

# LAURA DERKSEN

Updated March, 2026

Citizenship: Canadian, French

## EDUCATION

- 2016            PhD in Economics, London School of Economics, United Kingdom  
                  Thesis: "Information, social interactions and health seeking behavior"
- 2007            MSc in Mathematics, École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland  
                  Thesis: "Scale-free random networks"
- 2005            BSc in Honours Mathematics, University of British Columbia, Canada

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-            Senior Researcher  
                  Ragnar Frisch Centre for Economic Research  
                  Oslo, Norway
- 2015-            Assistant Professor of Health Economics and Strategic Management  
                  Department of Management (UTM), Institute for Management and Innovation and  
                  Rotman School of Management  
                  University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

## LEAVE

- 2018, 2020    Maternity leave

## PUBLICATIONS

- "Who Knows? Information Access and Endogenous Network Formation" with Pedro Souza, conditionally accepted at AEJ: Applied Economics.
- "The Lifesaving Impact of Electronic Medical Records for HIV Patients" with Anita McGahan and Leandro Pongeluppe, forthcoming at The Review of Economics and Statistics, 2025.
- "Healthcare Appointments as Commitment Devices" with Jason Kerwin, Natalia Ordaz Reynoso and Olivier Sterck, The Economic Journal, 2024.
- "Love in the Time of HIV: How Beliefs about Externalities Impact Health Behavior" with Adamson Muula and Joep van Oosterhout, Journal of Development Economics, 2022.
- "Restricted Access: How the Internet Can Be Used to Promote Reading and Learning" with Catherine Michaud-Leclerc and Pedro CL Souza, Journal of Development Economics, 2022.
- "Health Knowledge and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa" with Anne Fitzpatrick, Sabrin Beg, Anne Karing, Jason Kerwin, Adrienne Lucas, Natalia Ordaz Reynoso and Munir Squires, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 2021.

## WORKING PAPERS

- "Online Information is Not a Substitute for Sex Education" with Catherine Michaud-Leclerc and Ardyn Nordstrom.
- "The Impact of Online Reading Material in Secondary School on University Progression" with Catherine Michaud-Leclerc.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

“Restricted Internet Use and Susceptibility to Misinformation” with Catherine Michaud-Leclerc.  
“Comparing poverty alleviation interventions for vulnerable children in Malawi” with Catherine Michaud-Leclerc.  
“Teachers Teaching Teachers: A Randomized Evaluation of Teacher Training on Inclusive Learning and Literacy in Malawian Primary Schools”.

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR)**

2024	Norwegian Research Council Project Development Grant
2023	SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant: Long-Run Impact of Restricted Internet
2021	University of Toronto Research and Scholarly Activity Fund
2020	Rotman Institute for Gender and the Economy Research Grant
2019, 2020	Sandra Rotman Centre for Health Sector Strategy Research Grant
2017	Connaught Global Challenge Grant: Big Data, Local Impact, Healthy Lives
2017	SSHRC Insight Development Grant: Information, Education and Networks
2013	Russell Sage Foundation Small Grant in Behavioral Economics
2013	STICERD Research Grant
2009-2012	LSE PhD Scholarship
2009	LSE Teaching Award
2008	Canada National Sciences and Engineering Research Council Award
2007	UC Berkeley Loeve Fellowship for PhD in Statistics
2001-2005	UBC Undergraduate Scholarship and Dean's List
2001	Canada Governor General's Academic Medal

## **CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

2025 Network Science in Economics Conference, Stanford University  
2024 Economics Seminar, Helsinki Graduate School of Economics  
2024 Irish Public Economics Workshop, Trinity College Dublin  
2024 Bergen Development Workshop, Chr. Michelsen Institute  
2016,2020,2024 Centre for the Study of African Economies Conference, Oxford University  
2024 Health Economics Seminar, Stockholm School of Economics  
2024 Invited Lecture, Meeting of the Norwegian Association for Economists  
2023 Oslo Development Economics Group, Oslo Metropolitan University  
2023 Seminar, Norwegian Institute for Social Research  
2023 Economics Departmental Seminar, BI Norwegian Business School  
2023 Economics Departmental Seminar, University of Oslo  
2023 EEA-ESEM Congress, Barcelona School of Economics  
2022, 2023 The Economics of Risky Behavior Conference  
2023 Stockholm Institute for Transition Economics Seminar, Stockholm School of Economics  
2022 Women in Empirical Microeconomics Conference, University of Chicago  
2022 Seminar, The Ragnar Frisch Centre for Economic Research, Oslo

2022 Economics Departmental Seminar, Oslo Metropolitan University  
2022 Development Economics Seminar, Paris School of Economics  
2022 Workshop in Networks and Development, The University of Naples Federico II  
2022 NBER Economics of Privacy Conference  
2016, 2020 2022 Pacific Development Economics Conference  
2021 Human Capital Initiative at the Global Development Policy Center, Boston University  
2021 Economics Departmental Seminar, Université Laval  
2021 Toronto Data Workshop, University of Toronto  
2019, 2021 Canadian Economics Association Conference  
2020 Economics Departmental Seminar, Warwick University (cancelled due to Covid)  
2020 SIPA Development Seminar, Columbia University  
2019 Economics Departmental Seminar, Simon Fraser University  
2019 Applied Economics Departmental Seminar, University of Minnesota  
2016, 2019 Advances in Field Experiments Conference, University of Chicago  
2019 Economics Departmental Seminar, University of Notre Dame  
2018 Canadian Centre for Health Economics, Toronto, Canada  
2018 Empirical Microeconomics of HIV/AIDS Research Meeting, Boston University  
2017 BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Forefront Lecture, Vancouver, BC, Canada  
2016 Junior Strategy Conference, Duke University  
2016 Economics Departmental Seminar, Dartmouth College  
2016 PAA, Population Association of America, Washington DC, USA  
2016 Royal Economic Society Conference, University of Sussex  
2015 AIDS, International AIDS Society, Vancouver, Canada  
2015 Oxford Development Workshop, Oxford University

## **REFEREE**

American Economic Review, AER: Insights, Quarterly Journal of Economics, The Review of Economics and Statistics, The Economic Journal, AEJ: Applied Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Economica, Economic Theory, Management Science, Behavioral Science and Policy, Vaccine, International Journal of Sexual Health, PLOS ONE, HIV Prevention Trials Network, Africa Journal of Management.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

J-Pal Invited Researcher, Development Learning Lab (DLL), Behavioural Economics in Action at Rotman (BEAR), Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society (SRI)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2016-2022 University of Toronto: Econometrics and Managing Global Health (graduate),  
Strategy and Governance (undergraduate)  
2009-2011 LSE: Econometrics (graduate and undergraduate)

## **SUPERVISION AND SERVICE**

2024 PhD adjudication committee for PhD student Ingrid Semb (Oslo)  
2023-2025 Supervisor for 3 Master's students (Oslo)  
2021- Supervisory committee for PhD student Carmen Quezada Hernandez (Toronto)  
2021-2022 UTM Institutes Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee  
2021-2022 Supervisory committee for PhD student Jessica Gallant (Toronto)  
2019-2020 Supervisory committee for Master's student Gillian Davison (Toronto)  
2018 Thesis committee for PhD student Maripier Isabelle (Toronto)

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native), French (fluent), Norwegian (B1), Chichewa (beginner)