

Rocco Zizzamia

Centre for the Study of African Economies · Manor Rd · Oxford OX1 3UQ, UK
✉ rocco.zizzamia@economics.ox.ac.uk 🌐 [roccozizzamia.github.io](https://github.com/roccozizzamia)

Current appointments

Fulford Junior Research Fellow (Somerville College, Oxford University)	Oct. 2023-present
Post-doctoral researcher in Economics (University of Oxford)	Nov. 2022-present # Education
<i>University of Oxford</i> , DPhil, International Development	2023
<i>University of Oxford</i> , MPhil, Development Studies, concentration in Dev. Econ. (Distinction)	2018
<i>University of Cape Town</i> , Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economic History (First Class)	2015
<i>University of Cape Town</i> , Bachelor of Social Science in Philosophy (First Class)	2014

Research

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Jain, R., Budlender, J., Zizzamia, R., & Bassier, I. (2023). [The labor market and poverty impacts of COVID-19 in South Africa](#). *South African Journal of Economics*. 91(4), 419-445.
- Schotte, S., & Zizzamia, R. (2022). [The livelihood impacts of COVID-19 in urban South Africa: A view from below](#). *Social Indicators Research*. 1-30.
- Zizzamia, R., Schotte, S., & Leibbrandt, M. (2022). [Snakes and Ladders and Loaded Dice: Poverty Dynamics and Inequality in South Africa, 2008 to 2017](#). *South African Journal of Economics*. 214-242.
- Zizzamia, R., Bassier, I., Budlender, J., Leibbrandt, M., & Ranchhod, V. (2021). [Locked down and locked out: Repurposing social assistance as emergency relief to informal workers](#). *World Development*, 139, 105271.
- Clementi, F., Fabiani, M., Molini, V., & Zizzamia, R. (2021). [Are We Really Painting the Devil on the Walls? Polarization and its Drivers in Sub-Saharan Africa in the Past Two Decades](#). *Journal of African Economies*.
- Zizzamia, R. (2020). [Is employment a panacea for poverty: A mixed-methods investigation into employment decisions in South Africa](#). *World Development*. 130. 104938.
- Schotte, S., Zizzamia, R., & Leibbrandt, M. (2018). [A poverty dynamics approach to social stratification: The South African case](#). *World Development*, 110, 88-103.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

- [Acting early under uncertainty: Anticipatory cash transfers in the context of flood disasters](#) (with Stefan Dercon, Ashley Pople, Hannah Timmis, Prabhmeet Matta, BIGD Dhaka)
- Rejection sensitivity and on-the-job search: A lab-in-the-field experiment in South Africa. **Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Behavioural and Experimental Economics**
- Optimal household targeting of cash transfers in a shock setting (with Hannah Timmis, Stefan Dercon, Ashley Pople, Prabhmeet Matta, BIGD Dhaka)
- Group Coaching and the Scalability of Ultra-Poor Graduation Programs: Evidence from Three Field Experiments (with Stefan Dercon, Emily Beam, Dean Karlan, and others)
- Welfare-Risk Trade-offs in Anticipatory Aid: A Portfolio Theory Approach (with Prabhmeet Matta)

Research and Teaching Experience

RESEARCH

Consultant (International Labour Organization)	2022
Research Officer (Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit)	2016 - 2021

Consultant (National Income Dynamics Study-Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey)	2020
Visiting Fellow (GIGA German Institute for Global and Area Studies)	2018
Short-Term Consultant (World Bank Group, Poverty Global Practice Unit)	2017 - 2018

TEACHING

Lecturer, Quantitative Methods (Oxford Dept. of International Development)	2024-2025
TA, Quantitative Methods (Oxford Dept. of International Development)	2020-2022
TA, Various (Philosophy Dept., University of Cape Town)	2013 - 2014

Grants (PI or co-PI)

<i>Anticipatory action for climate disaster response</i> , Weiss Asset Management Foundation (\$1,000,000)	2024 - 2025
<i>Anticipatory action for climate disaster response</i> , J-Pal King Climate Action Initiative (\$250,000)	2023 - 2025
<i>Boosting decent employment for Africa's youth</i> , International Development Research Centre (CAD\$500,000)	2019 - 2022
<i>Working to learn: an evaluation of on-the-job training</i> , J-Pal Post-Primary Education Initiative (\$25,000)	2019 - 2022

Awards

Papiya Ghosh Thesis Prize (best MPhil thesis) (2018); Clarendon Scholarship (2019 - 2022); Oxford Dept. International Development Scholarship (2022 - 2023); Skye Foundation Scholarship (2016 - 2018); Michael Wills Scholarship (2016 - 2018)

Presentations

Since 2016 I have presented original research at over 30 international conferences and seminars.

Public engagement

My research has been featured in the [Financial Times](#), [The Economist](#) (1, 2, 3, 4), [The Mail and Guardian](#), among others. My own public-facing writing can be found [here](#).

Service

Policy engagement: Policy modeling for the [Special Covid Grant Working group](#) – our proposal to introduce a [Social Relief of Distress Grant](#) was adopted by the South African government.

Mentoring: Co-founder of the [Oxford Africa Society Mentorship Scheme](#)

Refereeing: [Journal of Economic Inequality](#); [Economic Modelling](#); [World Development](#); [Review of Development Economics](#); [Applied Economics Letters](#); [South African Journal of Economics](#).

Editor: [CSAE Working Paper Series](#)

Organiser: [CSAE Workshop on Social Protection and Climate Adaptation \(2024\)](#); [CSAE Research Seminar Series \(2024-2025\)](#)

Other information

Software - Python, Stata, R ; **Languages** - English, Italian