

JENNY C. AKER

Professor of Development Economics

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018- **Professor of Development Economics**, The Fletcher School and Economics Department, Tufts University, Medford, MA.
- 2020- **Senior Researcher, Wageningen University and Research**, Wageningen, The Netherlands
- 2015-2018 **Associate Professor of Development Economics**, 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**, Tufts University, Medford, MA.
- 2008-2009 **Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Global Development**. Washington, DC.
- 2003-2009 **External consultant** for international non-governmental organizations 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 Vétérinaire, Université de Hassan-II, Rabat, Morocco.

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*)

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

JENNY C. AKER

2015- Managing Editor, *Journal of African Economies*

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

- 2020- **Co-Chair**, Digital Identification and Finance Initiative (DigiFI) in Africa, J-PAL, MIT
- 2020- **Research Fellow**, Wageningen University and Research, Wageningen, the Netherlands
- 2019- **Affiliate**, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)
- 2018- **Co-Chair on Digital Trust**, *Fondation pour les Études et Recherches sur le Développement International* (FERDI), Clermont-Ferrand, France
- 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)**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- 2016- **Research Affiliate, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)**
- 2016-2018 **International Guest Professor**, Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany.
- 2013-2022 **Deputy Director, The Hitachi Center**, The Fletcher School, Tufts University
- 2013-2017 **Board Member, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects**
- 2011- **Affiliate**, Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI).
- 2009- **Non-Resident Fellow**, Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C.
- 2009-2015 **Visiting Professor**, *Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur le Développement International* (CERDI), Université d'Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France.

PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS (REVERSE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

1. **Aker, Jenny C. and B. Kelsey Jack.** Forthcoming. "Harvesting the Rain: The Adoption of Environmental Technologies in the Sahel." *Review of Economics and Statistics*.
2. **Aker, Jenny C., Brian Dillon and C. Jamilah Welch.** 2023. "The Emergence of New Markets for Agricultural Technologies: The Case of Cowpea Storage in West Africa." *Journal of Development Economics*.

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3. **Hidrobo, Melissa, Jenny C. Aker, Daniel O. Gilligan, Natasha Ledlie and Giordano Palloni.** 2022. "Paying for Information: Assessing Farmers' Willingness to Pay for a Digital Agriculture and Nutrition Service in Ghana." *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.
4. **Aker, Jenny C., Silvia Prina and Jamilah Welch.** May 2020. "Migration, Money Transfers and Mobile Money." *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*. 110: 589-93.
5. **Aker, Jenny C. Melita Sawyer, Markus Goldstein, Michael O'Sullivan and Margaret McConnell.** April 2020. "Just a Bit of Cushion: The Role of a Simple Savings Device in Planned and Unplanned Expense Events in Rural Niger." *World Development*. 128: April 2020
6. **Aker, Jenny C. and Christopher J. Ksoll.** April 2020. "Can ABC Lead to Sustained 123? The Medium-Term Effects of a Technology-Enhanced Adult Education Program." *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 68(3): April 2020. 1081-1102.
7. **Quattrochi, John, Jenny C. Aker, Peter van der Windt and Maarten Voors.** March 2020. "Contributions of experimental approaches to development and poverty alleviation: Field experiments and humanitarian assistance." *World Development*. 127 (2020).
8. **Aker, Jenny C. and Christopher J. Ksoll.** 2019. "Call Me Educated: Evidence from a Mobile Phone Experiment in Niger." *Economics of Education Review*. October 2019. 72(2019): 239-257.
9. **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*.
10. **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*.
11. **Aker, Jenny C., Ishita Ghosh and Jenna Burrell.** November 2016. "The Promise (and Pitfalls) of ICT for Agriculture Initiatives." 47(S1). *Agricultural Economics*.
12. **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*.
13. **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.
14. **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.
15. **Aker, Jenny C., Michael Klein, Steve O'Connell and Muzhe Yang.** 2014. "Borders, Ethnicity and Trade." *Journal of Development Economics*. Vol 107: 1-16.

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16. **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.
17. **Aker, Jenny C.** 2011. “Dial A for Agriculture: A review of ICTs for Agricultural Extension in Developing countries.” *Agricultural Economics*. 42(6): 631-47.
18. **Aker, Jenny C. and Isaac M. Mbiti.** 2010. “Mobile Phones and Economic Development in Africa.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 24(3): 207-232.
19. **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.

BOOKS

Aker, Jenny C and Joel Cariolle. 2024. *Mobile Phones and Development in Africa: Does the Evidence Meet the Hype?* Springer Nature.

WORKING PAPERS AND PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

1. **Agarawal, Shilpa, Jenny C. Aker, Dahyeon Jeong, Naresh Kumar, David Sungho Park, Jonathon Robinson and Alan Spearot.** 2023. “The Enduring Effects of Cash Transfers on Households’ Food Security in Liberia and Malawi.” Revise and resubmit, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.
2. **Aker, Jenny C., James Berry and Melita Sawyer.** 2023. “Making Sense of the Shapes: What do we know about literacy learning in adulthood?” Revise and resubmit, *Economics of Education Review*.
3. **Dillon, Brian, Jenny C. Aker and Joshua Blumenstock.** 2023. “Communication, Search and Mobile Phones: A Telephone Directory Experiment in Tanzania.” In submission.
4. **Aker, Jenny C., Brian Dillon, Leticia Donoso-Pena and Anne Krahn.** 2023. “It’s All Fun and Games? Using WTP Experiments for Longer-Term Impacts.”
5. **Aker, Jenny C. and Josue Awonon.** 2023. “Call me, Maybe? The Impact of Mobile Phones on Teachers’ Behavior in Niger”
6. **Aker, Jenny C., Christopher J. Ksoll, Danielle Miller, Karla Perez and Susan Smalley.** 2023. “Learning without Teachers? A Randomized Experiment of Cell Phone-Based Learning in Los Angeles.” In submission.
7. **de Hoop, Jacobus, Luisa Natali and Jenny C. Aker.** 2022. “Lost Horizon: The Impact of Terminating Monetary Support to Displaced Syrian Children in Jordan.”

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BOOK CHAPTERS

1. **Aker, Jenny C.** 2023. "Fintech for Rural Markets in sub-Saharan Africa." *Introduction to Development Engineering*. Springer Link. Editors Temina Madon, Ashok Gadgil, Richard Anderson, Lorenzo Casaburi, Kenneth Lee and Arman Rezaee.
2. **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.
3. **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.

POPULAR PRESS, POLICY PAPERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. **Aker, Jenny C. and B. Kelsey Jack.** May 2022. "Information Works: The Impact of Training on the Adoption of Environmental Technologies." VoxDev
2. **Aker, Jenny C. and Christopher Ksoll.** April 2021. "How Simple Technologies can Improve Learning: Evidence from Niger." *VoxDev*.
3. **Suri, Tavneet, Jenny C. Aker, Catia Batista, Michael Callen, Tarek Ghani, William Jack, Leora Klapper, Emma Riley, Simone Schaner, Sandip Sukhtankar.** February 2021. "Mobile Money". *VoxDevLit*. Vol 2, Issue 1.
4. **Aker, Jenny C.** July 2020. "Using Mobile Money to Help the Poor in Developing Countries." *Econofact*.
5. **Aker, Jenny C.** November 2010. "The Shiny New Gadget that Works." *The Boston Review*.
6. **Aker, Jenny C. and Isaac M. Mbiti.** March 2010. "Mobile Phones in Africa: A Catalyst, not a Solution." *The Boston Review*.
7. **Aker, Jenny C.** November 2009. "Mobile Phones, Markets and Firms in sub-Saharan Africa." *Proparco's Magazine*, Volume 4.
8. **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.
9. **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.

GRANTS

JENNY C. AKER

2023	USAID-DIV, co-PI
2022	King Climate Action Initiative (KCAI), co-PI
2021	Fond International pour le Developpement (FID), PI
2019	SPIA Em-Lab
2018	ATAI Research Grant, PI
2017	DFID-ESRC, PI
2016	ATAI Research Grant, Co-PI
2016	Amazon Catalyst Research Grant, Co-PI
2015	ATAI Research Grant, PI, 2015-2016
2014	DFID/ESRC Research Grant, PI, 2014-2017
2014	Global Financial Inclusion Initiative, Co-PI, 2014-2015
2014	FAO Research Grant, PI, 2014
2013	Hitachi Summer Research Funding 2013, PI
2012	Mastercard Worldwide (Co-PI)
2012	SWIFT Institute Foundation Funding
2010	Hitachi Summer Research Funding, PI
2010	Gates Foundation, co-PI (via Oxford University)
2009	International Growth Centre, co-PI
2008-2009	Fell Fund, Oxford University, co-PI
2008-2009	CITRIS, University of California, co-PI
2008-2009	Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation (UC-Berkeley), co-PI
2008-2010	NBER Africa Project

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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

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INVITED SEMINARS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023: European University Institute, Cornell University, Williams College, University of Washington, University of Goettingen, The World Bank, Tilburg University

2022: NYU-Abu Dhabi, Cornell University, Bentley University, Global Policy Insights, World Bank, FID, European Development Days, IFPRI, Maastricht University, Wageningen University and Research

2021: Oxford University, Wageningen University and Research, ETH-Zurich, European Economic Association (EEA) Annual Meetings, International Conference on Agricultural Economics (ICAE) Annual Conference, BREAD Conference on the Economics of Africa, University of Goettingen, University of Delaware

2020: Northeastern University, Oxford University, Paris School of Economics, University of Goettingen

2019: Oxford University (CSAE), Free University of Amsterdam, University of Gottingen, Wageningen University and Research, University of Michigan

2018: Oxford University (CSAE), University of Gottingen, University of Bristol, College of William and Mary

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, STAARS Conference

2016: Trinity College Dublin, University of Goettingen, 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

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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*, *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

JENNY C. AKER

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).