

# Lorenzo Casaburi

---

## Contact Information

University of Zurich  
Department of Economics  
Schönberggasse 1  
8001 Zürich, Switzerland  
+41 44 634 61 38  
lorenzo.casaburi@econ.uzh.ch  
<https://www.econ.uzh.ch/en/people/faculty/casaburi.html>

## Current Employment

2024- University of Zurich, Department of Economics, UBS Foundation Associate Professor

## Past Employment

2021-24 University of Zurich, Department of Economics, Associate Professor (with tenure)  
2016-20 University of Zurich, Department of Economics, Assistant Professor  
2013-16 Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), Postdoctoral Fellow  
2005-06 Research Assistant, International Child Support and IPA, Kenya

## Education

2013 Harvard University, Ph.D. Economics  
2004 University of Bologna, B.A. Economics *cum laude*  
2003-04 University of California Berkeley, *Education Abroad Program Student*

## Professional Activities

2024- Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Board of Directors  
2024- *Econometrica*, Associate Editor  
2021- *Economic Journal*, Associate Editor  
2023 U.N. Commission Innovation for Climate, Food Security, and Agriculture, Scientific Advisor  
2023- Swisscontact, Scientific Board  
2021- University of Zurich, Department of Economics, Predoctoral Program Coordinator

## Affiliations

2016- Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Affiliated Professor  
2016- Bureau for Research & Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Fellow  
2016- Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), Research Fellow  
2016- International Growth Centre (IGC), Research Affiliate  
2014- Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), Research Affiliate

---

## Articles in Journals

- [1] "Land Rental Markets: Experimental Evidence from Kenya" with Michelle Acampora and Jack Willis, *American Economic Review*, 115.3 (2025): 727-771 (*Lead Article*)
- [2] "Value Chain Microfinance" with Jack Willis, *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 40.1 (2024): 160-175
- [3] "Using Individual-Level Randomized Treatment to Learn about Market Structure" with Tristan Reed, *American Economic Journal: Applied*, 14.2 (2022): 58-90
- [4] "Demand and Supply of Infrequent Payments as a Commitment Device: Evidence from Kenya" with Rocco Macchiavello, *American Economic Review*, 109.2 (2019): 523-555

- [5] "Time vs. State in Insurance: Experimental Evidence from Contract Farming in Kenya" with Jack Willis, *American Economic Review*, 108.12 (2018): 3778-3813
- [6] "Ghost-House Busters: The Electoral Response to a Large Anti Tax Evasion Program" with Ugo Troiano, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 131.1 (2016): 273-314
- [7] "Contract Farming and Agricultural Productivity in Western Kenya" with Michael Kremer and Sendhil Mullainathan, in S. Edwards, S. Johnson, D. Weil (eds.), *African Economic Successes: Volume IV Sustainable Growth*, (2016): 137-160, University of Chicago Press, NBER Books.
- [8] "Loyalty, Exit and Enforcement: Evidence from a Kenya Dairy Cooperative" with Rocco Macchiavello, *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 105.5 (2015): 286-90.
- [9] "Production in Advance versus Production to Order: The Role of Downstream Spatial Clustering and Product Differentiation" with G. Alfredo Minerva, *Journal of Urban Economics*, 70.1 (2011)
- [10] "Firms' International Status and Heterogeneity in Performance: Evidence from Italy" with Valeria Gattai and G. Alfredo Minerva, *Rivista di Politica Economica*, V-VI (2007): 151-187

### **Other Publications**

- [11] Agricultural Technology Adoption in Africa, VoxDev literature review (2024), senior editors T. Suri, C. Udry. 15 co-editors
- [12] Madon T., Anderson R.J., Casaburi L., Lee K., Rezaee A., Gadgil A.J. (Eds.). (2022) *An Introduction to Development Engineering*. Springer.

### **Working Papers**

- [13] "Harvesting votes: the electoral effects of the Italian land reform" with Bruno Caprettini and Miriam Venturini (*2<sup>nd</sup> Revise and Resubmit Economic Journal*)
- [14] "State Dependence and Commitment: Evidence from Crop Insurance in Uganda" with Jack Willis and Sili Zhang (*draft available upon request*)
- [15] "Copayments and the Value of Health Insurance: Experimental Evidence from Uganda" with Kim Cramer and Jack Willis (*draft available upon request*)

### **Work in Progress**

- [19] "Land Tenure, Land Markets, and Land Use: Evidence from Uganda" with J. Alani, M. Jakob, C. Namuddu, J. Mivule, J. Sorin
- [20] "Contract Farming for Biofortified Crops: Evidence from Uganda and Rwanda" with Jack Willis (fieldwork concluded, analysis and paper writing in progress)
- [21] "Land Rental Service Providers: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia" with G. Abebe, N. Buehren, A. Hailamicheal (fieldwork in progress)
- [22] "Strategic Concerns in Peer Feedback: Experimental Evidence on Quantity, Quality and Performance" with Lea Heursen (lab experiment concluded, paper writing in progress)

### **Dormant Papers**

- [16] "Crony Capitalism, Collective Action, and ICT: Evidence from Kenya Contract Farming" (with Michael Kremer and Ravindra Ramrattan)
- [17] "Harnessing ICT to Increase Agricultural Production: Evidence from Kenya" with Michael Kremer, Sendhil Mullainathan, and Ravindra Ramrattan
- [18] "Rural Roads and Intermediated Trade: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from Sierra Leone" with Rachel Glennerster and Tavneet Suri

## **Teaching Experience**

2023	Insurance – BREAD course in Development Economics
2017-	Development Economics (Master), U Zurich, instructor
2016-	Development Economics (Ph.D.), U Zurich, instructor
2015	Development Economics (Ph.D.), Stanford, co-instructor
2014-15	Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa (B.A.), Stanford, instructor
2010	Development Economics (Ph.D.), Harvard, teaching fellow for Prof. M. Kremer
2009	International Trade (B.A.), Harvard, teaching fellow for Prof. M. Melitz
2004, 2006	Advanced Micro (M.A.), Bologna, teaching fellow for Prof. P. Onofri

## **Conference Organization and Refereeing**

Conference Program Committee Member: BREAD/CEPR (2026), BREAD/NBER Development (2023), European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (2019, 2020); EEA-ESEM (2019-23), Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics (2019), BREAD/NBER pre-conference (2019)

Referee: *American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Science, American Economic Review: Insights, Agricultural Economics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Journal, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of International Economics, Journal of International Trade and Development, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, RAND Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Routledge, World Bank Economic Review*

Other Reviewing Activity: *UniCredit Econ Job Market Best Paper Award 2025, J-PAL/CEGA ATAI, Private Enterprise Development in Low Income Countries (PEDL), NSF, USAID Development Innovation Ventures (DIV), ERC*

## **Ph.D. Supervision (graduation year, placement)**

2026	Agustina Colonna (AP Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
2026	Manon Delvaux (Postdoc UniDistance)
2026	Alishupa Philip (SNF Postdoc UC Berkeley)
2025	Maite Deambrosi (Postdoc CEU Vienna)
2025	Bin Huang (AP Renmin University)
2025	Matias Munoz (SNF Postdoc, UCL)
2025	Frank Odhiambo (ETH Ph.D), (Postdoc U Göttingen, then Precision Development)
2025	Lexi Schubert (Postdoc UC Berkeley, then AP Wesleyan U)
2024	Ursa Krenk (Postdoc UZH)
2024	Miriam Venturini (AP UC Riverside)
2023	Michelle Acampora (SNF Postdoc Harvard, then postdoc ETH)
2023	Emilio Dal Re (private sector)
2023	Claude Raisaro (Postdoc U Stockholm, then AP Graduate Institute of Int. Studies Geneva)
2022	Sara Bagagli (SNF Postdoc Harvard, then AP LSE Geography)
2022	Veda Narasimhan (AP NYU Abu Dhabi)
2021	Elisa Macchi (SNF Postdoc MIT, then AP Brown)

## Presentations

- 2026/27 U Copenhagen
- 2025/26 VDEV/CEPR/BREAD, Imperial College, Paris Dauphine, Norwegian School of Economics (NHH), U Padua, EIEF, KU Leuven workshop on financial inclusion, World Bank Land Conference, Bocconi LEAP
- 2024/25 Conference of the Japanese Association for Development Economics (*keynote speaker*), WEFIDEV conference, Birkbeck, Paris School of Economics, CEU Vienna, U Geneva, U St. Gallen African Summit, HAFL Hugo P. Cecchini Institute Annual Event (*keynote speaker*), IGC Uganda workshop on sustainable growth
- 2023/24 Nobel Symposium in Development Microeconomics, Yale Kuznets Mini-conference Agriculture and Development, World Bank Land Policy conference, IIES Stockholm, Toulouse, Central Bank of Colombia
- 2022/23 Oxford, FAO, ETH, SITES Summer School in Development Economics
- 2021/22 BREAD, Barcelona Summer Forum, Northwestern University, St. Gallen, Peking University, University of Basel, Bar-Ilan, Catholic University/LEAP Milan, CERGE-EI Prague, University of Venice
- 2020/21 NYU Abu Dhabi, Bologna, Ben Gurion University, Williams College, Tinbergen, U Naples, CEPR STEG workshop, Paris Dauphine University, Japan Empirical Economics Seminar
- 2019/20 Yale Kuznets Conference Trade and Development, Lund, Tilburg
- 2018/19 Euregio Workshop Trento (*keynote speaker*), Barcelona GSE Summer Forum Economic Analysis of Electoral Policies, UZH Workshop Political Economy and Development, AEA Meetings (*discussant*), University of Bolzano, Stockholm School of Economics, University of Liverpool, LMU Munich, Swiss Development Network Conference, Imperial College, University of Sussex, University of Fribourg, UK DFID, University of Maryland, Inter-American Development Bank, IMT Lucca, ETH Zurich
- 2017/18 Development Economics Conference German Economic Association, New Economic School Moscow, IPA Ghana, IFPRI, University of Vienna, Geneva Workshop on Financial Inclusion, IGC-PEDL Conference, Oxford CSAE, BREAD/NBER (*coauthor presenting*), Nova School of Business and Economics, Pompeu Fabra, TCD/LSE/CEPR Development Workshop
- 2016/17 Edinburgh Workshop on agricultural productivity, rural-urban migration, and structural transformation, Harvard/MIT, AEA Meetings, NBER Development, LSE/UCL, Stockholm University, University of Naples, Georgetown, Montreal Workshop on Productivity, Entrepreneurship and Development, Trinity College Dublin
- 2015/16 McGill, USAID, Theoretical Research in Development Economics Conference, Bocconi, Brown, Yale, CREI/UPF, New York University, UC Berkeley ARE, UC Davis (Econ/ARE), Cambridge, IIES Stockholm, Toulouse, EIEF, IESE, Zurich, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, University of Southern California, Oxford, Yale School of Management, NEUDC, UC Santa Cruz, Stanford, CEPR/PODER Annual Symposium on Development Economics, Harvard
- 2014/15 NBER Summer Institute Development Economics, Barcelona GSE Summer Forum Development Economics, PACDEV, Boston University, American Economic Association Meetings, Columbia, BASIS Annual Conference, IGC Growth Week, Stanford SIEPR
- 2013/14 European Economic Association Meetings, World Bank, Royal Economic Society, CSAE Oxford, UC Berkeley ARE, UC Davis ARE, IPA-SME/PEDL Conference, Millennium Challenge Corporation, National Tax Association Conference, UC San Diego, IGC Growth Week, BASIS Annual Conference, Stanford SIEPR

- 2012/13 Paris School of Economics, NBER Development and Organizational Economics Workshop, Stanford SIEPR, JPAL ATAI
- 2010-2012 NBER Africa Conference, NSF/AERC Agriculture Session

**Research Grants (selected)**

- 2026 European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant (€2M) (*PI, contracting ongoing*)
- 2025 Swiss National Science Foundation – Project Grant (CHF 880K) (*PI, contracting ongoing*)
- 2024 Weiss Fund (\$100,000) (Co-PI)
- 2023 USAID Development Innovation Ventures (\$1.1M) (Co-PI)
- 2020 European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant (€1.5M)
- 2019 Swiss National Science Foundation *Eccellenza Grant* (\$1.17M)
- 2018 J-PAL ATAI, with Jack Willis (\$50,000)
- 2016 IGC, with Dina Pomeranz (\$65,000)
- 2013 Anonymous Donor, with Rocco Macchiavello and Tristan Reed (\$113,000)
- 2013 Anonymous Donor, with Michael Kremer (\$630,000)
- 2013 USAID-BASIS, with Michael Kremer, Alphonse Odondo, and John Shoven (\$715,000)
- 2013 PEDL Exploratory Grant, with Michael Kremer and Sendhil Mullainathan (\$75,000)
- 2011 J-PAL ATAI, with Tristan Reed and Tavneet Suri (\$31,000)
- 2010 3ie, with Rachel Glennerster, Tavneet Suri and Sullay Kamara (\$165,000)
- 2010 USAID Development Innovation Ventures, with Rachel Glennerster (\$230,000)
- 2010 J-PAL ATAI, with Michael Kremer and Sendhil Mullainathan (\$180,000)

**Honors and Fellowships (selected)**

- 2019 Prize for Excellence in Development, German Economics Association & KfW
- 2017,18,20 Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Review*
- 2010 Harvard Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
- 2008-09 Harvard Interdisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy Fellowship
- 2007-08 Harvard Sustainability Science Program Giorgio Ruffolo Fellowship
- 2004 *Rotary Award*, Best Graduate in Economics at the University of Bologna
- 2000-2004 University of Bologna, Collegio Superiore Fellowship