

Martin Abel

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APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Economics, Bowdoin College, 2022 – present
Assistant Professor of Economics, Middlebury College, 2017 – 2022
Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), 2019-present
Affiliate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), 2020-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Policy, Harvard University, May 2017
MPA in International Development, Harvard Kennedy School, 2010
Diplom in Economics, Friedrich-Schiller University of Jena, 2008

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Name-Based Race Discrimination: The Role of Heuristics” with Rulof Burger;
Review of Economics and Statistics (conditionally accepted)

“Political Discrimination in Hiring” with A.Robbett and D.Stone;
Journal of Human Resources (accepted).

“The Effect of Information from Black Health Care Professionals on COVID Vaccination Take-up”
with T.Byker and J.Carpenter;
Health Economics (accepted).

“Are Women Blamed More for Incorrect Financial Advice?” with E. Bomfim, I. Cisneros, J. Coyle, S. Eraou, M. Gebeyehu, G. Hernandez, J. Juantorena, L. Kaplan, D. Marquez, J. Mullen, P. Mulhern, A. Opong-Nyantekyi, R. Osathanugrah, J. Paul, A. Philie, L. Tingley, J. Wang;
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 228, 106781.

“The Effect of Manager Gender and Performance Feedback: Experimental Evidence from India” with D.Buchman ‘21;
Economic Development and Cultural Change, 73(1), 307-338.

“Do Workers Discriminate Against Female Bosses?”;
Journal of Human Resources, 59(2) (2024), 470-501.

“Labor Market Discrimination and Sorting: Evidence from South Africa”;
Journal of African Economies, 32(4) (2023), 331-351.

“Pro-social Behavior in the Time of COVID-19: The Effect of Private and Public Role Models” with W.Brown;
Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics. 101 (2022): 101942

“Socially Optimal Mistakes? Debiasing COVID-19 Mortality Risk Perceptions and Prosocial Behavior” with T.Byker and J.Carpenter;
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization 183 (2021): 456-480

“The Value of Reference Letters: Experimental Evidence from South Africa” with R.Burger, P.Piraino;
American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 12.3 (2020): 40-71.

“Changing Gambling Behavior through Experiential Learning” with S.Cole, B.Zia.;
World Bank Economic Review, (2020)

“Long-run Effects of Forced Resettlement: Evidence from Apartheid South Africa”;
Journal of Economic History, 79(4) (2020): 915-953.

“Bridging the Intention-Behavior Gap: Increasing Job Search and Employment through Action Planning” with R.Burger, E.Carranza, P.Piraino;
American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 11.2 (2019): 284-301.

“Unintended Labor Supply Effects of Cash Transfer Programs: Evidence from South Africa’s Old Age Pension”; *Journal of African Economies*, 28.5 (2019): 558-581.

WORKING PAPERS

“Can Temporary Wage Incentives Increase Formal Employment? Experimental Evidence from Mexico” with E.Carranza, K.Geronmio, M.E.Ortega;
Revisions Requested, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

“Choice Over Payment Schemes and Worker Effort” with Rulof Burger;
Revisions Requested, Experimental Economics

“How High to Raise the Bar? The Causal Effect of Self-Set Goals” with M.Kremer, T.Harigaya, J.Zhu;
Under Review

“AI Bias for Creative Writing: Subjective Assessments vs. Willingness to Pay” with R.Johnson;
Under Review

ONGOING WORK

“Barriers to Female Labor Force Participation in Saudi Arabia” with D.Paz, R.Hanna and R.Pande

“Reducing Youth Employment in Morocco” with A.John

“Following AI or Human Experts on Investment Advice? Evidence from the Shark Tank” with A.Nguyen

“Grade Inflation” with J.Carpenter, Z.Phu

“Unpacking Job Flexibility” with P.Piraino, N.Jha

“The Effect of AI vs. Human Assessment on Prosocial Behavior” with T.Lenk, M. Raghadd, A.Singer

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Youth Employment in South Africa” (2014) with M.Blair, R.Fabregas, K.Gumede, M.Leibbrandt ;
in *Youth and Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Working but Poor*; Routledge.

“China’s Development Policy in Africa” (2008) with G.Pehnelt; SA Institute for International Affairs.

REFEREEING

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, American Law and Economics Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, European Economic Review, Health Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organizations, Journal of European Economic Association, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Journal of Economic Psychology, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the Economic Science Association, Management Science, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Labour Economics, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, World Bank Economic Review, World Development, Economic History of Developing Regions, Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine, PLOS One, BMC Public Health

RESEARCH GRANTS

2025: AI vs. Human Monitoring (Bowdoin)
2024: Research on Unemployment (Amazon)
2022: Grant for Innovation in Diversity and Inclusion (AEA), w. J.Berazneva
2021 - 2022: Harvard University Morocco Employment Lab, with A.John
2019 - 2020: World Bank Gender Innovation Lab
2016 - 2019: Saudi Arabia Labor Market Research Fund, with R.Hanna and R.Pande
2015 - 2017: Gender Innovation Lab, with R.Burger and P.Piraino
2014 - 2017: Programme to Support Pro-poor Policy (South Africa), joint with R.Burger and P.Piraino

PRESENTATIONS

2025: Bowdoin (MEC), LAC-PAL, Amazon
2024: Colby (MEC), LAC-PAL
2023: ILO (RDW), Wellesley College, Middlebury College, Amherst College (LACDEV)
2022: Bowdoin C., IFPRI, LACDEV, Amherst C., U Chicago (DIL), Yale U. (NEUDC), Colby C., LACEA
2021: John Hopkins U, Williams College, Bristol U, Kiel U, U Cape Town, Boston U (NEUDC)
2020: Rotterdam U., SOLE, Dartmouth College (NEUDC), LACVDEV, World Bank, Harvard U (MEL)
2019: Harvard Kennedy School (EPOD), U Mass Amherst, World Bank, Colby College (LACDEV)
2018: U Vermont, U Mass Amherst (NEEW), U Zurich, Williams College
2017: World Bank, Tufts (NEUDC), Middlebury College, Stockholm School of Economics, Bates College
2016: MIT (NEUDC), Bowdoin College, U Mass Amherst (NEEW), Vassar College (LACDEV)
2015: Brown U (NEUDC), UC San Diego (PacDev), U Cape Town, Stellenbosch U
2014: Boston U (NEUDC), Yale U, Oxford (CSAE)

TEACHING

Artificial Intelligence and Economics, Bowdoin College (2024, 2025)
Detecting Discrimination, Bowdoin College (2023)
Labor Economics, Bowdoin College (2022-2025)
Microeconomics, Bowdoin College (2022-2024)
Senior Thesis Workshop, Middlebury College (2020)

Microeconomic Theory, Middlebury College (2017-2020)
Economics of Discrimination, Middlebury College (2017-2020)
Economic Development Policy Design (2016), Harvard University (TF)
Econometrics (2011), University of Cape Town
Introductory Economics (2009), Harvard University (TF), *Distinction in Teaching Award*

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Manager, J-PAL Africa, Cape Town, South Africa, 2010-2012
Consultant, UNICEF, Jaipur, India, 2009
Visiting Scholar, Institute for the World Economy, Kiel Germany, 2007

Date: July 17, 2025