

Madison Levine

Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

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Education

University of Illinois	2022–Present
Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics (Expected 2027)	
<i>Fields:</i> Development Economics, Behavioral Economics, Agricultural Economics	
University of San Francisco	2019
M.S., International and Development Economics	
Saint Mary's College of California	2017
B.A., Economics	

Publications

- [1] N.F. Meriggi, M. Voors, **M. Levine**, A.M. Mobarak, et al. [Last-Mile Delivery Increases Vaccine Uptake in Sierra Leone](#). *Nature*, 627: 612–619, 2024.
- [2] **M. Levine**, N.F. Meriggi, A.M. Mobarak, V. Ramakrishna, M. Voors, and U. Wadehra. [Gendered Disparities during the COVID-19 Crisis in Sierra Leone](#). *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 113: 567–571, 2023.
- [3] J.S. Solis Arce, S.S. Warren, N.F. Meriggi, **M. Levine**, et al. [COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance and Hesitancy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#). *Nature Medicine*, 27: 1385–1394, 2021.

Working Papers

- [1] **M. Levine**, S. Janzen, B. Kramer, and K. Shikuku.
Loss Aversion and Agricultural Investment: Experimental Evidence from Smallholder Farmers in Kenya
Job Market Paper
- [2] B. Kramer, F. Cecchi, **M. Levine**, and L. Waithaka.
See It Grow: A Randomized Evaluation of a Digital Innovation to Improve Crop Insurance Contract Design [CGIAR Discussion Paper \(2025\)](#)

Work in Progress

- [1] B. Kramer, M. Braun, **M. Levine**, A. Owuor, and R. Hill.
Country demand for speed and flexibility in pre-arranged financing: Evidence from disaster risk financing simulations in five countries in Africa

Research Experience

Consultant, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) <i>Nairobi, Kenya (in residence)</i>	Oct 2025–Feb 2026
Graduate Research Fellow, International Livestock Research Institute <i>Nairobi, Kenya (in residence)</i>	Jan 2025–Jun 2025

Research Assistant, University of Illinois <i>Urbana-Champaign, IL</i>	2024–2025
Senior Research Associate, Wageningen University & Research <i>Freetown, Sierra Leone (in residence)</i>	2019–2022
Data Analyst Consultant, WARC Group <i>Freetown, Sierra Leone</i>	Mar 2020–Jun 2020

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Microeconomics (ACE 300), University of Illinois	Fall 2025
Teaching Assistant, World Food Economy (ACE 251), University of Illinois	Fall 2023
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Microeconomics, University of San Francisco	2018–2019

Presentations and Invited Seminars

- [1] *See It Grow: A Randomized Evaluation of a Digital Innovation to Improve Crop Insurance Contract Design*, Midwest International Economic Development Conference, 2026
- [2] *Impacts of risk transfer on agricultural investments: A randomized trial on insurance contract design in Kenya*, AAEA Annual Meeting, 2026
- [3] *Loss Aversion and Agricultural Investment: Experimental Evidence from Smallholder Farmers in Kenya*, AAEA Annual Meeting, 2026
- [4] *Demand for Risk Management Tools*, ACRE Africa, Nairobi, Kenya 2025

Grants and Awards

Best Second Year Paper Award , University of Illinois	2024
Global Food Security Graduate Fellowship , University of Illinois \$4,000	2024
Graduate Student International Research Grant , University of Illinois \$6,720	2024

Skills

Programming: Stata (proficient), Python (intermediate), R (intermediate)

Tools: L^AT_EX, Android Studio, Flutter, QGIS

Survey Platforms: SurveyCTO, ODK, Survey Solutions, Kobo

Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate)

References

Sarah Janzen (Chair) Associate Professor University of Illinois sjanzen@illinois.edu	Berber Kramer Senior Research Fellow IFPRI b.kramer@cgiar.org	Hope Michelson Professor University of Illinois hopecm@illinois.edu	Nick Paulson Professor University of Illinois npaulson@illinois.edu
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