

Erik T.J. Andersen

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Contact Information

Department of Economics
University of Washington
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Education

2027 (Expected) Ph.D., Economics, University of Washington
Fields: Development Economics, Economics of Education,
Applied Microeconomics

2024 M.A., Economics, University of Washington

2022 M.S., Economics, University of Oregon

2021 B.S., Economics, University of Oregon
Minor in Mathematics
Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in Economics

Working Papers

“How to Build a Reader: Evidence from a Scalable Literacy Intervention in Ghana” with Simon Graffy, Jason Kerwin, and Monica Lambon-Quayefio. February 2026 [[World Bank WPS11433](#)] [[Ungated Preprint](#)]

Selected Work in Progress

Getting More from Schools: Experimental Evidence on Skill Formation from Ghana
Theory emphasizes complementarities between school- and home-based inputs to education, yet almost no experimental work has tested for them. I cross-randomize a parental engagement intervention and a principal training program across 103 primary schools in Ghana, all already receiving an effective structured literacy program. This 2×2 factorial design generates independent variation in home- and school-based inputs, which will allow me to test for complementarities in the production of literacy skills. I develop a skill formation model that decomposes investment into school quality and parental effort, linked by a within-period elasticity of substitution that my design identifies. The model predicts that neither intervention alone will move parental effort, but together they will generate outsized literacy gains.

Is Awareness Always Good? An Accidental Information Intervention in Nigeria

Cocoa no More: Evidence from Illegal Small-holder Gold Mining in Ghana

Why Cluster at all? Randomization Inference Correction to Incorrect Rejection Rates with Small Clusters

External Grants (\$855,101)

- 2026 J-PAL Learning for All Initiative (LAI) – \$113,160
“Government-Led Scaling of Tools for Foundational Learning Improvement (TFLI) in Ghana” (with Jason Kerwin, Simon Graffy, Monica Lambon-Quayefio)
- 2026 J-PAL Learning for All Initiative (LAI) – \$34,040
“Turning Parents into Learning Partners: Testing the Complementarity Between Home and School Investments in Ghana”
- 2025 CEGA Development Economics Challenge Grant – \$ 12,000
“Turning Parents into Learning Partners: Testing the Complementarity Between Home and School Investments in Ghana”
- 2024 J-PAL Learning for All Initiative (LAI) – \$400,000
“Integrating Educational Technology with Structured Pedagogy to Improve Learning Outcomes for Every Student” (with Jason Kerwin, Simon Graffy, Monica Lambon-Quayefio)
- 2024 IPA Partnerships for Tech in Education (P4T-ed) – \$295,901
“Integrating Educational Technology with Structured Pedagogy to Improve Learning Outcomes for Every Student” (with Jason Kerwin, Simon Graffy, Monica Lambon-Quayefio)

Fellowships and Awards

- 2026 Buechel Memorial Scholarship
- 2022 Provost Richards’ Fund for Graduate Students

Invited Presentations (Including Scheduled)

- 2026 Comparative & International Education Society (CIES); Funds for Innovation in Development (FID); NBER Education Program Meeting (Presenter: Jason Kerwin); Ghana Education Evidence and Data Lab (GEEDLab)
- 2025 Inspiring Teachers; Gates Foundation Global Education; Prevail Fund; Sonoma State University

Invited Workshops (Including Scheduled)

- 2026 Western Economic Association International’s Graduate Student Workshop

Consulting Positions

- 2026 Research Consultant, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy Africa: Data-SMARTS

Teaching

Instructor, Department of Economics, UW

2025- ECON 300: Intermediate Microeconomics
2024- ECON 200: Introduction to Microeconomics
2024- ECON 201: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, UW

2023-2024 ECON 200: Introduction to Microeconomics
2023-2026 ECON 201: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Teaching Assistant Coordinator, Department of Economics, UW

2025-2026 ECON 200: Introduction to Microeconomics
2025-2026 ECON 201: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Professional Service

Journal Referee

Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization

Department Service

2022- Graduate Student Committee President

Skills

Programming: R, SQL, Stata, L^AT_EX, Matlab, Mathematica, BASH

References

Jason Kerwin (Chair)

Associate Professor of Economics
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Rachel Heath

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