

# Alex Armand

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Citizenship: Italian

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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2022-.. Associate professor, NOVA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS  
2019-22 Assistant professor, NOVA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS  
2014-19 Assistant professor, UNIVERSITY OF NAVARRA

## OTHER AFFILIATIONS

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2020-.. Research affiliate, CEPR  
2019-.. Resident member, NOVAFRICA  
2019-.. Research fellow, NOVA CENTER FOR THE ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION  
2016-.. International research fellow, INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES  
2014-.. Research fellow, NAVARRA CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
2011-15 Visiting scholar, INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES

## EDUCATION

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2014 PhD in Economics, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON  
2006 MSc in Economics with honors, UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA  
2005 BSc in Economics, UNIVERSITY OF TURIN  
- Erasmus Visiting Student, COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

## PUBLICATIONS IN JOURNALS

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- [1] COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance and Hesitancy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (with J.S. Solís Arce, S.S. Warren, N.F. Meriggi, et al.), **Nature Medicine**, n. 27 (2021), pp. 1385–1394.
- [2] Does Information Break the Political Resource Curse? Experimental Evidence from Mozambique (with A. Coutts, P. Vicente and I. Vilela), **American Economic Review**, vol. 110, n. 11 (2020), pp. 3431–53.
- [3] The Reach of Radio: Ending Civil Conflict through Rebel Demobilization (with P. Atwell and J. Gomes), **American Economic Review**, vol. 110, n. 5 (2020), pp. 1395–1429.
- [4] The Effect of Gender-Targeted Cash Transfers on Household Expenditures: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment (with O. Attanasio, P. Carneiro and V. Lechene), **The Economic Journal**, vol. 130, n. 631 (2020), pp. 1875—1897.
- [5] Measuring and Changing Control: Women Empowerment and Targeted Transfers (with I. Almås, O. Attanasio and P. Carneiro), **The Economic Journal**, vol. 128, n. 612 (2018), pp. 609–639.
- [6] Demand Drops and Innovation Investments: Evidence from the Great Recession in Spain (with P. Mendi), **Research Policy**, vol. 47, n. 7 (2018), pp. 1321–1333.
- [7] Do Public Health Interventions Crowd Out Private Health Investments? Malaria Control Policies in Eritrea (with P. Carneiro, A. Locatelli, T. Ghebremeskel and J. Keating), **Labour Economics**, vol. 45 (2017), pp. 107—115.

## WORKING PAPERS AND PRE-PRINTS

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- [1] Public Service Delivery and Free Riding: Experimental Evidence from India (with B. Augsburg and A. Bancalari) – [Latest draft](#) – [CEPR DP16284](#) – [IFS W21/16](#) – *Submitted*
- [2] The Effect of Nature’s Wealth on Human Development: Evidence from Renewable Resources (with I. Kim Taveras) – [Latest draft](#) – [CEPR DP15680](#) – *Submitted*
- [3] Let’s Call! Using the Phone to Increase Acceptance of COVID-19 Vaccines (with M. Fracchia, and P. Vicente) – [Latest draft](#) – [NOVAFRICA 2113](#) – *Submitted*
- [4] Measuring corruption in the field using behavioral games (with A. Coutts, P. Vicente and I. Vilela) – [Latest draft](#) – [CEPR DP16596](#) – [NOVAFRICA 2112](#) – *Submitted*
- [5] Social Proximity and Misinformation: Experimental Evidence from a Mobile Phone-Based Campaign in India (with B. Augsburg, A. Bancalari and K. Kameshwara) – [Latest draft](#) – [CEPR DP16492](#) – [IFS W21/27](#) – *Submitted*
- [6] Can Subsidized Employment Tackle Long-Term Unemployment? Experimental Evidence from Macedonia (with P. Carneiro, F. Tagliati and Y. Xia) – [Latest draft](#) – [CEPR DP15192](#) – [IZA DP13478](#) – *Submitted*
- [7] Intra-household resource control, subjective expectations and human capital investment – [NCID WP 03/2015](#)

## MEDIA COVERAGE

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### Articles in press or online media

*Crucial days for the future of fisheries (Dias crucias para o futuro da pesca)*, [Forbes África Lusófona](#), January 2022.

*Incentivising quality of public infrastructure excludes users and worsens public health*, [VoxEu](#) and [VoxDev](#), 2021.

*Harming the ocean impacts children in low- and middle-income countries*, [VoxEu](#), 2021.

*COVID-19: Debunking fake news among slum-dwellers*, [Ideas for India](#), 2021.

*COVID-19 and the willingness to vaccinate: Evidence from India*, [IGC – Ideas for India](#), 2020.

*Challenges of adopting coronavirus precautions in low-income countries*, [IFS Observation](#), 2020.

*Natural resource discoveries: information campaigns for local communities*, [GlobalDev](#), 2019.

*Safe toilets are important—so why don’t people use them?*, [IFS Observation](#), 2018.

*Are women’s empowerment programs failing—or are we measuring wrong?*, [Apolitical](#), 2018.

*Targeted transfers and the assessment of women’s empowerment*, [VoxEu](#), 2016.

### Press articles covering my work

[El Pais 1 2 3](#), [World Bank Development Impact](#), [El Diario Exterior](#), [The Times of India](#), [The Hindustan Times](#), [Expresso](#).

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2022-27 **ERC Starting Grant** - GLOBCOADEV – The global impact of coastal water contamination on economic development – €1,371,000 (PI)
- 2022-23 **Weiss Fund** - Short- and long-run effects of mass media on family planning: evidence from radio campaigns in Malawi – US\$15,000 (PI)
- 2021-22 **UNU-WIDER** - Measuring the effect of ceasefire agreements – US\$10,000 (PI)

- 2021-23 **FCT (Portugal)** - Integrating rural migrants into cities – €250,000 (Co-PI)
- 2021-22 **IGC** - A Field Experiment on Integrating Rural Migrants in Cities - Mapping the City of Quelimane – £20,000 (Co-I)
- 2020-21 **IGC** - [Countering Islamic radicalization in Northern Mozambique](#) – £30,000 (Co-PI)
- 2020 **IGC** - [Coping with COVID-19 measures in informal settlements](#) – £16,348 (Co-PI)
- 2020 **Global Challenges Research Fund** - Combating fake news in informal settlements – £10,000 (Co-I)
- 2018-19 **IGC** - Agricultural risk in Mozambique – £7,151 (PI)
- 2017-19 **Ramon Areces Foundation (Spain)** - Radio messaging and armed group behaviour – €36,000 (PI)
- 2017 **Economic and Social Research Council (UK)** - Sanitation financing and revenue models in reuse waste – £10,000 (Co-PI)
- 2016-17 **3ie Thematic Window** - [Learning from a publicly-subsidized agricultural insurance](#) – US\$63,000 (PI)
- 2016-20 **3ie Development Priorities Window** - [Community toilet use in slums](#) – US\$530,000 (PI)
- 2015-17 **IGC** - [Behavioural measurements of local elite behaviour in Mozambique](#) – £61,000 (Co-PI)
- 2015-17 **Ramon Areces Foundation (Spain)** - Parental expectations of returns to schooling in developing countries – €36,000 (PI)
- 2015-18 **3ie T&A Initiative** - [On the mechanics of the political resource curse](#) – US\$499,000 (Co-PI)
- 2015-17 **Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Spain)** - Grant number “ECO2014-55236-R” – €25,000 (Co-I)
- 2014-15 **3ie T&A Initiative** - Designing T&A interventions in Kenya and Mozambique – US\$30,000 (PI)
- 2013-15 **3ie Open Window** - [Evaluating alternative CCT modalities in Macedonia](#) – US\$670,000 (Co-I)
- 2009-11 **European Social Fund / Italian Ministry of Labour** - Scholarship for Doctoral Studies
- 2007-08 **University College London, W.M. Gorman** Scholarship

## PRIZES

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- 2019 **Ford School of Public Policy - University of Michigan** - *Eckstein Prize* (joint with P.Atwell and J.Gomes)
- 2014 **European Association of Labour Economists** - *Young Labour Economist Prize*

## INVITED SEMINARS

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**2021:** Asian Development Bank Institute, World Bank (Infrastructure Master Class). **2020:** UCLouvain, Complutense University of Madrid. **2019:** University of Southampton, Nova School of Business and Economics, 3ie Delhi Evidence Week. **2018:** World Bank, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, University of Bergen, Chr. Michelsen Institute. **2017:** University of Bergen, Institute for Fiscal Studies. **2016:** Paris School of Economics, Institute of Development Studies (Sussex), University of Alicante, RAND Europe. **2015:** Nova School of Business and Economics, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Universidad Publica de Navarra, University of the Balearic Islands, Strathmore Business School. **2014:** Uppsala University, CERGE-EI, RAND Europe, University of Navarra, CEP-LSE.

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

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**2022:** NBER SI (National Security, Urban Economics), UNU-WIDER conference, Barcelona Summer Forum (Child health), 9th IZA Workshop: Environment, Health and Labor Markets, Bocconi LEAP conference, NOVAFRICA conference. **2021:** 6<sup>th</sup> Zurich Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries, NEUDC (Boston University), EADI-ISS (Erasmus University), ICDE (Bordeaux). **2020:** BREAD/CEPR/STICERD/TCD conference, NEUDC (Dartmouth College). **2019:** CSAE Annual Conference, Barcelona GSE Summer Forum. **2018:** RES Annual Meeting (Sussex), CSAE Annual Conference, NEUDC (Cornell University), Lisbon Meeting on Economics and Political Science. **2017:** SEHO Annual Meeting (San Diego), NEUDC (Tufts University), SAEe (Pompeu Fabra University). **2016:** EARIE Annual Conference (Lisbon), Antigua Experimental Economics Workshop, IFAD Workshop on Impact Evaluation (Rome). **2015:** AEA/ASSA (Boston), NEUDC (Brown University), EEA Annual Conference (Mannheim), Applied Microeconometrics Workshop (Alicante), IESE (Madrid), COSME Gender Economics Workshop (Madrid), MiSoC Family Economics Workshop (University of Essex), IDEAS - UNDP Conference on National Evaluation Capacities (Bangkok), SEEDEC (Prague), Brucchi Luchino Workshop (Bergamo). **2011-14:** EALE Annual Meeting (Ljubljana), Collegio Carlo Alberto Workshop, Tinbergen Institute Workshop, ADB-3ie Conference (Manila), PacDev (UCLA), RES Postgraduate Meeting (UCL), World Bank Africa Region - Impact Evaluation Workshop (Dakar), UCL ENTER Jamboree.

## POLICY REPORTS

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- [1] *Community Toilet Use in Indian Slums: willingness-to-pay and the role of informational and supply side constraints* (with B. Augsburg, A. Bancalari and B. Trivedi), [Impact Evaluation Report 113](#), 3ie International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, 2020.
- [2] *Learning from a Publicly Subsidised Agricultural Insurance: Evidence from Bolivia* (with S. Daga, C.G. Machicado, R. Nogales, B. Branisa, J.F. Gomes, G. Montresor, I. Kim Taveras), [Process Evaluation Report](#), 3ie International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, 2020.
- [3] *Managing agricultural risk in Mozambique* (with J. Gomes, I. Kim Taveras), [Final Report F-36421-MOZ-1](#), International Growth Center, 2019.
- [4] *Using information to break the political resource curse in natural gas management in Mozambique* (with A.I. Costa, A. Coutts, P. Vicente and I. Vilela), [Impact Evaluation Report 93](#), 3ie International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, 2019.
- [5] *On the mechanics of the political resource curse - Final Report* (with A. Coutts, P. Vicente, I. Vilela), [Final Report S-89330-MOZ-1](#), International Growth Center, 2018.
- [6] *Impact Evaluation of the Conditional Cash Transfer Program for Secondary School Attendance in Macedonia* (with P. Carneiro), [Impact Evaluation Report 69](#), 3ie International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, 2018.
- [7] *Understanding Low Take-Up of Employment Subsidies in Macedonia Lessons from a Survey of Potential Beneficiaries and Firms* (with P. Carneiro and F. Tagliati), Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Republic of Macedonia, 2014.
- [8] *Impact Evaluation of the Conditional Cash Transfer Program for Secondary School Attendance in Macedonia: Results from the First Follow-Up* (with P. Carneiro), Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Republic of Macedonia, 2013.
- [9] *Evaluation of Conditional Cash Transfers for Secondary School Attendance in Macedonia: Baseline Report 2010-11* (with P. Carneiro), Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Republic of Macedonia, 2011.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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2021-.. Microeconometrics (graduate), NOVA SBE  
2019-.. Development Economics (PhD), NOVA SBE  
2019-.. Global Economics (undergraduate), NOVA SBE  
2015-.. Microeconometrics (graduate), UNIVERSITY OF NAVARRA  
08/2018 Policy Evaluation (for practitioners), INSTITUTO DESARROLLO PARAGUAY  
2017-18 Development Economics (graduate), NOVA SBE  
2016-17 Development Economics (graduate), STRATHMORE BUSINESS SCHOOL  
2015-16 Development Economics (graduate), UNIVERSITY OF NAVARRA  
2009-14 Econometrics for Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON  
2009-10 International Trade (undergraduate), UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON  
2007-09 Economic Policy Analysis (undergraduate), UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON  
01/2012 Policy Evaluation (for practitioners), UNIVERSITY AMERICAN COLLEGE SKOPJE

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2016-.. Evaluation Consultant, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MACEDONIA  
2016-18 Evaluation Consultant, YOUTH READY PROGRAM, EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS  
2012-15 Survey Specialist, *STEP Skills Measurement* program, THE WORLD BANK  
2009-14 Evaluation Consultant, MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY, MACEDONIA  
2006-07 Analyst, PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS ADVISORY ITALY

## PAST VISITING POSITIONS

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2017-18 NOVA SBE  
Fall 2016 LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS  
July 2016 STRATHMORE BUSINESS SCHOOL

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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**Journal referee:** *Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Review: Insights, Economic Journal, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics, World Development, European Economic Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change, World Bank Economic Review, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, The Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, International Economic Review, Tropical Medicine and International Health, Science of Total Environment, Journal of WASH for Development, Latin American Research Review, Journal of Politics.*

**Grant application evaluator:** National Science Foundation (US), Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (Portugal).

**Report referee:** *RAND Europe, 3ie Evaluation Report Series.*

**Seminar/conference organizer:** NCID Research Workshop (2015–17 and 2019, Madrid – Spain), Workshop on Agricultural Risk and Insurance in Bolivia (2017, La Paz – Bolivia), WASTE-IFS Workshop on Sanitation finance and re-use (2017, The Hague – Netherlands), NCID Weekly Seminar on Development Economics (2014–15).

**Other service:**

**Nova SBE:** academic director of the PhD program (2022-..), member of the ethics committee (2021–22)

**University of Navarra:** member of the hiring committee for NCID (2014–18) and for the School of Economics (2015–18), member of the Internal Evaluation Committee at the Institute for Culture and Society (2018)

## COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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**Professional Affiliation:** American Economic Association.

**Languages:** Italian (mother tongue), English (advanced), French (advanced), Spanish (advanced), Portuguese (beginner).

Last update: June 2022