

Michael Walker

University of California, Berkeley
Center for Effective Global Action
207 Giannini Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720

Email: [mwwalker\[at\]berkeley.edu](mailto:mwwalker[at]berkeley.edu)
Website: www.michaelwwalker.me

Academic Employment

Research Economist (Assistant Researcher), UC Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action (2024 - present)

Research Economist (Assistant Project Scientist), UC Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action (2022 - 2024)

Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley Center for Effective Global Action (2018 - 2022)

Education

Ph.D, Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 2017

Fields: Development Economics, Public Economics

Principal Advisor: Edward Miguel

B.A., Economics, (with Honors and Distinction), Stanford University, 2009

Research Fields

Development Economics, Public Economics, Political Economy, Health Economics

Publications

Economics/General Science

7. "Preparing for an Aging Africa: Data-Driven Priorities for Economic Research and Policy" (with Madeline Duhon, Edward Miguel, Amos Njuguna and Daniela Pinto Veigaza), forthcoming, *JPE Micro*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1086/737243>
6. "Targeting Impact versus Deprivation" (with Johannes Haushofer, Paul Niehaus, Carlos Paramo and Edward Miguel), *American Economic Review* (2025). 115(6): 1936-74. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20221650>
5. "Social protection and participation in community-driven development: Evidence from a cash transfer program in south-central Somalia" (with Vanessa van den Boogaard and Fabrizio Santoro), *Social Policy & Administration* (2023), 57(7), 1181 - 1198. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.12973>
4. "General Equilibrium Effects of Cash Transfers: Experimental Evidence from Kenya" (with Dennis Egger, Johannes Haushofer, Paul Niehaus and Edward Miguel), *Econometrica* (2022). 90(6): 2603-2643. doi: <https://doi.org/10.3982/ECTA17945>

3. "Twenty Year Economic Effects of Deworming," (with Joan Hamory, Michael Kremer, Edward Miguel and Sarah Baird), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2021), 118(14): e2023185118. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2023185118>
2. "Falling living standards during the COVID-19 crisis: Quantitative evidence from nine developing countries," (with Dennis Egger, Edward Miguel, Shana Warren, et al.), *Science Advances* (2021), 7(6): eabe0997. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abe0997>
1. "Repo runs: Evidence from the tri-party repo market," (with Adam Copeland and Antoine Martin), *Journal of Finance* (2014), 69:6, 2343-2380. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jofi.12205>

Public health/Others

4. "Midlife cognitive testing in Africa: validity of the Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol in the Kenya Life Panel Survey" (with Alden Gross, Madeline Duhon, Eric Ochieng, Jean Ikanga, William Dow, Jinkook Lee, Michelle Layvant, Anthony Ngugi, Joshua Ehrlich, and Edward Miguel), 2025, *BMJ Open*, 15:e096619. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2024-096619>
3. "Parent Psychological Well-Being, Home Learning Environment, and Child Development among Kenyan Families" (with Ye Rang Park, Madeline Duhon, Kyong Ah Kwon, Amber Beisly, and Edward Miguel), *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology* (2025). 97, 101760. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2025.101760>
2. "COVID-19 and mental health in eight Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A prospective cohort study" (with Nursena Aksunger, Corey Vernot, et al.), *PLOS Medicine* (2023), 20(4): e1004081. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1004081>
1. "Self-reported vs Directly Observed Face Mask Use in Kenya" (with Aleksandra Jakubowski, Dennis Egger, Carolyn Nekesa, Layna Lowe, and Edward Miguel). *JAMA Network Open* (2021), 4(7):e2118830. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.18830>

Working Papers

"Can Cash Transfers Save Lives? Evidence from a Large-Scale Experiment in Kenya" (with Nick Shankar, Edward Miguel, Dennis Egger and Grady Killeen), 2025. NBER Working Paper No. 34152, August.

"Slack and Economic Development" (with Nachiket Shah, Edward Miguel, Dennis Egger, Felix Samy Soliman and Tilman Graf), 2024. NBER Working Paper No. 33055, October.

"Intergenerational Human Capital Impacts and Complementarities in Kenya" (with Madeline Duhon, Lia Fernald, Joan Hamory, Edward Miguel and Eric Ochieng), 2024. NBER Working Paper No. 32617, June.

"Intergenerational Child Mortality Impacts of Deworming: Experimental Evidence from Two Decades of the Kenya Life Panel Survey" (with Alice Huang, Suleiman Asman, Sarah Baird, Lia Fernald, Joan Hamory, Satoshi Koiso, Michael Kremer, Matthew Krupoff, Michelle Layvant, Eric Ochieng, Pooja Suri, and Edward Miguel), 2023. NBER Working Paper No. 31162.

"Cash Transfers and Community Participation: A Village-Level Randomized Controlled Trial in Kenya" (with Kate Orkin), 2023.

"Informal Taxation and Cash Transfers: Experimental Evidence from Kenya." 2018.

Research Grants

Grants on which PI, Co-I, or Senior/Key Personnel:

Kenya Life Panel Survey (KLPS): NICHD R01 (2022-27); NSF (2022-26); NIA R01 (2022-27); Berkeley Population Center (2020); IPA Peace & Recovery (2020); IZA G²LMIC (2020)

Kenya General Equilibrium Study (KGES): IGC (2016-17, 2020); CEPR/PEDL (2014-16, 2016-17, 2019-22); JPAL IGI Covid-19 (2020)

Longitudinal Study of Health and Ageing in Kenya: NIA R01 (2025-2030)

Other work: UC Berkeley CEDA Pilot Grant (2023-25); JPAL GI (2017-18); AidData (2015)

Fellowships, Honors and Awards

Frisch Medal, Econometric Society, for “General Equilibrium Effects of Cash Transfers: Experimental Evidence from Kenya”, 2024

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, 2012 - 2017

George Break Prize (*Best performance in PF field courses*), UC Berkeley, 2014

Phi Beta Kappa, 2009

Conferences & Seminars

(includes scheduled)

2025	AEA/ASSA (San Francisco); PAA (Washington, DC); HCAP Africa Network Meeting; NBER Summer Institute (Children and Families)
2024	Workshop on Determinants of Adult Mortality, Morbidity, and Healthy Aging in LMICs (Discussant), PacDev (Stanford), CSAE, PAA (Columbus), ASHEcon (San Diego)
2023	Working Group in African Political Economy (UC Berkeley), PacDev, PAA (New Orleans), NBER Summer Institute (DEV, CH), HCAP Africa Network Meeting
2022	CSAE, Advances with Field Experiments (UChicago), African Meeting of the Econometrica Society (AFES), NEUDC
2021	ASSA/AEA, PacDev (UCSD), CSAE (Oxford)
2020	PacDev (UC Berkeley), NBER Summer Institute (DEV), NEUDC (Dartmouth), IZA/FCDO G ² LM-LIC Online Research Conference
2019	PacDev (USC)
2018	CSAE (Oxford), Public Finance and Public Management in Africa (GIMPA, Accra)
2017	NEUDC (Tufts), Working Group in African Political Economy (UBC)
2015	Working Group in African Political Economy (Arizona State)

Teaching

Development Economics (undergraduate), Instructor, Fall 2024

Graduate Development Economics (TA, Prof. E. Miguel)

Research Transparency Training (Berkeley Institute for Transparency in the Social Sciences)

Professional Service

Referee: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Review: Insights, BMJ Global Health, Demography, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Health Economics, Human Nature, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Finance, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Tax Administration, World Development*

Grant review: *National Science Foundation*

Other Professional Experience

Assistant Economist, Research Group, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, July 2009 - June 2011

Last updated: August 2025