

RACHID LAAJAJ

Associate Professor in Economics
University of Los Andes
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EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D Wisconsin – Madison, Agricultural and Applied Economics
Dissertation obtained with highest distinction:
Agricultural, Financial and Behavioral Changes on the Path to Sustainable Technology Adoption in Rural Mozambique
Adviser: Michael R. Carter
- 2005 M.A. University of Clermont-Ferrand, Center for Study and Research in International Development (CERDI), Development Economics, 2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019 - ... Associate Professor in Economics, University of Los Andes
- 2015 - 2019 Assistant Professor in Economics, University of Los Andes
- 2012-2015 Postdoctoral Scholar at Paris School of Economics
- 2009 – 2011 Research Assistant and Project Coordinator “Savings, Subsidies and Sustainable Food Security: A Field Experiment in Mozambique”, project funded by BASIS AMA CRSP, U.S. Agency for International Development
- Dec 2007- Jan 2008 *Consultant*, World Bank Vietnam Country Office, Washington, D.C.
Main duty: Research
- Sept 2005- Aug 2007 *Consultant*, World Bank Independent Evaluation Group, Washington, D.C
Main duty: Research

MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS

- USD 400,000 Interamerican Development Bank “COVIDA: strategic testing of COVID-19 to support health policy in Bogota”
- USD 257,527 World Bank LSMS-ISA 2016-2017 “Skills measurement, reliability and validity application to Colombia” (co-PI with Karen Macours)
- GBP 385,736 ESRC DFID 2014-2016 “Heterogeneous quality of agricultural commercial inputs and learning through experimentation” (co-PI with Karen Macours)

RACHID LAAJAJ

- USD 196,229 World Bank LSMS-ISA 2012-2014 “Skills measurement and their role in agricultural productivity and technology adoption” (co-PI with Karen Macours)
- USD 137,374 BASIS AMA CRSP, U.S. Agency for International Development, 2011 “Savings, Subsidies, and Sustainable Food Security in Mozambique: Post Harvest Survey” (co-PI with Michael R. Carter and Dean Yang)
- USD 947,658 BASIS AMA CRSP, U.S. Agency for International Development, 2009-2011 “Savings, Subsidies, and Sustainable Food Security: A Field Experiment in Mozambique” (co-PI with Michael R. Carter and Dean Yang)

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

[“Subsidies and the African Green Revolution: Direct Effects and Social Network Spillovers of Randomized Input Subsidies in Mozambique”](#) (with Michael Carter and Dean Yang)
Forthcoming in American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

[Measuring Skills in Developing Countries](#) 2017, Policy Research Working Paper: No. 8000. World Bank, Washington, DC. World Bank; with Karen Macours
forthcoming in *Journal of Human Resources*

["Challenges to Capture the Big Five Personality Traits in non-WEIRD populations"](#) (with Karen Macours, Daniel Alejandro Pinzon Hernandez, Omar Arias, Samuel Gosling, Jeff Potter, Marta Rubio-Codina, and Renos Vakis) *Science advances* 5, no. 7 (2019): eaaw5226.

["Endogenous Time Horizon and Behavioral Poverty Trap: Theory and Evidence from Mozambique"](#) *Journal of Development Economics* 2017, 127, p187-208

[“Oil, Governance and the \(Mis\)Allocation of Talents in Developing Countries”](#) (with Christian Ebeke and Luc Désiré Omgba), *Journal of Development Economics*, 2015; 114, p126-141

[“The Impact of Voucher Coupons on the Uptake of Fertilizer and Improved Seeds: Evidence from a Randomized Trial in Mozambique,”](#) (with Carter, M.R., and D. Yang) *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2013, v. 95 - 5.

[“Disasters, Climate Change and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons and Directions”](#) (with A. Chhibber), *Journal of African Economies* 2008; 17: ii7-ii49

WORKING PAPERS

[Equality of Opportunity and Human Capital Accumulation: Motivational Effect of a Nationwide Scholarship in Colombia](#) 2018 (with Andres Moya and Fabio Sanchez) Documento CEDE 26 submitted

RACHID LAAJAJ

“Yield gap or field gap? Reconciling yield gains in agronomic trials and African smallholder conditions” (with Karen Macours, Cergele Masso, Moses Thuita and Bernard Vanlauwe)
Submitted

[*The Costs of Bureaucracy and Corruption at Customs: Evidence from the Computerization of Imports in Colombia*](#) (with Marcela Eslava and Tidiane Kinda) Documento CEDE No. 2019-08

“Directed vs. Enabling Interventions: A Study of Fertilizer Subsidies and Savings in Rural Mozambique” with Michael R. Carter and Dean Yang

“Training Spillovers among Competition and Under-provision of a Profitable Technology: Theory and Evidence from a Field Experiment in Mozambique” with Michael R. Carter and Dean Yang

Customer Training Externalities and Technology Adoption: A Field Experiment on Formal Savings in Mozambique (with Dean Yang)

Rent-seeking and career choice: evidence from the redistribution of royalties across Colombia (with Cristhian Acosta)

“Can Matched Savings Stimulate Asset Accumulation? Theory and Evidence from a Field Experiment in Mozambique” with Michael R. Carter and Dean Yang

“When Instability Increases the Effectiveness of Aid Projects” (with P. Guillaumont), World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4034

“Toward a Global Development Index, Axiomatic Approach and Extension of the HDI” (with Ajay Chhibber)

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

[From Depression to Hope, Psychology Driven Poverty Traps and Their Solutions. Comments on Chapter 3 and 4](#) in "The Economics of Poverty Traps (2019), Christopher B. Barrett, Michael R. Carter, and Jean-Paul Chavas, editors. University of Chicago Press (p. 179 - 185)

[Learning-by-doing and learning from-others: evidence from agronomical trials in Kenya](#). In “de Janvry, A., Sadoulet, E., and Suri, T. (2017) "Field Experiments in Developing Country Agriculture", Handbook of Economic Field Experiments, vol2, April 2017”, with Karen Macours

[Securing Against Natural Disasters: Better Preparedness and Better Development](#). In: Mavrotas, G. *Security and development* 2012 Edward Elgar Pub p.171-207, with Ajay Chhibber.

The Inter-linkages Between Natural Disasters and Economic Development. In: Guha, S. and Santos, I. *The Economic Impacts of Natural Disasters* Oxford Oxford University Press 2012, with Ajay Chhibber.

RACHID LAAJAJ

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2019 – Spring 2020	Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate level)
Fall 2018-2019	Corruption in Developing Countries (undergraduate level) University of Los Andes
Fall 2016- Spring 2017	Development Seminar (undergraduate level) University of Los Andes
Fall 2015 – Spring 2017	Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate level) University of Los Andes
Fall 2012, 2013 and 2014	Microeconomics Graduate Level (lecturer) PPD (Public Policy and Development) at Paris School of Economics

MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS

USD 257,527	World Bank LSMS-ISA 2016-2017 “Skills measurement, reliability and validity application to Colombia” (co-PI with Karen Macours)
GBP 385,736	ESRC DFID 2014-2016 “Heterogeneous quality of agricultural commercial inputs and learning through experimentation” (co-PI with Karen Macours)
USD 196,229	World Bank LSMS-ISA 2012-2014 “Skills measurement and their role in agricultural productivity and technology adoption” (co-PI with Karen Macours)
USD 137,374	BASIS AMA CRSP, U.S. Agency for International Development, 2011 “Savings, Subsidies, and Sustainable Food Security in Mozambique: PostHarvest Survey” (co-PI with Michael R. Carter and Dean Yang)
USD 947,658	BASIS AMA CRSP, U.S. Agency for International Development, 2009-2011 “Savings, Subsidies, and Sustainable Food Security: A Field Experiment in Mozambique” (co-PI with Michael R. Carter and Dean Yang)

AWARDS

2014	EUDN (European Development Research Network) Associate Member
2013	Henry C. Taylor Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison Dept. Ag. & App. Econ

RACHID LAAJAJ

- 2012 3rd price at the IBES (International Behavioral Economic Section) student paper competition at the AAEA meetings.
- 2011-2012 Louis and Elsa Thomsen Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2007-2008 University Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison

REFeree REPORTS:

Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Development Economics, World Development, Economic Development and Cultural Change, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Agricultural Economics, Journal of African Economies.

PROPOSAL REVIEWS:

World Bank (I2I, DIME, IFC)
3IE
BASIS Innovation Lab (USAid)
SPIA (Independent Science and Partnership Council of the CGIAR)
Inter-American Development Bank
Global Innovation Fund

LANGUAGES

Fluent in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic

INVITED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

2018:

University of Michigan
Sustainability and Development Conference (Ann Arbor, Michigan)
ABCDE (Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics) 2018 Washington DC
Trade Integration and Growth Network (TIGN) 9th annual Conference Lima, Peru (LACEA-IDB-CAF-RIDGE)
Jobs & Development Conference, Javeriana, Bogota
11th Annual Meeting Impact Evaluation Network (RIDGE) Montevideo, Uruguay
Workshop on Political Economy (RIDGE LACEA PEG) Montevideo, Uruguay Banco de la Republica Medellin

2017:

University of California San Diego

RACHID LAAJAJ

University of California Berkeley

University of California Davis

University of San Francisco

Annual Bank Conference on Africa 2017 at UC Berkeley

16th Journées LAGV at Aix-Marseille School of Economics (AMSE)

4th DIAL Development Conference (Paris Dauphine)

14TH Midwest International Economic Development Conference UW Madison

CGIAR Conference on Impacts of International Agricultural Research: Rigorous Evidence for Policy in Nairobi

World Bank workshop on Innovations in Skills Measurement: New Lessons in Using and Developing Skills Surveys

2016:

RCT evidence from agronomical trials in Kenya (co-organizer of the workshop)

“Skills: Measurement, dynamics and effects”, LACEA Labor Network 4th Annual Meeting, Cartagena

“Understanding the Productivity Gap in Latin America” workshop organized by CAF in Buenos Aires

National Bureau of Economic Research, “The Economics of Asset Accumulation and Poverty Traps”, Washington DC

2015:

EUDN Scientific Conference, ESOP University of Oslo

60th ISI World Statistics Congress, Rio

Improving productivity in developing countries: identifying bottlenecks and obstacles to productive investments and technology adoption, ESRC, IFS, Goodenough College, London

Paris School of Economics

University of Los Andes

University of Carlos III Madrid

IFPRI, Washington DC

Australian National University

CSAE Oxford University

2014:

Oxford Development Economics Workshop

MIEDC in University of Minnesota

University of California Davis

University of San Francisco

University of California San Diego

Paris School of Economics

Annual Bank Conference on Africa (World Bank)

NEUDC in Boston

2013:

BREAD 24th conference in Development Economics, at the WB in Washington DC

RACHID LAAJAJ

EUDN (European Union Development Network) in Namur,
Center for the Study of African Economies in Oxford,
Midwest International Economic Development Conference at UW Madison,
Paris School of Economics
ATAI partnership Development Conference at Berkeley

2012:

IFPRI in Washington DC
PacDev at UC Davis
Eastern Economic Association Meetings in Boston
World Bank Development Impact Evaluation Group in Nairobi Kenya.
AAEA IBES (International and Behavioral Economics Section) in Seattle
International Conference for Agricultural Economists in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil
Workshop on Agricultural Productivity in Africa at Paris School of Economics
NEUDC at Dartmouth College

2011:

Paris School of Economics
UW Madison
UC Davis
