

# JENNY C. AKER

Associate Professor of Development Economics

The Fletcher School, Tufts University | 160 Packard Avenue | Medford, MA 02155

E-mail: [Jenny.Aker@tufts.edu](mailto:Jenny.Aker@tufts.edu) | Webpage: <http://sites.tufts.edu/jennyaker/> | Phone: (510) 219-1663

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

- 2015- **Associate Professor of Development Economics**, The Fletcher School and Economics Department, Tufts University, Medford, MA.
- 2016 **Senior Research Fellow**, Markets, Trade and Institutions Division (MTID), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, DC.
- 2009-2015 **Assistant Professor of Development Economics**, The Fletcher School and Economics Department, Tufts University, Medford, MA.
- 2009- **Visiting Professor**, Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International (CERDI), Université d'Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France.
- 2009- **Non-Resident Fellow**, Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C.
- 2011-2012 **International Guest Professor**, Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany.
- 2008-2009 **Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Global Development.** Washington, DC.
- 2003-2009 **External consultant** for international non-governmental organizations (CRS, CARE, World Vision, CHF International), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank.
- 2000-2003 **Deputy Regional Director for West and Central Africa**, Catholic Relief Services West and Central Africa Regional Office. Ghana.
- 1998-2000 **Regional Food Security and Monetization Advisor for West and Central Africa.** Catholic Relief Services West and Central Africa Regional Office. Ghana.
- 1997/1998 **Fulbright Scholar**, Institut Agronomique et Veterinaire, Université de Hassan-II, Rabat, Morocco.

## EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

---

- 2015- Managing Editor, *Journal of African Economies*

## OTHER AFFILIATIONS

---

- 2016- **Director, Fletcher Leadership Program in Financial Inclusion**, The Fletcher School, Tufts University
- 2017- **Co-Director, Center for International Environmental Research and Policy (CIERP)**, The Fletcher School, Tufts University
- 2016- **Affiliate, Jameel Abdul Latif Policy Action Lab (J-PAL)**
- 2016- **Research Affiliate, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)**
- 2013- **Deputy Director, The Hitachi Center**, The Fletcher School
- 2013- **Board Member, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects**
- 2011- **Affiliate, Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI).**

# JENNY C. AKER

## EDUCATION

---

### University of California-Berkeley

Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics (2008)

M.S. in Agricultural and Resource Economics (2005)

Fields: *Development Economics, Applied Econometrics*

### Fletcher School, Tufts University

MALD in Development Economics and International Law

### Duke University

A.B. (*magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa*)

## PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS (REVERSE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

---

1. **Aker, Jenny C. and Christopher Ksoll.** 2017. "Can ABC Lead to Sustained 123? The Medium-Term Effects of a Technology-Enhanced Adult Education Program." Accepted, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.
2. **Aker, Jenny C., Paul Collier and Pedro Vicente.** May 2017. "Is Information Power? Using Mobile Phones and Free Newspapers during an Election in Mozambique." Vol XCIX (2). *Review of Economics and Statistics*.
3. **Aker, Jenny C.** 2017. "Comparing Cash and Voucher Transfers in a Humanitarian Context: Evidence from the Democratic Republic of Congo." 31(1): 44-70. *World Bank Economic Review*.
4. **Aker, Jenny C., Ishita Ghosh and Jenna Burrell.** November 2016. "The Promise (and Pitfalls) of ICT for Agriculture Initiatives." 47(S1). *Agricultural Economics*.
5. **Aker, Jenny C., Rachid Boumnijel, Amanda McClelland and Niall Tierney.** 2016. "Payment Mechanisms and Anti-Poverty Programs: Evidence from a Mobile Money Cash Transfer Experiment in Niger." 65(1). *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.
6. **Aker, Jenny C. and Marcel Fafchamps.** July 2015. "Mobile Phone Coverage and Producer Markets: Evidence from West Africa." 29(2). *World Bank Economic Review*. Pp. 262 – 292.
7. **Tack, Jesse B. and Jenny C. Aker.** 2014. "Information, Mobile Telephony and Traders' Search Behavior in Niger." 96(5): *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 1439-1454.
8. **Aker, Jenny C., Michael Klein, Steve O'Connell and Muzhe Yang.** 2014. "Borders, Ethnicity and Trade." *Journal of Development Economics*. Vol 107: 1-16.
9. **Aker, Jenny C., Christopher Ksoll and Travis J. Lybbert.** 2012. "Can Mobile Phones Improve Learning? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Niger." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. Vol 4(4): 94-120.
10. **Aker, Jenny C.** 2011. "Dial A for Agriculture: A review of ICTs for Agricultural Extension in Developing countries." *Agricultural Economics*. 42(6): 631-47.
11. **Aker, Jenny C. and Isaac M. Mbiti.** 2010. "Mobile Phones and Economic Development in Africa." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 24(3): 207-232.
12. **Aker, Jenny C.** 2010. "Information from Markets Near and Far: The Impact of Mobile Phones on Grain Markets in Niger." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. Vol 2: 46-59.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

---

## JENNY C. AKER

1. **Aker, Jenny C. and Joshua E. Blumenstock.** 2015. "The Economic Impacts of New Technologies in Africa." *Handbook of Africa and Economics*. Oxford University Press. Editors Celestin Monga and Justin Yifu Lin.
2. **Aker, Jenny C., Steven Block, Vij Ramachandran and C. Peter Timmer.** 2010. "The West African Experience with the World Rice Crisis, 2007-2008". *The Rice Crisis: Markets, Policies and Food Security*. David Dawe, editor. FAO.

### WORKING PAPERS AND PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

---

1. **Aker, Jenny C. and Christopher Ksoll.** 2017. "Call Me Educated: Evidence from a Mobile Monitoring Experiment in Niger." Revise and resubmit, *Journal of Development Economics*.
2. **Aker, Jenny C. and Brian Dillon.** 2017. "The Emergence of New Markets for Agricultural Technologies: The Case of Cowpea Storage in West Africa."
3. **Dillon, Brian, Jenny C. Aker and Joshua Blumenstock.** 2017. "Communication, Search and Mobile Phones: A Telephone Directory Experiment in Tanzania."
4. **Hidrobo, Melissa, Jenny C. Aker, Daniel O. Gilligan, Natasha Ledlie and Giordano Palloni.** 2017. "Paying for Information: Assessing Farmers' Willingness to Pay for a Digital Agriculture and Nutrition Service in Ghana."
5. **Aker, Jenny C. and Jamilah Welch.** 2017. "Migration, Money Transfers and Mobile Money."
6. **Aker, Jenny C. and Melita Sawyer.** 2017. "Adult Learning in Sub-Saharan Africa: What do and don't we know?" In submission.
7. **Aker, Jenny C. Melita Sawyer, Markus Goldstein, Michael O'Sullivan and Margaret McConnell.** 2017. "Get your Goat: Planning, Savings and Ceremonial Expenditures."
8. **Aker, Jenny C., Christopher J. Ksoll, Danielle Miller, Karla Perez and Susan Smalley.** 2015. "Learning without Teachers? A Randomized Experiment of Cell phone- Based Learning in Los Angeles". In submission.

### POPULAR PRESS, POLICY PAPERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

---

1. **Aker, Jenny C.** 2012. "Cash, Vouchers and Household Well-Being in the Democratic Republic of Congo." An Operations Research Report for Concern Worldwide.
2. **Aker, Jenny C. and Marc Nene.** "Cash Transfers, Nutrition and Household Well-Being in Niger." 2012. An Operations Research Report Concern Worldwide.
3. **Aker, Jenny C.** 2011. "Cash Transfers, Mobile Transfers and Emergency Response in Niger." An Operations Research Report for Concern Worldwide.
4. **Aker, Jenny C.** November 2010. "The Shiny New Gadget that Works." *The Boston Review*.
5. **Aker, Jenny C. and Isaac M. Mbiti.** March 2010. "Mobile Phones in Africa: A Catalyst, not a Solution." *The Boston Review*.
6. **Aker, Jenny C.** November 2009. "Mobile Phones, Markets and Firms in sub-Saharan Africa." *Proparco's Magazine*, Volume 4.
7. **Aker, Jenny C., Carlo del Ninno, Paul Dorosh, Menno Mulder-Sibanda and Setarah Razmara.** 2008. "Niger: Food Security and Safety Nets." A report for the World Bank.
8. **Aker, Jenny C.** 2007. "The Structure, Conduct and Performance of the Cereals Market in Niger: Implications for Preparing for and Responding to Food Crises." A Report for the World Bank.

# JENNY C. AKER

9. **De Ruiter, Frank and Jenny C. Aker.** 2006. *Human Interest Stories: Guidelines and Tools for Developing Human Interest Stories.* Baltimore, MD: Catholic Relief Services and the American Red Cross.
10. **Aker, Jenny C.** 2004. *Designing Title II Development Assistance Programs: Assessment, Analysis, Action A Resource Manual for CRS Country Programs.* Baltimore, MD: Catholic Relief Services.
11. **Aker, Jenny C.** 1999. "The Bellmon Analysis," *PVO Monetization Manual.* Washington, D.C.: Food Aid Management.

## GRANTS

---

2017	<b>DFID-ESRC, PI</b>
2016	<b>ATAI Research Grant, Co-PI</b>
2016	<b>Amazon Catalyst Research Grant, Co-PI</b>
2015	<b>ATAI Research Grant, PI, 2015-2016</b>
2014	<b>DFID/ESRC Research Grant, PI, 2014-2017</b>
2014	<b>Global Financial Inclusion Initiative, Co-PI, 2014-2015</b>
2014	<b>FAO Research Grant, PI, 2014</b>
2013	<b>Hitachi Summer Research Funding 2013, PI</b>
2012	<b>Mastercard Worldwide (Co-PI)</b>
2012	<b>SWIFT Institute Foundation Funding</b>
2010	<b>Hitachi Summer Research Funding, PI</b>
2010	<b>Gates Foundation, co-PI (via Oxford University)</b>
2009	<b>International Growth Centre, co-PI</b>
2008-2009	<b>Fell Fund, Oxford University, co-PI</b>
2008-2009	<b>CITRIS, University of California, co-PI</b>
2008-2009	<b>Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation (UC-Berkeley), co-PI</b>
2008-2010	<b>Co-PI, NBER Africa Project</b>

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

---

2017	<b>Fletcher School Research Prize</b>
2015	<b>Fletcher School Paddock Teaching Award</b>
2009	<b>Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award, Honorable Mention, American Association of Agricultural Economists (AAEA)</b>
2007	<b>Awardee, Advanced Graduate Workshop on Globalization, Poverty and Development, Columbia University and the Brooks World Poverty Institute</b>
2007	<b>Gordon Rausser Scholarship, UC-Berkeley</b>
2006	<b>Ford Foundation</b>
2006	<b>Rocca Dissertation Fellowship, University of California-Berkeley</b>
2005	<b>Recipient of the International Bureau for Economic Research Small Grants Award, University of California-Berkeley</b>
1997/1998	<b>William J. Fulbright Fellowship, Morocco</b>
1997	<b>Edmund A. Gullion Prize for high academic achievement, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University</b>
1996/1997	<b>Sasakawa Young Leadership Fellowship, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University</b>

# JENNY C. AKER

## INVITED SEMINARS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

- 2017:** University of Minnesota, Case Western Reserve University, University of Gottingen, Gates-IMF Conference on “Digital Revolutions in Public Finance”, FAO-UNICEF Workshop on Social Protection, NEUDC
- 2016:** Trinity College Dublin, University of Gottingen, JPAL-SEA Policy Conference on Social Protection, George Washington University, University of Washington, University of South Carolina, Georgetown University
- 2015:** University of California-Irvine, IFPRI, World Bank, NEUDC, Center for Global Development, International Conference on Agricultural Economics (ICAE)
- 2014:** Stanford University, Carlton University, Center for Global Development, World Bank, Foreign Service Institute, IPA conference
- 2013:** George Washington University, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Center for the Study of African Economics (CSAE, Oxford University), Université d’Auvergne, German Association of Development Economics, Brookings Institution, European Association of Agricultural Economists, Foreign Service Institute
- 2012:** University of California-Berkeley (Agriculture and Resource Economics and Economics), University of Southern California, University of California-Davis, CIMMYT, Stanford University (Freeman Spogli Institute), University of California-Santa Cruz, University of California-Irvine, CSAE (Oxford University), Cornell University, Clark University, Northeastern Universities Development Economics (NEUDC), Midwest International Economic Development Conference (MWIDC), German Association of Development Economics, University of Gottingen, University of Pennsylvania (Annenberg School)
- 2011:** Tufts University, Conference on Migration and Development (Harvard University), German Association of Development Economics, IZA/World Bank Conference, University of Washington, Boston University, CSAE (Oxford University), Pacific Development Conference (PACDEV), Midwest International Development Conference (MWIDC), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), University of Gottingen, London School of Economics
- 2010:** Boston College, CSAE (Oxford University), University of California-Berkeley, Université d’Auvergne, Gottingen University, German Association of Development Economics, NEUDC, American Economic Association (AEA) Meetings
- 2009:** Stanford University, NEUDC, University of Gottingen, Trinity College Dublin, Yale University, Université d’Auvergne, Boston College, World Bank (Development Economics Group), Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics
- 2008:** Université d’Auvergne, NEUDC, BREAD Conference on Development Economics (Brown University), Lehigh University, Oxford University, CSAE (Oxford University), PACDEV, Center for Global Development, Bates College, Williams College, Boston College, Fordham University, Tufts University, University of Virginia, University of Gottingen, University of Delaware.
- 2007:** Stanford University, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Advanced Graduate Workshop on Globalization, Poverty and Development (Columbia University and the Brooks World Poverty Institute), Center for the Study of African Economics Conference (Oxford University), Pacific Development Conference (PACDEV).

## REFEREE (alphabetical)

---

Referee for *Agricultural Economics*, *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Berkeley Economic Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, *Economica*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Information Technologies and International Development*, *Journal of African Development*, *Journal of African Economies*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of International Development*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Political Communication*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*,

# **JENNY C. AKER**

*Review of Economic Studies, Review of Income and Wealth, Telecommunications Policy, World Bank Economic Review, World Development*

## **LANGUAGES**

---

Fluent written and spoken French, Intermediate Spanish, Beginning Hausa, Portuguese and Moroccan Arabic

## **CONSULTANCIES**

---

International Finance Corporation (2013), International Food Policy Research Institute (2012), World Bank (2016, 2011, 2009, 2008, 2007), Catholic Relief Services and Save the Children (2008), Food and Agriculture Organization (2007), Catholic Relief Services (2004-2007, multiple countries), CHF International (2007).