

Hannah Irmela Uckat

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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Website: www.hannahuckat.com
Nationality: German
Languages: German (native), English (fluent), Swahili (fluent), French (fluent), Arabic (advanced), Bangla/Bengali (beginner)

PRIMARY FIELD Development economics

SECONDARY FIELDS Economics of gender, Firms and productivity, Applied microeconomics

DOCTORAL STUDIES

PhD/DPhil in Economics, University of Oxford Expected
06/2020

- Thesis title: "Infrastructure, Skills and Gender norms: Constraints to Private Sector Development in South Asia", advised by Christopher Woodruff and Simon Quinn
- Affiliations: Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), Oxford Firms, Labour and Organisation Research Group (OxFLO)

REFERENCES

Professor Christopher Woodruff
Oxford Department of International Development,
University of Oxford
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Professor Simon Quinn
Department of Economics,
University of Oxford
simon.quinn@economics.ox.ac.uk,
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Professor Douglas Gollin
Oxford Department of International Development,
University of Oxford
douglas.gollin@qeh.ox.ac.uk,
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PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES

MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford (Distinction, Rank 2 of 27) 2014

BA in Economics and Middle Eastern Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London (First Class Honours) 2012

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

11/2019 – Present	Oxford Department of International Development , University of Oxford, <i>Research Associate</i>
08/2018 – Present	The Centre for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) , <i>Consultant</i>
06/2018 – 09/2018	Oxford Department of International Development , University of Oxford, <i>Research Assistant for Christopher Woodruff</i>
05/2017 – 12/2017	The World Bank , <i>Consultant</i>
11/2015 – 07/2016	International Growth Centre (IGC) , <i>Research Associate</i>
07/2014 – 12/2015	Oxford Department of International Development and Blavatnik School of Government , University of Oxford, <i>Research Assistant for Stefan Dercon</i>
03/2013 – 08/2013	German Investment and Development Corporation (DEG, part of KfW) , Centre for Private Sector Promotion and Regional Office West Africa, <i>Intern</i>
09/2012 – 02/2013	Adelphi Consult , Consultancy for Development Policy, <i>Intern</i>
07/2011 – 09/2011	German Industry and Commerce Office (AHK) Oman , Trade Chamber, <i>Intern</i>
08/2007 – 07/2008	SolarAfrica.Network , NGO, Zanzibar, <i>Deputy Project Director</i>

GRANTS

06/2019	£135,000 ESRC grant (with C. Woodruff and A. Rabbani)
02/2018	£52,000 EDI grant (with C. Woodruff)
07/2017	£35,000 PEDL Exploratory Research Grant
05/2017	\$99,000 Urban Services Initiative Grant (with C. Woodruff)
02/2017	£5,000 CSAE Student Grant

HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

10/2017 – 09/2019	Hertford College Senior Scholarship
07/2015	NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp (by selection)
06/2015	PODER Summer School “Impact Evaluation for Development” (by selection)
10/2014 – 09/2017	Economics – Hertford College Scholarship
07/2014	George Webb Medley Prize for Best Overall Performance in the MSc Economics for Development (proxime accessit)
02/2014	Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Fellowship (declined)
02/2009 – 06/2015	Fellow of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German National Academic Foundation), foundation admitting the top 0.5% of German students

TEACHING

2016-2017 and 2015-2016	Teaching Assistant, Econometrics (Graduate), University of Oxford
2010	Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (Undergraduate), University of Tubingen

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

PRESENTATIONS (incl. scheduled)	Empirical Management Conference, World Bank (2019), NEUDC, Northwestern University (2019), OxDev, University of Oxford (2019), Advances with Field Experiments, University of Chicago (2019), CSAE Workshop, University of Oxford (2019), Economic Development and Institutions (EDI) Workshop, University of Namur (2017), CSAE Conference, University of Oxford (2016), OxFLO, University of Oxford (2016-2018)
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REFEREEING	Economic Development and Cultural Change
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RESEARCH PAPERS

“Women’s Promotions and Intra-household Bargaining. Evidence from Bangladesh”

This paper investigates how women's promotions in the workplace affect bargaining in the household. I exploit the design of a promotion programme for women in 27 Bangladeshi garment factories, by comparing women who were quasi-randomly selected for the programme to the shortlisted runners-up. Results using three different estimation approaches (OLS with post-double selection Lasso, regression discontinuity, and matching) show that women's bargaining power increases as a result of the promotion. The effects are largest for the share of income households spend on assignable goods for women (especially clothing and accessories) and remittances. The latter appears to mask expenditures on children, since remittances increase most for women whose children live with other relatives. I find that these direct effects of the promotions are amplified by impacts on women working as subordinates of the new female managers. Using the quasi-random assignment of sewing-line operators to production lines for identification, I observe that women exposed to a female manager have more say in decision-making in the household, especially about their own mobility. Overall, I find suggestive evidence that both the direct and the indirect impacts are driven by women gaining confidence to get involved in bargaining, rather than income effects that ease the budget constraint or changes in the relative wage in the household.

“Who Loses and Who Benefits from Large-scale Infrastructure Projects? Evidence from the Impact of India’s Golden Quadrilateral Project on Incumbent Manufacturing Firms.”

India’s Golden Quadrilateral was an ambitious infrastructure project that improved the quality and width of highways connecting four major Indian cities. This paper analyses the project’s short-term impact on incumbent manufacturing firms. I estimate the impacts using firm-level panel data from two waves of the “Firm Analysis and Competitiveness Survey of India” in 2002 and 2005. Treatment is defined as being located in a city that is less than 5 km away from the Golden Quadrilateral. My results show negative and large effects on employment and assets of incumbent firms close to the Golden Quadrilateral. These aggregate effects mask substantial heterogeneity. The results are primarily driven by less productive, smaller and young firms, for which I find significant and very large negative effects on gross profits, product prices, employment and capital stocks. These results, viewed together with existing evidence pointing towards large entry effects, suggest that the Golden Quadrilateral project increased competition along the improved highways even in the short term and improved allocative efficiency.

“Learning What to Look For: Hard Measures of Soft Skills in Promotion” (with C. Woodruff)

We report the results of a field experiment designed to promote women to supervisory positions in Bangladesh’s garment factories, with which participating factories have little prior experience. We show that formal diagnostic tests lead factories to choose candidates that are more likely to be promoted and who, according to their subordinates, perform better after promotion. Diagnostics measuring “soft skills” are particularly relevant for managers. Randomized timing of supervisory training for the selected candidates shows that providing the training earlier leads to higher compliance with the standard factory training protocol, but has only marginal effects on the performance of the trainees following promotion.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“The Impact of a Minimum Wage Increase on Prices. Evidence from Bangladesh” (Co-PI with C. Woodruff)

“Early Career Interventions. Preparing Women for Leadership in the Garment Industry” (Co-PI with C. Woodruff and A. Rabbani)

METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH

“Measuring Self-Efficacy, Executive Function, and Temporal Discounting in Kenya.” (with K. Esopo, D. Mellow, C. Thomas, J. Abraham, P. Jain, C. Jang, N. Otis, M. Riis-Vestergaard, A. Starcev, K. Orkin, J. Haushofer). 2018. *Behaviour, Research and Therapy*, 101: 30-45

Developing countries have low adherence to medical regimens like water chlorination or antenatal and postnatal care, contributing to high infant and child mortality rates. We hypothesize that high levels of stress affect adherence through temporal discounting, self-efficacy, and executive control. Measurement of these constructs in developing countries requires adaptation of existing measures. In the current study, we adapt psychological scales and behavioral tasks, measuring each of these three constructs, for use among adults in Kenya. We translated and back-translated each measure to Kiswahili and conducted cognitive interviewing to establish cultural acceptability, refined existing behavioral tasks, and developed new ones. Then, in a laboratory session lasting 3 h, participants (N=511) completed the adapted psychological inventories and behavioral tasks. We report the psychometric properties of these measures. We find relatively low reliability and poor correlational evidence between psychological scales and behavioral tasks measuring the same construct, highlighting the challenges of adapting measures across cultures, and suggesting that assays within the same domain may tap distinct underlying processes.