

Nicolas Polasek

PHD STUDENT · AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

University of California, Berkeley,
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Education

University of California, Berkley

PHD AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

- Advisor: Prof. Jeremy Magruder

Berkeley, CA

August 2021 - present

University of Geneva

MSc ECONOMICS

- Advisor: Prof. Giacomo De Giorgi

Geneva, Switzerland

September 2017 - June 2019

University of Geneva

BA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Major in Economics
- Minor in International Law

Geneva, Switzerland

September 2012 - June 2016

Research

WORKING PAPERS

"Market Integration and the Effects of Internal Displacement on Host Communities" [Job Market Paper - Draft coming soon]

WORK IN PROGRESS

"The Social Penalty of Underemployment" with Eric Ochieng and Frederick Aila

"How does Agricultural Mechanization affect Labor Markets in Sub-Saharan Africa: the Case of Tractor Services in Nigeria"

"The Effect of Cash Transfers and Village Savings Groups on Youth in Rural Settings: Evidence from the DRC" with Jeremy Magruder and Eleanor Wiseman

"Natural Disasters and Social Policy: Evidence from Goma's youths" with Jeremy Magruder and Eleanor Wiseman

Teaching Experience

Fall 2025 **Applied Statistics 1 (COMPSS 212)**, Graduate Student Instructor

Fall 2024 **Introductory Applied Econometrics (EEP 118)**, Graduate Student Instructor

Fall 2022 **Development Economics (EEP C151)**, Graduate Student Instructor

Research Assistance

2025 **Spring and Fall Semesters: Graduate Student Researcher**, for Prof. Jeremy Magruder, UC Berkeley

2024 **Spring: Graduate Student Researcher**, for Prof. Jeremy Magruder and Prof. Supreet Kaur, UC Berkeley

2023 **Graduate Student Researcher**, for Asst. Prof. Ellen Bruno, UC Berkeley

2021 **Research Assistant**, For Prof. Giacomo De Giorgi and Prof. Salvatore Di Falco, University of Geneva

Other Professional Experiences

2024 **Consultant - Research Assistant**, The World Bank

2020-2021 **Lead for Monitoring and Evaluation**, Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer, Switzerland

2019-2020 **Associate, Economic Security Unit**, International Committee of the Red Cross

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

- 2026 **Research Grant**, Giannini Foundation for Agricultural Economics
Research Grant, Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics
- 2025 **Student Opportunity Fund**, UC Berkeley Student Union
- 2024 **Development Economics Challenge**, Center for Effective Global Action
Sacheti Family Grant, UC Berkeley Agricultural and Resource Economics Department
- 2023 **Travel Grant**, UC Berkeley Agricultural and Resource Economics Department
- 2022 **Travel Grant**, UC Berkeley Agricultural and Resource Economics Department
- 2019 **Best Masters Dissertation Award**, Economics Department, University of Geneva

Presentations

- Polasek, N.** 2025. Conflict and Displacement: Effects on Nigerian Host Communities. Development Economics Lunch, UC Berkeley, California.
- Polasek, N.** 2025. Conflict and Displacement: Effects on Nigerian Host Communities. Departmental Workshop: Agricultural and Resource Economics Department, UC Berkeley, California.
- Polasek, N.** 2024. Matching and Price Rigidity Frictions in the Adoption of Agricultural Technologies through Rental Markets. Development Economics Seminar, UC Berkeley, California.
- Polasek, N.** 2024. Matching and Price Rigidity Frictions in the Adoption of Agricultural Technologies through Rental Markets. Departmental Workshop: Agricultural and Resource Economics Department, UC Berkeley, California.
- Polasek, N.** 2024. Agricultural Mechanization and Labor Markets in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Nigeria. Poster: Africa Evidence Summit, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Polasek, N.** 2024. Agricultural Mechanization and Labor Markets in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Nigeria. Oral presentation: Giannini Foundation of Agricultural and Resource Economics Student Conference (GARESC), Berkeley, California.
- Polasek, N.** 2024. Agricultural Mechanization and Labor Markets in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Nigeria. Departmental Workshop: Agricultural and Resource Economics Department, UC Berkeley, California.

Refereeing

Journal of Development Economics

Service & Mentoring

- 2025 **UC Berkeley ARE PhD Admissions Committee**, Committee Member
- 2024 **CEGA African Visiting Fellow Program**, Peer PhD Partner for Dr. Isaac Doku, Lecturer at the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana
Undergraduate Honor Thesis Mentor, Lakshmi Gopinathan, Undergraduate Student, University of California, Berkeley