STAARS/STAAARS+ Cornell Mentor Biographies

Chris Barrett

Chris Barrett is an agricultural and development economist at Cornell University. He is the Stephen B. and Janice G. Ashley Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and an International Professor of Agriculture at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, as well as a Professor in the Department of Economics, a Professor in the Department of Global Development, and a Fellow of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability. He is co-editor-in-chief of the journal Food Policy, edits the Palgrave Macmillan book series Agricultural Economics and Food Policy, co-edits the Elsevier Handbook of Agricultural Economics, volumes 5 and 6, and previously was editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. He is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, and the African Association of Agricultural Economists, and has won numerous university, national and international awards for teaching, research and policy outreach and public service. His more than 350 publications have been cited more than 41,000 times, placing him among the top five scholars globally in the agricultural economics, development economics, food security, poverty, and resource economics fields, according to Google Scholar. He has served as a principal investigator on more than $43 million in extramural research grants from various corporate, foundation, government agency and nongovernmental organization sponsors

Aleksandr Michuda

Aleksandr Michuda is an Assistant Research Professor at the Center for Data Science for Enterprise and Society. Aleksandr studies how machine learning and big data can be used to solve problems in development economics. He is particularly interested in the role of rideshare applications in transforming the labor market in emerging markets. He has worked with various corporate partners to make rigorous and policy relevant research. He currently has a joint appointment in the Department of Information Science, School of Computing, and Information Science and with the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. He graduated from UC Davis with a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Ariel Ortiz-Bobea

Ariel Ortiz-Bobea is an applied economist with interests in agricultural, resource and development economics. At present, his research program is broadly focused on agricultural sustainability issues with particular emphasis on the statistical and econometric evaluation of climate change impacts on agriculture and other sectors of the economy.

Arnab Basu

Arnab Basu is a professor at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Marketing. His main research interests are in the areas of labor markets in development countries, the economics of eco-and social labeling, and field experiments to elicit behavioral preferences. Within labor markets, Arnab's research spans topics on the informal sector, minimum wage and enforcement, labor contracts, employment guarantee schemes, child labor, and human trafficking. He has also explored the economics of statistical discrimination regarding product quality and how it impacts comparative advantage in trade between nations, how international product market shares and adoption of eco-labels by developing countries are related, and how incomplete information on labeled products affects consumers' willingness to pay. More recently, he has undertaken field experiments among coffee farmers in Colombia and cocoa farmers in Cote d'Ivoire to study how behavioral preferences affect production decisions, household labor supply, and human capital investments. Arnab is a research fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) in Bonn, Germany, and a fellow of the Global Labor Organization (GLO). He was awarded a research fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany and is a recipient of the Theodore W. Schultz Young Economist Prize awarded by the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE).
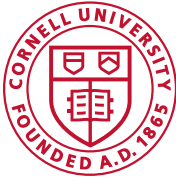
Brian Dillon

Brian Dillon is Assistant Professor of Development Economics and Applied Econometrics at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University. Dillon's research focuses on agricultural development, seasonality, market integration, labor, and the emergence of new markets. He works primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa, though he previously lived and worked in Guatemala and Vietnam. His empirical research uses a range of methods, including RCTs, estimation of structural models, time series analysis, and evaluation of natural experiments. Dillon is a Faculty Fellow at the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, an affiliate of the Center for Effective Global Action at UC Berkeley, and an invited researcher for the Agricultural Technology Adoption, DigiFi Africa, and King Climate Action Initiatives of the Abdult Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab.

Daniela Scur

Daniela Scur is interested in organizations and how organizational practices affect firm and labour outcomes across countries and industries. Her work spans the private sector (with a focus on manufacturing firms, family firms and multinationals) as well as the public sector (with a focus on schools, principals and teachers). The type of firm outcomes she studies include productivity andprofitability (including profit shifting), and the type of labour outcomes she thinks about include labour sorting and selection, inequality (of wage and opportunity) and mental health. She is an Assistant Professor of Strategy at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University. She is affiliated with the CEPR and the Productivity Partnership and I am a Research Fellow at theMIT Sloan School of Management, with the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy, and at the London School of Economics with the Centre for Economic Performance. She is a faculty fellow atthe Cornell Smith Family Business Initiative. I work on three large data collection initiatives: the World Management Survey, the Development WMS, and the Ownership Survey.

Ed Mabaya

Prof. Ed Mabaya is a scholar and a development practitioner with more than two decades of experience working on development, agribusiness value chains and food security issues with a regional focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. He is a Research Professor in the *Department of Global Development*, International Professor in *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences* and Senior Research Associate in the *Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management* at Cornell University. His teaching, research and outreach work focuses on food security and economic development in Africa. Previously he was the Division Manager of Agribusiness Development at the African Development Bank where he managed continent-wide investments, partnerships and research in support of the Feed Africa strategy. Mabaya's applied research work is anchored around food marketing and distribution, enabling environments for agribusiness, seed systems, digital solutions for smallholder agriculture, and the role of efficient agricultural markets in Africa's economic development. He has published widely on these topics in both peer reviewed outlets and popular press media. He is the founder and current the Scientific Advisor for *The African Seed Access Index*, a project that monitors seed sector performance in 21 Africa countries. His work has received many distinguished recognitions including for "42 African Innovators to Watch in 2016" by Ventures Africa magazine, 2013 Coca Cola Africa Diaspora Network and the 2006 and 2017 L.A. Potts Success Story awards for "program with model resulting in high impact on poor communities". He is a public speaker who has presented several keynote talks including TEDx-MidAtlantic and TEDx-Johannesburg. He is the former President of African Association of Agricultural Economists (2017-2019) an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow (2007) and The Aspen Institute's New Voices Fellow (2016). Mabaya earned his MSc (1998) and PhD (2003) degrees in Agricultural Economics at Cornell University and a BSc Honors in Agricultural Economics and Extension (1994) from the University of Zimbabwe.

Garrick Blalock

Garrick Blalock joined the Department of Applied Economics and Management in 2002. His research interests include management of technology, firm strategy, and emerging markets.

Joanna Upton

Joanna Upton is a Research Associate at Cornell University in the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, and my research and outreach focus areas are primarily in food security, food policy, and resilience in sub-Saharan Africa. I am most passionate about pursing questions with concrete, policy-relevant applications; and as such, work with diverse collaborators, including academics from various disciplines, CGIAR institutions and field offices, UN organizations, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. I also very much enjoy teaching and mentorship, both formal and informal, in the classroom and in the field.

Kaushik Basu

Kaushik Basu is Professor of Economics and the Carl Marks Professor at Cornell University. From 2012 to 2016 he was the Chief Economist of the World Bank. Educated at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and the London School of Economics, Basu has published extensively in development economics, game theory, welfare economics and industrial organization. His most recent book The Republic of Beliefs: A New Approach to Law and Economics was published by Princeton University Press in 2018.
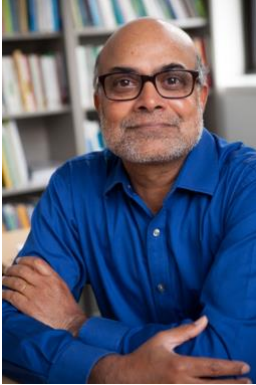
Nicolas L. Bottan

Nicolas Bottan is an applied micro-economist who uses behavioral insights to study important policy questions. His research interests fall in the fields of public economics, behavioral economics, and development economics. In his work, Nicolas combines different empirical strategies, such as field experiments and natural/policy experiments. His current research focuses on studying the extent to which social comparisons matter and how they shape individual's behavior. For example, his research shows that social comparisons affect location decisions, and individual effort and performance in the context of sports and education. Nicolas also works on understanding social consequences of public policy more broadly, such as the effect of legalized gambling on crime, and studying the interplay between government and nonprofit service provision.

Prabhu Pingali

Prabhu Pingali is a Professor in the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University, with joint appointments in the Division of Nutritional Sciences and Department of Global Development, and the Founding Director of the Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI). Prior to joining Cornell, he was the Deputy Director, Agricultural Development Division of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, from 2008–May 2013. He was director of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Agriculture and Development Economics Division from 2002-2007. In addition, he worked with the CGIAR for 15 years from 1987-2002, first with IRRI in the Philippines and then with CIMMYT in Mexico. Pingali is a member in the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and an AAEA Fellow. He has over three decades of experience working with some of the leading international agricultural development organizations as a research economist, development practitioner and senior manager. Pingali has written 13 books and over 120 refereed journal articles and book chapters on food policy.
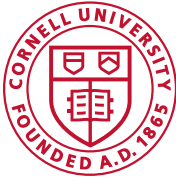
John McPeak

John McPeak is currently a Professor in the Department of Public Administration and International Affairs in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal from 1989-1992. He received his master's (1996) and PhD (1999) in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His dissertation field work was conducted in northern Kenya on the economics of pastoralism. After finishing his PhD, he took a post-doctoral research associate position with Cornell University and was seconded to the International Livestock Research Institute with the USAID funded Pastoral Risk Management Project (PARIMA). From 1999 to 2002 he was based in Marsabit, Kenya and worked in northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia with PARIMA. He joined the faculty of Syracuse University in 2002 and continued as a co-Principal Investigator with PARIMA until 2006. He has served as Principal Investigator on USAID funded projects LiTEK (Livestock Trade in Ethiopia and Kenya) 2005-2007, GSFA (La Gestion des Systemes Fluviaux pour l'Avenir) in Senegal and Mali 2010-2015. He served as co-Principal Investigator on USAID funded IBLI (Index Based Livestock Insurance) in Kenya 2008-2013 and MLPI (Mali Livestock and Pastoralist Initiative 1 and 2) 2008-2013. From 2016 to 2019 he worked with the Near East Foundation on a DfID funded BRACED project on Decentralized Climate Funds (DCF) in Senegal and Mali. He has consulted for the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Cloudburst Consulting group, The Odessa Center / Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), CGIAR FAO investment center, CNFA, ACDI-VOCA, DfID, and UNDP on livestock production and marketing research in sub-Saharan Africa.

Carolina Castilla

Carolina Castilla is a Richard M. Kesler Associate Professor of Economics at Colgate University. She is primarily interested in the intersection between intra-household allocation of resources, gender, and economic development. She seeks to identify if and when spouses in poor households fail to allocate their scarce resources in ways that can be more beneficial for their families, what leads spouses to behave that way, and how spouses cope with constraints imposed by poverty, all of which have implications for development policy. Her interest in gender and development focuses for the most part on factors that affect child marriage and intimate partner violence. Second, she works on behavioral economics, a field that explores whether individuals deviate from standard economic models, focusing on the study of non-standard preferences and non-standard decision making.