Digital Economics and AI Tutorial

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2 Course of graduate study

As a PhD student in Economics at UC Berkeley, I took the first year core courses in macroeconomics, microeconomics, and econometrics back in 2022. In my second year, I took the development economics and international economics classes and passed the comprehensive field exams. The classes I have taken officially so far are:

- Applied Econometrics (Patrick Kline and Christopher Walters)
- Microeconomics of Development (Marco Gonzalez-Navarro and Jeremy Magruder)
- Development Economics (Supreet Kaur and Edward Miguel)
- Macroeconomics od Development (Andrés Rodríguez-Clare and Ben Faber)
- International Trade (Andrés Rodríguez-Clare and Ben Faber)
- Topics in Economic Geography and International Trade (Cecile Gaubert and Nick Tsivanidis)

I am currently in the third year of the program, working mainly on topics related to quantity controls and demand subsidies in a developing country.

3 Research interests

My research interests have focused on various topics in development economics, including agriculture, forced displacement, and resource scarcity. In Relaxing Credit and Information Constraints: Five-Year Experimental Evidence from Tanzanian Agriculture, my co-authors and I examine how two market failures – incomplete credit markets and missing information – impact farmer decisions to adopt profit-enhancing agricultural technologies. We find that farmers who receive information about their soil and who are subsidized to purchase the needed inputs have higher yields and profits after the intervention; however, these impacts dissipate after three years, likely due to lack of access to credit.

In "The Syrian Refugee Life Study: First Glance", my co-authors and I present new data from a longitudinal data collection focused on various welfare measures of Syrian refugees in Jordan. Our results indicate that refugees face more dire conditions than non-refugees on various levels, including livelihoods, mental

health, and housing quality. After publishing that paper, we were able to conduct one more round of data collection, which we just finished. Given the collapse of the regime in Syria, it is likely that more refugees will return, and hence we are thinking of collecting more data to understand return dynamics.

Finally, in ongoing work, I examine the welfare implications of water rationing and demand subsidies on allocative efficiency in Jordan. In the presence of rationing, markets clear on quantity, not prices. This unique feature results in nuanced conclusions about the efficiency-equity tradeoff. I would like to recover optimal water tariffs and conduct counterfactual policy scenarios where alternative policy instruments are used, such as Pigovian taxes.

4 Orals committee

I am still in the process of finalizing my oral examination and dissertation committees, but preliminarily, my orals committee is planned to consist of:

- Nano Barahona (Economics, UC Berkeley)
- Kelsey Jack (Haas, UC Berkeley)
- Edward Miguel (Economics, UC Berkeley)
- James Sallee (ARE and Haas, UC Berkeley)