

Melanie Morten

Department of Economics
Stanford University
579 Jane Stanford Way
Stanford, CA 94305
memorten@stanford.edu

Academic Positions

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Stanford University, 7/2021-
Senior Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), 7/2021-
Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, 1/2024-

Affiliations:

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL), Affiliate
Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Fellow and Board Member
National Bureau for Economic Research, Research Associate
International Growth Center (IGC), Affiliate
Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), Affiliate
Stanford King Center on Global Development, Affiliate
Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), Affiliate
Motu Economic and Public Policy Research, Affiliate

Professional service:

Coeditor, *Journal of Urban Economics*, 1/2024-
Board of Editors, *Journal of Economic Literature*, 1/2024-
Foreign Editor, *Review of Economic Studies*, 10/2023-
Faculty Advisory Board, *Stanford Impact Labs*, 9/2023-
Advisory Board, *Stanford King Center on Global Development*, 9/2023-
Executive Committee, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), 6/2023-
Board Member, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), 5/2022-
Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Urban Economics*, 6/2022-12/2022
Associate Editor, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2/2019-9/2021

Education:

Ph.D., Economics (with distinction), Yale University, 2007-2013
Thesis: “Temporary Migration and Endogenous Risk Sharing in Village India”
Committee: Mark Rosenzweig, Aleh Tsyvinski, Chris Udry
B.Com., (hons), The University of Auckland, 2005

Previous employment:

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Stanford University, 7/2014-7/2021
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, MIT, 7/2018-12/2018
Junior Scholar, Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 6/2013-6/2014
Consultant for Macroeconomics (Karlan/Morduch) textbook, McGraw Hill, 1/2011-6/2011
Research Assistant, World Bank Development Economics Research Group, 6/2009-8/2009
Research Assistant, Motu Economic Research and Public Policy, Wellington, New Zealand, 2/2006-7/2007

Publications in peer-reviewed journals (reverse chronological order):

1. Morten, M. & Oliveira, J. (2024). [The Effects of Roads on Trade and Migration: Evidence from a Planned Capital City](#). *AEJ: Applied*. Forthcoming
2. Bryan, G., Chowdhury, S., Mobarak, A.M., & Morten, M (2023). [Encouragement and distortionary effects of conditional cash transfers](#). *Journal of Public Economics*, 228, 105004
3. Mobarak, A. M., Meghir, C., Mommaerts, C., & Morten, M (2022). [Migration and Informal Insurance](#). *The Review of Economic Studies*, 89(1), 452-480
4. Balboni, C., Bryan, G., Morten, M., & Siddiqi, B. (2021). [Could Gentrification Stop the Poor from Benefiting from Urban Improvements?](#) *American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings*, 11, 532-537
5. Bryan, G. & Morten, M. (2019) [The Aggregate Productivity Effects of Internal Migration: Evidence from Indonesia](#). *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(5): 2229-2268.
6. Morten, M (2019), [Temporary Migration and Endogenous Risk Sharing in Village India](#). *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(1): 1-46. (Lead article)
7. Karlan, D., Morten, M. & Zinman, J. (2016). [A Personal Touch in Text Messaging can Improve Microloan Repayment](#). *Behavioral Science and Policy*, 1(2), 25-31.
8. Bollard, A., McKenzie, D., Morten, & M., Rapoport, H. (2011). [Remittances and the Brain Drain Revisited: The Microdata Show That More Educated Migrants Remit More](#). *World Bank Economic Review*, 25(1), 132-156.
9. Bollard, A., McKenzie, D., & Morten, M. (2010). [The Remitting Patterns of African Migrants in the OECD](#). *Journal of African Economics*, 19(5), 605-634.

Working papers (reverse chronological order):

10. Allen, T., Dobbin, C., & Morten, M. (2024). [Border Walls](#). NBER Working Paper 25267.
11. Balboni, C., Bryan, G., Morten, M., & Siddiqi, B. (2020). [Transportation, Gentrification, and Urban Mobility: The Inequality Effects of Place-Based Policies](#).

12. Chandrasekhar, A., Morten, M., & Peter, A. (2020). [Network-based Hiring: Local Benefits; Global Costs](#). NBER Working Paper 26806

Work in progress:

13. Maré, Dave, Morten, M, & Sanderson, L. “The economic impacts of labor shortages: Evidence from seasonal migration in NZ”
14. Magaloni, B. & Morten, M. “Immigration Law as Development Policy: Mexican Guestworkers and the H-2A Visa Program”

Grants as a Principal Investigator:

Evaluating the Impacts of the Dar es Salaam BRT System

1. Stanford SEED, 2017, (\$125,000)
2. 3ie, 2016, (\$249,477)
3. IGC, 2016, (GBP 132,346)

Contract Structure, Social Networks, and Firm Size

4. Stanford Center on Global Poverty and Development, 2017, (\$45,000)
5. NSF, 2014, (\$578,447) (joint with Arun Chandrashekar)

Seasonal Migration in Myanmar

6. G2LM|LIC, 2020, (Euro 334,777)

Immigration Law as Development Policy: Mexican Guestworkers and the H-2A Visa Program

7. NSF, 2022, (\$620,082)
8. K-CAI pilot grant (\$68,821)
9. [Stanford Guestworker Migration Initiative](#), King Center
10. Stanford Impact Labs Stage One funding

Fellowships, honors and awards:

Stanford Impact Labs Impact Lab Design Fellowship, 2021
Sloan Research Fellowship, 2019-2021
JEEA Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2018
National Science Foundation CAREER Award, 2018-2023
Stanford IRiSS Faculty Fellow, 2017-2018
Yvette Gurley Research Scholar, Stanford, 2016
Review of Economic Studies, May Meetings Speaker, 2013
George Trimmins Dissertation Prize, 2013
Poster Prize, NEUDC, MIT, 2010
Robert Evenson Travel Fellowship, Yale University, 2010
Sasakawa Fellowship, Yale University, 2010
Overbrook Fellowship, Yale University, 2009-2010

A.R. Bergstrom Prize in Econometrics, 2008
Yale Fellowship for Doctoral Study, 2007-2013
Motu Doctoral Scholarship, New Zealand, 2007

Invited seminar presentations:

2025*	LSE
2024	UW, Oxford, UCL, NWU, UCSC
2023	Berkeley, Peking University, UC San Diego, USC
2022	Michigan, GWU
2021	UAB, Peking, World Bank, Chicago, U Penn, LSE, Minnesota
2020	UC Berkeley (Haas), UC Berkeley (ARE), University of Minnesota, University of Chicago Booth, Arizona State University
2019	UC Berkeley (ARE, International), UC Berkeley (Development), UCSD, UCLA, Wharton, Princeton, Oxford, Georgetown
2018	USC, UW Seattle, MIT/Harvard, Yale, Boston University
2017	Simon Fraser, UCSC, IFPRI, Namur, Paris School of Economics, Toulouse, Princeton
2016	University of Houston, USF, Duke, Penn State, IIES Stockholm, University of California Berkeley (Trade), University of California Berkeley (ARE), Dartmouth
2015	University of Chicago, University of Toronto, University of California Berkeley (Development)
2014	Harvard/MIT Joint Development Seminar, WUSTL/Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, Brown University, University of Calgary
2013	Royal Holloway, UCL/LSE Joint Development Seminar, University of Oxford, USC
Job Market	UCLA, University of Minnesota, University of Chicago, Stanford GSB, Stanford, UCL, Harvard University, University of Wisconsin Madison, Princeton University, Northwestern University

Conference presentations:

2024*	Econometric Society, 2024 African Meeting (keynote); UCLA miniconference on Spatial Economics, IEB (keynote); Spatial Economics Conference, Princeton.
2023	ADB conference on Infrastructure and Urban Development in the Developing World (keynote)
2022	BSE Summer Forum (Migration)
2021	RIDGE
2020	BREAD, ASSA (x2)
2019	American Economic Association, FRB Dallas - U. of Houston - Banco de Mexico Conference in International Economics
2018	UCLA Trade/Devo Mini Conference, SED Mexico City, NBER Summer Institute (Labor Studies), Urban Economics Association
2017	NBER Trade and Geography Conference, Notre Dame Development Mini-Conference, NBER Summer Institute (Development)
2016	ASSA meetings, U Washington Bangladesh Conference, SED, Duke Applied Microeconomics Jamboree

- 2015 NBER Summer Institute (Economic Growth; Productivity and Entrepreneurship; Urban Economics), Armenia Mini-Conference on Growth and Development, SED Warsaw, Barcelona Summer Workshop on Migration, UCLA Trade/Devo Mini Conference, Oxford Center for Study of African Economies Conference
- 2014 ASSA meetings, NBER Summer Institute (Development Economics), AFD/CGD Migration and Development Conference (Oxford), PODER/CEPR Workshop (Stockholm), IFS/CEAR Family and Risk Workshop
- 2013 Restud May Meetings (Central European University Budapest, Goethe University Frankfurt, University of Edinburgh), IZA/WZB Field Days Conference (Berlin), NBER Summer Institute (Development Economics)
- 2012 NEUDC (Dartmouth), CEAR Households and Risk Workshop (University of Georgia)
- 2011 NEUDC (Yale), Advances with Field Experiments Conference (University of Chicago)
- 2010 NEUDC (MIT, Poster), Migration and Development Conference (Paris School of Economics)

* including scheduled

Public and Departmental Service:

Stanford Director of Graduate Studies: 2022-
Stanford Placement Co-Director: 2021
Stanford Graduate Admissions Committee: 2015—2016
Stanford Undergraduate Policy Committee: 2019—2021

Scientific Committee, BSE Development 2024
Program Committee, Econometric Society Meetings, 2023
Program Committee, Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society (AMES), 2023
Mentor, Research in Color Foundation: 2022
Coorganizer BREAD/IGC Virtual PhD course, Migration module: 2022
Scientific Committee, Migration and Development Conference, 2018—current
Program Committee, Society for Economic Dynamics Conference: 2015—2018

Referee Service:

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Econometrica, Economic Journal, Innovations for Poverty Action Research Review Committee, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Urban Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Regional Science, Review of Economic Dynamics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Science, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, World Bank Economic Review.

Ad-hoc reviewer for Innovations for Poverty Action, the National Science Foundation, and the European Research Commission.

PhD students:

(Secondary committee member, unless otherwise noted. Initial placement noted.)

Eva Lestant, expected 2027
Akhila Kovvuri, expected 2026
Mark Walsh, expected 2024
Sally Zhang, 2023 (Princeton postdoc)
Cauê Dobbin, 2022 (Georgetown)
Eduardo Muggenberg, 2021 (Facebook)
Diego Javier Hernandez, 2021 (Federal Reserve)
Yiming He, 2021 (Uber)
Alessandra Peter, 2019, (NYU)
Thomas Ginn, 2019, (Center for Global Development)
Travis Baseler, 2019, (Rochester)
Katy Bergstrom, 2019, (World Bank)
Kevin (Hoan) Nguyen, 2017, (Amazon)
Santiago Perez, 2017, (UC Davis)
Santiago Saavedra, 2017, (Universidad del Rosario)
Michela Giorcelli, 2016, (UCLA)

Courses taught:

Graduate development economics (2014—2023)
Undergraduate development economics (2020—2022)
Introductory economics (2014—2016)

Updated: 8/12/2024