

# Kevin Donovan

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Yale University  
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## Education

Ph.D. Economics, Arizona State University, 2013  
B.S. Mathematics, Bentley College, 2007

## Employment

### Yale University

Associate Professor of Economics (untentured), School of Management	2024 –
Associate Professor (by courtesy), Jackson School of Global Affairs	2024 –
Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Management	2018 – 2024
Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, School of Management	2017 – 2018

### University of Notre Dame

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics	2013 – 2018
Concurrent Faculty, Keough School of Global Affairs	2015 – 2018

## Research

### Journal Articles

“From Micro to Macro in an Equilibrium Diffusion Model,” with Wyatt Brooks and Terence Johnson. Accepted, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

“The Role of Labor Market Frictions in Structural Transformation,” with Todd Schoellman. *Oxford Development Studies*, 2023, 52(4): 362 – 374. (special issue on [STEG’s](#) review of structural transformation).

“Labor Market Dynamics and Development,” with Will Jianyu Lu and Todd Schoellman. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2023, 138(4): 2287 – 2325.

“Cash Transfers as a Response to COVID-19: Experimental Evidence from Kenya,” with Wyatt Brooks, Terence Johnson, and Jackline Oluoch-Aridi. *Journal of Development Economics*, 2022, 158: 102929.

“The Equilibrium Impact of Agricultural Risk on Intermediate Inputs and Aggregate Productivity.” *Review of Economic Studies*, 2021, 88(5): 2275 – 2307.

“Eliminating Uncertainty in Market Access: The Impact of New Bridges in Rural Nicaragua,” with Wyatt Brooks. *Econometrica*, 2020, 88(5): 1965 – 1997.

“Factors Affecting College Attainment and Student Ability in the U.S. since 1900,” with Christopher Herrington. *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 2019, 31(1): 224 – 244.

“Mentors or Teachers? Microenterprise Training in Kenya,” with Wyatt Brooks and Terence Johnson. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2018, 10(4): 196 – 221.

*Other Publications (lightly refereed or in non-economics journals)*

“Engineering environmental resilience: A matched cohort study of the community benefits of trail-bridges in rural Rwanda” with Evan Thomas, Abigail Bradshaw, Lambert Mugabo, Laura MacDonald, and Wyatt Brooks. *Science of the Total Environment*, 2021, 771: 145275.

“Is there a Cost-Effective Way to Train Microenterprises?” with Wyatt Brooks and Terence Johnson. *World Bank Economic Review (Supplement)*, 2020, 34(1): 63 – 67.

*Working Papers*

“Labor Market Anatomy of a Macroeconomic Crisis,” with Will Jianyu Lu, Joseph Pedkte, and Todd Schoellman. Revised and resubmitted, *Journal of Monetary Economics*

“Industrial Policy with Development Characteristics,” with Wyatt Brooks

“Spousal Insurance Around the World,” with Annika Bacher, Philipp Grübener, Lukas Nord, and Todd Schoellman.

“Infrastructure and Local Development: Evidence from Randomized Bridges in Rwanda,” with Wyatt Brooks and Evan Thomas

**Recent Presentations and Discussions**

2026: Columbia, Workshop on Firms and Inclusive Growth (Queen’s)

2025: Minneapolis Fed, NYU, Trinity, World Bank, Barcelona Summer Forum (Macro-Development; Micro-Development), NBER Summer Institute (Growth)

2024: McGill, World Bank Chief Economist Seminar, World Bank DRG, STEG Labor Markets Conference, World Bank East Asian Employment Conference, EIEF “Pizzanomics” Macro Conference, SED, STEG Conference on Spatial and Sectoral Gaps (discussant)

2023: Boston University, Cornell, Peking, Macro-Development Conference (Princeton), Y-RISE

2022: Berkeley, Georgetown, Monash, Econometric Society, ASU Conference in Honor of Berthold Herrendorf, Development Labor Workshop (Oxford), Small Business and Growth Conference (Bank Al-Maghrib), NBER Summer Institute Growth (discussant)

**Students**

(committee member unless otherwise noted; placement in parentheses)

Yale: [Matthew Schwartzman](#) (2025, Michigan)

Notre Dame: [Jianyu Lu](#) (2019, Central Bank of Chile), [Sara Esfahani](#) (2018, Sam Houston State University), [Eva Van Leemput](#) (2015, Federal Reserve Board)

**Teaching**

Yale: International Experience: Kenya (MBA elective), The Global Macroeconomy (MBA and EMBA core), Market Failures and Policy in the Developing World (MBA elective)

Notre Dame: Development Economics (PhD), Poverty in the Developing World

Arizona State: Intermediate Macroeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics

## **Grants**

(all translated to USD at current exchange rates)

2025: STEG/CEPR Large Research Grant (136,217), Weiss Foundation (25,000)

2024: Weiss Foundation (25,000)

2022: STEG/CEPR Large Research Grant (121,814), J-PAL K-CAI Climate Fund (400,000), STEG Small Grant (24,550)

2021: ATAI (417,061), J-PAL Gender and Economic Agency (17,490)

2020: Wellspring Foundation (1,534,000), USAID DIV (600,000), J-PAL Jobs and Opportunity Initiative (50,000)

2019: PEDL Small Grant (44,307)

2018: Wellspring Foundation (220,759)

## **Other Affiliations**

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Affiliate

Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Affiliate

International Growth Centre (IGC), Research Affiliate

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Faculty Research Fellow

Structural Change and Economic Growth Consortium (STEG) at CEPR, Agriculture Program Leader (with Julieta Caunedo and Doug Gollin)

Yale Economic Growth Center, Affiliate

Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE), Affiliate