

Curriculum Vitae

Paris School of Economics and INRA
48 Boulevard Jourdan
75014 Paris, France

Karen Macours

Phone: ++33 1 43 13 63 69
Email: karen.macours@psemail.eu

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Paris School of Economics –INRA
Associate Professor at PSE & INRA Researcher, as of September 2010

Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
Associate Professor of International Economics, April 2010-June 2011
Assistant Professor of International Economics, July 2003-April 2010

EDUCATION

PhD: Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California at Berkeley (1998-2003)
MS: Agricultural Engineering, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium (1992-1997)
Coursework partly at the department of agricultural economics, G.A. Universität Göttingen, Germany

SELECTED REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- “Changing Households’ Investment Behavior through Social Interactions with Local Leaders: Evidence from a randomized transfer program” (with Renos Vakis), *Economic Journal*, forthcoming.
- “Boys’ Cognitive Skill Formation and Physical Growth: Long-term Experimental Evidence on Critical Ages for Early Childhood Interventions”, (with Tania Barham and John Maluccio), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 2013, 103(3): 467–471.
- “Ethnic Divisions, Contract Choice and Search Costs in the Guatemalan Land Rental Market”, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2013. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jce.2013.08.003>
- “Volatility, Agricultural Risk and Household Poverty: Micro-evidence from Randomized Control Trials”, *Agricultural Economics*, 2013, DOI: 10.1111/agec.12052.
- “Cash Transfers, Behavioral Changes, and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment” (with Norbert Schady and Renos Vakis), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2012, 4(2): 247–273.
- “Increasing Inequality and Civil Conflict in Nepal”, *Oxford Economic Papers*, 2011, 63(1): 1-26 (lead article).
- “Property Rights Imperfections, Asset Allocation and Welfare: Co-ownership in Bulgaria” (with Liesbet Vranken, Nivelin Noev, and Johan Swinnen), *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2011, 39: 159–175.
- “Insecurity of Property Rights and Social Matching in the Tenancy Market” (with Alain de Janvry and Elisabeth Sadoulet), *European Economic Review*, 2010, 54(7): 880-899.
- “Seasonal Migration and Early Childhood Development” (with Renos Vakis), *World Development*, 2010, 38(6): 857-869.
- “Leveling the Intra-household Playing Field: Compensation and Specialization in Child Labor Allocation” (with Ximena Del Carpio), *Research in Labor Economics*, 2010. 31: 259-296.
- “Rural-Urban Poverty Differences in Transition Countries” (with Johan Swinnen), *World Development*, 2009, 36(11): 2170-2187.
- “Patterns of Agrarian Transition”, (with Johan Swinnen), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2002, 50(2): 365-395
- “Causes of Output Decline in Economic Transition: The Case of Central and Eastern European Agriculture”, (with Johan Swinnen), *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2000, 28(1): 172-206

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

- “Wealth Gradients in Early Childhood Cognitive Development in Five Latin American Countries” (with Norbert Schady Jere Behrman, Maria Caridad Araujo, Rodrigo Azuero, Raquel Bernal, David Bravo, Florencia Lopez-Boo, Daniela Marshall, Christina Paxson, and Renos Vakis). Revise and resubmit *Journal of Human Resources*.
- “Demand versus Returns: Pro-poor targeting of business grants and vocational skills training” (with Patrick Premand and Renos Vakis), World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, 6389. Revise and Resubmit *World Bank Economic Review*.
- “More schooling *and* more learning? Effects of a 3-Year Conditional Cash Transfer Program in Nicaragua after 10 years” (with Tania Barham and John Maluccio) *IDB Working Paper Series No. IDB-WP 432*.
- “Transfers, Diversification and Household Risk Strategies: Experimental Evidence with Lessons for Climate Change Adaptation” (with Patrick Premand and Renos Vakis), *CEPR Discussion Paper 8940*
- “Women’s Political Reservation, Early Childhood Development and Learning in India”, Young Lives working Paper (with Yuvraj Pathak)
- “Early childhood, primary school, and cognition in a second best world: Evidence from a large-scale preschool construction experiment in Cambodia” (with Adrien Bouguen, Dean Filmer, and Sophie Naudeau)

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Skills, heterogeneous quality of agricultural commercial inputs and learning through experimentation (with Rachid Laajaj)
- Adoption of improved seed varieties in DRC: experimental evidence on the role of supply constraints, targeting and intra-household decision making (with Tanguy Bernard, Sylvie Lambert, Margaux Vinez)
- Constraints to productivity investments by the rural poor in Haiti: the role of property rights, liquidity and information (with Jérémie Gignoux, Dan Stein, Liam Wren-Lewis)
- Dissemination of new agricultural technologies in Africa: making extension work (with Luc Behaghel, Jeremie Gignoux, Rick Kamugisha, Monica Karuhanga Beraho, Jane Kugonza, and Margaret Najjingo Mangheni)
- Constraints to adoption of profitable agricultural technologies by the rural poor: Evidence from longitudinal analysis of household survey data combined with randomized impact evaluations
- Long-term impact of a randomized conditional cash transfer program in Nicaragua (with Tania Barham, and John Maluccio).
- Impact evaluation of randomized early childhood parenting interventions in Nicaragua (with Patrick Premand, Norbert Schady, and Renos Vakis)
- Evaluation of a randomized control trial of formal and informal preschool interventions in Cambodia (with Adrien Bouguen, Deon Filmer, and Sophie Naudeau)

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

- JPAL Europe affiliate; CEPR Research Affiliate (Development Economics); EUDN member
- PODER (training networks for PhD students in development economics): node leader for Paris School of Economics
- Associate Member SPIA (Standing Panel on Impact Assessment), CGIAR.
- External member of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)'s Publications Review Committee
- World Bank: Core team member *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development (2006-2007)*

LANGUAGES

Dutch (native), English, French, German and Spanish