

Irène Hu

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Primary fields: Environmental Economics, Development Economics, Applied Economics

Secondary fields: Migration Economics, Health Economics, Economics of Education

EDUCATION

Paris School of Economics and Université Paris I - Panthéon Sorbonne <i>Ph.D. in Economics</i>	Paris, France 2018 - 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supervisors: Fabrice Etilé and François LiboisJury: Jérémy Laurent-Lucchetti, Katrin Millock, Céline Nauges, Raphaël Soubeyran	
Paris School of Economics <i>Masters in Analysis and Policy in Economics</i>	Paris, France 2016 - 2018
ENSAE ParisTech (French National School of Statistics and Economics) <i>Engineering Masters' Degree in Data Science, Quantitative Economics and Sociology</i>	Paris, France 2013 - 2016
Lycée Henri IV <i>Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles, Economics and Business (ECS)</i>	Paris, France 2011 - 2013

WORK EXPERIENCE

OECD <i>Analyst, internal consultant, Education Directorate</i>	Jan 2023 – Present Paris, France
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Data analysis and drafting of the PISA 2022 Initial Report Volume II on the resiliency of education systems, schools and students after the Covid-19 crisis	
World Bank <i>Consultant (STC), Poverty and Equity GP, Europe and Central Asia</i>	Oct 2021 – Sep 2022 Paris, France
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducted statistical analyses of World Bank Pulse surveys to measure the socio-economic and labour impact of Covid-19 in Romania and CroatiaContributed to the EU Regular Economic Report (RER) 8	
World Health Organization <i>Research assistant</i>	Jun – Sep 2017 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducted an evaluation of the health and economic impacts of an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in Mongolia	
World Bank Development Research Group (DEC) <i>Research assistant to Quy-Toan Do and Hanan Jacoby</i>	Sep 2015 – Aug 2016 Washington D.C., USA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Data analysis and literature review for a randomized pricing experiment aimed at assessing the willingness-to-pay for piped water and electricity in Vietnam. WB Policy Research Working Paper 9207, April 2020.	
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) <i>Field investigator for Vincent Pons</i>	Nov–Dec 2014 Paris, France
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Administered door-to-door questionnaires in the suburb of Courcouronnes for an impact evaluation on the access to health care among underprivileged households.	

- Carried out a comparative analysis of integrated climate, land, energy and water policies in twenty countries.

WORK IN PROGRESS

MiningLeaks: Water Pollution and Child Mortality in Africa, with Mélanie Gittard

[Job market paper]

Abstract: Industrial mining can be a boon or a bane for communities living in the vicinity of production sites. We assess the environmental and health impacts of industrial mining in Africa using micro-data from 1986 to 2018 in 26 countries matched with geocoded data of industrial mining sites. Through a staggered difference-in-difference strategy, we exploit the variation of the opening of a mine and the relative topographic position of surrounding villages. Relying on an upstream-downstream topographic treatment, we show that opening an industrial mining site increases infant mortality and that this effect is driven by mining-induced water pollution.

Man Overboard! Industrial Fishing as a Driver of Out-Migration in Africa, with François Libois

Abstract: The adoption of a capital intensive technology to extract natural resource, competing directly with a more traditional and labour intensive use, can trigger migration in developing countries. This article focuses on the effect of fish stock depletion on migration in Africa and uses a novel dataset on industrial fishing intensity (Kroodsmas et al., 2018). Based on a panel of the 37 African countries with access to the sea over the period 2012-2018, we show that within country variation in industrial fishing intensity increases migration to OECD countries. We find strong evidence that the competition created by industrial fishing vessels overfishing African seas and depleting fish stocks, increase the number of migrants to OECD countries. We then show that findings at the macro level are consistent in terms of mechanisms with micro level estimates using household level demographic data.

Raw Materials Diplomacy, Official Development Finance and the Industrial Exploitation of Natural Resources in Africa (draft available upon request)

Abstract: This paper investigates how official development finance from traditional and emerging donors influences the industrial exploitation of natural resources in Africa. Willingly or not, loans contribute to the local influence a donor country can have in a recipient country, and its companies can benefit from easier access to extract the recipient's natural resources. Using development finance flows panel data from the OECD countries, China, India and the Gulf countries on the one side, and novel data on industrial extraction of natural resources on the other side. Through an extended descriptive analysis, I find that official development flows from DAC and non-DAC countries are positively correlated with their capacity to conclude large-scale land acquisitions in Africa, over 2000-2014.

PUBLICATIONS

EU Regular Economic Report 8: Living Up to Potential in the Wake of Adverse Shocks - Part 1, World Bank report on the European Union, 2022, with Mona Prasad, Emilija Timmis, Collette Mari Wheeler, Andrei Silviu Dospinescu, Kristina Vaughan, Samuel Freije-Rodriguez, Nga Thi Viet Nguyen, Reena Badiani-Magnusson, Leonardo Iacovone, Lukasz Marek Marc, Natasha Kapil and Matija Laco.

Prices, Patents and Access to Drugs: Views on Equity and Efficiency in the Global Pharmaceutical Industry, Revue française des affaires sociales 2018/3 with *Quentin Cavalan, Maud Hazan and Roxane Zighed*.

Benefits of Fiscal Policies on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages, Central Asian Journal of Medical Sciences, 2017 with *Undram Mandakh, Erdenechimeg Erdenebayar, Khorolmaa Bold, Tseden Purevdorj and Chimedsuren Ochir*.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Full doctoral scholarship	Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne, 2018-2022	<i>Three years and a half</i>
Research grant	CEPREMAP, 2022	<i>5K</i>
Research grant	EUR-PGSE, 2022	<i>2.5K</i>
Best PhD project	IOEA, 2019	
Research grant	EUR-PGSE, 2019	<i>4.5K</i>
International mobility grant	Université Paris-Saclay, 2017	<i>1.9K</i>

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2023: European Economics Association (EEA-ESEM) Annual Conference

2022: European Health Economics Association (EuHEA) Seminar Series Fall 2022, European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) Annual Conference, Journées doctorales du développement (JDD, Centre d'Économie de la Sorbonne), Casual Friday Development Seminar (CFDS, PSE)

2021: Center for the Studies of African Economies (CSAE) Annual Conference, 69th Congress of the French Economic Association (AFSE), 19th Nordic Conference in Development Economics (NCDE), International Development Economics Conference (ICDE), 14th International Conference on Migration and Development (LISER, University of Luxembourg, AFD, World Bank), Development Finance and Public Policies (DeFiPP) Workshop (University of Namur), Casual Friday Development Seminar (CFDS, PSE)

2020: EAERE-ETH European Winter School, Center for the Studies of African Economies (CSAE) Annual Conference, 7th French Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (FAERE) Annual Conference, Applied Economics Lunch Seminar (PSE), Casual Friday Development Seminar (CFDS, PSE), 2nd International Conference on Environmental Economics, A Focus on Natural Resources (EENR)

2019: Institutional and Organizational Economics Academy (IOEA) 18th Edition Spring School, Conférence Internationale de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (CISEA, ENSEA Abidjan), Casual Friday Development Seminar (CFDS, PSE)

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Teaching: Teaching Assistant in Development Economics, for Golvine de Rochambeau Master 1 (Paris School of International Affairs) and Master 2 (School of Public Affairs), Fall 2020.

Refereeing: *Environment and Development Economics Journal*.

SKILLS

Statistical softwares: Stata, R, QGIS, Python

Languages: French (native), English (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (Fluent, HSK level 5), German (intermediate)

REFERENCES

Quy-Toan Do	<i>Lead Economist in the World Bank Development Research Group</i>	qdo@worldbank.org
Fabrice Etilé	<i>Professor at the Paris School of Economics</i>	fabrice.etile@psemail.eu
François Libois	<i>Professor at the Paris School of Economics</i>	francois.libois@psemail.eu