

2026 NOVAFRICA CONFERENCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 18-19 | NOVA SBE, LISBON, PORTUGAL



June 18, 2026

9.30 AM REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

10.00 AM **OPENING SESSION**
(Auditorium Champalimaud | Room B137)

10.30 AM **PARALLEL SESSIONS A**

| VALUES AND TRADITIONS

Room B 137

The Price of Faith: Economic Costs and Religious Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Eduardo Montero, University of Chicago

Co-Author(s): Dean Yang, Triana Yentzen

Discussant: Clara Sievert

How Market Access Shapes Wellbeing and Values: Experimental Evidence from the D.R. Congo

Clara Sievert, CERGE-EI, Prague

Co-Author(s): Nathan Nunn, Jonathan L. Weigel, Marina Ngoma, Xavier Jaravel

Discussant: Pablo Álvarez-Aragón

Shaking the Traditional Order: Women's Conversion to New Christian Churches in Sub-Saharan Africa

Pablo Álvarez-Aragón, University of Bologna

Co-Author(s): Catherine Guirkinger, Jean-Philippe Platteau

Discussant: Pedro C. Vicente

Traditional Beliefs and Health Behaviors: Evidence from Rural West Africa

Pedro C. Vicente, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Brais Alvarez-Pereira, Nério Cá, Alexander Coutts, Teresa Molina-Millán

Discussant: Eduardo Montero

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PARALLEL SESSIONS A

| URBANIZATION

Room B 002

Adaptation to Climate Change in Cyclone-Prone Bangladesh: The Role of Social Protection and Migration

Rocco Zizzamia, University of Oxford

Co-Author(s): Prabhmeet Kaur Matta, Anindita Bhattacharjee

Discussant: Emir Murathanoglu

Disasters, Labor Migration, and Migrant Downgrading: Evidence from Typhoons in the Philippines

Emir Murathanoglu, Oberlin College

Discussant: Melanie Gittard

Climate Migration and Urban Integration in Africa

Melanie Gittard, Stanford University

Co-Author(s): Eleanor Wiseman

Discussant: Victoire Girard

Artisanal Mining and Urbanization in Africa

Victoire Girard, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Edouard Pignède

Discussant: Rocco Zizzamia

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PARALLEL SESSIONS A

| EDUCATION POLICY

Room B 003

The Unpromised Land: Elites and Human Capital Development in 20th-Century Peru

Hector Paredes, Paris School of Economics

Co-Author(s): Mauricio Espinoza

Discussant: Ana Paula Melo

Shifting Pathways: Anticipatory Responses to Preferential Admissions in Elite Colleges

Ana Paula Melo, Howard University

Co-Author(s): Ursula Mello and Alei Santos

Discussant: Guthrie Gray-Lobe

Nudging Parents Out the Door: The Impacts of Parental Encouragement on School Choice and Test Scores

Guthrie Gray-Lobe, University of Chicago

Co-Author(s): Michael Kremer, Joost de Laat, Oluchi Mbonu, Cole Scanlon

Discussant: Wayne Sandholtz

Temperature and human capital in the medium run: Evidence from high-stakes exams in Tanzania

Wayne Sandholtz, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Marina Dias, Daniel Duque, Claudio Ferraz

Discussant: Hector Paredes

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PARALLEL SESSIONS A

| HEALTH

Room B 004

Heuristic Decision-Making in Medicine: Evidence from Ghanaian Pharmacists

Jan Priebe, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine

Discussant: Santosh Gautam

The Effects of Childhood Immunization Program on Health and Education: Micro-Evidence from India

Santosh Gautam, University of Notre Dame

Discussant: Salamatu Nanna Adam

Health Risk Information, Social Stigma and Demand for Condoms: Experimental Evidence from Ghana

Salamatu Nanna Adam, CERGE-EI Prague

Discussant: Mattia Fracchia

For Honor or for Profit? An Experiment on Recruiting Traditional Health Practitioners for Formal Healthcare

Mattia Fracchia, IE University and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Brais Álvarez-Pereira, Teresa Molina-Millán, and Pedro C. Vicente

Discussant: Jan Priebe

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PARALLEL SESSIONS A

| LABOR

Room B 005

Household-Level Impacts of Strengthening Women's Financial Control: Evidence from Côte d'Ivoire

Rajdev Kaur Brar, UC Berkeley

Co-Author(s): Aletheia Donald

Discussant: Claude Raisaro

Hidden Discrimination in Frictional Labor Markets

Claude Raisaro, Graduate Institute Geneva

Co-Author(s): Elisa Macchi

Discussant: Daniel Sonnenstuhl

Working Without Wages: The Consequences of Widespread Pay Delays

Daniel Sonnenstuhl, University of Chicago

Co-Author(s): Dauda Musa

Discussant: Cevat Giray Aksoy

The Value of Some Office Time

Cevat Giray Aksoy, King's College London and EBRD

Co-Author(s): Nicholas Bloom, Steve Davis, Victoria Marino, Cem Ozguzel

Discussant: Rajdev Kaur Brar

12.30 PM

LUNCH

2.00 PM

KEYNOTE SPEECH

(Auditorium Champalimaud | Room B137)

Just Economics

Abhijit Banerjee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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3.00 PM

COFFEE BREAK

3.30 PM

PARALLEL SESSIONS B

| MIGRATION

Room B 137

Refugee-Host Integration Through Social Safety Nets: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia

Dennis Egger, University of Oxford

Co-Author(s): Alfredo Manfredini-Bohm, Belay Mohammed, Sandra V. Rozo, Daksh Walia

Discussant: Sarah Winton

Refugees' Right to Work: Efficiency and Equity in Host Country Labor Markets

Sarah Winton, London School of Economics

Discussant: Mariapia Mendola

Hacking Anti-Immigration Attitudes and Stereotypes: A Field Experiment in Italian High Schools

Sara Giunti, University of Pavia

Co-Author(s): Andrea Guariso, Mariapia Mendola and Irene Solmone

Discussant: Cátia Batista

From Destination to Origin: Experimental Evidence on the International Spillovers of Migrant Integration

Cátia Batista, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Lara Bohnet, Jules Gazeaud, Julia Seither

Discussant: Dennis Egger

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PARALLEL SESSIONS B

| FINANCE

Room B 002

Learning from Experience about Product Design: Evidence from Index Insurance in Kenya

Aranya Chakraborty, Ahmedabad University

Discussant: Alastair Langtry

Do Banks Reduce Community-Level Cooperation? Experimental Evidence from Indian Villages

Alastair Langtry, University of Bristol

Co-Author(s): Christine Binzel, Erica Field, Rohini Pande, Louise Paul-Delvaux

Discussant: Jedediah Silver

Credit and Welfare Across the Lean Season

Jedediah Silver, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Co-Author(s): Ethan Ligon

Discussant: Joshua Deutschmann

Contagion in Financial Networks: Evidence from Kenya

Joshua Deutschmann, University of Chicago

Co-Author(s): Michael Kremer; Alex Lehner; Giulio Schinaia

Discussant: Aranya Chakraborty

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PARALLEL SESSIONS B

| POLITICAL ECONOMY

Room B 003

Debiasing Law Enforcement Officers: Evidence from an Expressive Arts Intervention in India

Sofia Amaral, World Bank

Co-Author(s): Girija Borker, Nishith Prakash, Maria Micaela Sviatschi

Discussant: Marion Richard

The Political Economy of Conservation: Evidence from the Protection of Philippine Seas

Marion Richard, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Discussant: Rodrigo Carvalho Oliveira

Narrative Attribution and Electoral Punishment

Rodrigo Carvalho Oliveira, UNU-WIDER

Co-Author(s): Patricia Justino, Gustavo Casais and Eduardo Drummond

Discussant: Nikita Melnikov

Gang Crackdowns

Nikita Melnikov, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Carlos Schmidt-Padilla, María Micaela Sviatschi

Discussant: Sofia Amaral

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PARALLEL SESSIONS B

| HEALTH AND RELIGION

Room B 004

A Pentecostal Ethic? Economic Outcomes from a Randomized Religious Intervention

David Murphy, Colgate University

Co-Author(s): Sam Bird, Susan Kilonzo, Vivek Moorthy

Discussant: Mathilde Lesueur

Female Genital Mutilation Bans: Natural Experiments from 19 Countries

Mathilde Lesueur, University of Bologna

Co-Author(s): Olivia Bertelli, Sandrine Mesple-Somps

Discussant: Tijmen Henkes

Norms Rewritten? Parental Education and the Decline of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in Nigeria

Tijmen Henkes, University of Amsterdam

Discussant: Duncan Webb

Menstrual Stigma, Hygiene, and Human Capital: Experimental Evidence from Madagascar

Duncan Webb, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Julieta Vera Rueda, Karen Macours

Discussant: David Murphy

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PARALLEL SESSIONS B

| CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMS

Room B 005

Cash and Cognition: The Impact of Transfer Timing on Standardized Test Performance and Human Capital

Axel Eizmendi Larrinaga, Tufts University

Co-Author(s): Germán Reyes

Discussant: Paul Brimble

The Efficiency Gains from Cash Transfers: Experimental Evidence from Kenya

Paul Brimble, University of Michigan

Co-Author(s): Rob Garlick, Kate Orkin

Discussant: Raissa Fabregas

Does Impact Evidence Affect Policy Preferences? Evidence from Mexico's Landmark CCT Program

Raissa Fabregas, University of Texas at Austin

Discussant: Daniele Chiavenato

Cash Transfers and Parental Investments: Evidence from the Bolsa Familia Program

Daniele Chiavenato, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Discussant: Axel Eizmendi Larrinaga

5.30 PM

COFFEE BREAK

6.00 PM

POLICY ROUNDTABLE

(Auditorium Champalimaud | Room B137)

Job Creation in Africa

Chair: Catia Batista, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

David McKenzie, World Bank

Egas Daniel, International Growth Centre - Mozambique

Helena Valente, CESO

7.30 PM

Cocktail and Conference Dinner (by invitation)

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9.00 AM

KEYNOTE SPEECH

(Auditorium Champalimaud | Room B137)

Improving Education Outcomes in LMICs through Structured Pedagogy

Isaac Mbiti, University of Notre Dame

10.00 AM

COFFEE BREAK

10.30 AM

PARALLEL SESSIONS C

| BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Room B 137

Feeding Fairly: Gendered Nutrition Interventions and Intra-Household Norms in Uganda

Hardi Ahmed, University of Alicante

Co-Author(s): Teresa Molina Millan, Emily Ouma, Nils Teufel

Discussant: Hang Yu

When Incentives Aren't Enough: Evidence on Inattention and Imperfect Memory from HIV Medication Adherence

Hang Yu, Peking University

Co-Author(s): Jared Stolove, Dean Yang, James Riddell IV, Arlete Mahumane

Discussant: Damien de Walque

Medium-Term Impacts of Integrated Social Safety Nets: Cash Transfers, Information Meetings, and Home Visits for Child Development

Damien de Walque, World Bank

Co-Author(s): Richard Akresh, Harounan Kazianga, Abigail Stocker

Discussant: Adeline Delavande

Narratives About Epidemics in Malawi

Adeline Delavande, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Alberto Ciancio, Hans-Peter Kohler

Discussant: Hardi Ahmed

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10.30 AM

PARALLEL SESSIONS C

| MARKET DESIGN

Room B 002

Technology, Transparency, and the Emergence of Markets for Quality: Evidence from Ugandan Dairy Supply Chains

Bjorn Van Campenhout, IFPRI

Co-Author(s): Richard Ariong, Sarah Kariuki, Jordan Chamberlin

Discussant: Ruoxuan (Rebecca) Wu

Beliefs, Reputation, and Barriers to Entry in Online Labor Markets

Ruoxuan (Rebecca) Wu, University of Chicago

Co-Author(s): Hamna Ahmed, Zunia Tirmazee

Discussant: Deivy Houeix

Asymmetric Information and Digital Technology Adoption: Evidence from Senegal

Deivy Houeix, Harvard University

Discussant: Frederica Mendonça

ReCycling: Creating Markets from Waste

Frederica Mendonça, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Discussant: Bjorn Van Campenhout

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PARALLEL SESSIONS C

| EDUCATION

Room B 003

Air Purifiers and Student Learning

Santiago Saavedra, Universidad del Rosario

Co-Author(s): Michael Kremer, Mauricio Romero

Discussant: Balasai Vanukuri

Backlash or Bonding: Effect of an Integration Policy in the Context of Affirmative Action

Balasai Vanukuri, Paris School of Economics

Discussant: Carla Coccia

Beyond Beliefs: Experimental Evidence on Follow-Through Frictions at School Transitions

Carla Coccia, University of Bern

Co-Author(s): Eric Edmonds, Martina Jakob, Mauricio Romero

Discussant: Stefan Leeffers

Two Wheels to Stay in School: Evidence on Girls' School Participation from Mozambique's Bicycle Program

Stefan Leeffers, University College London and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Alexandre Jordão Chauque, Sammara Cavalcanti Soares, and Caio Piza

Discussant: Santiago Saavedra

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PARALLEL SESSIONS C

| GENDER

Room B 004

The Impacts of Bottom-Up vs. Top-Down Interventions in Fostering Female Entrepreneurship in Mozambique

Matilde Grácio, World Bank and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Iana Barenboim, Francisco Campos, Stefanie Habersang, Mona Mensmann

Discussant: Christelle Dumas

Nutritional Benefits of Fostering: Evidence from Longitudinal Data in South Africa

Christelle Dumas, University of Fribourg

Co-Author(s): Elsa Gautrain and Adrien Gosselin-Pali

Discussant: Sreelakshmi Papineni

Conscious Coupling: Engaging Husbands to Address Intrahousehold Constraints for Women Entrepreneurs in Ethiopia

Sreelakshmi Papineni, World Bank

Co-Author(s): Sophia Friedson-Ridenour, Adiam Hagos Hailemicheal, and Dumebi Ochem

Discussant: Brais Alvarez Pereira

Adoption of Solar Water Pumps for Agriculture and Women Empowerment

Brais Alvarez Pereira, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Trung X Hoang, Cuong Nguyen Viet, Galina Vysotskaya, Ho Quoc Thong

Discussant: Matilde Grácio

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PARALLEL SESSIONS C

| CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change, Adaptation and Mortality

Edouard Pignède, Paris-Dauphine University

Discussant: Andrej Smirnov

Climate Shocks Gender Norms and Labor Supply

Andrej Smirnov, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Discussant: Wolfgang Stojetz

Climate Shocks, Armed Conflict, and Employment: Evidence from 21 African Countries

Wolfgang Stojetz, ISDC Berlin

Co-Author(s): Carlo Azzarri, Erdgin Mane, Tilman Brück

Discussant: Yannik Schenk

Climate Shocks and Constrained Mobility in Senegal

Yannik Schenk, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Philippe Bocquier, Momath Cissé

Discussant: Edouard Pignède

Room B 005

12.30 PM

LUNCH

2.00 PM

KEYNOTE SPEECH

(Auditorium Champalimaud | Room B137)

Experiences, Information and Attitudes toward Refugees

Sandra Sequeira, The London School of Economics and Political Science

3.00 PM

COFFEE BREAK

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PARALLEL SESSIONS D

| NATURAL RESOURCES AND INSTITUTIONS

Room B 137

Putting Property Rights in Context: Colonial Cotton Concessions, Customary Land Tenure, and Development in Mozambique

Arinze Nwokolo, Lagos Business School

Co-Author(s): Tugba Bozcaga e Robin Harding

Discussant: Manon Delvaux

From Handshake to Contract: Evidence from Land-Use Agreements in Uganda

Manon Delvaux, University of Zurich

Co-Author(s): Arthur Laroche

Discussant: Anja Benschaul-Tolonen

Backward Linkages from Critical Minerals: Evidence from Firm-to-Firm Data

Anja Benschaul-Tolonen, Barnard College, Columbia University

Co-Author(s): Paula Fernandez Musso

Discussant: Chiman Cheung

Information and Collective Will Against Environmental Harms: Experimental Evidence from Ghana's Galamsey

Chiman Cheung, UC Berkeley

Discussant: Teresa Molina-Millán

Income or Health? Artisanal Gold Mines Tradeoffs and Spillovers

Teresa Molina-Millán, University of Alicante and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Victoire Girard

Discussant: Arinze Nwokolo

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PARALLEL SESSIONS D

| FIRMS

Room B 002

Direct and Spillover Effects of a Business Support Program: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment

Golvine de Rochambeau, IFC

Co-Author(s): Roberto Sormani, Anubhav Agarwal

Discussant: Francesco Loiacono

Innovation Zones, Technological Upgrading, and Firm Productivity

Francesco Loiacono, EBRD

Co-Author(s): Cevat Aksoy, Ralph de Haas, Yusuf Emre Akgunduz, Muhammed Hasan Y?lmaz

Discussant: Pauline Castaing

Small Businesses, Big Dynamics: New Insights from High-Frequency Phone Surveys in Sub-Saharan Africa

Pauline Castaing, World Bank

Co-Author(s): Akuffo Amankwah, Ivette Contreras, Amparo Palacios-Lopez, Ismael Yacoubou Djima, Richmond Atta-Ankomah

Discussant: Giulio Schinaia

Long-run Effects of Increased Access to Asset-collateralized Loans

Giulio Schinaia, University of Chicago

Co-Author(s): Joshua Deutschmann, Alex Lehner, Michael Kremer

Discussant: Priscila Oliveira

Why Businesses Fail: Underadoption of Improved Practices by Brazilian Micro-Enterprises

Priscila Oliveira, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Discussant: Golvine de Rochambeau

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3.30 PM

PARALLEL SESSIONS D

| SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Room B 003

Information or Cash? Boosting Attendance and Social Outcomes at Low Cost in Rural Bangladesh

Christine Ho, London School of Economics

Co-Author(s): Tomoki Fujii, Rohan Ray, Abu Shonchoy

Discussant: Christine Valente

How Big Does a "Big Push" Need to Be? Evidence from Randomizing Asset Transfer Size

Christine Valente, University of Bristol

Co-Author(s): Ragui Assaad, Adam Osman, William Pariente

Discussant: Hanna Berkel

Pensions, Payment Delays and Well-Being

Hanna Berkel, UNU-WIDER

Co-Author(s): Sam Jones

Discussant: Olivier Sterck

The Welfare and General Equilibrium Impacts of Aid Cuts

Olivier Sterck, University of Oxford

Co-Author(s): Vittorio Bruni

Discussant: Rute M. Caeiro

Social Protection in Times of Conflict: Evidence from Ethiopia

Rute M. Caeiro, University of Oxford and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Rachel Sabates-Wheeler and Patricia Justino

Discussant: Christine Ho

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PARALLEL SESSIONS D

| ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Room B 004

The Impacts of Restrictions to Individual Rights on Indigenous Lands

Dany Jaimovich, University of Talca

Co-Author(s): Felipe Jordán and Robert Heilmayr

Discussant: Lukas Vashold

Butchering Environment and Health: Impacts of Slaughterhouse Openings in Brazil

Lukas Vashold, WU Vienna

Discussant: Etienne Le Rossignol

Carbon Colonialism

Etienne Le Rossignol, University of Namur

Discussant: Paulo Santos

Economic Inequality and Biodiversity Loss: An Empirical Analysis of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary, 2012-2022

Paulo Santos, Monash University

Co-Author(s): Benjamin Smith

Discussant: Caroline Mieke

Urbanization Meets the Environment: Strengthening Local Public Goods Provision for Climate Adaptation

Patrícia Caetano, University of Southern California and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Stefan Leeffers, Jacob Macdonald, Caroline Mieke, Pedro C. Vicente

Discussant: Dany Jaimovich

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PARALLEL SESSIONS D

| CONFLICT

Room B 005

Can Mental Health Programs Have Social Externalities? Experimental Evidence from Myanmar

Nicolas Cerkez, University of Oxford

Co-Author(s): Alexandra Hartma, Jonathan L. Weigel, Kyaw Zay Ya

Discussant: Evie Graus

Violence Next Door: How Conflict Reconfigures Regional Trade and Development

Evie Graus, University of Luxembourg

Co-Author(s): Silvia Peracchi

Discussant: Galina Vysotskaya

Salience of Ethnic Conflict and Social Cohesion: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa

Galina Vysotskaya, Nova SBE and NOVAFRICA

Discussant: Inês Vilela

Countering Violence and Islamic Radicalization amid an Armed Insurgency

Inês Vilela, Royal Holloway and NOVAFRICA

Co-Author(s): Alex Armand, Pedro C. Vicente

Discussant: Nicolas Cerkez

6.00 PM

COFFEE BREAK

6.30 PM

POLICY ROUNDTABLE

(Auditorium Champalimaud | Room B137)

International Development Cooperation in Times of Geopolitical Realignment

Chair: Mafalda Avelar, Lusa

Luis Amado, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Portugal

Magda Robalo, former Minister of Health Guinea Bissau

Mohamed Azzim, ISCTE

7.30 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Catia Batista, NOVAFRICA Scientific Director

Pedro Vicente, NOVAFRICA Scientific Director

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