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Academic Positions

2008-present University of Michigan, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
2008-present University of Michigan, Research Affiliate, Population Studies Center
2006-2008 University of Michigan Population Research Center, NIA Post-doctoral Fellow

Education

2006 Ph.D., M.A. Political Economy and Government Harvard University
1998 B.S. (High Distinction) Applied Mathematics, German University of Michigan

Research

Publications:

Oster, Emily and Rebecca Thornton. "Menstruation, Sanitary Products and School Attendance: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation". *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, forthcoming.
Thornton, Rebecca, Laurel Hatt, Erica Field, Mursaleena Islam, Freddy Solís, Martha Azuzena González Moncada. "Social Security Health Insurance for the Informal Sector in Nicaragua: A Randomized Evaluation". *Health Economics*, Volume 19, Issue S1, September. Pages: 181–206. 2010.
Michael Kremer, Edward Miguel, and Rebecca Thornton. "Incentives to Learn". *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 91 (3):437-456. 2009.
Thornton, Rebecca. "The Demand for, and Impact of, Learning HIV Status." *American Economic Review*, 98(5): 1829–63. 2008.

Publications in other disciplines:

Obare, Francis, Peter Fleming, Philip Anglewicz, Rebecca Thornton, Francis Martinson, Agatha Kapatuka, Michelle Poulin, Susan Watkins, Hans-Peter Kohler. "Acceptance of repeat population-based voluntary counseling and testing for HIV in rural Malawi." *Sexually Transmitted Infections*. 85; 139-144; originally published online 16 Oct 2008; doi:10.1136/sti.2008.030320. 2009.
Angotti N, Bula A, Gaydosh L, Kimchi E, Thornton R, and Yeatman S. "Increasing the Acceptability of HIV Counseling and Testing with Three C's: Convenience, Confidentiality and Credibility", *Social Science & Medicine*. June; 68(12):2263-70. 2009.
Jensen, Robert and Rebecca Thornton "The Consequences of Early Marriage in the Developing World." *Oxfam Journal of Gender and Development* (June) 2003.

Working papers:

Godlonton, Susan and Rebecca Thornton. "Peer Effects in Learning HIV Results". Working Paper, University of Michigan. 2010. *Revise and Resubmit (Journal of Development Economics)*.
Oster, Emily and Rebecca Thornton. "Determinants of Technology Adoption: Private Value and Peer Effects in Menstrual Cup Take-Up". NBER Working Paper Series No. 14828; Cambridge: National Bureau of Economic Research, 2009. *Submitted (Review of Economic Studies)*.
Burns, Justine, Malcolm Keswell, and Rebecca Thornton. "Evaluating the Impact of Health Programmes". 2009. *Submitted (South African Journal of Economics)*.
Thornton, Rebecca. "HIV Testing and Economic Behavior". Working Paper, University of Michigan. 2010. *Submitted (Journal of Development Economics)*.

- Kohler, Hans-Peter and Rebecca Thornton. "Conditional Cash Transfers and HIV/AIDS Prevention: Unconditionally Promising?" Working paper, University of Michigan. 2010. *Submitted (World Bank Economic Review)*.
- Foley, Sallie, Jason Kerwin, and Rebecca Thornton. "Abstinence, Be Faithful, Condoms, Fellatio? The Potential of Oral Sex as a Safer Sex Strategy in Africa". Working paper, University of Michigan. 2010.
- Godlonton, Susan, Alister Munthali, and Rebecca Thornton. "Circumcision, Information, and HIV Prevention". Working Paper, University of Michigan. 2010.
- Fitzpatrick, Anne, and Rebecca Thornton. "The Spillover Effects of Health Insurance to Families: Experimental Evidence from Nicaragua". Working paper, University of Michigan. 2010.
- Godlonton, Susan, Alister Munthali, and Rebecca Thornton. "Male Circumcision in Malawi: New Data on Behavior and Attitudes". Working Paper, University of Michigan. 2010.
- Godlonton, Susan, Alister Munthali, and Rebecca Thornton. "A Gender Perspective on Attitudes towards Male Circumcision in Rural Malawi". Working Paper, University of Michigan. 2010.

Reviews/Reports:

- Magnoni, Barbara, Annette Lovoi, Julia Brown, and Rebecca Thornton. "Risks across Borders: A Study of the Potential of Micro-insurance Products to Help Migrants Cope with Cross Border Risks". Preliminary Report to the Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank Group. 2010.
- Fitzpatrick, Anne, Barbara Magnoni, and Rebecca Thornton. "Micro-insurance Utilization in Nicaragua: A Report on Retention, Effects on Children, and Health Claims". Preliminary Report to the International Labour Organization. 2010.
- Jessica Goldberg, Niall Keleher, Annika Muller, Rebecca Thornton, and Dean Yang. "Price Sensitivity and Impacts of Formal Transportation in Rural Africa: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment in Malawi". Preliminary Report to the World Bank. 2010.
- Thornton, Rebecca. Book Review: *Global Lessons from the AIDS Pandemic: Economic, Financial, Legal and Political Implications*. By Bradly J. Condon and Tapen Sinha. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 47:4, 1126–1160. 2009.
- Hatt, Laurel, Rebecca Thornton, Barbara Magnoni, and Mursaleena Islam. "Extending Social Insurance to Informal Sector Workers in Nicaragua via Microfinance Institutions: Results from a Randomized Evaluation". USAID/PSP-one Report. 2009.
- Hatt, Laurel, Rebecca Thornton, Barbara Magnoni, and Mursaleena Islam. "Extending Health Insurance to Informal Sector Workers in Nicaragua". USAID/PSP-one Policy Brief. 2009.
- Magnoni, Barbara, Benjamin, Matranga, and Rebecca Thornton. "Hand Out or Hand Up: Microfinance, Remittances and Entrepreneurship in Nicaragua". EA Consultants Technical Brief 0011107. 2007.
- Miguel, Edward, Michael Kremer, and Rebecca Thornton. "Incentives to Learn: Merit Scholarships that Pay Kids to Do Well", Education Next. Spring 2005.

Popular Press:

- Oster, Emily and Rebecca Thornton. "Are 'Feminine Problems' Keeping Poor Girls Out of School?". New York Times Economix Blog. April 27, 2010.
- New York Times "Pssst. Does Menstruation Keep Girls Out of School?" Nicholas Kristof. On the Ground. September 4, 2009.
- Jezebel "In Developing Countries, Periods Aren't the Problem". Anna North. 2009.
- WASH news Asia Pacific "Nepal: new study says impact of menstruation on school attendance is overstated?" May 10, 2010.
- Miguel, Edward. Forbes "On My Mind: Cash Talks", November 2003.

Honors, Grants and Fellowships:

- 2010 Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan: Instructional Development Fund
- 2010 African Social Research Initiative Seed Grant: Sugar Daddies and Empowered Women
- 2010 Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies Spring/Summer Research Grant
- 2010 International Initiative for Impact evaluation (3ie), Scaling up Male Circumcision Service Provision (With Jobiba Chinkhumba, Brendan Hayes, and Susan Godlonton)
- 2010 Riecker Undergraduate Research Fund, Center for the Education of Women, University of Michigan
- 2010 Unconventional Safer Sex Strategies, Michigan Population Studies Center Small Grant
- 2009 The World Bank: Rural Transport in Malawi (with Dean Yang)
- 2009 Institute for Research on Women and Gender Faculty Research Grant: Circumcision, Information, and HIV Prevention
- 2009 OVPR University of Michigan Small scale grant: Circumcision, Information, and HIV Prevention
- 2009 Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies Faculty Research Grant: Circumcision, Information, and HIV Prevention
- 2009 International Labour Organization, 2009: Micro-insurance in Nicaragua (with Barbara Magnoni)
- 2008 NBER Africa Initiative: Leapfrogging the neighbors: The penetration and socioeconomic effects of information communications technologies in landlocked Malawi, (with Taryn Dinkelman, Emily Oster, and Deric Zanera.
- 2007 Michigan Population Studies Center Small Grant (Ford Funds): AIDS, and the Elderly: Data Collection and a Field Intervention in Malawi (with Dean Yang)
- 2007 Michigan Population Studies Center Small Grant (Mueller and Freedman Funds): Menstruation and Education in Nepal Follow-up Study
- 2007 Michigan Center for Demography of Aging (MiCDA) pilot grant: Subjective Life-Expectancy, Beliefs about HIV Transmission, and Long-term Planning
- 2007 Global Development Network Grant, (with Barbara Magnoni, Erica Field, and Martha González)
- 2006 Center for Health and Social Sciences Grant, University of Chicago (with Emily Oster)
- 2005 Harvard University Women in Public Policy Grant: Menstruation and Education in Nepal, (with Emily Oster)
- 2005 Warburg Foundation Economics of Culture Research Grant: Menstruation and Education in Nepal, (with Emily Oster)
- 2005 Harvard Center for International Development Research Grant: Menstruation and Education in Nepal, (with Emily Oster)
- 2005 NBER Fellowship in Aging
- 2005 Warburg Foundation Economics of Poverty Research Grant, Data Collection in Malawi
- 2004 Information, Incentives and HIV/AIDS Prevention. R21 NIH grant awarded (Hans-Peter Kohler P.I., and Adeline Delavande)
- 2004 Harvard University Term-Time Graduate Student Merit Fellowship
- 2004 Harvard Center for International Development Research Grant
- 2003 Mortimer Spiegelman Fellow in Demography and Population Studies
- 2003 Center for Basic Research in the Social Sciences, Training Grant in Mathematics
- 2003 Harvard University Research Fellowship
- 2001 Harvard University Graduate Student Fellowship

Invited Presentations and Lectures

- 2010 University of Michigan series on Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health: A Global Perspective; London University College/London School of Economics; IIES, Stockholm Sweden; Bocconi University, Milan Italy; Population Association of America, Dallas; Toulouse School of Economics; Paris School of Economics; Ohio State University; Women and Public Policy Program, Harvard University; American Economic Association, Atlanta; World Bank Impact Evaluation Meetings, Johannesburg
- 2009 NBER Meeting on Africa Successes (Taryn Dinkelman); Population Association of America, Detroit; African Population and Health Research Center, Nairobi Kenya; Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan; Michigan State University; 3IE Conference, Cairo Egypt; Center for Global Development, Washington DC; Population Association of America, Detroit (Mursaleena Islam); 3IE, Cairo Egypt; Global Development Network Meetings, York, UK; The World Bank, Washington DC; Micro-insurance panel Harvard Business School; AEA Meetings, San Francisco, CA
- 2008 Duke University; Harvard University; ISER, Nepal; The World Bank, Washington, DC; National AIDS Dissemination Conference, Lilongwe Malawi; Population Association of America, New Orleans (Susan Godlonton); Population Association of Iran, University of Tehran; Population Association of America, New Orleans; Global Development Network Meetings, Brisbane Australia; Syracuse University
- 2007 Women and HIV/AIDS Symposium, Champaign, Illinois; USAID, Washington DC; Global Development Network Meetings, Cairo Egypt; Hewlett Foundation and Population Reference Bureau Research Conference on Population Impacts on Economic Development, Union for African Population Studies, Fifth African Population Conference, Tanzania; National AIDS Dissemination Conference, Lilongwe Malawi; SALDRU seminar, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Subjective Probabilities and Expectations: Methodological Issues and Empirical Applications to Economic Decision-making, Jackson Hole, Wyoming; National AIDS Dissemination Conference, Lilongwe Malawi
- 2006 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston; Abt Associates, Washington D.C.; World Bank Human Development Forum, Washington D.C.; Experimental Economics Association Annual Meeting, Arizona; Johns Hopkins Economics Department; SALDRU, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Center for Global Development; University of North Carolina; Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; University of Michigan; University of Virginia; University of Toronto; Penn State University; Washington University; MIT/Harvard University Development Seminar; Population Association of America (Los Angeles); AEA Meetings, Boston, MA
- 2005 University of Pennsylvania Population Center Colloquium; Johns Hopkins Population Center; North East Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), Brown University; Eric M. Mindich Conference on Experimental Social Science: "Action Research in Psychology and Economics", Harvard University

Invited Discussant

- 2010 NBER Meeting on Africa Successes, Accra Ghana
- 2009 Population Association of America, Detroit
- 2008 Population Association of America, New Orleans; AEA Meetings, New Orleans; Global Development Network, Brisbane Australia
- 2007 Union for African Population Studies, Fifth African Population Conference, Tanzania

Referee for:

American Economic Journal: Applied, American Economic Review, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis Policy, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economica, Economic Journal, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Literature, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Public Economics, Review of Economic Statistics, Population Reference Bureau, Society for Labor Economists, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics, Review of Economics and Statistics, South African Journal of Economics

Professional Affiliations/Memberships:

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
American Economic Association (AEA)
African Studies Center, University of Michigan
Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)
Center for Global Health, University of Michigan (CGH)
Population Association of America (PAA)
Union for African Population Studies (UAPS)
Population Studies Center, University of Michigan (PSC)
International Policy Center, University of Michigan

Teaching:

Fall, 2008, 2009, 2010 Economics 462 (Undergraduate Development Economics)
Fall, 2008, 2009, 2010 Economics 665 (Graduate Development Economics)
April, 2009 Randomized Evaluation; Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Course – 3IE
Conference, Cairo Egypt
Spring, 2006 Health, Education, and Development, Harvard, Teaching Fellow for Erica Field.
March 2004, May 2006 Evaluating Social Programs, Poverty Action Lab, Teaching Assistant
Fall, 2003 Political Economy of Development, Harvard, Teaching Fellow for Devesh Kapur.

Consulting/Research Experience/Training:

2010	University of Michigan Center for Sexual Health Certificate Program (Participant)
2010-present	African Institute for Development Policy (Associate Fellow)
2010-present	Center for Sustainable Development (Board Member)
2008-present	Ruben J. Williams Foundation (Advisory Panel Member)
2006-present	EA Consultants
2010	Summer Biomarker Institute, Northwestern University
2006-2008	Abt Associates
2004-2005	MDICP Voluntary Counseling and Testing Research and Field Director, Malawi
2003-2004	Weatherhead Center for International Affairs
2003	Summer Program in Survey Methodology, University of Michigan
2002	Internationaal Christelijk Steunfonds, Kenya
2002	World Bank, Uganda
2001	Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal
2000-2001	National Bureau of Economic Research
1999	Population Ecology Research Laboratory, Nepal
1997	Albert Ludwig Universität, Germany Study Abroad