

JESSICA LEIGHT

Department of Economics, Williams College
Schapiro Hall, 24 Hopkins Hall Dr., Williamstown, MA 01267
413-597-5032, jessica.leight@williams.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE Assistant Professor, Williams College Department of Economics 2013-

EDUCATION Ph.D. in Economics MIT 2013
M.Phil. in Economics Oxford University 2008
B.A. *summa cum laude* Yale University 2006
Ethics Politics & Economics

FIELDS OF INTEREST Development economics, political economy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Williams College 2013-15
Political economy and development (Undergraduates/Master's), Williams College 2013-15
Economy of China (Undergraduate), Williams College 2013-15

RESEARCH PAPERS *Human capital*

“Sibling Rivalry: Ability and Intrahousehold Allocation in Gansu Province, China” *Revise and Resubmit, Economic Development and Cultural Change*

“The Impact of Early Childhood Shocks on the Evolution of Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills” (Joint with Paul Glewwe and Albert Park)

“Maternal Bargaining Power, Parental Compensation and Non-cognitive Skills in Rural China” (Joint with Elaine Liu)

Political economy and the economy of China

“The Regulation of Land Markets: Evidence from Tenancy Reform in India” (Joint with Timothy Besley, Rohini Pande and Vijayendra Rao)
Forthcoming, Journal of Development Economics

“Reallocating Wealth? Insecure Property Rights and Agricultural Investment in Rural China”

“Grain into Gold: The Impact of Agricultural Income Shocks on Rural Investment and Industrialization in China”

“Value for Money: Vote-Buying and Politician Accountability in the

Laboratory” (Joint with Rohini Pande and Laura Ralston)

**RESEARCH IN
PROGRESS**

Human capital

“Engaging Women to Improve Breastfeeding Outcomes in Tamil Nadu” (Joint with Simone Schaner)

“The Impact of Mentoring and Life Skills Training on Secondary School Progression and Child Labor Among Girls: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Rajasthan” (Joint with Eric Edmonds and Maheshwor Shrestha)

“Strengthening the Midwife Service Scheme with Community Focused Interventions: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Field Trial in Nigeria” (Joint with Martina Bjorkman and Vandana Sharma)

“Unconditional Cash Transfers and Intrahousehold Conflict: A Pilot Study in Kenya” (Joint with Simone Schaner)

“Using Cultural Ceremonies to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence and HIV Transmission: A Randomized Controlled Trial” (Joint with Vandana Sharma and

Political economy and the economy of China

“Vote-buying and Anti-Reciprocity: A Pilot Study in Bangladesh” (Joint with Rohini Pande)

“Distortions, Land and Productivity in Rural China” (Joint with Tasso Adamopoulos, Loren Brandt and Diego Restuccia)

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS	J-PAL Post-Primary Education Initiative Grant (PI, \$2662)	2015
	U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of International Labor Affairs Grant (PI, \$1,304,957)	2015 2014
	J-PAL Governance Initiative Grant (PI, \$49,537)	2014
	Government of Tamil Nadu (Co-PI, \$29,649)	2014
	Macarthur Foundation Grant Grant (PI, \$345,000)	2014
	USAID Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Grant (PI, \$42,185)	2014
	USAID Translating Research into Action Grant (PI, \$137,124)	2014
	Anonymous Grant (PI, \$841,403)	2012
	Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Grant (PI, \$20,700)	2012
	Fondation de France Grant (PI, €10,000)	2012
	Macarthur Foundation Grant (PI, \$979,883)	2010
	NBER Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Aging and Health	2011
	MIT Presidential Fellow	2008
	Webb Medley Prize (proxime accessit): best M. Phil. performance	2008
	Rhodes Scholarship	2006
	Yale College, Alpheus Henry Snow Prize – top-ranked graduate	2006
	Yale College, Warren Prize – top-ranked humanities graduate	2006
	Yale College, Richard U. Light Fellowship for study in Asia	2006
	Yale College, Distinction in Ethics, Politics and Economics	2006
	Yale College, Hart Lyman Prize – top-ranked junior	2005
	Phi beta kappa (junior)	2005
	Yale College, Robert C. Bates Fellowship	2005
	Yale College, George Leitner Grant in Political Economy	2004
Yale College, Richter Fellowship	2004	

SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS

2010-2012: NEUDC 2010, NEUDC 2012

2012-2013: Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, University of Toronto, University of California – Santa Cruz, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, Barnard College, Williams College, Young Lives Conference

2013-2014: University of Washington China Studies Colloquium, World Bank Land Conference, Cornell Economics Department, Economic Demography Workshop at the Population Association of America, Midwest International Economics and Development Conference, Barcelona Graduate School Economics Forum: Economic Analysis of Voting Behavior

2014-2015: IFPRI Applied Microeconomics and Development, World Bank Governance Group, NBER China Workshop (discussant), USAID, Beijing University China Center for Economic Research, Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Chinese Economists' Society Conference, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, NBER Summer Institute (public finance and political economy)

2015-2016: University of Edinburgh Field Days (scheduled), University of Minnesota Applied Economics (scheduled), University of North Dakota

(scheduled), Dartmouth College (scheduled), ASSA-Chinese Economists Society Session (scheduled)

REFEREEING American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Econometrica, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics of Transition, International Economic Review, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Public Economics

GRANT REFEREEING J-PAL Governance Initiative, J-PAL Post-Primary Education Initiative, Economic and Social Research Council (U.K.)

LANGUAGES Spanish (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (proficient)