

JUSTIN SANDEFUR

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EMPLOYMENT

Center for Global Development	Washington, D.C.
· <i>Senior Fellow</i>	2016 - present
· <i>Research Fellow</i>	2010 - 2016
· <i>Also served concurrently as CGD's research manager and co-director for CGD's education program.</i>	
National School of Development, Peking University	Beijing
<i>Visiting professor</i>	Spring 2024
Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University	Washington D.C.
<i>Visiting professor</i>	Spring 2020
Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University	Oxford,
<i>Research Officer</i>	2007 - 2010
Tanzanian National Bureau of Statistics	Dar es Salaam
<i>Resident Advisor</i>	2008 - 2010
Keble College, Oxford University	Oxford
<i>Senior College Lecturer, Economics</i>	2004 - 2007

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

World Bank, Doing Business External Panel Review	2021
Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Economic Advisory Council	2019-2020
La Sierra University, Board of Trustees	2014-2018

EDUCATION

Oxford University, Oxford, UK	2008
D.Phil. (Ph.D.) in Economics	
Thesis title: <i>Essays on Labour and Credit Markets in Africa</i>	
Oxford University, Oxford, UK	2004
M.Phil. in Economics	
Thesis distinction; Fields: Labour economics, international economics	
La Sierra University, Riverside, CA, USA	2002
B.A. in Political Economy	
Honors program; <i>Summa cum laude</i>	

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“How Much Would Reducing Lead Exposure Improve Children’s Learning in the Developing World?,” (forthcoming) *World Bank Research Observer*, with L. Crawford, R. Todd, S. Hares, and R. Bonnifield.

“The Macroeconomics of Pandemics in Developing Countries” 2023, *Journal of Development Economics* with I. Almas, T. Bold, T. von Carnap, and S. Ghisolfi.

“The high stakes of bad exams.” 2023, *Journal of Human Resources*, with J. Rossiter, M. Abreh, and A. Ali.

“Live tutoring calls did not improve learning during the COVID-19 pandemic in Sierra Leone.” 2023, *Journal of Development Economics*, with L. Crawford, D. Evans, and S. Hares.

“Democratic Deliberation and the Resource Curse: Experimental Evidence from Tanzania,” 2022, *World Politics*, with N. Birdsall, J. Fishkin, and M. Moyo.

- Blog series: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#)
- Coverage on NPR.

“Beyond Short-term Learning Gains: The Impact of Outsourcing Schools in Liberia after Three Years.” 2022, *Economic Journal*, with M. Romero.

- Coverage in the *Financial Times*

“The new era of unconditional convergence.” 2021. *Journal of Development Economics*, with D. Patel and A. Subramanian.

- Blog post, “Everything You Know about Cross-Country Convergence Is (Now) Wrong.”
- Commentary from Paul Krugman in the *New York Times*, Noah Smith for Bloomberg, and *The Economist*.

“Predicted COVID-19 fatality rates based on age, sex, comorbidities and health system capacity.” 2020, *BMJ-Global Health*, with S. Ghisolfi, I. Almas, T. von Carnap, J. Heitner, and T. Bold.

“Outsourcing education: Experimental evidence from Liberia.” 2020, *American Economic Review*, with M. Romero and W. Sandholtz.

- Coverage of the project in *The New York Times Magazine* (by Peg Tyre), *The New York Times* (by Tina Rosenberg), *New York Times* op-ed column (by Nick Kristof), *The Economist* (by John McDermott), and *The Financial Times* weekend magazine cover story (by David Pilling)

“Girls’ schooling and women’s literacy: schooling targets alone won’t reach learning goals.” 2020, *International Journal of Educational Development*, with L. Pritchett.

“Regression discontinuity analysis of Gavi’s impact on vaccination rates.” 2019, *Journal of Development Economics*, with S. Dykstra, A. Glassman, and C. Kenny.

“Experimental evidence on scaling up education reforms in Kenya.” 2018. *Journal of Public Economics*, with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, G. Mwabu, and A. Ng’ang’a.

“Internationally comparable mathematics scores for fourteen African countries.” 2018. *Economics of Education Review*.

“Small price incentives increase women’s access to land titles in Tanzania.” 2016. *Journal of Development Economics*, with D. Ali, M. Collin, K. Deininger, S. Dercon, and A. Zeitlin.

“Learning from experiments when context matters.” 2015. *American Economic Review, Papers & Proceedings*, with L. Pritchett.

“The political economy of bad data: evidence from African survey and administrative statistics.” 2015. *Journal of Development Studies*, with A. Glassman.

“Context matters for size: Why external validity claims and development practice do not mix.” 2014. *Journal of Globalization and Development*, with L. Pritchett.

“Can free provision reduce demand for public services? Evidence from Kenyan education.” 2014. *World Bank Economic Review*, with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, and G. Mwabu.

“Public and private provision of education in Kenya.” 2013. *Journal of African Economies*, 22, with T. Bold and M. Kimenyi.

“The returns to formality and informality in urban Africa.” 2011. *Labour Economics*, 18(S1):S23–S31, with P. Falco, A. Kerr, N. Rankin, and F. Teal.

“Labour market flexibility, wages and incomes in Sub-Saharan Africa in the 1990s. *African Development Review*, 18(3):392–427, with G. Kingdon and F. Teal.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“Has the World Bank’s Covid crisis lending been big enough, fast enough? Evidence on loan disbursements,” (with J. Duggan, S. Morris, and G. Yang). 2021. In R. Arezki, S. Djankov, and U. Panizza (ed.), *Shaping Africa’s Post-Covid Recovery*, CEPR.

“Institutional challenges to scaling up learning in Kenya,” (with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, G. Mwabu, and A. Ng’ang’a). 2013. In L. Chandy, A. Hosono, H. Kharas, and J. Linn (ed.), *Getting to Scale: How to Bring Development Solutions to Millions of Poor People*, Brookings.

“Rights or remedies? Shopping for justice in Liberia’s dualistic legal system” (with B. Siddiqi). 2011. In E. Harper (ed.), *Working with Customary Justice Systems Post-Conflict and Fragile States*. International Development Law Organization.

“Education for prosperity: improving access and quality,” (with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, and G. Mwabu). 2010. In C. Adam, P. Collier, and N. Ndung’u (ed.), *Kenya: Policies for Prosperity*, Oxford University Press.

“African poverty through the lens of labor economics: earnings and mobility in three countries,” (with P. Serneels and F. Teal). 2008. In P. Paci and P. Serneels (ed.) *The Role of Jobs in Pro-Poor Growth*, World Bank.

“Democracy and poverty reduction,” (with L. Barbone, L. Cord, and K. Hull). 2007. In N. Dinello and V. Popov (ed.), *Political Institutions and Development: Failed Expectations and Renewed Hopes*, Edward Elgar.

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

“Long-Distance Industrial Policy for Africa,” with A. Subramanian. 2024. Center for Global Development, Working Paper 689.

“The Evolution of World Bank Lending for Education: 1998-2022,” with B. Bedasso. 2024. Center for Global Development, Working Paper 685.

“Phonics and Foreign Aid: Can America Teach the World to Read?,” T. de Azevedo, X. Ju, and T. Le. 2024. Center for Global Development, Working Paper 668.

“Sovereign Debt and Human Development: Evidence from Two Natural Experiments,” with J. Duggan, and P. Jaupart. 2022.

- Revision requested, *Journal of Globalization & Development*

“Three New Estimates of India’s All-Cause Excess Mortality during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” with A. Anand and A. Subramanian. 2021. Center for Global Development Policy Paper 589.

- Coverage by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*.

“A Rosetta Stone for Human Capital,” with D. Patel. 2020. Center for Global Development Policy Paper 550.

- Graphic feature based on the paper from *The Economist* data team, “It’s better to be a poor pupil in a rich country than the reverse.”

“The Long-Run Decline of Education Quality in the Developing World,” with A. Le Nestour and L. Moscoviz. 2022. Center for Global Development Policy Paper 608.

- Graphic feature based on the paper from *The Economist* data team, “Schools in poor countries are failing women.”

“Understanding Education Policy Preferences: Survey Experiments with Policymakers in 35 Developing Countries,” with L. Crawford, S. Hares, and A. Minardi. 2017. Center for Global Development WP 596.

“Measuring Rents from Public Employment: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from Kenya,” with N. Barton and T. Bold. 2017. Center for Global Development WP 457.

“Costing a Data Revolution,” (with G. Demombynes). 2015. Center for Global Development WP 383.

“We just ran 23 million queries of the World Bank’s website,” with S. Dykstra and B. Dykstra. 2014. Center for Global Development WP 362.

“The High Return to Private Schooling in a Low-Income Country,” with T. Bold, M. Kimenyi, and G. Mwabu. 2011. Center for Global Development WP 279.

“Delivering Justice to the Poor: Theory and Experimental Evidence from Liberia,” with B. Siddiqi.

“The Economics of Due Process: Police Monitoring Versus Legal Aid in Sierra Leone,” with B. Siddiqi and A. Varvaloucas.

SELECTED POLICY AND POPULAR WRITING

“A Requiem for Hyperglobalization,” June, 2024, *Foreign Affairs* with D. Patel and A. Subramanian.

“The Global Lead Poisoning Crisis: How to Wipe Out a Scourge That Kills and Disables Millions Every Year,” Feb, 2024, *Foreign Affairs* with R. Silverman Bonfield, L. Crawford, and S. Hares.

“PEPFAR and the Costs of Cost-Benefit Analysis,” Feb, 2024, *Asterisk* magazine.

“Schooling for All: Feasible Strategies to Achieve Universal Education,” editor, Center for Global Development report, 2022.

“The World Bank as a Cash-Transfer Algorithm,” Oct 20, 2021, *Project Syndicate*.

“World Bank grants for global vaccination — why so slow?,” June 22, 2021, *Nature*.

“A radical proposal to fight poverty in the developing world: tax the rich more than the poor,” (with C. Kenny) May 24, 2018, *Vox.com*.

“Why remittances are good for America,” Apr 13, 2016, *CNN.com*.

“Why the World Bank is changing the definition of the word ‘poor’,” (with C. Kenny) Oct. 7, 2015, *Vox.com*.

“A Self-Interested Approach to Migration Crises: Push Factors, Pull Factors, and Investing In Refugees,” (with M. Clemens) Sept. 27, 2015, *Foreign Affairs*.

“Five charts that may soon be illegal in Tanzania,” April 8, 2015, *Washington Post*.

“Let the People Go: The Problem with Strict Migration Limits,” (with M. Clemens) January/February 2014, *Foreign Affairs*.

“Here’s the Best Thing the U.S. Has Done in Afghanistan,” October 10, 2013, *The Atlantic*.

“Can Silicon Valley Save the World?” (with C. Kenny) June 24, 2013, *Foreign Policy*, cover story.