

# Rachel Heath

---

Updated: April 2024

Department of Economics  
The University of Washington  
Savery 335  
Box 353330  
Seattle, WA 98195

Phone: (206) 543-5796  
<http://faculty.washington.edu/rmheath/>  
rmheath@uw.edu

---

## Employment:

Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure), University of Washington; September 2018 –  
Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Washington; September 2011 – September 2018  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Development Research Group (DECRG), World Bank; July 2011 – August 2012

## Affiliations:

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), 2019 –  
Henry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, University of Washington, 2019 -  
Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), 2016 –  
Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), 2016 –  
Center for Statistics in the Social Sciences (CSSS), University of Washington, 2013 –  
Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE), University of Washington, 2012 –

## Education:

Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, December 2011  
M. Phil, Economics, Yale University, December 2008  
M. A., Economics, Yale University, May 2007  
B. S., Economics (*magna cum laude*), Duke University, May 2005

## Published and Forthcoming Papers:

Boudreau, Laura, Rachel Heath, and Tyler McCormick. "Migrants, Information, and Working Conditions in Bangladeshi Garment Factories." (forthcoming at the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*)

Angelucci, Manuel, Rachel Heath, and Eva Noble. 2023. "Graduation Programs Targeting Women: Evidence from the Democratic Republic of Congo." *Journal of Development Economics*, 164: 103146.

Bossavie, Laurent, Yoonyoung Cho, and Rachel Heath. 2023. "The Effects of International Scrutiny on Manufacturing Workers: Evidence from the Rana Plaza Collapse in Bangladesh", *Journal of Development Economics*, 163: 103107.

Heath, Rachel, Ghazala Mansuri, and Bob Rijkers. 2022. Labor Supply Responses to Health Shocks Evidence from High-Frequency Labor Market Data from Urban Ghana. *Journal of Human Resources*, 57(1): 143-177.

- Heath, Rachel, Ghazala Mansuri, Bob Rijkers, Will Seitz, and Dhiraj Sharma. 2021. "Measuring Employment in Developing Countries: Evidence from a Survey Experiment." *World Bank Economic Review*, 35(3): 635-651.
- Heath, Rachel, and Xu Tan. 2020. "Intrahousehold Bargaining, Female Autonomy, and Labor Supply: Theory and Evidence from India." *Journal of the European Economic Association*. 18(4): 1928–1968.
- Angelucci, Manuela, and Rachel Heath. 2020. "Women Empowerment Programs and Intimate Partner Violence". In *AEA Papers and Proceedings* (Vol. 110, pp. 610-14).
- Heath, Rachel, Melissa Hidrobo, and Shalini Roy. 2020. "Cash transfers, polygamy, and intimate partner violence: Experimental evidence from Mali." *Journal of Development Economics*, 143: 102410.
- Heath, Rachel and Xu Tan. 2018. "Worth Fighting For: Daughters Improve their Mother's Autonomy in South Asia." *Journal of Development Economics*, 135: 255-271.
- Heath, Rachel. 2018. "Why Do Firms Hire Using Referrals? Evidence from Bangladeshi Garment Factories." *Journal of Political Economy*, 126(4): 1691-1746.
- Heath, Rachel and Seema Jayachandran. 2018. "The Causes and Consequences of Increased Female Education and Labor Force Participation in Developing Countries" in the *Oxford Handbook on the Economics of Women*, ed. Susan L. Averett, Laura M. Argys and Saul D. Hoffman. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Chari, Amalavoyal, Rachel Heath, Annemie Maertens, and Freeha Fatima. 2017. "The Causal Effect of Maternal Age at Marriage on Child Wellbeing: Evidence from India." *Journal of Development Economics*. 127: 42-55.
- Heath, Rachel. 2017. "Fertility at Work: Children and Women's Labor Market Outcomes in Urban Ghana." *Journal of Development Economics*. 126: 190-214.
- Nix, Emily, Elisa Gamberoni, and Rachel Heath. 2016. "Bridging the Gender Gap: Identifying What is Holding Self-Employed Women Back in Ghana, Rwanda, Tanzania, and the Republic of Congo" *World Bank Economic Review* 30(3): 501-521.
- Heath, Rachel and A. Mushfiq Mobarak. 2015. "Manufacturing Growth and the Lives of Bangladeshi Women" *Journal of Development Economics*. 115: 1–15.
- Heath, Rachel. 2014. "Women's Access to Labor Market Opportunities, Control of Household Resources, and Domestic Violence." *World Development*. 57: 32-46.

### **Working Papers:**

- Boudreau, Laura, Sylvain Chassang, Ada Gonzalez-Torres, and Rachel Heath. "Monitoring Harassment in Organizations"
- Hardy, Morgan, Rachel Heath, Wesley Lee, and Tyler McCormick. "Estimating Spillovers Using Imprecisely Measured Networks."
- Heath, Rachel, Zhe Liu and Alex Phillip. "Who Has the Right to a Job? Labor Market Competition and Men's Support for Women's Work"

### **Editorial Positions:**

- Deputy Editor, *Demography* (2022 -)
- Associate Editor, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* (2017 – 2022)

### **Grants**

- International Growth Centre (with Laura Boudreau; 2024; ~\$40,000 GBP)

Private Enterprise Development in Low Income Countries (PEDL) (with Laura Boudreau; 2023; \$39,968 GBP)

Social Science Research Council and the AEA Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession Women in Economics and Mathematics Research Consortium (with Melissa Knox; 2023; \$173,269 USD)

International Growth Centre (with Laura Boudreau; 2023; ~\$71,000 USD)

University of Washington Royalty Research Fund (with Emma Riley; 2022; \$40,000 USD)

Women's Economic Empowerment and Digital Finance (WEE-DiFine) Fund (with Emma Riley; 2022; \$50,000 USD)

Centre for Studies in Demography and Ecology (with Emma Riley; 2022; \$15,000 USD)

IPA Financial Inclusion Initiative (with Emma Riley; 2022; \$35,000)

J-PAL Gender and Economic Agency Initiative (with Laura Boudreau; 2020; ~\$50,000 USD)

Private Enterprise Development in Low Income Countries (PEDL) (with Laura Boudreau; 2020; ~\$17,000 USD)

G<sup>2</sup>LM|LIC special call for research on COVID-19 (with Md. Shakil Ahmed, Laura Boudreau, Imran Matin; 2020; ~\$34,500 USD)

UW Population Health Initiative COVID-19 Rapid Response (with Tyler McCormick; 2020; ~\$17,000 USD)

Gender, Growth and Labor Markets in Low Income Countries (G<sup>2</sup>LM|LIC) (with Laura Boudreau and Narayan Das; 2020; ~\$426,000 USD)

Diversity and Inclusion Seed Grant (with Christina Tapia; 2017)

International Growth Centre Small Project Facility Grant (2016)

University of Washington Center for the Study of Demography and Ecology seed grant (2013)

### **Fellowships, Honors and Awards:**

Milliman Distinguished Scholar (2018 - )

World Bank Economic Review Excellence in Refereeing Award (2018; 2022; 2023)

Corkery Distinguished Scholar (2017-2018)

American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Program Support Award (2016)

Yale University Dissertation Fellowship (Fall 2010)

Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leader's Fellowship, Yale University (2008-2009)

Summer Fellowship, Yale University (2005 – 2009)

University Fellowship, Yale University (2005 – 2009)

Economics Growth Center Prize, Yale University (2005 – 2009)

Graduation with Departmental High Honors, Duke University Economics Department (2005)

Phi Beta Kappa (2004)

Robertson Scholarship at Duke University (2001-2005)

### **Teaching Experience (including scheduled):**

Research Issues in Microeconomics (PhD), University of Washington (spring 2023; winter 2024)

The Economics of Gender (undergraduate), University of Washington (spring 2021; spring 2022; spring 2023; fall 2023)

Topics in Microeconomics of Development (PhD), University of Washington (spring 2014; spring 2016; winter 2018; spring 2021)

Development Economics (PhD), University of Washington (spring 2013; fall 2013; spring 2015; fall 2015; fall 2016; fall 2017; spring 2019; fall 2019; fall 2020; spring 2022; fall 2022; fall 2023)

Honors Seminar (undergraduate), University of Washington (fall 2013; fall 2014; fall 2015; fall 2016; fall 2017)

Development Economics (undergraduate), University of Washington (spring 2013; spring 2014; spring 2015; spring 2016)

Microeconomic Theory (PhD), University of Washington (fall 2012)

Introductory Microeconomics (undergraduate), Yale University (summer 2008)

**Presentations (including scheduled):**

2025: American Economic Association Annual Meeting

2024: Keynote speaker at the 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Women in the Economy at the ISI, New Delhi

2023: Paris School of Economics, Toulouse School of Economics, Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Peking University, Oklahoma University, American Economic Association Annual Meeting (presenter, discussant)

2021: University of Minnesota (AAE); Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University; Binghamton University; New York University

2020: G<sup>2</sup>LM-LIC Conference on New Research on Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries; IPA New Directions in Graduation Research Conference; Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) Research Retreat, University of Michigan, Bentley University, University of Georgia, Pittsburgh, UT-Austin, Howard, North Carolina State University (ARE), World Bank (Development Research Group), American Economic Association Annual Meeting (discussant x 2)

2019: Determinants of Productivity in Low Income Countries workshop at LMU/DIW; NBER Summer Institute (discussant; Development section); Entrepreneurship and Private Enterprise Development in Emerging Economies Workshop (EPED) at MIT-Sloan; Oregon; Change Seminar at the University of Washington; Gender and Development Conference at Williams College; Duke; North Carolina State University (Economics of Agriculture, Trade, and Development)

2018: World Bank/IZA Jobs & Development Conference, Population Association of America (discussant), Economic Demography Workshop (discussant), Northwest Development Workshop, Yale, American Economic Association Annual Meeting (discussant x 2)

2017: Columbia, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Hong Kong, Entrepreneurship and Private Enterprise Development in Emerging Economies Workshop (EPED) at NYU, Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting (poster), World Bank (DIME), Georgetown, The College of William and Mary, Notre Dame, Stonybrook, UVA (Darden), American Economic Association Annual Meeting

2016: Northeast Universities Consortium Development Conference (NEUDC); Virginia Tech; Population, Reproductive Health, and Economic Development (discussant); NBER Summer Institute (Development), Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting, UW Big Social Data Day, UW Bangladesh Development Conference, University of Michigan, University of British Columbia, Cornell Population Studies Center/Economics, University of Washington Africa Studies Program, American Economic Association Annual Meeting

2015: IZA Labor Markets in South Asia Conference, Wisconsin (Agricultural and Applied Economics), UC-Merced, Northeast Universities Consortium Development Conference (NEUDC), Brown Population Studies Center, University of Southern California, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting, Families and the Macroeconomy Workshop (Edesheim), Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, Economic Demography Workshop (discussant), Northwest Development Workshop, UC-San Diego, University of

- Houston, Universidad de los Andes (Bogota), Workshop on Women, Work, and Family in Modern Asia at Reed College
- 2014: UC-Berkeley, Northeast Universities Consortium Development Conference (NEUDC), UW Bangladesh Development Conference, Northwest Development workshop, Pacific Development Conference
- 2013: Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (discussant), Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Meeting, Northwest Development workshop, Pacific Development Conference, University of Victoria
- 2012: Northeast Universities Consortium Development Conference (NEUDC), Simon Fraser University, United Nations Greentree Convening on Women's Economic Empowerment, International Growth Centre South Asia Conference, Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Economic Demography Workshop, American Economic Association Annual Meeting (presenter and discussant x 2)
- 2011: Northeast Universities Consortium Development Conference (NEUDC), University of Washington (Economics), University of Washington (International Studies), World Bank (Development Research Group), American University, Amherst College, George Washington University, Wake Forest University, Notre Dame University
- 2010: Northeast Universities Consortium Development Conference (NEUDC); Academy of International Business- Northeast Chapter Conference

**Policy outreach:**

- 2024: Speaker at the #FinEquity2024 Annual Convening
- 2022: Speaker at the Washington State Society of Pathologists Annual Meeting; Presenter at the CEGA-Digital Credit Observatory-Lab for Inclusive Financial Technology convening on the Promise and Future of New Financial Technology
- 2021: Speaker at the Supporting Working Women During Covid-19 Webinar hosted by J-PAL
- 2020: Co-author of "Digital Financial Services for Women's Economic Empowerment: Review of Evidence of the Causal Mechanisms" (with Seth Garz, Elijah Kipchumba, and Munshi Sulaiman); Women for Women Learning Lunch presentation on Women's Economic Empowerment and Intimate Partner Violence
- 2019: Presenter at the CEGA Convening on Digital Credit and Women's Economic Empowerment
- 2018: Presenter at the CEGA Convening on Refugees and Migration; Panelist for discussion of the film "Mama Rwanda" hosted by the Moving Picture Institute, UW Film Club, and M. J. Murdoch Charitable Trust
- 2016: Panelist for the "The Creative Economy and its Global Impact in Developing Countries" hosted by UW School of Art and South Asia studies
- 2015: Gates Foundation "Fresh from the Field" seminar, presenter at the American Apparel & Footwear Association Social Responsibility Committee
- 2014: The Dhaka Apparel Summit, Gates Foundation "Fresh from the Field" seminar

**Advising:**

*Current*

- Committee chair: Aurelia Di, Ananya Diwakant (co-chair), Felipe de Figueredo, Suvekshya Gautam, Theresa Henry, Hyun Ji Kim (co-chair), Resem Makan (co-chair), TV Ninan
- Committee member: Dadmehr Didgar, Manya Malik, Jackson Monroe, Jorge Rivera, Katie Wilson (Pardee RAND Graduate School External Member), Frida Yao

*Graduated*

Student	Role on Committee	Year Graduated	First Job
Shamma Alam	Member	2014	Dickinson College
Pasita Chaijaroen	Chair	2016	The College of William and Mary
Iffat Chowdhury	Chair	2020	Facebook (Research Group)
Eui Ran Chon	Member	2020	Senior Examiner; Korean Financial Supervisory Service
Chien-Hao Fu	Member	2015	National Taipei University (Dept. of Public Finance)
Shih-Ting Huang	Member	2017	Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, China
Luis Diego Granera	Chair	2022	Villanova (teaching professor)
Taehoon Kwon	Chair	2021	Applied Microeconomist and Deputy Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Korea
Amy Lastuka	Member	2018	Center for Sustainable Energy, San Diego
Zhe Liu	Chair	2023	University of California-Berkeley, postdoc
Hui Mai	Co-chair	2015	Chase Bank, Dallas
Elodie Marlet	Member	2020	Seattle Jobs Initiative
Jennifer Meredith	Co-chair	2018	Colby College
Laine Rutledge	Chair	2017	Senior Manager of Analytics, APFM, Seattle
Jagori Saha	Chair	2018	Rhodes University (visiting)
Andres Sanchez	Chair	2019	Central Bank of Columbia (Research Department)
Ferdous Sardar	Chair	2022	Bryant University (visiting)
Yu-Hsuan Su	Member	2014	National Chengchi University, Taiwan
Crystal Wong	Member	2014	West Virginia University (visiting)
Castiel Zhuang	Member	2022	Peking University

**Service at UW:**

Office of Research Task Force on DEI-Related Research (2023-)

Executive Committee, Department of Economics (2019-)

Graduate Committee, Department of Economics (2019-)

Training Committee, Center for the Study of Demography and Ecology (2017-2018)

**Service to the Profession:**

Selection Board, CEGA/J-PAL's Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative (2023)

Co-Chair (with Alan Griffith), PacDev 2023 at the University of Washington

Review Board, J-PAL Gender and Economic Agency Initiative (GEA) (2021 - )

Women's Economic Empowerment and Digital Finance (WEE-DiFine) Advisory Board (2020-)

Program Committee, Econometric Society World Congress (2020)

Organizing Committee, the Population Association of America Annual Meetings (2020)

Program Committee, North American Meeting of Econometric Society (2019)

Local Organizing Committee (with Alan Griffith and Melissa Knox), Northwest Development Workshop (2019)

Local Organizer, Society of Labor Economics Annual Meetings (2016)

Local Organizing Committee (with Josh Blumenstock and Brian Dillon), Northwest Development Workshop (2016)

Organizer of the Second University of the Washington Bangladesh Development Conference (2016)

Faculty Convener (with James Long and Victor Menaldo), the UW Forum for Political Economy and Economics (2015-2019)

Organizer, Center for the Study of Demography and Ecology seminar series (2014-2015; 2017-2018)

Co-Organizer (with Fahad Khalil) of the University of Washington Bangladesh Development Conference (2014)

Co-Founder (with Josh Blumenstock and Brian Dillon), University of Washington Joint Seminar in Development Economics (2014 - )

Organizer for “Economic Development and Population” section (Population Association of America Annual Meetings, 2013)

**Languages:** English (native), Spanish (intermediate), French (intermediate)