

NOBEL SYMPOSIA

**MICRODEVELOPMENT RESEARCH IN THE LAST
20 YEARS: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?**

STIAS, 11-15 MARCH 2024

**NOBEL
IN AFRICA**

A STIAS INITIATIVE



NOBEL SYMPOSIUM IN ECONOMIC SCIENCES

MICRODEVELOPMENT RESEARCH IN THE LAST 20 YEARS: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

INTRODUCTION NOTE

The 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel rewarded the experimental approach to alleviating global poverty. This approach took roots in development economics in the early 2000s and has completely transformed research – in development and beyond. Today development economics is a vibrant field. Experiments and quasi-experiments are combined with an arsenal of other tools to, for example, structurally estimate theoretical models of underdevelopment, to test psychological explanations for poverty, to estimate general-equilibrium effects of anti-poverty policies, to uncover such elusive parameters as the degree of market competition, and to harness the power of big data.

The Nobel Symposium (NS192) on Micro-development research in the last 20 years from 12 – 14 March 2024 will be the third symposium in the Nobel in Africa series at STIAS. The invitation-only Economics symposium will gather around 50 of the world's leading scientists, together with selected observers for three days, with lectures, discussions, and

an outreach programme during the day before (11 March) and after the meeting (15 March). The goal of this Nobel Symposium is to discuss the insights from the more recent research, with a strong focus on areas paramount for poverty alleviation and economic development in low-income countries. It will bring together leading researchers in poverty alleviation, health, productivity in agriculture and manufacturing, education, finance, trade, climate, gender, governance, and the latest methodological advances in development economics. The symposium will take stock of the existing knowledge, but also of what we do not know and the most pressing challenges ahead. Our hope is that the Nobel Symposium will provide an impetus to important new research on the economic lives of the world's poorest.

Symposium sessions will be video recorded and made available to the public.

Convenors: Jakob Svensson, Stockholm University and Rulof Burger, Stellenbosch University

The Nobel in Africa – NOBEL SYMPOSIA series is a STIAS Initiative in partnership with Stellenbosch University, under the auspices of the Nobel Foundation and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences with funding from the Knut & Alice Wallenberg Foundation. The NOBEL SYMPOSIA mark is owned by the Nobel Foundation.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2024		
OUTREACH SESSIONS, Western Cape Universities (All participants invited)		
Three concurrent lunchtime seminar presentations to local faculty members and students with invited presenters. Transport to UCT and UWC departs from the STIAS parking lot as indicated.		
12:00 – 14:00	University of the Western Cape	
	Karen Macours, Paris School of Economics	Long-term impacts of cash transfer programmes
	Venue: DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security Transport departs STIAS at 11:00	
11:30 – 14:15	University of Cape Town	
	Stefan Dercon, University of Oxford	South Africa and the elite bargain for development
	Dean Karlan, Northwestern University	Empowering the Unempowered: Cash and Cash-Plus Approaches to Extreme Poverty
Venue: School of Economics, UCT Transport departs STIAS at 09:00		
13:00 – 14:30	Stellenbosch University	
	Pascaline Dupas, Princeton University	The first- and second-generation effects of free secondary education: Experimental Evidence from Ghana
	Germano Mwabu, University of Nairobi	Human Capital Development in Africa: Addressing Learning and Skills Gaps
Venue: Room 225, CGW Schumann Building, off Bosman Street, SU Campus		
18:30	WELCOME DINNER, STIAS Wallenberg Research Centre with remarks by His Excellency Håkan Juholt, Swedish Ambassador to South Africa	
TUESDAY, 12 MARCH 2024		
OPENING SESSION (open to media and invited guests)		MC: Tracey Lange
08:30	Registration	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STIAS Director, Edward K. Kirumira Stellenbosch University Rector & Vice-Chancellor, Wim de Villiers Swedish Ambassador to South Africa, Håkan Juholt Symposium Convenors: Jakob Svensson, Stockholm University and Rulof Burger, Stellenbosch University 	
SESSION 1 – POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION		Chair: Ian Goldin, University of Oxford
09:30 – 10:00	Speaker	Oriana Bandiera, The London School of Economics and Political Science
10:00 – 10:15	Respondent	Abhijit Banerjee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
10:15 – 10:30	Respondent	Christopher Udry, Northwestern University
10:30 – 11:00	General discussion	
11:00 – 11:30	COFFEE & TEA BREAK	

SESSION 2 – HEALTH		Chair: Ronelle Burger, Stellenbosch University
11:30 – 12:00	Speaker	Pascaline Dupas, Princeton University
12:00 – 12:15	Respondent	Kelsey Jack, University of California, Santa Barbara
12:15 – 12:30	Respondent	Martina Björkman Nyqvist, Stockholm School of Economics
12:30 – 12:45	General discussion	
12:45 -14:00	LUNCH	
SESSION 3 – GENDER		Chair: Nkechi S. Owoo, University of Ghana
14:00 – 14:30	Speaker	Eliana La Ferrara, Harvard Kennedy School
14:30 – 14:45	Respondent	Nava Ashraf, The London School of Economics and Political Science
14:45 – 15:00	Respondent	Dori Posel, University of Witwatersrand
15:15 – 15:30	General discussion	
15:15 -15:45	COFFEE & TEA BREAK	
SESSION 4 – CLIMATE		Chair: Tadele Ferede, Addis Ababa University
15:45 – 16:15	Speaker	Seema Jayachandran, Princeton University
16:15 – 16:30	Respondent	Ted Miguel, University of California-Berkeley
16:30 – 16:45	Respondent	Robin Burgess, The London School of Economics and Political Science
16:45 – 17:00	General discussion	
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR'S PUBLIC LECTURE, Adam Small Theatre, Stellenbosch University		MC: Sibusiso Moyo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University
17:30	Transport from STIAS to SU campus	
18:00-18:10	Opening remarks	Edwin Cameron, Chancellor, Stellenbosch University
		Wim de Villiers, Rector & Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University
18:10 – 18:15	Introduction of speakers	Ingrid Woolard, Stellenbosch University
18:15 – 19:15	Lecture: Poor Economics (almost) 15 years later	Abhijit Banerjee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
		Esther Duflo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
19:15	Reception	

WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 2024**SESSION 5 – FINANCE****Chair: Stan du Plessis, Stellenbosch University**

09:00 – 09:30	Speaker	Emily Breza, Harvard University
09:30 – 09:45	Respondent	Lorenzo Casaburi, University of Zurich
09:45 – 10:00	Respondent	Dean Karlan, Northwestern University
10:00 – 10:15	General discussion	
10:15 – 10:45	COFFEE & TEA BREAK (Group photo for symposium participants)	

SESSION 6 – FIRMS**Chair: Ibrahim Okumu, Makerere University**

10:45 – 11:15	Speaker	Eric Verhoogen, Columbia University
11:15 – 11:30	Respondent	Chris Woodruff, University of Oxford
11:30 – 11:45	Respondent	Jonas Hjort, University College London
11:45 – 12:00	General discussion	
12:00 – 13:30	LUNCH	

SESSION 7 – TRADE**Chair: Rachel Jafta, Stellenbosch University**

13:30 – 14:00	Speaker	Dave Donaldson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
14:00 – 14:15	Respondent	Paula Bustos, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
14:15 – 14:30	Respondent	Amit Khandelwal, Yale University
14:30 – 14:45	General discussion	
14:45 -15:15	COFFEE & TEA BREAK	

POLICY PANEL**Chair: Stefan Dercon, University of Oxford**

15:15 – 16:15	Panellists	Ernest Aryeetey, University of Ghana
		Andrew Dabalen, World Bank
		Nomvuyo Guma, SA National Treasury
16:15 – 17:15	General discussion	
18:00	Transport from STIAS to Longridge Wine Estate	
18:30	SYMPOSIUM DINNER, Longridge Wine Estate, Stellenbosch With brief remarks by Ingrid Woolard, Dean of the SU Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences & Ingrid Sundström, Wallenberg Foundations	

THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2024		
SESSION 8 – AGRICULTURE		Chair: Elina Amadhila, University of Namibia
09:00 – 09:30	Speaker	Tavneet Suri, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
09:30 – 09:45	Respondent	Karen Macours, Paris School of Economics
09:45 – 10:00	Respondent	Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, International Food Policy Research Institute
10:00 – 10:15	General discussion	
10:15 – 10:45	COFFEE & TEA BREAK	
SESSION 9 – EDUCATION		Chair: Cally Ardington, University of Cape Town
10:45 – 11:15	Speaker	Isaac Mbiti, University of Virginia
11:15 – 11:30	Respondent	Esther Duflo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
11:30 – 11:45	Respondent	Germano Mwabu, University of Nairobi
11:45 – 12:00	General discussion	
12:00 – 13:30	LUNCH	
SESSION 10 – LABOUR AND MIGRATION		Chair: Michael Sachs, University of the Witwatersrand
13:30 – 14:00	Speaker	Supreet Kaur, University of California-Berkeley
14:00 – 14:15	Respondent	Girum Abebe, World Bank
14:15 – 14:30	Respondent	Mushfiq Mobarak, Yale University
14:30 – 14:45	General discussion	
14:45 -15:15	COFFEE & TEA BREAK	
SESSION 11 – GOVERNANCE		Chair: Nomvuyo Guma, SA National Treasury
15:15 – 15:45	Speaker	Leonard Wantchekon, Princeton University
15:45 – 16:00	Respondent	Claudio Ferraz, University of British Columbia
16:00 – 16:30	General discussion	
16:30 – 16:45	Closing remarks: Jakob Svensson and Rulof Burger	
18:30	Transport from STIAS to Grand Africa Café & Beach, Cape Town	

FRIDAY, 15 MARCH 2024

OUTREACH SESSION – Economics Writing Workshop on Microdevelopment in Africa, STIAS Manor House Library (Symposium Participants welcome)

09:30 – 12:30 Eleven young African scholars will attend the Symposium and participate in a Writing Workshop where they will receive feedback on their research from selected Symposium participants during four parallel sessions with feedback and discussion as indicated below. All Symposium participants are invited to join the session.

Author	Paper Title	Discussant 1	Discussant 2
GROUP A (Chair: Stefan Dercon)		Venue: Breakaway 1	
Emmanuel Abbey	How Time and Risk Preferences Affect the Adoption of Energy-Efficient Technologies: Implications for Energy Transition in Ghana	Boscow Okumu	Germano Mwabu
Boscow Okumu	Experimental analysis of farmers' willingness to pay for quality and nutritionally enhanced planting material	Martin Mwale	Karen Macours
Martin Limbikani Mwale	What's hers isn't mine: Gender-differentiated tenure security, agricultural investments and productivity in sub-Saharan Africa	Emmanuel Abbey	Stefan Dercon
GROUP B (Chair: Dori Posel)		Venue: Breakaway 2	
Abebe Ambachew Ayana	Hunting Talents and Nurturing Entrepreneurship in Low-income Countries: Evidence from Business Plan Competition in Ethiopia	Elizabeth Nanziri	Isaac Mbiti
Zakaria Mansouri	Do labor market intermediaries have an impact on employment in developing countries? Evidence using a difference in difference approach from Morocco	Abebe Ayana	Dori Posel
Elizabeth Nanziri	Does financial sector development still matter for rural households: Evidence from Zambia	Mansouri Zakaria	Eliana La Ferrara
GROUP C (Chair: Nava Ashraf)		Venue: Boardroom	
Oluwabunmi Adejumo	"Fabric of Federalism": The impact of Litigant Rights' Reform and Women Empowerment in Nigeria	Robertson Khataza	Nkechi S. Owoo
Robertson Khataza	How does Women Participation in Market-Oriented Crop Production Programs Impact Intimate Partner Violence in Malawi?	Oluwabunmi Adejumo	Nava Ashraf
GROUP D (Chair: Cally Ardington)		Venue: Seminar room	
Toyin S.Olowogbon	Reaching crop farmers with agricultural health intervention for improved productivity: Evidence from a randomized control trial in Nigeria	Aimable Nsabimana	Ronelle Burger
Aimable Nsabimana	Local Industrial Shock and Human Capital Accumulation: Evidence from Rwandan Coffee Mills	Gidisa Lachisa Tato	Konrad Burchardi
Gidisa Lachisa Tato	The Dynamic Impact of Parental Death on Child Labour: Panel Data Evidence from Ethiopia	Toyin S. Olowogbon	Cally Ardington

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

OUTREACH SESSION – National Treasury Policy Roundtable, Pretoria (Invited Participants)

10:00 – 13:00

A conversation on how to make employment and labour market policy central in our thinking on Social Protection, Industrialisation, and Climate Change in South Africa

Participants:

- Boipuso Modise, National Treasury
- Haroon Borat, University of Cape Town
- Mushfiq Mobarak, Yale University
- Eric Verhoogen, Columbia University
- Seema Jayachandran, Princeton University
- Uma Kollamparambil, University of Witwatersrand
- Rudi Dicks, South African Presidency
- Noloyiso Mtembu, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study

Hosted by the National Treasury in collaboration with the Southern Africa – Towards Inclusive Economic Development (SA-TIED) programme, the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS), and the Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU) at the University of Cape Town

PARTICIPANTS

First name	Last name	Institution	Country
Emmanuel	Abbey	University of Ghana	Ghana
Girum	Abebe	World Bank Ethiopia Office	Ethiopia
Oluwabunmi	Adejumo	Obafemi Awolowo University	Nigeria
Elina	Amadhila	Faculty of Commerce, Management & Law, University of Namibia	Namibia
Cally	Ardington	University of Cape Town	South Africa
Ernest	Aryeetey	University of Ghana	Ghana
Nava	Ashraf	The London School of Economics and Political Science	United Kingdom
Abebe Ambachew	Ayana	Policy Studies Institute (IPS), Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Oriana	Bandiera	The London School of Economics and Political Science	United Kingdom
Abhijit	Banerjee	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
Vinayak	Bhardwaj	J-PAL Africa	South Africa
Haroon	Bhorat	University of Cape Town	South Africa
Martina	Björkman Nyqvist	Stockholm School of Economics	Sweden
Tessa	Bold	Stockholm University	Sweden
Emily	Breza	Harvard University	USA
Konrad	Burchardi	Stockholm University	Sweden
Ronelle	Burger	Stellenbosch University	South Africa
Rulof	Burger	Stellenbosch University	South Africa
Robin	Burgess	The London School of Economics and Political Science	United Kingdom
Paula	Bustos	Universitat Pompeu Fabra	Spain
Lorenzo	Casaburi	University of Zurich	Switzerland
Andrew	Dabalen	The World Bank	USA
Stefan	Dercon	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
Dave	Donaldson	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
Stan	Du Plessis	Stellenbosch University	South Africa
Esther	Duflo	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
Pascaline	Dupas	Princeton University	USA
Claudio	Ferraz	University of British Columbia	Canada
Ian	Goldin	University of Oxford	United Kingdom South Africa
Nomvuyo	Guma	SA National Treasury	South Africa
Jonas	Hjort	University College London	United Kingdom
Kelsey	Jack	University of California, Santa Barbara	USA
Rachel	Jafta	Stellenbosch University	South Africa
Seema	Jayachandran	Princeton University	USA
Dean	Karlan	Northwestern University	USA
Supreet	Kaur	University of California, Berkeley	USA
Amit	Khandelwal	Yale University	USA
Robertson	Khataza	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Malawi
Eliana	La Ferrara	Harvard Kennedy School	USA
Karen	Macours	Paris School of Economics	France
Zakaria	Mansouri	Inb Tofail University	Morocco

First name	Last name	Institution	Country
Isaac	Mbiti	University of Virginia	USA
Ted	Miguel	University of California, Berkeley	USA
Mushfiq	Mobarak	Yale University	USA
Saul	Musker	Private Office of the President	South Africa
Germano	Mwabu	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Martin Limbikani	Mwale	Stellenbosch University	Malawi
Elizabeth	Nanziri	Stellenbosch Business School	Uganda
Aimable	Nsabimana	United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)	Rwanda
Ibrahim	Okumu	Makerere University	Uganda
Boscow	Okumu	African Population and Health Research Centre	Kenya
Toyin S.	Olowogbon	Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Empowerment (CSAE), Nigeria	Nigeria
Nkechi S.	Owoo	University of Ghana	Ghana
Patrizio	Piraino	University of Notre Dame	USA
Dori	Posel	University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa
Michael	Sachs	University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa
Alemayehu	Seyoum Taffesse	International Food Policy Research Institute	Ethiopia
Wandile	Sihlobo	Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa	South Africa
Tavneet	Suri	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
Jakob	Svensson	Stockholm University	Sweden
Ferede	Tadele	Addis Ababa University	Ethiopia
Gidisa Lachisa	Tato	Addis Ababa University	Ethiopia
Christopher	Udry	Northwestern University	USA
Eric	Verhoogen	Columbia University	USA
Leonard	Wantchekon	Princeton University	USA
Chris	Woodruff	University of Oxford	United Kingdom

SCIENTIFIC ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Jakob Svensson, Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University (Convenor)

Rulof Burger, Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University (Co-convenor)

Martina Björkman Nyqvist, Stockholm School of Economics

Tessa Bold, Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University

Konrad Burchardi, Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University

Stefan Dercon, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

Seema Jayachandran, Department of Economics & School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

Eliana La Ferrara, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

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Haroon Borat, School of Economics, University of Cape Town

Rulof Burger, Department of Economics, Stellenbosch University

Ian Goldin, Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford

Sibusiso Moyo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies, Stellenbosch University

Christoff Pauw, Senior Programme Manager, STIAS

Ingrid Woolard, Dean: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, Stellenbosch University

Georgina Humphreys, STIAS (secretariat)

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