

## Curriculum Vitae

Paris School of Economics and INRAE  
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## Karen Macours

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### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Paris School of Economics –INRAE (2010 till present)  
Chaired Professor at PSE & DR INRAE Researcher

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

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-editor *Journal of Development Economics (JDE)*, 2019-present

Associate Editor, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE)*. 2016-present

Co-founder and Co-organizer VDEV/CEPR/BREAD Virtual Development Economics seminar (2020-present)

Chair of SPIA (Standing Panel on Impact Assessment), CGIAR: 2017- 2023 (previously Lead Coordinator for Experimental Methods for Impact Evaluation). Member of the Independent Science and Partnership Council: 2017-2019; Member of the Independent Science and Development Council: 2019-2023.

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL), Member of the Board of Directors and Co-chair Health Sector, Co-chair Learning for All Initiative

BREAD (Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development): Member of Board of Directors.

The Weiss Fund: committee member

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk and Resilience: Member of the Board of Directors

Paris School of Economics research committee member and co-lead development economics thematic group (till 2021); member of PSE Institutional Review Board (IRB); member of EUR fonds de recherche evaluation committee

World Bank: Core team member *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development* (2006-2007)

### SELECTED REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Experimental Evidence from a Conditional Cash Transfer Program: Schooling, Learning, Fertility, and Labor Market Outcomes After 10 Years” (with Tania Barham and John Maluccio), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, forthcoming.

“Impact of Small Farmers' Access to Improved Seeds and Deforestation in DR Congo” (with Tanguy Bernard, Sylvie Lambert and Margaux Vinez). 2023. *Nature Communications*, 14:1603

“The Rigor Revolution: New Standards of Evidence for Impact Assessment of International Agricultural Research” (with James Stevenson and Douglas Gollin), 2023. *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, 15.

“Attrition in Randomized Control Trials: Using tracking information to correct bias” (with Teresa Molina Millan), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, forthcoming

“Piloting, testing and scaling parental training: a multi-partnership approach in Côte d’Ivoire” (with Romuald Anago, Tiphaine Forzy, Sosthene Guei, Charlotte Pelras, Samuel Ramde, Camille Tevenart, Julieta Vera Rueda), 2023. *Frontiers in Public Health* 11

“Input subsidies, credit constraints, and expectations of future transfers: Evidence from Haiti” (with Jérémie Gignoux, Dan Stein, Kelsey Wright), 2023. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 105(3):809-835.

- “Transfers, Diversification and Household Risk Strategies: Experimental Evidence with Lessons for Climate Change Adaptation” (with Patrick Premand and Renos Vakis), 2022. *Economic Journal*. 132 (647):2438–2470.
- “Measuring Skills in Developing Countries” (with Rachid Laajaj). 2021, *Journal of Human Resources*, 56 (4), 1254-1295.
- “Reconciling yield gains in agronomic trials and African smallholder conditions” (with Rachid Laajaj, Cergele Masso, Moses Thuita, and Bernard Vanlauwe), 2020, *Scientific Reports*, 10(14286).
- “Experimental Long-term Effects of Early Childhood and School-age Exposure to a Conditional Cash Transfer Program” (with Teresa Molina Millan, John Maluccio, and Luis Tejerina), 2020, *Journal of Development Economics*, 143(march), 102385 (lead article)
- “Impacts on School Entry of Exposure since Birth to a Conditional Cash Transfer Program in El Salvador” (with Ana Sanchez Chico, John Maluccio and Marco Stampini), 2020, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*.
- “Farmers’ demand and the traits and diffusion of agricultural innovations in developing countries”, 2019. *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, 11, 483-499.
- “Challenges to Capture the Big Five Personality Traits in non-WEIRD populations” (with Rachid Laajaj, Daniel Alejandro Pinzon Hernandez, Omar Arias, Samuel Gosling, Jeff Potter, Marta Rubio-Codina, and Renos Vakis), 2019. *Science Advances*, 5(7): eaaw5226.
- “Long-term Impacts of Conditional Cash Transfers: review of the evidence”, (with Teresa Molina Millan, Tania Barham, John Maluccio, Marco Stampini), 2019. *World Bank Research Observer*, 34: 119-159.
- “Comment on “Estimating the Productivity Impacts of Technology Adoption in the Presence of Misclassification”, 2019. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 101(1):17-18.
- “How Can Randomized Control Trials help improve the design of Common Agricultural Policy?” (with Luc Behaghel and Julie Subervie), 2019. *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, 46(3): 473–493.
- “Farmer adoption of plot and farm-level natural resource management practices: Between rhetoric and reality (with James Stevenson, Bernard Vanlauwe, Nancy Johnson, Lakshmi Krishnan, Frank Place, David Spielman, Karl Hughes, Paul Vlek), 2019. *Global Food Security*, 20:101-104.
- “Preschools and Parental Response in a Second-Best World: Evidence from a School Construction Experiment” (with Adrien Bouguen, Dean Filmer, and Sophie Naudeau), 2018. *Journal of Human Resources*: 53(2): 474-512.
- “Women’s Political Reservation, Early Childhood Development and Learning in India” (with Yuvraj Pathak), 2017. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 65(4): 741-766.
- “Wealth Gradients in Early Childhood Cognitive Development in Five Latin American Countries” (with N. Schady J. Behrman, M.C. Araujo, R. Azuero, R. Bernal, D. Bravo, F. Lopez-Boo, D. Marshall, C. Paxson, and R. Vakis). 2015. *Journal of Human Resources*, 50(2): 446-463.
- “Impact of land administration programs on agricultural productivity and rural development: existing evidence, challenges and new approaches (with Jeremie Gignoux and Liam Wren-Lewis), 2015. *Review of Agricultural and Environmental Studies*, 96(3).
- “Changing Households’ Investment Behavior through Social Interactions with Local Leaders: Evidence from a randomized transfer program” (with Renos Vakis), *Economic Journal*, 2014, 124 (May), 607–633.
- “Adoption and Adaptation in Developing Country Agriculture”, *Revue d’Etudes en Agriculture et Environnement*, 2014, 95(1):13-24.
- “Ethnic Divisions, Contract Choice and Search Costs in the Guatemalan Land Rental Market”, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2014. 42(1): 1-18 (lead article).
- “Volatility, Agricultural Risk and Household Poverty: Micro-evidence from Randomized Control Trials”, *Agricultural Economics*, 2013, 44(s1): 79-84.
- “Boys’ Cognitive Skill Formation and Physical Growth: Long-term Experimental Evidence on Critical Ages for Early Childhood Interventions”(with T. Barham and J. Maluccio), *American Economic Review P&P*, 2013, 103(3): 467–471.

- “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.
- “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.
- “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.
- “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.
- “Agricultural Labor Adjustments in Transition Countries: The role of migration and the impact on poverty”, (with Johan Swinnen). *Review of Agricultural Economics*, 2005, 27(3) 405-11
- “Transition and Agricultural Labour” (with Johan Swinnen and Liesbeth Dries), *Agricultural Economics*, 2005, 32, 15-34.
- “Hervormingen, Initiële Condities en Groei : Lessen uit de transitie van de landbouwsector in Centraal- en Oost-Europa, de voormalige Soviet-Unie en Oost-Azië”, (with Johan Swinnen). *Tijdschrift voor Economie and Management (Journal for Economics and Management)*, 2003, XLVIII(1): 47-68
- “Patterns of Agrarian Transition”, (with Johan Swinnen), *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2002, 50(2): 365-395
- “Impact of Initial Conditions and Reform Policies on Agricultural Performance in Central and Eastern Europe, the Former Soviet Union, and East Asia”, (with Johan Swinnen), *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2000, 82(5): 1149-1155
- “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**

- “Education, Income and Mobility: Experimental Impacts of Childhood Exposure to Progresa after 20 years (with M. Caridad Araujo) R&R *American Economic Review*
- “Social Learning in Agriculture: does smallholder heterogeneity impede technology diffusion in Sub-Saharan Africa?” (with Luc Behaghel and Jeremie Gignoux)
- “Text Messages, Behavioral Change and Negative Spillovers in Early Childhood (with O. Barrera, P. Premand and R. Vakis)
- “The Challenge of Tracking the Reach of Post-Green Revolution Crop Breeding” (with J. Stevenson, M. Gantier, G. Traxler, F. Kosmowski)

#### **SELECTED OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

- “Shining a Brighter Light: Comprehensive Evidence on Adoption and Diffusion of CGIAR-related Innovations in Ethiopia. (with Frederic Kosmowski, Solomon Alemu, Paola Mallia and James Stevenson). 2020. Rome: Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA).
- “Sustaining Impacts when Transfers End: Women Leaders, Aspirations, and Investment in Children” (with Renos Vakis), 2019. in *The Economics of Asset Accumulation and Poverty Traps, NBER Volume*. C. B. Barrett, M. Carter, and J-P. Chavas, eds.

- “Learning for adopting: Technology adoption in developing country agriculture” (with Alain de Janvry and Elisabeth Sadoulet), 2017.
- “Cash or Information ? Changing parental behavioral for early child development in Nicaragua”, *G-monde, note 10*, Paris School of Economics
- “Conditional Cash transfers and Early Cognitive Development”, essay in *The State of the World’s Children*, UNICEF flagship report, 2014.
- “Cash transfers, information, and seasonal migration”, *Early Childhood Matters*, November 2013, 121, Bernard van Leer Foundation, Den Hague, Netherlands.
- “Helping poor farmers help themselves against drought”, *Vox EU*, September 12, 2012.
- “Rural Households and Their Pathways out of Poverty”, chapter 3 in the *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development, 2007*, Oxford University Press.
- “Managing the Exodus: Helping some farmers get out of agriculture”, (with Elisabeth Sadoulet), *Development Outreach*, October 2008, 23-26.
- “El acceso a tierras a través del arrendamiento”, in *El acceso a la tierra en la agenda de desarrollo rural (Access to Land in the Rural Development Agenda)*, 2002, Serie de informes técnicos del Departamento de Desarrollo Sostenible, BID (Inter-American Development Bank), Washington, DC (with Alain de Janvry and Elisabeth Sadoulet).
- “How Gradual was China’s Agricultural Reform? Initial Conditions, Reform Policies and Performance”, *Transition. The Newsletter about Reforming Economies*, 1999, The World Bank. 10(6): 17-18. (with Johan Swinnen).

#### **SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS**

- 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)
- Skills, heterogeneous quality of agricultural commercial inputs and learning through experimentation (with Rachid Laajaj)
- Impact evaluation of randomized early childhood parenting intervention in Nicaragua (with Patrick Premand, and Renos Vakis)
- Long-Term Evaluation of Atención A Crisis (with Patrick Premand and Renos Vakis)
- Social norms and parental investment in early childhood in Cote d’Ivoire (with Jere Behrman, Pamela Jervis, Charlotte Pelras, Julieta Vera Rueda)
- Addressing social taboos around menstrual health in schools: the role of young female leaders in Madagascar (with Julieta Vera Rueda and Duncan Webb)
- Studying inclusive innovation with the right data: An empirical illustration from Ethiopia (with Solomon Alemu, Frederic Kosmowski, James Stevenson, Lemi Taye)
- Long-term large-scale impacts of biofortification in Uganda (with Paola Mallia, Julius Okello)

#### **AWARDS AND RESEARCH GRANTS**

- IDB GDLab (Gender and Diversity Initiative): 2023. “Economic, cultural and taste-based constraints to the adoption of climate-resilient biofortified maize among diverse smallholder populations in Guatemala”
- AER: Insights* Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2022
- Innovation for Government Initiative JPAL, 2022, “Scaling Parenting Interventions in Côte d’Ivoire through rigorous piloting, monitoring, testing and adaptation”
- Fonds d’Innovation pour le Développement, 2021, « Reducing menstrual stigma to improve girls’ schooling outcomes in Madagascar”

CARE France, 2021. “Social taboos, menstrual hygiene and access to education in Madagascar”

Jacobs Foundation, Bernard Van Leer Foundation, UBS Optimus Foundation under TRECC (Transforming Education in Cacao Communities), 2020 “Cost Effectiveness Research on Parenting Interventions in Cote d’Ivoire”

Inter American Development Bank, Long-term impacts of Conditional cash transfer programs, 2017

World Bank, Improving Skills’ Measurement and Long-Term Evaluation of Atención A Crisis, 2015-2020

Economic Development and Institutions, Individualization of Property Rights and Population Pressure, the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo 2017-2019

World Bank, Improving the Measurement of Rainfall and Labor data, 2014-2015.

Ministry of Agriculture, DR Congo, Impact evaluation of PARRSA (Projet d’appui a la rehabilitation et a la reliance du secteur agricole”, 2013-2015.

ESRC-DFID, Heterogeneous quality of agricultural commercial inputs and learning through experimentation, 2014-2017.

FAO, Experimentation by farmers following researcher-managed on-farm trials of Integrated Soil Fertility Management in Kenya: Follow-up surveys, 2013-2014

World Bank, Improving the Measurement of Farmers’ Skills, 2013-2014.

3ie: International Innovation for Impact Evaluation: Dissemination of new agricultural technologies in Africa: making extension work, 2013-2017.

FAO, Improved feeding practices in Uganda: Impact from dissemination on adoption and productivity, 2012-2013.

World Bank, Impact Evaluation of agricultural technology transfer intervention in Haiti, 2012-2014.

NSF (National Science Foundation): Effects of Social Transfer Programs on Cognitive, Social and Economic Outcomes, 2011-2014

INRA scientific package: Constraints to adoption of profitable agricultural technologies by the rural poor: Evidence from longitudinal analysis of household survey data combined with randomized impact evaluations, 2010-2014

3ie: International Innovation for Impact Evaluation: Assessing Medium-term Impacts of Conditional Cash Transfers on Children and Young Adults in Rural Nicaragua, 2010-2013

Inter American Development Bank: Long-term Impact Evaluation of *Red de Protección Social*, 2009-2011

World Bank: Impact evaluation work of the *Atención a Crisis* Pilot and Complementary Interventions, 2008-2011

BASIS-AMA: Cash Transfers, Risk Management, and Asset Accumulation: Policy evaluation for rural poverty reduction in Nicaragua, 2007-2011

World Bank: Evaluating the Impact of Rural Roads Rehabilitation in Zambia, 2008-2009

Inter-American Development Bank: Titling in Latin America: Effects and Channels, 2006-2007

World Bank: Evaluating the Impact of Cash Transfers on Early Childhood Development Outcomes, 2005-2007

World Bank: Land Policy for Growth (India, Nepal), 2004-2006

Institute for the Study of World Politics Fellowship, 2001-2002

Lincoln Institute for Land Policy Fellowship, 2001

Francqui Fellowship, 1998-1999

Belgian American Educational Foundation (BAEF) Fellowship, 1998-1999

## TEACHING

Paris School of Economics:  
 Econometrics (graduate): fall 2010-2023

Applications of Impact Evaluation in Development Micro-Economics (graduate): spring 2011-2021  
Doctoral course in development economics: fall 2018-2023

Johns Hopkins University:

Econometrics (graduate): fall and spring 2003- 2005, fall 2008  
Microeconomics of Development (graduate): fall and spring: 2003- 2009  
Introduction to Development (graduate, co-taught): fall 2006 - 2009  
Topics in Microeconomics of Development (graduate): fall 2006 - 2007  
Quantitative Methods for Impact Evaluation (graduate): fall 2009

Main advisor of following PhD students (with first placement): Alejandro Del Valle (Georgia State University, USA), Teresa Molina Millan (Nova University, Portugal), Diana Lopez Davila (3ie), Olivia Bertelli (Lancaster University, UK), Iva Trako (World Bank), Margaux Vinez (World Bank), Irene Clavijo (UNICEF), Juan Diego Luksic (Paris Dauphine, France), Julieta Vera Rueda (University College London, UK), Ismael Yacoubou Djima (World Bank)

Current main advisor 9 PhD students, as well as several master students and pre-doctoral fellows

#### **OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS**

CEPR Research Affiliate (Development Economics)

EUDN member

PODER (training networks for PhD students in development economics): node leader for Paris School of Economics: 2013-2017

Member Editorial Board of the *European Review of Agricultural economics* (ERAe): 2014-2017

Referee work for *Agricultural Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Review: Insights*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, *Choices*, *Comparative Economic Studies*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Economic Journal*, *Economic Systems*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Environmental Management*, *European Economic Review*, *Feminist Economics*, *Food Policy*, *Journal of African Economies*, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Journal of European Economic Association*, *Journal of Human Capital*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Labour Economics*, *Louvain Economic Review*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Science*, *World Bank Economic Review*, *World Development*, among others.

External member of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)'s Publications Review Committee (2010-2016).

Research Proposal reviews for 3ie, ANR, ATAI (JPAL-CEGA), EDI, ERC, FID, FWO, NSF, SPIA, World Bank.

Co-organizer PSE development seminar- (2015-present).

Co-organizer Massachusetts Avenue Development Seminar (MADS) - jointly with Center for Global Development (2003-2010).

#### **EDUCATION**

PhD: Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California at Berkeley (1998-2003)

MS: Agricultural Engineering, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium (1992-1997)

#### **LANGUAGES**

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