# Elliott Collins

ecollins@poverty-action.org ・ elliottcollins.com ・ (925) 209-6215

## EDUCATION

| Institution | Degree | Field of Study | Year |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Univ. of California – Berkeley | Ph.D | Agricultural and Resource Economics | 2017 |
| Univ. of California – Berkeley | M.S. | Agricultural and Resource Economics | 2013 |
| Univ. of California – Santa Cruz | B.A. | Philosophy & Economics | 2009 |

## FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION

Development Economics, Consumer Welfare & Demand Theory, Applied Econometrics

## DISSERTATION: *Theoretical Approaches to Measuring the Welfare Effects of Asset Transfers*

Date of completion: August 2017
Dissertation committee: Ethan Ligon (Chair), Jeremy Magruder, and Edward Miguel

## Publications

Egger, D., et al. "Falling living standards during the COVID-19 crisis: Quantitative evidence from nine developing countries." *Science Advances* 7.6 (2021): eabe0997.

Solís Arce, J.S., Warren, S.S., Meriggi, N.F. *et al.* COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and hesitancy in low- and middle-income countries. *Nat Med* **27,** 1385–1394 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-021-01454-y

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Director of Poverty Measurement**      IPA      2019 - present

Managing the Poverty Measurement team at IPA and maintaining the Poverty Probability Index (PPI) as a public resource for the social sector. Focus includes working with PPI users & regional experts to update and improve the PPI, research on improving the machine learning methods used by the PPI and related poverty measurement resources, developing a business model for provision of public social sector tools, and developing purpose-built welfare assessment strategies for key projects. Recent work has also included management of data analysis on IPA's RECOVR project and publication of important findings on the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals in LMIC's.

**Senior Research & Evaluation Economist**      Kiva.org      2016 - 2019

Developed internal systems for setting social impact priorities in Kiva's $100M portfolio of MFI and social enterprise partnerships. Conducted research and made recommendations on appropriate methods for measuring welfare and financial inclusion among MFI customers. Developed a streamlined system for integrating rigorous academic research into Kiva's investment strategies. Worked with MFI partners to deploy surveys assessing poverty, financial inclusion, and customer satisfaction. Managed a quasi-experimental evaluation of a Kenyan MFI's dairy financing product.

**Lecturer**                                                    UC Berkeley                                                    2015

Developed the curriculum and taught the Development Economics course for 20 students in UC Berkeley's Economics department.

**Graduate Student Researcher**                          UC Berkeley & CEGA                                2012 - 2016

Worked with CEGA faculty and researchers at BRAC Uganda & South Sudan to conduct the first randomized comparison of cash transfers with BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation framework, managing data collection in South Sudan, analyzing data, and publishing results. Developed a method of estimating levels and changes in household welfare using consumption surveys with as few as five questions and extended it to estimate economic vulnerability. Used that method to implement a phone-based survey when violent conflict and labor disputes prevented further in-person data collection.

**Evaluation Coordinator**                          Innovations for Poverty Action                          2009 - 2010

Working for Jon Robinson, Pascaline Dupas, Lori Beaman, and Jeremy Magruder, managed the day-to-day operations of multiple randomized experiments, coordinating survey enumerator teams, ensuring adherence to experimental design and IRB protocols, and tracking metrics related to data quality. Designed household surveys and sampling strategies, completing market censuses, tracking response rates among microenterprises and farmers and maintaining data quality for both long household surveys and high-frequency tracking surveys.

## WORKING PAPERS

"Do Asset Transfers Reduce Vulnerability? Experimental Evidence in a Frisch Demand System"
    **(Job Market Paper)**

"Modeling the Welfare Effect of Asset Transfers: An Experiment in South Sudan"
    (with Ethan Ligon)

"Randomized Comparisons of Cash & Asset Transfers in South Sudan"
    (with Reajul Chowdhury, Munshi Sulaiman, & Ethan Ligon)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

"Balancing Accuracy & Stability in Model Selection: An Application to Poverty Proxy Methods"

## Technical Skills

Data analysis & economic modeling in Python, Stata, and Excel.