

Stefano Caria

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Employment

2025 - current Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oxford
2022 - 2025 Professor, Department of Economics, University of Warwick.
2020 - 2022 Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Warwick.
2018 - 2020 Assistant Professor (Lecturer), Department of Economics,
University of Bristol.
2014 - 2018 Postdoctoral Researcher (Departmental Lecturer), Department of
International Development, University of Oxford.

Affiliations, fellowships and other positions

2025 - present Academic Director, Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE)
2024 - present Associate Editor, Econometrica
2024 - present Co-director Labor Sector, J-PAL
2023 - 2025 Co-editor, VOXDEV
2023 - 2025 Research Program co-Director (Firms), IGC
2023 - 2024 British Academy Innovation Fellow
2023 - 2026 Philip Leverhulme Prize
2020 - present Collaborator, Economics of Environment and Energy, STICERD.
2020 - present Affiliate, CAGE, University of Warwick.
2020 - present Lead Academic, IGC Ethiopia.
2019 - 2024 Trustee, Global Change Data Lab (main project: Our World in Data).
2019 - present Affiliate, J-PAL.
2018 - present Research Affiliate, CEPR (development and labour).

Education

- 2011 - 2015** University of Oxford, D.Phil. in Economics.
- 2007 - 2009** University of Oxford, M.Phil. in Economics (Distinction, Best Thesis Prize).
- 2003 - 2006** University of Oxford, B.A. in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (First Class).

Research papers

“Does the Risk of Poverty Reduce Happiness?”. (with Paolo Falco)
***Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 67.1 (2018): 1-28.**

“Expectations, Network Centrality and Public Good Contributions: Experimental Evidence from India”. (with Marcel Fafchamps)
***Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 167 (2019): 391-408.**

“Can People Share Information Efficiently?”. (with Marcel Fafchamps)
***The Economic Journal*, 130:631 (2020): 1966-1994.**

“The Selection of Talent: Experimental and Structural Evidence from Ethiopia”. (with Girum Abebe and Esteban Ortiz-Ospina)
***American Economic Review*, 116: 6 (2021): 1757-1806.**

“Anonymity or Distance? Job Search and Labour Market Exclusion in a Growing African City”. (with Girum Abebe, Paolo Falco, Marcel Fafchamps, Simon Franklin and Simon Quinn)
***Review of Economic Studies*, 88:3 (2021): 1279-1310.**

“Global Behaviors and Perceptions during the COVID-19 Pandemic” (Thiemo Fetzer, Marc Witte, Lukas Hensel, Jon Jachimowicz, Johannes Haushofer, Andriy Ivchenko, Stefano Caria, Elena Reutskaja, Christopher Roth, Stefano Fiorin, Margarita Gómez, Gordon Kraft-Todd, Friedrich Gotz, Erez Yoeli)
***Journal of Behaviour & Organization*, 193 (2022): 473-496.**

“Searching with Friends”. (with Simon Franklin and Marc Witte)
***Journal of Labor Economics*, 41:4 (2023): 887-922.**

“Skeptical Employers Experimental Evidence on Biased Beliefs Constraining From Growth”. (with Paolo Falco)
***Review of Economics and Statistics*, 106:5 (2024): 1352-1368.**

“An Adaptive Field Experiment: Job Search Assistance for Refugees in Jordan”. (with Grant Gordon, Max Kasy, Soha Osman, Simon Quinn, and Alex Teytelboym) 2023.
***Journal of the European Economic Association*, 22:2 (2024): 781-836.**

“Village Social Structure and Labor Market Performance: Evidence from the Philippines”. (with Julien Labonne) 2023.
***Journal of Economic Behaviour & Organization*, 219 (2024): 371-380.**

“Job Fairs. Matching Firms and Unemployed Youth in a Field Experiment”. (with Girum Abebe, Paolo Falco, Marcel Fafchamps, Simon Franklin, Simon Quinn and Forhad Shilpi) 2024.
***Economic Journal*, 135:71 (2025): 2089-2121.**

“The Allocation of Incentives in Hierarchies” (with Erika Deserranno, Gianmarco Leon-Ciliotta, Philipp Kastrau) 2024.
***Journal of Political Economy*, 133:8 (2025): 2506-2562.**

“Competition and Management Upgrading: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia” (with Girum Abebe, Pascaline Dupas, Marcel Fafchamps and Tigabu Getahun) 2024.

“Mitigating the Consequences of Job Loss: Quasi-Experiment and Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia” (with Girum Abebe, Francois Gerard, and Lukas Hensel) 2024.

“The Barriers to Female Employment: Experimental Evidence from Egypt”. 2025
with Bruno Crépon, Caroline Krafft and AbdelRahman Nagy.
R&R, Review of Economics and Statistics.

“Designing Severance Insurance: Theory and Evidence from Ethiopia”
with Girum Abebe, Lukas Hensel, Francois Gerard, Sara Spaziani
Conditionally accepted based on pre-results review, Journal of Development Economics.

“Beliefs about climate change and migration intentions in Bangladesh”. 2026
with Gharad Bryan, Robin Burgess and Jack Thiemel

“Urban Poverty Traps in Bangladesh.” 2026
with Oriana Bandiera, Robin Burgess, Menna Bishop and Jack Thiemel

“Evaluating COVID-19 Public Health Messaging in Italy: Self-Reported Compliance and Growing Mental Health Concerns.” (with Soubhik Barari, Antonio Davola, Paolo Falco, Stefano Fiorin, Andriy Ivchenko, Jon Jachimowicz, Gary King, Gordon Kraft-Todd, Alice Ledda, Mary MacLennan, Lucian Mutoi, Claudio Pagani, Elena Reutskaja, Christopher Roth, and Federico Raimondi Slepoy)

Ongoing fieldwork

The General Equilibrium Effects of The UPG program (Bangladesh)
with Oriana Bandiera,, Robin Burgess, Munshi Sulaiman

Adaptation to climate change for the ultra-poor (Bangladesh).
with Oriana Bandiera,, Robin Burgess, Munshi Sulaiman, and Jack Thiemel

Matching on Additionality (Ethiopia).
with Pieter Gautier, Lukas Hensel, Francesco Losma, Marc Witte and Tigabu Getahun.

Apprenticeships and intergenerational mobility (East Africa).
with Tijmen Henkes, Lukas Hensel, Marc Witte.

Policy papers and Reviews

Innovation, Growth and the Environment. IGC White Paper on Sustainable Growth (with Robin Burgess, Tim Dobermann, Allegra Saggese)

VoxDev Literature Review. Barriers to Search and Hiring in Urban Labor Markets (senior editor with Kate Orkin)

Research grants

2026	Give Well “General Equilibrium Effects of the UPG program
2026	IPA “Does Soft Skill Certification raise vacancy-filling rates and equilibrium employment?” 60,000 USD
2024	Stone Centre “Expanding Job-Loss Insurance in Ethiopia”. 50,000£.
2023	IGC “The Labor Market and Welfare implications of Job-Loss Insurance in Ethiopia” 100,000£.
2022	J-PAL “The Welfare and Labor Market Effects of Job Displacement Insurance” (with Girum Abebe, Francois Gerard, Lukas Hensel) 125,000£.
2022	J-PAL “Climate Resilience and Graduation: Evidence from Bangladesh” (with Oriana Bandiera, Gharad Bryan and Robin Burgess). 330,000£.
2020	DfID-IZA “The Impact of Subsidized Access to Nurseries and Employment Services on Mothers’ Labor Market Outcomes and Child Development in Egypt” (with Bruno Crépon, Caroline Krafft, AbdelRahman Nagy). 380,000£.
2020	DfID-IZA “Can Temporary Financial Incentives for Industrial Workers Lead to Long-Term Retention and a Better Allocation of Talent” (with Girum Abebe, Stefan Dercon and Lukas Hensel) 225,000£.
2020	J-PAL “Evaluating the Impacts of a Comprehensive Youth Employment Program at Scale: A Pilot Study” (with Girum Abebe, Bruno Crépon, Simon Franklin and Christian Meyer) 50,000£.
2020	PEDL “Why do African firms underinvest in management training? Experimental evidence from middle and large Ethiopian firms” (with Girum Abebe, Pascaline Dupas, Deivy Houeix and Marcel Fafchamps). 430,000£.
2020	CEGA “Quantifying the benefits of targeting an employment program” (with Max Kasy, Simon Quinn, Soha Shami, Alex Teytelboym). 40,000£.
2019	MNA Gender Innovation Lab “Assessing the Impacts of Providing Access to Nurseries on Female Labor Force Participation in Egypt” (with Bruno Crépon, Caroline Krafft, AbdelRahman Nagy).130,000£.
2017	IGC and Oxford Martin School, “Understanding Industrial Parks” (with Girum Abebe, Stefan Dercon and Simon Quinn). 275,000£.
2016	John Fell Fund, “An Experimental Study of the Demand for Information among Firm Managers in Ethiopia”. 7,500£.
2015	IGC, “Do Managers use financial incentives effectively? Evidence from a field experiment in urban Ethiopia” (with Girum Abebe). 95,000£.
2014	DfID-IZA and IGC, “Assisting Job Search in Low-Employment Communities” (with Girum Abebe, Paolo Falco, Marcel Fafchamps Simon Franklin, Simon Quinn). 300,000£.

Lecturing and supervision

2025 - current	Lecturer, Development Economics 1, MPhil in Economics, University of Oxford
2025 - current	Lecturer, Microeconomic theory, MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford
2021- 2022	<i>Lecturer</i> , Applied Microeconomics, BSc in Economics, University of Warwick.
2020 - 2022	<i>Lecturer</i> , Applied Microeconomics, MSc in Economics, University of Warwick.
2019 - 2020	<i>Lecturer</i> , Behavioral Economics, BSc in Economics, University of Bristol.
2018 - 2020	<i>Lecturer</i> , Policy Experiments, MSc in Economics, University of Bristol.
2014 - 2018	<i>Lecturer</i> , Applied Econometrics, MSc in Economics for Development, University of Oxford.
2015 - 2016	<i>Lecturer</i> , Development Economics, M.Phil. in Economics, University of Oxford.
2014 - 2022	<i>Graduate thesis supervisor at Oxford, Bristol, and Warwick</i>

Seminars and conference presentations

2026: Nova, Roma III, Essex, International Economic Association Conference (Belgrade)

2025: Chicago, Bologna, Geneva, CREST, Zurich, CEPR, Bristol.

2024: African Econometric Society (Abidjan), Bergen, Cologne, Innsbruck, Royal Holloway, SED Conference (Barcelona), LISER.

2023: Princeton, Yale, NYU, Duke, Pittsburgh. CEPR conference on organisations and development (LSE).

2022: Stanford, Michigan, Notre Dame Bocconi Leap Workshop, Barcelona GES Summer Forum (Organizational Economics), RIDGE, Trinity College Dublin, Nottingham, Alicante, Milan Statale, ASSA, Cagliari, CEPR (work presented by co-author).

2021: Oxford, NUS, CEPR/LEAP Workshop in Development Economics, Barcelona GSE Summer Forum (Advances in Micro Development), KCL/EBRD Workshop on the Economics and Politics of Migration, CEGA/IPA Webinar on Forced Displacement, NBER SI Development (work presented by co-author), BREAD (work presented by co-author).

2020: CREST, IZA, Firms, Markets and Development Webinar, Institute of Management Bangalore, Utah Winter Organizational Economics Conference.

2019: LSE (Capabilities, Competition and Innovation Seminar and Labour Workshop), Stockholm School of Economics, Munich, Amsterdam (Tinbergen Institute), CEPR/IGC/ILO/GSEM Conference on Labour Markets in Developing Countries (University of Geneva), Conference on "Forced Displacement, Asylum Seekers and Refugees" (Queen Mary University),

CSAE conference, Milano Bicocca workshop on “Challenges and Opportunities for Policy Making in Africa”, Southampton Workshop on Applied Economics.

2018: Warwick, NBER Summer Institute, BREAD/CEPR/LSE/TCD Development Workshop (LSE), EALE (Lyon), Bristol Workshop, Ohlstadt Workshop, Cologne, IZA/WB conference on Jobs and Development, NEUDC (Cornell), JM: Cornell Dyson, Virginia Darden, McGill, Toulouse, Sciences Po, CREST, Paris School of Economics, Bristol, Essex, Royal Holloway, Bologna, Tilburg, Utrecht, CERGE-IE, Javeriana.

2017: NEUDC (Tufts), IGC/CEPR Labour Conference (LSE), IFS (London), Queen Mary University, Nottingham University, Impact Evaluation Conference (University of Mannheim), OxDev, Reading University, SEEDEC (University of East Anglia), OECD, Royal Economic Society (Bristol University), Ethiopian Economic Association Conference, CSAE conference, SAEe (Barcelona), Econometric Society Winter Meetings (Barcelona).

2016: NEUDC (MIT), Annual World Bank Conference on Africa, Clermont-Ferrand (Workshop on “Learning for adoption” organized by Alain de Janvry and Elisabeth Sadoulet), NIBS (Nottingham), LACEA-LAMES, Ethiopian Economic Association Conference, OxDev, CSAE conference.

2015: NEUDC (Brown), SEEDEC Conference (CERGE-EI, Prague), DIW (Berlin), Wageningen University, CSAE conference; GSE Summer Forum Barcelona, Royal Economic Society (Manchester).

Refereeing

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Review: Insights, Journal of the European Economic Association, American Economic Journal: Applied, Review of Economics and Statistics, Economic Journal, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Labor Economics, Economica, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of African Economics, Oxford Development Studies, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Journal of Experimental Political Science.

Honors and scholarships

+3 ESRC full award studentship to pursue doctoral studies.

George Webb Medley Prize 2009 for the best M.Phil. Thesis.

Languages

English, Italian, Spanish, Amharic (basic).

Last updated: October 2026