

ANJA BENSHAUL-TOLONEN

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Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Barnard College, Columbia University
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EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, May 2015.

“Mining Booms in Africa and Local Welfare Effects: Labor Markets, Women’s Empowerment and Criminality”

University of Gothenburg, Department of Economics, 2010 – 2015

Supervisor: Måns Söderbom

Visiting Research Scholar

University of California at Berkeley, Department of Economics, 2013-2014

Visiting DPhil Student

University of Oxford, Department of Economics, 2012-2013

BA and MSc in Economics

University of Gothenburg, 2006-2010

Visiting student at: HEC Montreal (Canada), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (South Africa),
International Institute for Population Sciences (India)

EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

Barnard College, Columbia University (since 2015)

Affiliated Faculty, Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC)

Columbia University (since 2019)

Affiliated Faculty, Center for Environmental Economics and Policy (CEEP)

Columbia University (since 2019)

Affiliated Faculty, Center for Development Economics and Policy (CDEP)

Columbia University (since 2015)

External Researcher, Oxford Center for Research on Natural Resource Rich Economies (OxCarre)

University of Oxford (since 2013)

Affiliated Researcher, Department of Economics

University of Gothenburg, Sweden (since 2016)

PAST POSITIONS

Department Visitor, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
Princeton University (2018-2019)

Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics
New York University, 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development Economics, Natural Resource Economics, Economics of Gender, Labor Economics

GRANTS

Active Grants

- 2022- “Measuring the spatial distribution and local multipliers of local procurement in the mining industry in Zambia”. International Growth Centre (IGC), London School of Economics and University of Oxford. GBP 20,000. Principal Investigator: Anja Benshaul-Tolonen.
- 2019- “Schooling, Periods and Poverty”. Barnard College Presidential Award 2019. Barnard College, Columbia University. 49,000 USD. Principal Investigator: Anja Benshaul-Tolonen.

Prior Awards Now Terminated

- 2020-2022 “Firm Culture: Examining the Role of Gender in Job Matching in an Online African Labor Market”. Private Enterprise Development in Low Income Countries (PEDL) Exploratory Research Grant, Center for Economic Policy Research. 32,400 GBP. Joint with Belinda Archibong, Francis Annan, Oyebola Okunogbe.
- 2017 “Schooling, Periods and Poverty”. The Collaborative to Advance Equity Through Research at Columbia University, USD 5,000. Principal Investigator: Anja Benshaul-Tolonen.
- 2016-2017 “Firm Culture: Examining the Role of Gender in Job Matching in an Online African Labor Market”. Columbia Center for Development Economics and Policy (CDEP), USD 10,000. Co-PI with Belinda Archibong.
- 2016-2017 “Information Asymmetries in the Household”. Seed Grant The World Bank, 30,000 USD. Co-PI with Eeshani Kandpal.
- 2016 “Information Asymmetries in the Household”. Columbia Center for Development Economics and Policy (CDEP), USD 6,600. Principal Investigator: Anja Benshaul-Tolonen.
- 2016 “Information Asymmetries in the Household”. Barnard College Mini-grant (2016), USD 2,000. Principal Investigator: Anja Benshaul-Tolonen.
- 2016 “Access to Sanitary Products and Well-being” Barnard College Mini-grant (2016), USD 2,000. Principal Investigator: Anja Benshaul-Tolonen.
- 2015-2017 “Abandoned Mines in Africa”. UNESCO. USD 20,000. Principal Investigator: Anja Benshaul-Tolonen.
- 2020-2021 ISERP grant joint with Sandy Black, Elizabeth Ananat and Belinda Archibong.
- 2020 Special Assistant Professor Leave Grant, Barnard College, 12,000 USD.
- 2017 Travel Grant, Project on Resources and Governance (PRG), 8,000 USD.

2015-2017 Wallenberg Postdoctoral Scholarship to Stanford University. USD 130,000 (Declined).
 2014 Knut and Alice Wallenberg Travel Grant.
 2014 Siamon Stiftelsen Travel Grant (2014).
 2013-2014 Samuelson Graduate Exchange Stipend to University of California, Berkeley.
 2012-2013 Hedelius Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies to University of Oxford. USD 8,000.
 2012-2014 Lars Hierta Research Grant. USD 7,000.
 2012, 2014 Adlerbertska Stipendiestiftelsen Travel Grant.
 2012-2014 Paul och Marie Berghaus Travel Grant.

PUBLICATIONS

Benshaul-Tolonen, Anja. "Industrial Gold Mining and Female Empowerment." *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 72.3 (2024): 1213-1266.

(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author)

Aguilar-Gomez, Sandra, and Anja Benshaul-Tolonen. "The evolution and persistence of women's roles: Evidence from the Gold Rush." *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 215 (2023): 364-381.

(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author)

Babagoli, Masih A., Anja Benshaul-Tolonen, Garazi Zulaika, Elizabeth Nyothach, Clifford Oduor, David Obor, Linda Mason et al. "Cost-Effectiveness and Cost-Benefit Analyses of Providing Menstrual Cups and Sanitary Pads to Schoolgirls in Rural Kenya." *Women's Health Reports* 3, no. 1 (2022): 773-784.

(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author)

Stoilova, Dani, Rebecca Cai, Sandra Aguilar-Gomez, Naomi Heller Batzer, Elias Charles Nyanza, and Anja Benshaul-Tolonen. "Biological, material and socio-cultural constraints to effective menstrual hygiene management among secondary school students in Tanzania." *PLOS Global Public Health* 2, no. 3 (2022): e0000110.

(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author and principal investigator)

Axbard, Sebastian, Anja Benshaul-Tolonen, and Jonas Poulsen. "Natural resource wealth and crime: The role of international price shocks and public policy." *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 110 (2021): 102527.

(Equal contributions by authors)

Baum, Sarah, and Anja Benshaul-Tolonen. "Extractive industries and gender equality." *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* 15.2 (2021): 195-215.

(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author)

Benshaul-Tolonen, Anja, Sandra Aguilar-Gomez, Naomi Heller Batzer, Rebecca Cai, and Elias Charles Nyanza. "Period teasing, stigma and knowledge: A survey of adolescent boys and girls in Northern Tanzania." *PLoS One* 15, no. 10 (2020): e0239914.

(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author and principal investigator)

Benshaul-Tolonen, Anja, Garazi Zulaika, Marni Sommer, and Penelope A. Phillips-Howard. "Measuring menstruation-related absenteeism among adolescents in low-income countries." *The Palgrave handbook of critical menstruation studies* (2020): 705-723.
(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author)

Benshaul-Tolonen, Anja. "Local industrial shocks and infant mortality." *The Economic Journal* 129, no. 620 (2019): 1561-1592.
(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author)

Velho, Nandini, Ruth S. DeFries, Anja Tolonen, Umesh Srinivasan, and Aditi Patil. "Aligning conservation efforts with resource use around protected areas." *Ambio* 48 (2019): 160-171.
(Benshaul-Tolonen contributed to the survey instrument and writing of the manuscript)

Benshaul-Tolonen, Anja, Punam Chuhan-Pole, Andrew Dabalen, Andreas Kotsadam, and Aly Sanoh. "The local socioeconomic effects of gold mining: Evidence from Ghana." *The Extractive Industries and Society* 6, no. 4 (2019): 1234-1255.
(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author)

Rhee, Sophia, Elias Charles Nyanza, Madison Condon, Joshua Fisher, Theresia Maduka, and Anja Benshaul-Tolonen. "Understanding environmental, health and economic activity interactions following transition of ownership in gold mining areas in Tanzania: A case of private to public." *Land use policy* 79 (2018): 650-658.
(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author and principal investigator)

Mining in Africa: Are Local Communities Better Off? By Punam Chuhan-Pole, Andrew L. Dabalen, and Bryan Christopher Land, in collaboration with Michael Lewin, Aly Sanoh, Gregory Smith, and Anja Tolonen. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, The World Bank, 2017.
(Benshaul-Tolonen contributed to one chapter (conceptualization, analysis and writing), and to the book introduction as part of a consultancy)

Kotsadam, Andreas, and Anja Tolonen. "African mining, gender, and local employment." *World Development* 83 (2016): 325-339.
(Equal contributions of authors)

WORKING PAPERS

Benshaul-Tolonen, Anja, Beatrice Gibertini and Maty Konte. "African Mining and The Gender Gap in Political Participation." Under review (2024).
(Benshaul-Tolonen is the corresponding author)

Benshaul-Tolonen, Anja, Garazi Zulaika, Elizabeth Nyothach, Clifford Oduor, Kelly Alexander, David Obor, Kayla Laserson and Penelope A. Phillips-Howard. "The causal impact of sanitary products on

school absenteeism and psychosocial well-being: Evidence from Western Kenya.” (2023). Revise and Resubmit at Journal of African Economies.

(Benshaul-Tolonen is corresponding author)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Archibong, Belinda, Francis Annan, Anja Benshaul-Tolonen, Oyebola Okunogbe, and Ifeatu Oliobi. "Firm Culture: Examining the Role of Gender and Ethnicity in Job Matching in an Online African Labor Market" (2022).

Benshaul-Tolonen, Anja. "The Value Added Tax Footprint of the Zambian Mining Sector: A Network Analysis." Unpublished (2023).

(Benshaul-Tolonen is the corresponding author)

Benshaul-Tolonen, Anja and Paula Fernandez Musso. "Entering the Mining Value Chain: A Firm Survey from the Copperbelt, Zambia" (2024).

(Benshaul-Tolonen is the corresponding author)

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

African Mining, Employment and Women's Empowerment. European Center for Development Policy Management. Great Insights: Mining for Development. Volume 6. Issue 3. July/August 2017.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: Young Scholar Think Piece. First Series: Extractive Industries, "African Mining, Gender and Local Employment". 2014.

COURSES TAUGHT

Barnard College

ECON 3029	Empirical Development Economics, 2016-2024
ECON 3018	Econometrics, Barnard College, 2017-2024
ECON 2020	Introduction to Development Economics, Barnard College, 2016-2023
ECON 2063	Women in Development Economics, Seminar, Barnard College, 2015-2023
ECON 3098	Guided Research, Barnard College, 2020-2021

University of Gothenburg

Transparency Initiatives in Economics (PhD level), 2014
International Economics, 2014, Teaching assistant
Microeconomics, 2012-2013, Teaching assistant
Macroeconomics, 2013, Teaching assistant

INVITED SEMINARS AND TALKS

Fordham University, Department of Economics, 2024
Columbia University, 2023
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2022

Colorado School of Mines, 2022
 Cornell University, 2022
 University of Groningen, 2021
 Population Council, 2019
 IFPRI, 2019
 Teachers College, Columbia University, 2019
 Princeton University, Department of Economics, 2018
 Fordham University, Department of Economics, 2018
 Simon Fraser University, Department of Economics, 2018
 University of Oxford, Department of Economics, 2018
 New York University, Department of Economics, 2017
 Wesleyan College, Departments of Economics, 2017
 Columbia University, Department of Economics, 2016
 University of Chicago, Department of Economics/EPIC, 2015
 UNCTAD, Oil Gas and Mine Conference, Khartoum, Sudan, 2015
 The World Bank, Governance Global Practice/Extractive Industries Group, 2014
 University of Oxford, Department of Economics, 2015
 Barnard College, Columbia University, Department of Economics, 2015
 University of California, Berkeley, Agriculture and Resource Economics, 2014
 University of California, Berkeley, Department of Economics, 2014
 University of California, Berkeley, Women in Economics, 2014
 University of Copenhagen, Department of Food and Resource Economics, 2014
 University of Copenhagen, Department of Economics, 2014
 Norwegian University of Life Sciences, School of Economics and Business, 2014
 Workshop for socioeconomic impact of mining in Africa, The World Bank, 2014

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society, 2023
 University of Oxford, Center for the Study of African Economies, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2023
 Eastern Economic Association Meeting, 2021
 Annual Women Princeton and Columbia Women in Economics Conference, 2019, 2021
 Multifaceted Menstruation Workshop, Columbia University, 2019
 Northeastern Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
 New York Development Economics Nano-Conference, 2018
 2nd IZA Workshop: Gender and Family Economics (IZA/Barnard), 2018
 2nd IZA Workshop: Gender and Family Economics (IZA/Barnard) Poster session, 2018
 Indiana University Bloomington, The Ostrom Workshop, 2018
 American Economic Association (AEA/ASSA), 2016, 2018
 Entrepreneurship and Private Enterprises in Emerging Economies (EPED), NYU, 2017
 Pacific Development (PacDev), 2014, 2017
 Liberal Arts College Development Economics (LacDEV), 2016, 2017
 Working Group for African Political Economy (WGAPE), Stanford University, 2016

Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, 2013, 2015
IZA and World Bank Conference on Employment and Development, Lima, 2014
Working Group for African Political Economy (WGAPE), UC Berkeley, 2013
Occasional California Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics, UCSB, 2013
European Economic Association (EEA) Conference, 2013

INVITED SPEAKER AT NON-ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

“Revisiting Conventional Assumptions: Gender and Extractives” at National Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), New York, November 2017

“Women and Extractive Industries: Exploration of Local Impacts using Global Evidence” at National Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), Lima, Peru, November 2017

“Women and Extractive Industries: Exploring the Local Impacts” at Project on Resources, Development, and Governance (PRDG) at University of California Los Angeles, September 2017

“Women and Extractive Industries: What Does Recent Evidence Show?” at United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Oil Gas and Mine Conference, Khartoum, Sudan, 2015

“Local Industrial Shocks, Female Empowerment and Infant Health: Evidence from Africa’s Gold Mining Industry” at The World Bank, Governance Global Practice/Extractive Industries Group, Washington, D.C., 2014

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Barnard College:

Research mentor to Mulu Gebreeyesus, Weiss International Scholar, Barnard College, 2022-2025
Faculty sponsor to Alice Evans, Weiss International Scholar, Barnard College, 2024
Junior search committee, 2022-2023
Faculty Committee on Internationalization, 2021-2023
Organizer department seminars, 2018-2019
Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW), Barnard College, Advisory Board, 2015-2016

Columbia University:

Organizer “Gender in the Global Economy Conference”, March, 2024
PhD Committee, Sandra Aguilar-Gomez, Sustainable Development PhD program, 2020
Master thesis advisor, Qianyi Zhao, QMSS, Columbia ‘16
Co-organizer Women in Applied Microeconomics, Columbia University, 2018-2023
Co-organizer ISERP Workshop/Seminar “Diversifying the Social Sciences: The Women in Economics Working Group”, 2020-2021
Co-organizer seminar series “CU Women in Applied Micro”, 2018-2020
Organizer 4th Annual Conference for Princeton/Columbia Women in Economics Network, 2021
Organizer 3rd Annual Conference for Princeton/Columbia Women in Economics Network, 2019

Organizer 2nd Annual Conference for Princeton/Columbia Women in Economics Network, 2019
Organizer: 1st Annual Columbia Women in Economics Network, 2018
Member, Menstrual Health and Gender Justice Working Group, Columbia University, 2018
Mentor at The Global Public Policy Network Annual Conference, SIPA, Columbia, 2018
Founder Columbia Women in Economics Network, 2017

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Council, Land Economics, 2021-
PhD Committee Member, Djeynaba Ba, PhD, Ohio State University, 2023
Session Organizer, American Economic Association Meeting, ASSA/AEA 2018
Affiliated faculty: Project on Resources, Development, and Governance (PRDG), UCLA, 2017
Session Organizer, American Economic Association Meeting, ASSA/AEA 2016

PEER REVIEWING

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Canadian Research Council, Development and Change; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Economics and Human Development; The Economic Journal; Economies; Environmental Science and Pollution Research, The European Research Council (European Commission), Feminist Economics, International Journal of Women's Health; Journal of African Economies, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economic; Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of South African Economics; Land Investment, National Science Foundation, The Extractive Industries and Society, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Policy Studies, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Resources Policy, Review of Development Economics, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, Sustainability, Towson University, UK Medical Research Council, World Development.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Mimi Sam '16, (2016)
Theresa Schmidt '16, (2016)
Shelby Jennings '16, (2016)
Leeza Gavronsky '17 (2016-2017)
Sarah Baum '17 (2017)
Naomi Batzer '17 (2016-2017)
Karina Lambert '17 (2016-2017)
Lurum Lawino (CU) '18 (2016)
Daisy Homolka '18 (2016-2017)
Anne Kim '18 (2017)
Omaymhah Al Harasheh '18 (2018)
Rebecca Cai (CU) '20 (2018-2020)
Masih Babagoli (CU) '18 (2018-2020)

Brooke Levy '20 (2020)
Dani Stoilova '21 (2020-2022)
Reda Shaikh (Bridgewater Scholar, 2023-2024)
Julia Neely (Bridgewater Scholar, 2023)
Camila Fernandez (Bridgewater Scholar, 2024)
Paula Fernandez Musso '24
Smiti Modhurima (Laidlaw Scholar, 2024)
Anuka Manghwani (Bridgewater Scholar, 2024)
Leyla Yurt (2024)
Shaibya Neupane (2024)

PROFESSIONALLY-RELATED COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mentor, Aisha Yusuf, Georgetown University (PhD student)
Mentor, Suvekshya Gautam, University of Washington (PhD Student)

CONSULTANSHIPS

Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI). Consultant. 2017.
The World Bank, Development Research Group (DECRG). Consultant. 2014-2015.
The World Bank, Office of the Chief Economist for the Africa Region. Consultant. 2015.
The World Bank, Office of the Chief Economist for the Africa Region. Consultant. 2014.