

LUKE HEATH MILSOM

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RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: International Trade, Development

Secondary: Public/ Labor

EDUCATION

University of Oxford 2018 - 2023 (expected)

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

- Visiting Student: UC Berkeley, 2022

- Visiting Student: National University of Singapore, 2019

References

Prof. **Douglas Gollin**

University of Oxford

douglas.gollin@economics.ox.ac.uk

Prof. **Ferdinand Rauch**

Heidelberg University

ferdinand.rauch@awi.uni-heidelberg.de

Prof. **Gabriel Ulyssea**

University College London

g.ulysea@ucl.ac.uk

Dr. **Niclas Moneke**

University of Oxford

niclas.moneke@economics.ox.ac.uk

University of Oxford

Master of Philosophy in Economics

2016 - 2018

London School of Economics and Political Science

BSc. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics

2013 - 2016

RESEARCH

Working Papers

- Moving Opportunity. Local Connectivity and Spatial Inequality. ([JOB MARKET PAPER pdf](#))

Spatial inequality within countries is a pervasive and persistent phenomenon. How does the connectivity of place determine underlying spatial inequality of opportunity? To answer this question, I derive a sufficient statistic result linking local opportunity to market access terms, developing a framework consistent with a broad class of spatial general equilibrium models. I empirically validate this result using a novel not-on-least-cost-path identification strategy and data from historical road maps in Benin, Cameroon, and Mali covering 1970 to 2020, that I digitize. Using these estimates to parameterize a structural case of the spatial model, I show that road building alters the spatial distribution of opportunity. By considering each possible road upgrade I show that although some roads decrease the standard deviation of opportunity by more than 2%, others increase inequality by a similar amount. By fixing the spatial distribution of opportunity I show that to achieve similar reductions in inequality by moving people, a prohibitively large number would need to migrate from low- to high-opportunity areas — between 13% and 44% of the low-opportunity areas' population. Policymakers also face an equity-efficiency trade-off: 4 out of the top 10 aggregate opportunity-increasing roads also increase spatial inequality of opportunity.

- Spatial Inequality of Opportunity in West Africa. *R&R Journal of Public Economics* [pdf](#)

- The Butcher, the Brewer, or the Baker: The Role of Occupations in Explaining Wage Inequality. [pdf](#)
(With Shihang Hou)

- Minimum Wages and the China Syndrome: Causal Evidence from US Local Labour Markets. [pdf](#)
(With Isabelle Roland)
- Gravity in International Finance: Evidence from Fees on Equity Transactions. [pdf](#)
(With Vladimir Pazitka, Isabelle Roland, Dariusz Wojcik)

Work in Progress

- Moving to Possibility. Migration and Deviations from Expected Utility in Spatial Equilibrium.
- Labours of Love: The Search for Occupational Meaning & Worker Welfare
(With Hannah Zillessen & Shihang Hou)
- Reference Dependent Social Planners
(With Hannah Zillessen)

Publications

- The Epidemiological Impact of the NHS Covid-19 App (2021). [Nature](#)
(With Chris Wymant, Luca Ferretti, Daphne Tsallis, Marcos Charalambides, Lucie Abeler-Dörner, David Bonsall, Robert Hinch, Michelle Kendall, Mathew Ayres, Chris Holmes, Mark Briers, Christophe Fraser)
- Epidemiological changes on the Isle of Wight after the launch of the NHS Test and Trace programme: a preliminary analysis (2020). [The Lancet Digital Health](#)
(With Michelle Kendall; Lucie Abeler-Dörner; Chris Wymant; Luca Ferretti; Mark Briers; Chris Holmes; David Bonsall; Johannes Abeler; Christophe Fraser)
- Acceptability of App-Based Contact Tracing for COVID-19: Cross-Country Survey Study. (2020). [JMIR mhealth uhealth](#)
(With Samuel Altmann; Hannah Zillessen; Raffaele Blassone; Frederic Gerdon; Ruben Bach; Frauke Kreuter; Daniele Nosenzo; Séverine Toussaert; Johannes Abeler)

EXTERNAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2022: ES European Winter Meeting, NEUDC, LEAP, OxDev, CEP Junior trade workshop, American Urban Economics Association Summer Meeting, 7th Lindau Meeting on Economic Sciences, Infra4Dev, Development Economics Workshop ARE UC Berkeley, European Urban Economics Association Meeting, Royal Economic Society Young Economist Symposium, African Meeting of the Econometric Society, Warwick Ph.D. Conference, Royal Economic Society 2022 conference.

2021: Newcastle Ph.D. Economics Conference, CSAE conference, Warwick PhD conference.

2020: American Urban Economics Society Workshop.

2019: Applied Microeconomics Workshop at the National University of Singapore, CSAE Conference.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics, University of Oxford <i>Research Assistant to Prof. Johannes Abeler</i>	2016 - 2021
Department of Economics, University of Oxford <i>Research Assistant to Dr Isabelle Roland</i>	2018 - 2020
World Bank, DC <i>Short term consultant</i>	2019
Department of Economics, University of Oxford <i>Research Assistant to Prof. Sophocles Mavroeidis</i>	2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Stipendiary Lecturer at Corpus Christi College, Oxford (2018-2023)

Courses: (undergraduate) introductory and intermediate macroeconomics, introductory and intermediate microeconomics, intermediate and advanced econometrics.

Teaching Assistant MSc Economics for Development, Oxford (2020-21)

Courses: (graduate) International Trade.

Teaching Assistant, The LSE (2017-18)

Courses: (undergraduate) intermediate macroeconomics.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Department of Economics, University of Oxford

2020 - 2022

George-Webb-Medley Endowment Grant

Department of Economics, University of Oxford

2020 - 2022

Doctoral Bursary

Oxford Radcliffe ESRC Scholarship, University of Oxford

2016 - 2021

Full scholarship partly funded by University College, Oxford.

Chelgren Scholarship, Oxford

2016 - 18

MISCELLANEOUS

Software: Stata, Matlab, Python, ArcGIS, R, L^AT_EX