

NIELS-HUGO BLUNCH

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AREAS OF INTEREST:

Development economics, labor economics, health economics, population economics, economics of education, applied econometrics, program evaluation.

EDUCATION:

DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Ph.D., Economics, The George Washington University, USA (2006).
Master of Science, Economics and Econometrics, University of Southampton, UK (1997).
Master of Arts, Economics, University of Aarhus, Denmark (1997).
Bachelor of Arts, Economics, University of Aarhus, Denmark (1994).

OTHER EDUCATION / SHORT COURSES:

Cross-Section Econometrics. San Francisco, CA; conducted by Guido Imbens and Jeffrey Wooldridge (January, 2009).
Ghana: Challenges of a Developing Nation. CIEE/IFDS, The Aya Centre, Legon, Ghana and the University of Ghana at Legon; conducted by Michael Williams (June, 2008).
Public Investments in Health Capital. The Danish National Institute of Social Research; conducted by Janet Currie (2007).
Econometric Evaluation of Labour Market Programmes. University of Aarhus; conducted by Michael Lechner and Jeffrey Smith (2006).
Empirical Strategies. University of Aarhus; conducted by Joshua Angrist (2006).
Evaluating Social Programs: Econometric Cost-Benefit Analysis. University of Copenhagen; conducted by Petra Todd (2004).
Presenting Data and Information. Arlington, VA; conducted by Edward Tufte (2003).
Poverty and Development. University of Copenhagen; instructed by Tony Addison, Lionel Demery, James Foster, Andrew Mackay, David Stifel, and Erik Thorbecke (2000).
Economics of Education. Aarhus School of Business; instructed by Ronald Ehrenberg and Ian Walker (1999).

TEACHER TRAINING & TEACHING WORKSHOPS:

Teaching Innovations Program (TIP) in Economics, Chapel Hill, NC (Organized by the Committee on Economic Education under the American Economic Association); conducted by Patrick Conway, Gail Hoyt, and Michael Salemi (June, 2008).

The *Seventh Annual Economics Teaching Workshop*. Wrightsville Beach, NC (Organized by Department of Economics & Finance, UNC-Wilmington); conducted by David Colander, Lee Hoke, Kenneth Elzinga, and Lon Carlson (October, 2007).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor of Economics, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA (2006-Present).

Consultant, World Bank, Washington DC. Empirical research in the areas of labor, education, child work, program evaluation, growth and sectoral inter-dependencies (1997-2006).

Consultant, United Nations, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, Italy (Based in Washington, DC). Empirical research on child work in Zambia (2001-02).

Teaching Assistant, University of Aarhus, Denmark: Conduct tutorials in *Intermediate Macroeconomics* (1996-97).

Research Assistant, University of Aarhus, Denmark: Preparation and analysis of economic data (1994-95).

COURSES TAUGHT:

African Economic Development (Spring Term Abroad: Ghana), Capstone Course (Senior Research Seminar), Development Economics, Econometrics, Health Economics in Developing Countries (Intermediate / Advanced, w/ Econometrics of Program Evaluation), Statistics.

COURSES DEVELOPED (but not yet taught):

Health: A Social Science Exploration (w/ Econometrics Laboratory Using Stata), Topics in Econometrics.

PUBLICATIONS:

(1) JOURNAL ARTICLES:

“Evaluating Job Training in Two Chinese Cities,” joint with Benu Bidani, Chor-ching Goh and Christopher O’Leary, *Journal of Chinese Economic and Business Studies*, 7(1): 77-94, 2009. (also published (reprinted) in edited volume, see below)

“The Limited Job Prospects of Displaced Workers: Evidence from Two Cities in China,” joint with Gordon Betcherman, *Economic Change and Restructuring*, 41(3): 187-207, 2008.

“Enterprise Training in Developing Countries: Do International Standards Matter?” joint with Paula Castro, *International Journal of Training and Development*, 11(4): 314-324, 2007.

“Shared Sectoral Growth versus the Dual Economy Model: Evidence from Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, and Zimbabwe,” joint with Dorte Verner, *African Development Review*, 18(3): 283–308, 2006. [lead article]

- “Child Work in Zambia: A Comparative Study of Survey Instruments,” joint with Amit Dar, Lorenzo Guarcello, Scott Lyon, Amy Ritualo and Furio Rosati, *International Labour Review*, 144(2), 2005.
- “Asymmetries in the Union Wage Premium in Ghana,” joint with Dorte Verner, *World Bank Economic Review*, 18 (2), 2004.
- “Is Functional Literacy a Prerequisite for Entering the Labor Market? An Analysis of Determinants of Adult Literacy and Earnings in Ghana,” joint with Dorte Verner, *Journal of Educational Planning and Administration*, 16(2), 2002.

(2) CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES:

- ”Multidimensional Human Capital, Wages and Endogenous Employment Status in Ghana,” in: Ravi Kanbur and Jan Svejnar (eds) *Labor Markets in Transition and Developing Economies: Emerging Policy and Analytical Issues*, London and New York: Routledge, 2009.
- “Evaluating Job Training in Two Chinese Cities,” joint with Benu Bidani, Chor-ching Goh and Christopher O’Leary, in: Zhongmin Wu (ed) *China in the World Economy*, London and New York: Routledge, 2009.
- “Maternal Literacy and Numeracy Skills and Child Health in Ghana,” in: Ernest Aryeetey and Ravi Kanbur (eds) *Economy of Ghana: Analytical Perspectives on Stability, Growth and Poverty*, Oxford: James Currey, 2008.
- “Children’s Work and School Attendance in Ghana,” in: Bruce Fuller and Emily Hannum (eds) *Research in the Sociology of Education*, Elsevier, 2006.

(3) CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, ETC:

- “Religion, Ethnicity and Geography: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Education Demand in Ghana,” joint with Niels J. Blunch, *Proceedings of the 9th Cross Cultural Research Conference*, ed. Scott M. Smith. Provo, UT: Brigham Young University, 2003.

UNDER REVIEW:

- “Adult Literacy Programs and Child Mortality in Ghana” (revise and resubmit, *Journal of Population Economics*)
- “Literacy, Skills and Welfare: Effects of Participation in Adult Literacy Programs,” joint with Claus Pörtner (revise and resubmit, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*).

WORKING PAPERS AND REPORTS:

- “Human Capital and Religion in Ghana,” Cambridge Working Papers in Economics (CWPE) No. 0770, Dept. of Economics, Cambridge University, United Kingdom.
- ”Changing Norms About Gender Inequality in Education: Evidence from Bangladesh,” joint

- with Maitreyi Bordia Das, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 4404, World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- “Creating Better Jobs for Poverty Reduction in Burkina Faso,” joint with Moukim Temourov (Task Team Leader), Hiroma Asaoka, Sabine Bernabe, Adoulaye Seck, and Hoon Sahib Soh. Report No. 38335-BF, Human Development Unit II (AFTH2), World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- “The Winner Takes It All: Migration and Wages in Ethiopia,” joint with Caterina Ruggeri Laderchi, Background Paper for “Urban Labour Markets in Ethiopia: Challenges and Prospects” (In Two Volumes), Report No. 38665-ET, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit, Africa Region, World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- “Has Training Helped Employ the Xiagang in China? A Tale from Two Cities,” joint with Benu Bidani, Gordon Betcherman, Amit Dar, Chor-ching Goh, Ken Kline and Christopher O’Leary, Report No. 24161-CHA, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit, East Asia and Pacific Region, World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- “Returns to Education in Thailand 1994-2002,” Background Paper for the *2004 Thailand Social Monitor*, commissioned by the East Asia and Pacific PREM Sector Department, World Bank.
- “Participation of Children in Schooling and Labor Activities: A Review of Empirical Studies,” joint with Amit Dar, Bona Kim and Masaru Sasaki, Social Protection Discussion Paper No. 0221, Human Development Network, World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- “Short and Long Term Impacts of Economic Policies on Child Labor and Schooling in Ghana,” joint with Sudharshan Canagarajah and Sangeeta Goyal, Social Protection Discussion Paper No. 0212, Human Development Network, World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- “The Informal Sector Revisited: A Synthesis Across Space and Time,” joint with Sudharshan Canagarajah and Dhushyanth Raju, Social Protection Discussion Paper No. 0119, Human Development Network, World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- “Revisiting the Link between Poverty and Child Labor: The Ghanaian Experience,” joint with Dorte Verner, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 2488, World Bank, Washington, D.C.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

- “Human Capital, Religion and Contraceptive Use in Ghana.”
- “Skills, Schooling and Non-Marital Teenage Pregnancy in Ghana.”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference*, Boston University, Boston, MA, November 8-9, 2008. Poster presented: “Literacy, Skills and Welfare: Effects of Participation in Adult Literacy Programs.”
- The Third IZA/World Bank Employment and Development Conference*, Rabat, Morocco, May 5-6, 2008. Paper presented: “Literacy and Numeracy Production and Education Sector Reform: Evidence from Ghana.”

- Population Association of America 2008 Annual Meetings*, New Orleans, LA, April 17-19, 2008. Paper presented: "Human Capital and Religion in Ghana"; poster presented: "Changing Norms About Gender Inequality in Education: Evidence from Bangladesh."
- Second CSAE Conference on Economic Development in Africa*, Centre for the Study of African Economies, St. Catherine's College, Oxford University, United Kingdom, March 16-18, 2008. Papers presented: "Human Capital and Religion in Ghana" and "Human Capital, Religion and Contraceptive Use in Ghana."
- 77th Annual Meetings of the Southern Economic Association*, New Orleans, LA, November 19-21, 2007. Paper presented: "Literacy and Numeracy Production and Education Sector Reform: Evidence from Ghana."
- Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture Sixth Annual Conference*, Tampa, FL, November 1-4, 2007. Paper presented: "Human Capital, Religion and Contraceptive Use in Ghana."
- Institutions, Public Policy and Economic Outcomes*, Cambridge University, Jesus College, United Kingdom, August 6-8, 2007. Paper presented: "Human Capital and Religion in Ghana."
- XXI Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics*, Chicago, IL, June 14-16, 2007. Paper presented: "Multidimensional Human Capital, Wages and Endogenous Employment Status in Ghana."
- The Second IZA/World Bank Employment and Development Conference*, Bonn, Germany, June 8-9, 2007. Paper presented: "Multidimensional Human Capital, Wages and Endogenous Employment Status in Ghana."
- The Eighteenth Chinese Economics Association (UK) Annual Conference*, "Integrating China into the World Economy," Nottingham, United Kingdom, April 16-17, 2007. Paper presented: "Evaluating Job Training in Two Chinese Cities."
- Population Association of America 2007 Annual Meetings*, New York, NY, March 29-31, 2007. Poster presented: "Skills, Schooling, and Fertility in Ghana: Do Adult Literacy Programs Matter?"
- Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture Fifth Annual Conference*, Portland, OR, October 19-21, 2006. Paper presented: "Religion and Human Capital in Ghana."
- Shared Growth in Africa*, Accra, Ghana, July 21-22, 2005. Paper presented: "Shared Sectoral Growth: Evidence from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Zimbabwe."
- Population Association of America 2005 Annual Meetings*, Philadelphia, PA, March 31-April 2, 2005. Paper presented: "Maternal Schooling and Child Health Revisited: Does Non-Formal Education Matter?" Poster presented: "Proximate Determinants of Literacy and Numeracy Skills in Ghana."
- Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference*, HEC Montréal, Canada, October 1-3, 2004. Paper presented: "Maternal Skills and Schooling and Child Health in Ghana."
- Ghana at The Half Century*, Accra, Ghana, July 18-20, 2004. Papers presented: "Maternal Literacy and Numeracy Skills and Child Health in Ghana" and "Adult Literacy Programs in Ghana: An Evaluation."
- XVIII Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics*, Bergen, Norway, June 10-12, 2004. Paper presented: "Maternal Literacy and Numeracy Skills and Child Health in Ghana."
- Population Association of America 2004 Annual Meetings*, Boston, MA, April 1-3, 2004. Paper

presented: "Maternal Literacy and Numeracy Skills and Child Health in Ghana". Poster presented: "Literacy, Numeracy, and Household Economic Well-Being in Ghana." *Eastern Economic Association 30th Annual Conference*, Washington, DC, March 20-22, 2004. Paper presented: "Revisiting the Link between Poverty and Child Labor: The Ghanaian Experience." *The 9th Cross Cultural Research Conference*, Rose Hall, Montego Bay, Jamaica, December 10-13, 2003. Paper presented: "Religion, Ethnicity and Geography: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Education Demand in Ghana." *XVI Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics*, Bilbao, Spain, June 13-15, 2002. Paper presented: "Determinants of Adult Literacy and Numeracy Skills in Ghana." *XIV Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics*, Bonn, Germany, June 15-17, 2000. Paper presented: "The Child Labor-Poverty Link Revisited: The Case of Ghana." *Conference on The Economics of Education*, Centre for Labour Market and Social Research and the Aarhus School of Business, Denmark, June, 1999. Paper presented: "Is Functional Literacy a Prerequisite for Entering the Labor Market? An Analysis of Determinants of Adult Literacy and Earnings in Ghana."

REFEREEING ACTIVITIES:

Agricultural Economics, International Journal of Training and Development, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Population Economics, Pearson Addison-Wesley, Routledge, Review of Economics of the Household, The Manchester School, Virginia Social Science Journal, Wiley-Blackwell, World Development, World Bank (World Bank Policy Research Working Papers).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

American Economic Association, Danish Econometric Society, European Society for Population Economics, Population Association of America.

HONORS & AWARDS:

Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Honor Society in Economics) Faculty Member, Gamma Chapter of Virginia (2008-Present).
Research Fellow, IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor), Bonn (2007-Present).
Washington and Lee University's Glenn Grant for Summer Research (2007-09).
GWU Columbian College of Arts and Sciences' Scholarly Travel Support Grant for the Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference, HEC Montréal, October 1-3, 2004 (2004).
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences' Scholarly Travel Support Grant for the 9th Cross Cultural Research Conference, Rose Hall, Montego Bay, Jamaica, December 10-13, 2003 (2003).

GWU's *Sar and Brita Levitan Endowment Scholarship* (2002-03).
GWU's *Conference Presentation Travel Grant for Graduate Students* for the *Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics*, Bilbao, Spain, June 13-15, 2002 (2002).
GWU University Fellow (2002-02).
PhD-Scholarship, Danish Social Science Research Council (1998-2001).
M.Sc. conferred with Distinction, University of Southampton, UK (1997).
Faculty of Social Sciences Stipend for Studying Abroad, University of Aarhus, Denmark (1994).

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

Economics Department Hiring Committee (Fall 2008-Spring 2009)
Implementation Study Group for the President's Academic Life Initiative (Fall 2008)
International Education Committee (Fall 2008-Present)
Economics Department Hiring Committee (Fall 2007-Spring 2008)

REFERENCES:

(i) *Academic:*

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(ii) World Bank:

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