

# THOMAS GINN

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## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. in Economics, Stanford University,  
Expected Completion: June 2019  
DISSERTATION: “*Essays on the Economics of Forced Migration*”

B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC),  
2006-2010 (with Highest Distinction and Highest Honors)

## **DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

Prof. Pascaline Dupas (Co-Primary)  
Economics Department, Stanford University  
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Prof. Melanie Morten  
Economics Department, Stanford University  
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Prof. Jeremy Weinstein  
Political Science Department, Stanford University  
(650) 736-1224  
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## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS**

Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics

## **RELEVANT POSITIONS**

2016-17    Research Assistant for Prof. P. Dupas, Stanford University  
2015-16    Short-term Consultant, The World Bank – Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Washington D.C.  
2014-15    Research Assistant for Prof. R. Abramitzky, Stanford University  
2013-14    Research Assistant for Prof. L. Pistaferri, Stanford University  
2010-12    Evaluation Coordinator, Innovations for Poverty Action – Kenya

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

### *Prison or Sanctuary? An Evaluation of Camps for Syrian Refugees (Job Market Paper)*

Camps are one strategy to manage an influx of refugees. Host countries want to minimize effects on natives, but relief organizations worry that isolation reduces employment and self-reliance over time. Using a novel survey, I study Syrians in Jordan and Iraq, comparing camp residents to other refugees who self-settle in the same country. I identify the effects of camp residence with multiple strategies: controlling for a rich set of observables and a difference-in-differences with Lebanon where camps were never opened. I find that, after an average of three years in displacement, camps do reduce household income; however, the gap is less than the rent saved by living in a camp, and employment growth is similar over time. Combined with additional refugee outcomes, expenditure data, and the literature on effects on natives, I argue that camps can be an efficient subsidy to refugees willing to opt out of urban areas.

### *Impact of Syrian Refugees on Education Outcomes in Jordan (with Ragui Assaad & Mohamed Saleh)*

Mass influxes of refugees have potentially large effects on host countries. While labor market impacts are frequently studied, outcomes like children's education could also be affected. This paper examines the impact of Syrian refugees on the educational attainment of Jordanians. Combining detailed household surveys with school-level records on the density of Syrians, we study both quantity and quality outcomes of education for the hosts using a differences-in-differences design across refugee prevalence and birth cohort. We find no evidence that greater exposure to Syrian refugees affected the attainment of Jordanians; adding a second, donor-funded shift in high-Syrian areas appears sufficient to mitigate potential over-crowding.

### *Microenterprise Support to Integrate Refugees in Uganda (with Helidah Ogude)*

Many governments exclude refugees from the labor market to protect their citizens from a perceived negative effect on income. Uganda, the largest host country in Africa, takes a different approach: refugees are allowed to work and move freely, and in return, 30% of aid to refugees must support Ugandans. In this environment, we are conducting a randomized controlled trial to examine whether sharing aid between hosts and refugees engenders goodwill among host communities. We implement two programs for microentrepreneurs: cash grants and business trainings that facilitate inter-group contact. Our implementing partner is a non-profit led by refugees which explicitly connects the programs to the refugee presence. We measure social outcomes, including support for hosting additional refugees and allowing them to work, and economic outcomes like business profits to test whether effective development aid associated with refugees can induce support for inclusive hosting.

- *Supported by the UK-DFID Trust Fund (\$300,000) and Innovations for Poverty Action's Peace and Recovery Fund (\$9,840)*

### *Moving to Safety: The Effects of Forced Migration on Children and Youth in Iraq*

What are the returns to migrating from a conflict zone? This paper examines educational attainment of children in Iraq, where more than 4% of the population has been displaced within Iraq since 2003. Using a 2012 representative household survey, I exploit variation in the age at displacement to measure the effects of migrating on education. I find that for every year in the destination, boys attain 0.3 additional years of education while girls see no average effect. Decomposing the results, the positive effects for boys are concentrated among poor households and correspond with a decrease in work to support the household.

### *HIV Prevention Among Youth: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) and Male Condom Distribution in Rural Kenya (with Moses Baraza, Esther Duflo, Pascaline Dupas, Grace Makana, Victor Pouliquen, and Vandana Sharma) [Embargoed]*

## **SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2018 E.S. Shaw and B.F. Haley Fellowship for Economics
- 2018 UK-DFID Trust Fund
- 2018 Innovations for Poverty Action's Peace and Recovery Fund
- 2018 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (Winter and Spring Quarters)
- 2017 PhD Fellow, Stanford Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies (SEED)
- 2017 Collaborative Research Fellow, Stanford Immigration Policy Lab
- 2017 Computational Social Science Fellow, Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences
- 2012 Stanford Graduate Fellowship
- 2010 The Order of the Golden Fleece: UNC's highest honorary society
- 2009 Phi Beta Kappa
- 2009 Ernest L. Mackie Award: Chancellor's Award to the male of the UNC junior class judged most outstanding in character, scholarship, and leadership

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2018 Impacts of Refugees and IDPs in Host Economies Conference, University of Southern California
- Migration and Development Conference, Stanford University
- Research and Policy Workshop on Migration and Development, German Development Institute
- Working Group on African Political Economy, UCLA
- Sustainability and Development Conference, University of Michigan (presented by co-author)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2017 & Teaching Assistant for Prof. L. Pistaferri, Stanford University
- 2018 Econ 102C, Advanced Topics in Econometrics
- Teaching Assistant for Instructor I. Popov, Stanford University
- Econ 101, Economic Policy Analysis: Housing, Neighborhoods, and Homelessness
- 2015 Teaching Assistant for Prof. L. Casaburi, Stanford University
- Econ 101, Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 2008 Teaching Assistant for Prof. R. Byrns, UNC
- Econ 101, Principles of Economics

## **REFEREE SERVICE**

*Journal of Development Economics, Explorations in Economic History*

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native), Swahili (conversational)