



SIER 2015 Program

Session I: TRAINING ON RESEARCH DESIGN (WORKSHOP)

Location: ASE CAMPUS, ABOMEY-CALAVI

Note: sessions will go from 9am to 5pm (1 hour lunch break around noon)

Monday December 7, 2015

GIS (part I) / Instructor : Abhit Bhandari (Columbia University) / 6 hours

Program :

1. Introduction to *R*
2. Foundations of GIS
3. Spatial Econometrics

Tuesday December 8, 2015

GIS (part II) / Instructor : Abhit Bhandari (Columbia University) / 6 hours

Wednesday December 9, 2015

SESSION: IMPACT EVALUATION, CAUSAL INFERENCE AND RCT DESIGN (part I) / Instructor : Deo-Gracias Houndolo (3ie - ISS Erasmus University Rotterdam) and Dozie Okoye (Dalhousie University) / 6 hours

Program :

1. Causal inference
2. Difference-in-Difference methods
3. Regression discontinuity
4. Instrumental variables
5. Randomization/Experimental designs
6. Model calibration

Thursday December 10, 2015

SESSION: IMPACT EVALUATION, CAUSAL INFERENCE AND RCT DESIGN (part II) / Instructor : Deo-Gracias Houndolo (3ie - ISS Erasmus University Rotterdam) and Dozie Okoye (Dalhousie University) / 6 hours

Friday December 11, 2015

SESSION: FINANCIAL ECONOMICS / Instructor : Cedric Okou (Université du Québec à Montréal) / 8 hours

Program :

1. Fundamentals of financial markets
2. Important utility functions
3. Portfolio choice
4. Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)
5. Consumption-based Capital Asset Pricing Model (CCAPM)

Session II: RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Location: GANNA HOTEL, GRAND POPO

Monday December 14, 2015

BREAKFAST (08:00AM - 10:00AM)

WELCOME ADDRESS (10:00AM - 10:30AM)

Presenter: Léonard Wantchekon (African School of Economics, Princeton University)

SESSION 1: FINANCE (10:30AM - 12:30PM) – Chair: Kingsley Agomor (GIMPA)

Paper 1: Asset Pricing with Heterogeneous Agents and Long Run Risk

Presenter: Kagba Kousse (African School of Economics)

Paper 2: Downside Variance Risk Premium

Presenter: Cédric Okou (ESG Finance, Université du Québec à Montréal)

Paper 3: Nonlinearity in The Risk-Return Trade-Off

Presenter: Rachidi Kotchoni (African School of Economics)

LUNCH BREAK (12:30PM - 02:30PM)

SESSION 2: ECONOMETRICS (2:30PM - 4:00PM) - Chair: Rachidi Kotchoni (ASE)

Paper 1: Marriage Matching with Peer Effects

Presenter: Ismael Y. Mourifié (University of Toronto)

Paper 2: On the Estimation of Average Treatment Effects with Endogenous Misreporting

Presenter: Pierre E. Nguimkeu (Andrew Young School of Economics, GSU)

Paper 3: Evaluation Institutionalization as a Treatment for Government Performance: Evidence from Benin Experience

Presenter: Damase E. Sossou (Prime Minister Office, Benin)

COFFEE BREAK (4:00PM - 4:30PM)

SESSION 3: DEVELOPMENT FINANCE (4:30PM – 5:30PM) – Chair: Kagba Kousse (ASE)

Paper 1: Socio Economic Status and Household Health Expenditure in Benin. Hilaire Houeninvo (University of Abomey-Calavi)

Paper 2: Mobile Money, Economic Growth, and Spatial Competition
Presenter: Tite Yokossi (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Tuesday December 15, 2015

BREAKFAST (8:00AM - 9:00AM)

SESSION 4: DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS (9:00AM - 10:30AM) – Chair: Sam Aguey (ASE)

Paper 1: Peer Effects within Maternal and Child Care Workers in Benin
Presenter: Elfried Faton (Université Laval)

Paper 2: Laying the Tracks for Development: The Colonial Railway and Local Human Development in Nigeria
Presenter: Dozie Okoye (Dalhousie University)

Paper 3: Livestock wealth dynamics analysis to test poverty trap theory in Northern Ghana
Presenter: Deo-Gracias Houndolo (3ie - ISS Erasmus University Rotterdam)

COFFEE BREAK (10:30AM - 11:00AM)

SESSION 5: AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS (11:00AM - 12:30PM) – Chair: Maurice Kimou (EPM Abidjan)

Paper 1: Strengthening Farmer Organizations in Uganda
Presenter: Markus Olapade (African School of Economics)

Paper 2: Economic Viability of Irrigated Maize Production in Kenya
Presenter: Dennis Otieno (Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development)

Paper 3: The Curse of Good Soil? Land Fertility, Roads and Rural Poverty in Africa.
Presenter: Leonard Wanchekon (African School of Economics, Princeton University)

LUNCH BREAK (12:30PM - 2:30PM)

SESSION 6: ECONOMIC DYNAMICS (2:30PM - 4:30PM) – Chair: Landry Signé (Univ. Alaska Anchorage, Stanford University)

Paper 1: The Cyclicity of the Labor Income Share and the Investment-Specific Technology Shock
Presenter: Edouard Wemy (Emory University)

Paper 2: Twin Crises Explained within a Financial, Spatial and Micro-founded Dynamic General Equilibrium Model
Presenter: Segnon Aguey (ESG Economie, Université du Québec à Montréal)

Paper 3: Education and Long-term Social Mobility. Evidence from Colonial Benin.
Presenter: Leonard Wantchekon (African School of Economics, Princeton University)

Paper 4: Which econometric specification to characterize the inflation rate
Presenter: David Gbaguidi (African School of Economics)

BREAK (4:30PM - 4:45PM)

SESSION 7: GOVERNANCE (4:45PM - 6:15PM) – Chair: Markus Olapade (ASE)

Paper 1: Mobilizing Resources for Africa: Financing and Capacity-Building Strategies for Effective Delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals
Presenter: Landry Signé (University of Alaska Anchorage, Stanford University)

Paper 2: Politics, Governance and Development in Africa: Are They Interconnected?
Presenter: Isidore Kpotufe (IMANI Center for Policy and Education)

Paper 3: Reciprocity in Political Economy
Presenter: Jean-Baptiste Tondji (University of Ottawa)

EVENING: PARTY AND LIVE MUSIC (VENUE TBA)

Wednesday December 16, 2015

BREAKFAST (8:00AM - 9:00AM)

SESSION 9: ASE STUDENT SESSION 1 (9:00AM - 10:30AM) – Chair: Dozie Okoye (Dalhousie Univ.)

Paper 1: Ancestral Traditions and Socio-Economic Attitudes in Cameroon
Presenter: Gaetan Nangdong (MMES Class of 2016)

Paper 2: Private Consumption and Public Spending in Benin from 1980 to 2012
Presenter: Immaculee Affognon (MMES Class of 2016)

Paper 3: Growing Up under Dictatorial Regimes: Evidence from Benin (1972-1990)
Presenter: Patrice Yedomiffi (MMES Class of 2016)

COFFEE BREAK (10:30AM - 11:00AM)

SESSION 10: ASE STUDENT SESSION 2 (11:00AM - 12:00PM) – Chair: Cedric Okou (Univ. Quebec in Montreal)

Paper 1: Determinants of Voting in a Violent Electoral Context: A Case Study of Senegal
Presenter: Victor Zannou (MMES Class of 2016)

Paper 2: Voting Intentions: The Cameroonian Paradox
Presenter: Wilfried Youmbi (MMES Class of 2016)

Paper 3: Microcredit, Poverty and Gender Inequality: Evidence from Benin
Presenter: Nadège Gbètoton Djossou (FASEG, Université d'Abomey-Calavi)

COFFEE BREAK (12:00PM - 12:15PM)

SESSION 11: ASE STUDENT SESSION 3 (12:15PM - 13:15PM) – Chair: Deo-Gracias Houndolo (3ie - ISS Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Paper 1: Propensity of Violence in the Western Central Region of Burkina Faso: Contribution of Historical Factors
Presenter: Moussa Sawadago (MMES Class of 2016)

Paper 2: Pre-colonial Institutions and contemporary political attitudes in Benin: Evidence from the Tado Kingdom
Presenter: André Guéguéhoun (IREEP Research Associate)

Session III: POLICY DISCUSSION ROUNDTABLE (POLICY FORUM)

Location: PALAIS DE CONGRES, COTONOU

Thursday December 17, 2015

MORNING: Visit to Historical Sites

AFTERNOON:

ROUNDTABLE 1 (1:30PM – 3:00PM) - Human Development (Education, Health)
Speakers: Markus Olapade (African School of Economics), Clarisse Napporn (University of Abomey-Calavi), Modeste Some (J-PAL Europe) and Deo-Gracias Houndolo (3ie - ISS Erasmus University Rotterdam)

BREAK (3:00PM – 3:15PM)

ASE AFTER YEAR ONE (3:15PM – 4:00PM)

Speakers: David Gbaguidi, Rachidi Kotchoni, Markus Olapade and Meritxell Roca (African School of Economics)

BREAK (4:00PM – 4:15PM)

KEYNOTE SPEECH (4:15 PM –5:30PM) - Romuald Hazoumè, Artist

EVENING: Live Music (Venue TBA)

Friday December 18, 2015

MORNING:

ROUNDTABLE 1 (9:00AM – 10:30AM) - Natural Capital Accounting (organized with GDN)

Speakers: Harison Randriarimanana (former Minister, Special Advisor on Economic Affairs to the President of Madagascar) and Pierre Bertrand (GDN).

COFFEE BREAK (10:30AM – 11:00AM)

ROUNDTABLE 2 (11:00AM – 12:30PM) - Energy and Infrastructure

Speakers: Aurele Hounbedji (Office of the President of Benin) and Leonard Wantchekon (African School of Economics, Princeton University)

LUNCH BREAK (12:30PM – 2:00PM)

AFTERNOON:

ROUNDTABLE 1 (2:00PM – 3:00PM) - Political Economy (organized with OSIWA)

Speakers: Mathias Hounkpe (OSIWA), Leonard Wantchekon (African School of Economics, Princeton University) and Martin Assogba (ALCRER)

ROUNDTABLE 2 (3:05PM – 4:05PM) - Governance (organized with OSIWA)

Speakers: Aya Maurice Kimou (EPM Abidjan), Nahoua Yeo (University FHB Abidjan-Cocody, Cellule d'Analyse de Politiques Economiques du CIRES (CAPEC)) and Kingsley S. Agomor (Ghana Institute of Management Public Administration (GIMPA))

BREAK (4:05PM – 4:30PM)

WRAP-UP SESSION AND FINAL ADDRESS (4:30PM – 5:30)

Speaker: Leonard Wantchekon (African School of Economics, Princeton University), Selected SIER participants.

SIER 2015 - PARTICIPANTS' BIO

IMMACULEE AFFOIGNON

Immaculee Affignon is a Beninese national pursuing her Master's in Mathematics, Economics, and Statistics at ASE. She received her Bachelor's degree in Planning Science from *École Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature* in Abomey-Calavi, Benin. In addition to her studies, Immaculee was a member of AIESEC-Benin from 2011 to 2013, where she worked on and directed projects related to HIV prevention, childhood protection programs, and cultural awareness. Her email is iaffignon@africanschoolofeconomics.com.

MISSIGBE AFOMASSE

Missigbe Afomasse is Beninese national but lived in Ghana for 7 years. He holds a 1st Class Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Information Technology from the University of Greenwich. Missigbe has held leadership positions in various non-profit organizations, and he has a keen interest in innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity.

KINGSLEY AGOMOR

Kingsley S. Agomor holds a PhD in Political Science from University of Ghana. He is a lecturer at the School of Public Services and Governance, in Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA). His research interests include Local Governance, Political Party Finance, Women in Politics, Electoral Politics, Political Economy and Money Laundering. His email is

SEGNON AGUEY

Segnon (Sam) Aguey specializes in macroeconomics, financial crises, and development economics. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Quebec in Montreal in Canada and a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Economics from University of Sherbrooke in Canada. In addition to serving as a referee for several scientific journals, Dr. Aguey is a member of the Canadian Economics Association, the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE), *Centre interuniversitaire sur le risqué, les politiques économiques et l'emploi (CIRPEE)*, and *Groupe de recherché en économie et développement international (GRÉDI)*. He has held teaching positions at the College of Charlevoix, the University of Sherbrooke, the University of Quebec at Montreal, and he is currently teaching at ASE. His email is aguey.s@gmail.com.

ALAN AKAKPO

Alan Akakpo is a Research Fellow at the Imani Center for Policy and Education, a liberal think tank that seeks to influence policies in Africa and educate civil society about effective policies regarding various socio-economic and political issues. He leads the Imani Francophone Benin project. His research areas include policy formulation and development with regard to regional integration, trade, agriculture and governance in African francophone countries. Alan is driven by the desire to contribute to the development of effective strategies that will facilitate trade and the movement of people across West Africa. Alan is also a youth activist who has led various non-governmental organizations. His email is alanakakpo@gmail.com.

MARTIN ASSOGBA

Martin Assogba is the president of the NGO *ALCRER* (Association Against Racism, Ethnocentrism, and

Regionalism) and has been the major activist of the Organization of the Civil Society in Benin for over 20 years. He graduated in Advanced Studies of Refrigeration and Electricity and founded his first enterprise in 1976 (Froid Domestique Commercial et Electricité du Bénin - FRODOCEB) at the age of 25. He is an entrepreneur and has started several initiatives and business, among which the magazine AZARRA, the *Ecole Béninoise d'Education Civique et Morale* (EBECM) and the *Centre d'Education en bonne Gouvernance, Droits et Devoirs de la Personne*. His email is alcrerpara@yahoo.fr.

ABHIT BHANDARI

Abhit Bhandari is pursuing his Ph.D. in Political Science at Columbia University in New York, where he focuses on the comparative political economy of development, as well as quantitative and formal methodology. His research explores property rights, informal institutions, and investment in sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to Columbia, he worked for the UN World Food Programme in Senegal. Abhit holds a BA in Political Science and African Studies from Northwestern University, and an MA from Columbia University. His email is ab3901@columbia.edu.

WILFRIED CHIGBLO

Wilfried Chigblo has over six years of experience working with communities, ministries in Benin and international organizations, focusing on poverty through projects and programs of education and empowerment, stepping up capacity to build good analysis to impact communities. He is the Founder and Director of the Development and Public Economic Research Centre (CEDREP) and has lead many development projects to fight against poverty. Wilfried is a graduate from the Faculty of Economics and Management of Benin University and holds a Master's degree in public economic and statistic from institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE).

SANDJONG TOMI DIDEROT

Sandjong Tomi Diderot is pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Ottawa. He received a M.S degree in Statistics-Economics from the National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (ENSEA) of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in 2010. He worked for the Cameroonian government as an Economist for the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development and for the National Institute of Statistics of Cameroon between 2010 and 2011, where he coordinated many national and regional surveys analyzing various social and economic issues. He was then appointed as a Senior Statistician and Chief of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Component under the Malaria Control Program of Cameroon by the Minister of Public Health. In January 2014, he joined the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa under the Macroeconomic Policy Division and the Forecasting Section, where he contributed to many flagship reports and policy oriented papers such as the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2015 with UN-DESA, the Economic Reports on Africa 2015, the macroeconomic framework for structural transformation, and the UN-ECA country profile, among others. He was also a member of the core team tasked to design the first macroeconomic forecasting model for UNECA in collaboration with Oxford Economics. His current research involves business cycle co-movements, econometrics (theory and applied) and public policy.

ATANAS DOMMO

Atanas Dommo is a Ph.D. student studying the physics of the environment and climate change at the University of Yaoundé 1 in Cameroon. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Physics from the same university. In addition to environmental issues, Atanas is also interested in economics and business management. After completing his undergraduate degree, Atanas studied project management, financing and marketing for one year. His email is dmmatanas@gmail.com.

DAVID GBAGUIDI

David Gbaguidi is a macroeconomist and an econometrician, holder of a Doctoral Degree in Economics and Applied Mathematics from Aix-Marseille School of Economics (France). His academic research activities are focused on macroeconometrics, particularly on non-linear modeling of central banks and monetary policy problematic. He has held teaching positions at the University of Sherbrooke, the University of Quebec in Montreal (Quebec, Canada), and at the Université des Antilles et de la Guyane (Guadeloupe). His areas of expertise are primaries: Macroeconomics, Geographical-economics, Econometrics and secondary: Game Theory, Demography, Statistics, Probability and Computing. Since October 2014, prof. Gbaguidi serves as ASE's Associate Dean of Planning and Student Placement and interim Dean.

ROMUALD HAZOUMÈ

Romuald Hazoumè is a Beninese artist from Porto-Novo who has mastered a wide range of media forms including masks, photography, canvases, sculpture, and installations. Whether confronting the legacy of the slave trade or creating contemporary portraits, his work documents the irrepressible diversity of African life today. Romuald's work has been widely shown in many major art galleries and museums across Europe and the United States, including the British Museum in London, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York. His work was also exhibited at GOMA in Brisbane, Australia, at the Gerisch Foundation in Germany in 2010 and at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin in 2011. Furthermore, coinciding with the Olympic Games in London in 2012, Romuald's work was shown in Manchester as part of *We Face Forward* and in London, where October Gallery presented his third solo exhibition *Cargoland*. Ten years after his first exhibition at the Foundation Zinsou in Benin, Romuald presents his newest installations, masks, and photographs for the Arè Exhibition.

HILAIRE HOUEINVO

Hilaire Houeninvo Gbodja is Assistant Lecturer of Economics at the Faculty of Economic and Management, University of Abomey Calavi. He received a B.S. degree in Economics from The University of Abomey Calavi and the M.S. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Cocody, Abidjan. His research interests include health financing in Africa, health outcome, public spending effectiveness and pro poor growth as well as economic growth issues. His email is hilaire.houeninvo@uac.bj and thouenin@yahoo.fr.

DEO-GRACIAS HOUNDOLO

Deo-Gracias Houndolo is a Ph.D. researcher in the Economics of Development and Emerging Market research group at the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague at Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Netherlands. He also serves as an Evaluation Specialist at the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie). Dr. Houndolo has extensive experience in designing and implementing impact evaluations for development and humanitarian assistance programs in developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, South East Asia and Latin America, covering considerable ground in the field of evaluation. Over the last six years, he has worked with organizations including the World Bank, the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), the UNOCHA-Pooled Funds, the African School of Economics, and a number of African governments and institutions (including the South African Presidency, the West African Development Bank, and the Beninese Prime Minister) to promote the use of rigorous evaluation to inform policy making.

MAURICE KIMOU

Maurice Kimou is a Lecturer at Université Félix Houphouët BOIGNY, Faculty of Economics. His specializations are Macroeconomics and International Economy. He serves as Coordinator of Economic Policy Management of Abidjan (EPM-ABIDJAN), a Program financed by ACBF (African Capacity Building Foundation).

RACHIDI KOTCHONI

Rachidi Kotchoni received a Ph.D. in Economics and a M.Sc. in Mathematical and Computational Finance from the University of Montreal, and a B.Sc. in Statistics from the Ecole Nationale d'Économie Appliquée of Dakar (Senegal). His main research interests are time series and financial econometrics. His ongoing research focuses on parametric estimation techniques based on a continuum of moment conditions on the one hand, and volatility estimation using high frequency data on the other hand. His secondary research interests pertain to competition policy (cartel overcharges), international trade (gravity models) and empirical macroeconomics (recession forecasting).

KAGBA KOUSSE

Kagba Kousse holds a Ph. D. in Finance from the Swiss Finance Institute and the University of Geneva (Switzerland), where he has been a teaching assistant in the Graduate School of Economics and Management. His research interests include, but are not limited to, Financial Economics, Mathematical Finance and Risk Management. He also holds a Master degree in Mathematics from York University in Toronto (Canada), a Graduate Diploma in Financial Engineering from the Schulich School of Business at York University in Toronto (Canada) and a Bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering from the Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal (Canada).

ISIDORE KPOTUFE

Isidore Kpotufe is a development activist interested in economics, governance, foreign aid, media and technology. He is the Director of IMANI Francophone, an organization that promotes the emergence of a civil society in francophone Africa. Isidore also participates in *Africa Live*, a television program hosted by the Ghanaian *Business Television Africa* that focuses on business and economic issues in Africa. In addition, he serves as the Associate Director of Communications at the IMANI Center for Policy and Education, and his work has appeared in *Contrepoints*, *L'Observateur*, *The Guardian*, *Atlas One*, *Fraternité Matin*, *La Nouvelle Tribune*, *Financial Afrik*, and *Next Afrique*, among other publications. His emails are kisidore@imanifrancophone.org and isidorekpotufe@gmail.com.

CHRISTELLE MABEU

Christelle Mabeu holds a Master degree in Management and an MBA (Master of Business Administration) in Finance from Laval University in Québec. She is currently a PhD student in Economics at the University of Ottawa. Her main research interests include Macroeconomics, Public economics and Monetary economics. Her email is: mmabe017@uottawa.ca

CLARISSE NAPPORN

Clarisse Napporn specializes in Education Sciences of University René Descartes (Paris). She holds a PhD and teaches at University of Abomey- Calavi, Department of Psychology and Education Sciences since 2004. She is senior lecturer since 2013. She is also member of Permanent Committee of the National Council on Education. Her email: clarissenapporn@yahoo.fr .

JOEL ERIC OLINGA MEBADA

Joel Eric Olinga Mebada is currently a Ph.d student in applied social sciences at the *université du Québec en outaouais* (Uqo). He is a member of the studies commission in the same university. He has worked for statistic Canada, and was recently working on unemployment issues for the city council of Mbankomo (Yaoundé, Cameroon). He was a former member of the international research development group (IRDG, university of Sherbrooke). The title for his thesis in master degree economic program (University of Sherbrooke) was on *the economic impact of biofuels in Mali*, using a GCE model. His current research involves work creation studies and governance, he also have interest in poverty and inequalities. Joel received a B.A in economy and a master I in public economy, from University of Yaoundé II (Cameroon). His email is: joelmebada@live.ca and olij05@uqo.ca.

STEVE WILLIAMS MBOLLO

Steve Williams Mbollo is pursuing his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Ottawa in Canada. He received his Statistician Economist Engineer Diploma (equivalent of a Master in Statistics and Economics) from the Sub-Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISSEA) in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He has been working as Chief of Service in the Ministry of Economics, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) of Cameroon for 4 years. Steve also has experience working as a Research Fellow at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and has attended many training courses hosted by the Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). His current research interests include macroeconomics and econometrics. His email is: stevembollo@yahoo.fr.

ELIAS WAKHISI MUSIAMBO

Elias Wakhisi Musiambo is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Economics at the University of Nairobi. He holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science, also from the University of Nairobi. Elias has 7 years of experience with public policy analysis, research, and project management, and he is particularly interested in public finance management and fiscal decentralization initiatives. He currently serves as the Senior Public Policy and Governance Officer at the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), a leading organization in accountability and economic governance in Kenya. His email is elias.musiambo@gmail.com.

PIERRE NIGUIMKEU

Pierre Nguimkeu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Georgia State University. His research interests are in Econometrics and Development Economics. He receives his PhD from Simon Fraser University, a Master's degree from University of Montreal, a *Diplome d'Ingenieur Statisticien-Economiste* from ENSEA of Abidjan, and a Bachelor's Degree from University of Dschang. He currently teaches Econometrics at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and also serves as Economic Adviser to the Cameroon Council of Business Managers (GICAM)

FRANÇOISE OKAH

Françoise Okah Efogo is Assistant Lecturer and Researcher at the Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Yaoundé 2 - Cameroon and the Center for Studies and Researches in Economics and Management. She is an economist working on Applied Macroeconomics, International Economics, Money & Banking, Political Economy and Gender. Her Email is francie_okah@hotmail.fr.

CEDRIC OKOU

Cédric Okou is an Assistant Professor of Finance at the University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada. His expertise lies at the juncture between Finance, Economics, and Statistics. Specifically, his is interested in

Asset Pricing, Macro Finance, Econometrics, Portfolio and Risk Management. He was previously a Market Risk Analyst at Brookfield Renewable Power and a visiting scholar at the Bank of Canada.

DOZIE OKOYE

Dozie Okoye is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Dalhousie University, Canada, where he has been a faculty member since 2013 after completing his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. His research deals with problems related to economic growth and development, with particular emphasis on the process of human development (skill acquisition, education, health) and how this process depends on the socioeconomic environment in which individuals live (production technology, political and governance framework). His work also studies the impact of historical events on contemporary development. Given the interdisciplinary nature of his work, Dr. Okoye's research involves collaboration with academics from other social sciences and uses a combination of macroeconomic and econometric tools.

MARKUS OLAPADE

Markus Olapade obtained his Ph. D. in 2013 from University of Mannheim, Germany (Graduate School of Economics and Social Sciences). He also holds a Research Master in Quantitative Economics (specialization in econometrics) by University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne (Paris School of Economics). His B.A. degree is in Economics by Georgia-Augusta University Gottingen (Germany). Prior to coming to ASE, Dr. Olapade worked as an Impact Evaluation Specialist at International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) in New Delhi, India (2012 - 2014). He has also worked as Statistical Consultant for OECD in Paris (2007) and interned at The Globalist (Washington D.C.) as Economic Researcher. Dr. Olapade serves as professor at ASE and as director of the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IREEP).

DENNIS OTIENO

Dennis Otieno is an Agricultural Economist and Research Fellow at Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development in Kenya. He holds a DPhil and an MPhil degrees in agricultural resource economics and management from Moi University, a postgraduate diploma in Education from Egerton University, and Bachelors of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi. Dr. Otieno was the head of Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development in Maseno University, Head of post graduate studies at The Catholic University of Eastern Africa and has had a wealth of knowledge from teaching, supervising graduate research students and carrying out consultancy services for both the public and private sector. He also has experience in customer relations and the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) training procedures.

MERITXELL ROCA

Meritxell Roca serves as the Program Manager for the African School of Economics at Princeton University. Born in Barcelona, Spain, Roca worked as a senior researcher at Open University of Catalonia (UOC), performing research on free software, counter-cultural movements, media stereotypes and mass media in a digital environment. She is an Associate Professor at Blanquerna School of Communication and Blanquerna School of Health Science (Ramon Llull University, Barcelona). Prior to joining Princeton University, Roca worked as a staff research associate at The W. Edwards Deming Center for Quality, Productivity and Competitiveness (Columbia University). She has also held positions as visiting scholar at The New School in New York and the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles. She received a B.A. in Journalism and a Ph.D. In Communication and Humanities from the Ramon Llull University. Her email is mroca@africanschoolofeconomics.com.

MOUSSA SAWADOGO

Moussa Sawadogo is a second year student pursuing a Masters degree in Mathematics Economics and Statistics with a concentration in Econometrics at African School of Economics located in Benin. His main research interest is based in the field of macroeconomics, monetary economics and comparative political economy of development in Sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to joining African School Economics, he worked as an intern at the National Institute of Statistics and Demography and the Centre Muraz, a research institute in public health located in Burkina Faso. Currently, he is working under the supervision of Dr. David Gbaguidi on the credibility of the central bank in a union for his master thesis. He received his bachelor degree with honors in Statistics and Computer Science in 2013 from the University Polytechnic of Bobo-Dioulasso. His email is: msawadogo@africanschoolofeconomics.com.

ALCADE SEGNON

Alcade C. Segnon received his BSc and MSc in Agricultural Science from University of Abomey (Benin) and is currently a PhD Candidate in Environmental Science at University of Ghana (Ghana). His PhD research is investigating how and to what extent climate variability and change affect the vulnerability and wellbeing of local communities in semi-arid areas of West Africa. It also includes understanding how those communities respond to climate change and variability, and how does the response change in time, space and among different social groups; and finally identifying barriers and enablers of effective adaptation options to inform policy decision-making process. Alcade's PhD work is within the framework of ASSAR (Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions) programme. ASSAR is a part of the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA) programme, funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). Before joining ASSAR, he was working as Research Assistant at the Horticulture and Genetics Unit (HGU), Faculty of Agronomic Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi, where he was working on how agrobiodiversity and knowledge that local communities share on it can be used to design agroecological farming systems and improve smallholders' food security and livelihoods in semi-arid regions of Benin. Email: alcadese@gmail.com

LANDRY SIGNÉ

Landry Signé is a distinguished fellow at Stanford University's Center for African Studies, tenured associate professor of Political Science at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), founding chairman of the award-winning Global Network for Africa's Prosperity (www.africaprosperity.com), and special adviser to global leaders on international and African affairs. He was previously a visiting scholar at the University of Oxford, an Emerging African Markets faculty member at the Business Department of Stanford University's Continuing Studies, and part-time professor at the Universities of Montreal, Ottawa, and at the Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISSEA) of Yaoundé. His current work focuses on the transformation of African economies, governance, political processes, development, policy implementation and evaluation, and management of natural resources. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 manuscripts, including books, book chapters, articles, and ongoing working papers. He has also drafted about 32 high-level strategic notes and policy briefs to global leaders and institutions. Professor Signé has given over 50 conference and guest presentations, including at Wharton, Oxford, Cornell, Berkeley, McGill, Stanford, and the Commonwealth Club. He has also won more than 40 prestigious international awards, fellowships, and recognitions from four continents bestowed by Heads of State, Governors, Chancellors, Governments, Media, Universities, and NGOs. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and the *Harvard International Review*, among other leading media. His email is landrysigne@gmail.com.

LEONIDE MICHAEL SINSIN

Originally from Benin, Leonide is PhD Candidate in Energy and Economics of Université Paris Dauhpin (France) and Université d'Abomey Calavi (Benin). His research fields concern interaction between energy and economics, energy impact and access cost in Benin. Leonide holds a Master of Science in Energy and Innovation from "Institut Français du Pétrole et des Energies Nouvelles" (IFPEN School) and "Institut des Sciences et Techniques Nucléaires" (INSTN). He also set up ARESS Sarl, a solar company in Benin since 2012. His email is mickael.sinsin@gmail.com.

NAMWINBELÉ MODESTE SOMÉ

Namwinbelé Modeste Somé is a Policy Associate at J-PAL and is based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. As a Policy Associate, he helps develop new research partnerships, writes policy publications, and conducts outreach with policymakers to disseminate evidence from J-PAL in Francophone Africa. Prior to joining J-PAL, Modeste worked at Bruegel, a European think tank specializing in economics, as a Business Development Assistant focusing on corporate and institutional relations and the program's expansion.

DAMASE ERIC SOSSOU

Damase Eric Sossou holds a Bachelor in Statistics (ENEAM, Benin) and a Master in Public Economy and Applied Statistics at Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy, currently the African School of Economics (ASE). He has developed a great interest for RCT and all studies involving the use of impact evaluation methodologies. He has worked in various program evaluation teams and he currently serves as the Deputy Director General Of Evaluation in the Office of Prime Minister of Benin.

GAETAN TCHAKOUNTE

Gaetan Tchakounte is a first year Master degree in Mathematics, Economics and Statistics student in ASE's 2016 class. He grew up in Cameroon where he conducted his high school studies with a focus in sciences. In 2011 he completed his undergraduate degree in Mathematics at the University Of Yaoundé 1. After this, he started a Master degree in Mathematics; his research interest is based on the resolution of elliptic limit problem in the Lebesgue space with variable exponents. He also studied at the Higher Teacher Training School of Yaounde (Mathematics), he graduated in 2014. Tchakounte has also interned at the Bilingual High School of "Etoug-Ebe" (Yaounde) where he was professor of Mathematics. He currently is a Teaching Assistant at ASE for the mathematics course for economics. His email is: gnandong@africanschoolofeconomics.com.

JEAN BAPTISTE TONDJI

Jean-Baptiste TONDJI is a third year PhD student in Economics at the University of Ottawa. He is working under the supervision of Roland Pongou, professor of Economics at Ottawa University. He received his D.E.A (Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies - with is equivalent to Master with thesis) in Applied Mathematics, option Game Theory in University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon, and joined the Department of Economics at Ottawa in Fall 2013. His main research interests are industrial organization, political economy, applied econometrics and social networks theory. Anyone can contact Jean-Baptiste by sending email to jtond063@uottawa.ca or, visit JBTondji.com-googlesites for more information.

LEONARD WANTCHEKON

Leonard Wantchékon is Professor of Politics and Economics at Princeton University, and President and Founder of the African School of Economics (formerly Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy – IREEP), based in Benin. Prior to joining Princeton University, he was on the faculty of New York University (2001-2011) and Yale University (1995-2001), and was a visiting fellow at the Center of International Studies at Princeton University. He is a member of the Afrobarometer Executive Committee

and the Mo Ibrahim African Governance Index committee. In addition, Dr. Wantchékon was secretary of the American Political Science Association and the managing editor of the Journal for African Development.

EDOUARD WEMY

Originally from Burkina Faso, Edouard Wemy is currently a Visiting Professor in the Economics Department at Emory University. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Emory. Edouard's research interests include macroeconomics and time series analyses with applications in business cycles and total factor productivity. Edouard was the recipient of the Emory Graduate Diversity Fellowship and is now a fellow for the Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics (DITE) - a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded program aimed at increasing the representation of minorities in the Economics field. He is a member of the American Economic Association and also serves as a professional reviewer for Macroeconomic Dynamics.

TITE YOKOSSI

A citizen of Benin, Tite Yokossi is a PhD Candidate in the Economics Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His research interests lie at the intersection of development economics and finance (corporate and household finance). Tite holds a Master's degree in Economics from the Paris School of Economics and a Master's Degree in Engineering from the Ecole des Mines de Paris.

MOUMOUNI YOUGBARE

Moumouni Yougbare is a statistician-economist with a Master's degree in Public Economics and Applied Statistics from the Institute of Empirical Research in Public Economics. His previous research has focused on various issues in Burkina Faso, including decentralization and regional disparities, the impact of financial liberalization on national savings mobilization, and perceptions of local administrators based on public polls. Moumouni currently works at the National Agency for Employment in Burkina Faso.

WILFRIED YOUMBI FOTSO

Wilfried Youmbi Fotso is a second year student in the Master program of Mathematics, Economics and Statistics with a specialization in Econometrics at African School of Economics (ASE). Prior to come to ASE, Wilfried was studying Mathematics at University of Yaounde I (Cameroon), where he obtained his bachelor degree in Mathematics and Computer Science and afterwards, a Master in pure mathematics. At ASE, Wilfried has served as teaching assistant in Mathematics for first year student during the Mathematics camps last August. He also served as teaching assistant in Advanced Econometrics during the last Afrobarometer Summer School held at African School of Economics. He co-authored an Afrobarometer policy paper which is now under review for publication at Afrobarometer.

VICTOR ZANNOU

Victor Zannou is a Beninese national pursuing his Master's in Mathematics, Economics and Statistics at ASE. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Statistics and Econometrics from the University of Abomey-Calavi. At ASE, Victor served as a teaching assistant for the Afrobarometer Summer School where he taught statistics and statistical software to participants. He also assisted with data collection and data management for the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy's (IERPE) research projects relating to elections and girls' education in Benin. In addition to his work at ASE and IERPE, Victor worked as a statistician for the National Agency of Employment from 2013 to 2014, where he collected and analyzed data and wrote reports. He also completed a 6-month internship at the Ministry for Primary



Education's Programming and Prospective Department. His email is vzannou@africanschoolofeconomics.com.