essential for informing policymakers and public health initiatives in their efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of air pollution from coal plants, guiding future interventions.

RESEARCH and PROJECTS

Effect of Land Certification on Migration (Term Paper)

In developing countries, land rights depend on land use rather than titles, but clear property rights are essential for economic development. In this project, I studied the effect of land certification on migration in Mexico, replicating Alain De Janvry's research. Using data from Mexico's land certification program, I compared migration patterns among households certified early and those certified later. By employing logistic regression with fixed effects, the results indicated that obtaining land certificates raised the probability of having a migrant household member by 30 percentage points, aligning with the original findings.

Impact of Marriage on Women Labor-force Participation in West Virginia (Term project)

I used the American Community Survey Microdata file (ACS PUMS) for West Virginia to study the variations in labor-force participation arising from marital status.

Determinants of Physicians Retention in Florida.

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-1cm I collaborated with Prof. Jessica Van Parys on a labor health project investigating factors shaping the career decisions of emergency department physicians and their impact on health disparities. My primary role involved organizing and visualizing census tract-level data and enhancing my data coding skills.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Office of The President, Hunter College

Project Analyst - Strategic Initiatives Department

New York, NY

Fall 2023 - Present

- Designing and maintaining databases and systems
- Understanding data trends and patterns
- Synthesizing existing internal and external research and data analysis.
- Identifying recommendations and action steps suggested by analysis.

Department of Economics, Hunter College

Teaching Assistant - Research methods, econometrics, micro economics

New York, NY

August 2022 - May 2023

- Graded assignments and provided constructive feedback to students to help them improve their understanding of econometric and microeconomics principles.
- Held office hours to support students' understanding of complex concepts.
- Facilitated discussions and tutorials.

Research World International

Research Assistant

Wakiso, Uganda

July 2020 - June 2021

- Attended training in research ethics and in-person study training.
- Prepared data collection reports and reviewed the literature on a couple of projects like the Uganda Capital Markets Stakeholders Survey and analysis of the beverage industry in Uganda.

Policy Analysis and Development Research Institute

Research Assistant

Kampala, Uganda

December 2019 - June 2020

- Conducted primary data collection in the field using surveys, interviews, or observations.
- Reviewed literature on firm performance in Uganda

Economic Research Department, Bank of Uganda

Intern

Kampala, Uganda

June 2019 - August 2019

- Assisted economists on policy research projects by analyzing the impact of monetary policies, fiscal measures, and regulatory changes on various sectors of the economy, assisting in evaluating their effectiveness and providing recommendations.

SKILLS

Software	stata, SPSS, R, L ^A T _E X, Markdown and Microsoft Office
Data Analysis	data cleaning, descriptive statistics, data visualization
Regression Analysis	OLS, Logit/Probit, Multinomial logit, GLM, Poisson, Panel Data Models, Propensity Score Matching, Instrumental Variable regressions, Difference-in Difference regressions
Languages	English, Luganda, Swahili(intermediate)

TRAINING

Research Writing Workshop for Economics Summer 2022

Organized by HASPERE with Prof. Leigh Jones as the instructor, the workshop helped us recognize, and emulate elements of effective Economic Research writing and adopt the habits, practices, and strategies of effective academic writers.

QuantEcon Summer Course in Quantitative Economics Summer 2022

Taught by Thomas J. Sargent, New York University, and recipient of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

Data Collection Software 2020

Completed training in KoboCollect and ODK, powerful data collection tools, to effectively gather and manage data in various research projects. Proficient in designing forms, data entry, quality control, and data analysis using both tools.

AWARDS, HONORS, and FELLOWSHIPS

Cornell University, Brooks School Fellowship, August 2024

CUNY Hunter College, Magna Cum Laude, June 2024

Princeton University Academic Scholarship, June 2021

Best Student, Makerere University School of Economics Class of 2020

Ugandan Government National Merit Scholarship, Makerere University - 2017

FACULTY REFERENCES

Partha Deb - partha.deb@hunter.cuny.edu

Leonard Wantchekon - lwantche@princeton.edu

Karna Basu - karna.basu@hunter.cuny.edu