

alenavan@northwestern edu

Marie-Louise Décamps

Fields

Placement Director

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Economics

	Placement Administrator:	Lola Ittner	847-491-5213	econjobmarket@northwestern.edu
Contact	Department of Econom		obile: 202-595-	-4633
Information	Northwestern Universit		ldecamps@u.no	orthwestern.edu

Professor Alessandro Pavan

2211 Campus Drive https://sites.northwestern.edu/mmd5648
Evanston, IL 60208 Citizenship: French, Permanent Brazilian

Residency

847_491_8266

Secondary: Environmental Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Primary: Development Economics

Education Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University (expected) 2024
Dissertation: Essays on the Economics of Tropical Deforestation

Committee: Christopher Udry (Co-chair), Seema Jayachandran (Co-chair), Jacopo Ponticelli

M.A., Economics, Northwestern University 2021

B.A., Economics & Applied Mathematics, The George Washington University 2018

Fellowships &Dissertation Year University Fellowship, Northwestern University2023-24AwardsDistinguished Teaching Assistant Award, Northwestern University2022, 2023

Ruggles Undergraduate Mathematics Prize, The George Washington University

GW Undergraduate Research Award, The George Washington University

2017

Phi Beta Kappa, Academic Honor Society, The George Washington University

2017

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, The George Washington University

2016

Athletic Scholarship (Tennis), The George Washington University 2014-18

Research Research Assistant, Prof. Ameet Morjaria, Northwestern University 2022
Experience

Research Assistant, Prof. Seema Jayachandran, Northwestern University

Winter 2021

Research Assistant, Prof. Christopher Udry, Northwestern University

Fall 2020

Research Assistant, Prof. Remi Jedwab, The George Washington University 2017

Teaching Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University
Experience Environmental Economics Prof Mark Witte

Environmental Economics, Prof. Mark Witte Winter 2023
Intermediate Microeconomics I, Prof. James Hornsten
Introduction to Microeconomics, Prof. Eric Schulz
Intermediate Microeconomics I, Prof. Eric Schulz
Winter 2022

Introduction to Microeconomics, Prof. Sara Hernandez Winter 2020 & Spring, Fall 2021 Introduction to Microeconomics, Prof. Scott Ogawa Spring 2020

Job Market Paper "Shifting Landscapes: The Impact of Agricultural Innovation on Deforestation"

Abstract: This paper examines the effect of a new agricultural technology, namely genetically modified (GM) seeds, on deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon. Our empirical strategy leverages the heterogeneous effects that the introduction of GM soybean seeds had on agricultural productivity across areas based on soil and weather characteristics, and satellite data on land use. We show that increases in soy productivity lead to changes in the local composition of land use as soy replaces existing activities, namely pastures for cattle grazing.

This leads to a decrease in deforestation because soy cultivation is less land-intensive than cattle grazing. Next, we examine whether the reallocation of pastures elsewhere leads to deforestation. We find that pastures are displaced to areas connected by the road network, thereby causing deforestation. We conclude that the introduction of GM soy contributed to 7.4% of the total deforested area in the Brazilian Amazon between 2003 and 2010.

Other Work in Progress

"Deforestation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo" with Ameet Morjaria

Abstract: The conservation of forests is a key element of global efforts to slow climate change. In this study, we focus on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which hosts the majority of the Congo Basin rainforest, the world's second-largest such ecosystem. To study drivers of deforestation in the DRC, we compile a dataset that includes satellite imagery tracking deforestation, proprietary administrative data on mine openings and contracts, and geocoded information on conflicts. We employ a staggered adoption differences-in-differences design, leveraging variation in the timing of mine openings, to assess the impact of these openings on deforestation. The effect of mine openings on deforestation is ambiguous. On one hand, mines may shift labor allocation away from forest resource extraction to mineral exploitation, reducing deforestation. By contrast, an increase in local incomes and population due to mining activity may increase demand for land, increasing deforestation. Our preliminary findings indicate that the opening of mines leads to a decrease in deforestation, particularly in non-fire-related deforestation. We posit that this reduction in deforestation is linked to increased conflict that accompanies mine openings, which hinders local populations from benefiting from mining activities.

"Excluded Women: The Fall of Female Labor Force Participation in Post-Industrial Revolution England" with Laura Murphy and Myera Rashid

Abstract: We study women's labor market participation in England between 1851 and 1911 using newly digitized census microdata. We document three novel facts. First, women's labor force participation rate slightly decreased between 1851 and 1911, driven by a 40% decrease among married women. Secondly, examining synthetic cohorts reveals that the drop in married women's labor force participation is driven by younger cohorts choosing not to join the workforce, rather than older cohorts exiting at increasing rates. Lastly, we observe that women were predominantly employed in the textile and domestic service sectors. Our theoretical model suggests that increasing societal barriers may have influenced married women's labor market engagement over time.

Programming

Stata, Python, Google Earth Engine, ArcGIS/QGIS

Professional activities

Conference organizer, Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference (EMCON)

Development Lunch Seminar Organizer, Northwestern University

Northwestern Graduate Mentorship Program Mentor

2019–21

Languages

English (fluent), Portuguese (fluent), French (fluent), German (fluent), Spanish (working proficiency)

References

Professor Christopher Udry
Department of Economics
Northwestern University
2211 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL 60208
christopher.udry@northwestern.edu

Professor Seema Jayachandran Department of Economics Princeton University 126 Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building Princeton, NJ 08544 jayachandran@princeton.edu

Professor Jacopo Ponticelli Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 jacopo.ponticelli@kellogg.northwestern.edu