
Contact Information

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Academic Experience

2024-Present **Founder**, JustGive Participatory Philanthropy
2022-Present **Associate Editor**, Journal of Human Development and Capabilities
2021-Present **Associate Professor**, Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University
2015-2021 **Assistant Professor**, Zimpleman College of Business, Drake University
2014-2015 **Lecturer**, Department of Economics, Iowa State University
2014 **Adjunct Professor**, Department of Economics, American University
2012-2014 **Research Fellow**, Inter-American Development Bank

Education

2012 **PhD, Economics**, American University
2009 **MA, International Affairs**, American University
2005 **BBA, General Business**, Belmont University

Books

- **Henderson, Heath**. 2025. *Poor relief: Why giving people money is not the answer to global poverty*. Harvard University Press.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Corral, Paul, **Heath Henderson**, and Sandra Segovia. 2025. "[Poverty mapping in the age of machine learning](#)." *Journal of Development Economics* 172: 103377.
- Follett, Lendie, and **Heath Henderson**. 2023. "[A hybrid approach to targeting social assistance](#)." *Journal of Development Economics* 160: 103002.
- **Henderson, Heath**. 2022. "[The moral foundations of impact evaluation](#)." *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities* 23: 425–454.
- **Henderson, Heath**, and Arnob Alam. 2022. "[The structure of risk-sharing networks](#)." *Empirical Economics* 62: 853–886.
- **Henderson, Heath**, and Lendie Follett. 2022. "[Targeting social safety net programs on human capabilities](#)." *World Development* 151: 105741.
- Benfica, Rui, and **Heath Henderson**. 2021. "[The effect of the sectoral composition of economic growth on rural and urban poverty](#)." *Review of Income and Wealth* 67: 248–284.

- **Henderson, Heath**, and Lendie Follett. 2020. “[A Bayesian framework for estimating human capabilities.](#)” *World Development* 129: 104872.
- Hillesland, Marya, Vanya Slavchevska, **Heath Henderson**, Patrick Okello, and Flavia Naiga Oumo. 2020. “[Beyond the sex of the holder: Understanding agricultural production decisions within household farms in Uganda.](#)” *Journal of Gender, Agriculture and Food Security* 5: 14–27.
- Corral, Leonardo, **Heath Henderson**, and Juan Jose Miranda. 2019. “[The fiscal impact of windfall gains: Evidence from a Peruvian natural experiment.](#)” *Land Economics* 95: 577–598.
- Gräbner, Claudius, Catherine Bale, Bernardo Alves Furtado, Brais Álvarez Pereira, James Gentile, **Heath Henderson**, and Francesca Lipari. 2019. “[Getting the best of both worlds? Developing complementary equation-based and agent-based models.](#)” *Computational Economics* 53: 763–782.
- **Henderson, Heath**, and Alan Isaac. 2017. “[Modern value chains and the organization of agrarian production.](#)” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 99: 379–400.
- Álvarez Pereira, Brais, **Heath Henderson**, Francesca Lipari, Bernardo Alves Furtado, Catherine Bale, James Gentile, and Claudius Gräbner. 2016. “[Comment: Errata in ‘The political economy of the Kuznets curve.’](#)” *Review of Development Economics* 20: 817–819.
- **Henderson, Heath**, Leonardo Corral, Eric Simning, and Paul Winters. 2015. “[Land accumulation dynamics in developing country agriculture.](#)” *Journal of Development Studies* 51: 743–761.
- **Henderson, Heath**. 2015. “[Considering technical and allocative efficiency in the inverse farm size-productivity relationship.](#)” *Journal of Agricultural Economics* 66: 442–469.
- **Henderson, Heath**, Amos Golan, and Skipper Seabold. 2015. “[Incorporating prior information when true priors are unknown: An information-theoretic approach for increasing efficiency in estimation.](#)” *Economics Letters* 127: 1–5.
- **Henderson, Heath**. 2014. “[Structural transformation and smallholder agriculture: An information-theoretic analysis of the Nicaraguan case.](#)” *Agricultural Economics* 45: 443–458.

Working Papers

- Seymour, Greg, Lendie Follett, **Heath Henderson**, and Nathaniel Ferguson. 2024. “[Can machine-learning models predict gendered labor statistics using mobile phone and geospatial data?](#)” CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform Working Paper 023.
- Corral, Paul, **Heath Henderson**, and Sandra Segovia. 2023. “[Poverty mapping in the age of machine learning.](#)” World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 10429.
- Benfica, Rui, and **Heath Henderson**. 2018. “[The effect of the sectoral composition of economic growth on rural and urban poverty.](#)” International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Research Series 23.
- Corral, Leonardo, **Heath Henderson**, and Juan Jose Miranda. 2016. “[Evidence from a natural experiment on the development impact of windfall gains: The Camisea Fund in Peru.](#)” Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Working Paper Series 687.

- Álvarez Pereira, Brais, Catherine Bale, Bernardo Alves Furtado, James Gentile, Claudius Gräbner, **Heath Henderson**, and Francesca Lipari. 2015. “[Social institutions and economic inequality: Modeling the onset of the Kuznets curve.](#)” Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) Discussion Paper 204.
- McCarthy, Nancy, and **Heath Henderson**. 2014. “[The role of renewable energy laws in expanding energy from non-traditional renewables.](#)” Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Working Paper Series 540.
- **Henderson, Heath**, Leonardo Corral, Eric Simming, and Paul Winters. 2014. “[Land accumulation dynamics in developing country agriculture.](#)” Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Working Paper Series 519.

Popular Press

- **Henderson, Heath**. 2025. “[Cash grants aren’t a long-term solution to global poverty.](#)” *Businessweek*, November 17.
- **Henderson, Heath**. 2025. “[No magic bullet.](#)” *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, November 11.
- Seymour, Greg, Lendie Follett, and **Heath Henderson**. 2023. “[Estimating gender inequalities in labor-market outcomes using mobile phone data](#)” *EnGendering Data Blog*, November 29.
- Corral, Paul, **Heath Henderson**, and Sandra Segovia. 2023. “[Can machine learning help us create a better poverty map?](#)” *Let’s Talk Development*, June 13.
- **Henderson, Heath**. 2023. “[Cash assistance’s ‘long-term’ effects.](#)” *Panorama News*, January 27.
- **Henderson, Heath**. 2021. “[The limitations of cash payments for fighting poverty.](#)” *The Academic Minute*, June 1.
- **Henderson, Heath**. 2021. “[Why cash payments aren’t always the best tool to help poor people.](#)” *The Conversation*, March 17.
- **Henderson, Heath**. 2020. “[The economic argument for a mask mandate in Iowa.](#)” *Des Moines Register*, August 21.
- **Henderson, Heath**. 2020. “[Letter: Research on police actions was misrepresented.](#)” *Des Moines Register*, August 6.
- **Henderson, Heath**, and Leonardo Corral. 2014. “[Can land markets reduce land inequality in developing countries?](#)” *Impacto* (formerly *Development that Works*), July 29.

Presentations

- 2026 “Poor relief: Why giving people money is not the answer to global poverty.” Presented at Drake University’s “First Friday Brown Bag Seminar.”
- 2025 “A new kind of impact evaluation.” Presented at the Human Development and Capabilities Association Conference.
- 2024 “Advancing poverty mapping: Applications and validation using modern methods” (with Paul Corral and Oscar Barriga). Presented to the International Association of Survey Statisticians.
- 2024 “Poverty mapping in off-census years.” Presented at the World Bank’s Summer University.

- 2023 "Poverty mapping in the age of machine learning." Presented at Iowa State University's Labor-Public Economics Workshop.
- 2023 "A hybrid approach to targeting social assistance." Presented at the Human Development and Capabilities Association Conference.
- 2023 "Poverty mapping in the age of machine learning." Presented at the Online Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar.
- 2023 "Poverty mapping in the age of machine learning." Presented at Drake University's "First Friday Brown Bag Seminar."
- 2022 "Targeting social safety net programs on human capabilities." Presented at the Human Development and Capabilities Association Conference.
- 2022 "A hybrid approach to targeting social assistance." Presented at the Sustainability and Development Conference.
- 2021 "A hybrid approach to targeting social assistance." Presented at the 91st Annual Meetings of the Southern Economic Association.
- 2021 "A hybrid approach to targeting social assistance." Presented at the Innovations for Poverty Action and Global Poverty Research Lab's Methods and Measurement Conference.
- 2021 "A Bayesian framework for estimating human capabilities." Presented to the Human Development and Capability Association's quantitative research methods thematic group.
- 2020 "Cash and capabilities." Presented at the Human Development and Capabilities Association Conference.
- 2019 "Cash and capabilities." Presented at Drake University's "First Friday Brown Bag Seminar."
- 2019 "Cash and capabilities." Presented at the Sustainability and Development Conference.
- 2019 "A Bayesian framework for estimating human capabilities." Presented at the 45th Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association.
- 2018 "Estimating capabilities with stochastic frontier models." Presented at the Sustainability and Development Conference.
- 2018 "The effect of the sectoral composition of economic growth on rural and urban poverty." Presented at the 44th Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association.
- 2018 "The structure of risk-sharing networks." Presented at the 44th Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association.
- 2017 "The effect of the sectoral composition of economic growth on rural and urban poverty." Presented at Drake University's "First Friday Brown Bag Seminar."
- 2017 "The structure of risk-sharing networks." Presented at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association.
- 2017 "Understanding the relationships between the paths and speeds of structural transformation, rural transformation, and rural inclusion." Presented at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association.
- 2016 "The structure of risk-sharing networks." Presented at Drake University's "First Friday Brown Bag Seminar."
- 2016 "Modern value chains and the organization of agrarian production." Presented at Makerere University Business School (Kampala, Uganda).

- 2016 “The development impact of windfall gains: Evidence from a Peruvian natural experiment.” Presented at Drake University’s “First Friday Brown Bag Seminar.”
- 2016 “The development impact of windfall gains: Evidence from a Peruvian natural experiment.” Presented at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association.
- 2015 “Modern value chains and the organization of agrarian production.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Computational Social Science Society of the Americas.
- 2015 “The development impact of fiscal windfalls: A Peruvian natural experiment.” Presented at the 41st Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association.
- 2014 “An information-theoretic synthetic control.” Presented at the Graduate Student Fellows Workshop of the Info-Metrics Institute.
- 2014 “Incorporating prior information when true priors are unknown.” Presented at the 84th Annual Meetings of the Southern Economic Association.
- 2014 “Incorporating prior information when true priors are unknown.” Presented at Iowa State University’s Human Resources Seminar.
- 2014 “Social institutions and economic inequality.” Presented at the Santa Fe Institute’s Complex Systems Summer School.
- 2014 “Evidence from a natural experiment on the development impact of regional transfers: The Camisea Fund in Peru.” Presented at the Office of Strategic Planning and Development Effectiveness at the Inter-American Development Bank.
- 2013 “Land accumulation dynamics in developing country agriculture.” Presented at the Office of Strategic Planning and Development Effectiveness at the Inter-American Development Bank.
- 2013 “Modern value chains and the organization of agrarian production.” Presented at the Department for Computational Social Science at George Mason University.
- 2013 “Land accumulation dynamics in developing country agriculture.” Presented at the 39th Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association.
- 2013 “Gibrat’s law and developing country agriculture.” Presented at the Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty.
- 2012 “Wealth-biased property rights reform: Tenure insecurity and investment in Paraguay revisited.” Presented at the Inter-American Development Bank’s workshop Evaluating the Impact of Tenure Security Interventions in Developing Countries.
- 2012 “Land reform, imperfect markets, and modern agricultural value chains: An agent-based approach.” Presented at the 38th Annual Conference of the Eastern Economic Association.
- 2011 “Nicaragua, the food crisis, and the future of smallholder agriculture: Structural transformation.” Presented at the 81st Annual Meetings of the Southern Economic Association.

Teaching and Advising

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| Courses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Seminar on Global Poverty, Drake University |
| Taught | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa, Drake University • Developing Economies, Drake University • Principles of Microeconomics, Drake University and Iowa State University • Principles of Macroeconomics, Iowa State University • Applied Econometrics II, American University |

- Advising
- Kailey Inman, Research for the Iowa Hygiene Source, Spring 2024
 - Lay Khoon Yu, Senior Capstone, Fall 2021
 - Chris Castro-Berber, Senior Capstone, Fall 2021
 - Andrew Thompson, Honors Senior Thesis, Fall 2020
 - Haley Dietz, Submission to Drake Management Review (accepted), Fall 2020
 - Noah Bamonte-Grebis, Submission to Drake University Social Science Journal (accepted), Spring 2020
 - Lydia Melaas, Honors Senior Thesis, Fall 2017
 - Whitney Hanson, Submission to Drake University Social Science Journal (accepted), Spring 2017
 - Ryan McKeever, Submission to Drake University Social Science Journal (accepted), Spring 2017
 - Sydney Price, Honors Senior Thesis, Fall 2016
 - Kathleen Knox, Senior Capstone, Spring 2016

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

- 2026 Drake University, Zimpleman College of Business, Social Impact Research Award
- 2025 Drake University, Slay Fund for Social Justice, \$8,200 grant (with Lendie Follett)
- 2025 Drake University, Madelyn Levitt Teacher of the Year Award, nominee
- 2023 Drake University, Zimpleman College of Business, Research Achievement Award
- 2023 Drake University, Zimpleman College of Business, Social Impact Research Award
- 2022 Drake University, Office of the Provost, Drake Research Grant, \$3,000 grant
- 2021 CGIAR Generating Evidence and New Directions for Equitable Results (GENDER) Platform, \$250,000 grant (with Vanya Slavchevska, Brian King, Greg Seymour, Frederic Pivetta, Denys Sementsov, Christophe Bocquet, Nancy Lubalo, Abena Oduro, Rachel Bowers, Omar Seidu, and Laurent Smeets)
- 2020 Drake University, Zimpleman College of Business, Harry I. Wolk Research Award
- 2019 Drake University, Zimpleman College of Business, Teaching Innovation Grant, \$19,000 grant (with Brian Vander Naald)
- 2018 Drake University, Zimpleman College of Business, Noble Eagle Faculty Development Award, \$3,000 grant (with Lendie Follett and Brian Vander Naald)
- 2017 Data2x (UN Foundation), Big Data for Gender Challenge, \$100,000 grant (with Marya Hillesland, Greg Seymour, Benard Wabukala, and Agnes Quisumbing) (terminated due to data inavailability)
- 2017 Drake University, Office of the Provost, Drake Research Grant, \$3,000 grant
- 2016 Drake University, Zimpleman College of Business, Summer Research Grant, \$3,500 grant
- 2011 American University, College of Arts and Sciences, Dissertation Fellowship
- 2011 American University, College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Student Research Grant, \$500 grant
- 2011 First place at American University's Annual Econometrics Paper Competition, received for "Nicaragua, the food crisis, and the future of smallholder agriculture: Structural transformation"
- 2011 American University, Simon Naidel Award "for outstanding work in economic theory"
- 2008-2011 American University, College of Arts and Sciences, Doctoral Fellowship

University Service

- 2025-Present Drake University (Zimpleman College of Business) promotion and tenure committee, chair
- 2023-2025 Drake University (Zimpleman College of Business) promotion and tenure committee, member
- 2021-Present Steering committee for Drake University's Uganda Travel Seminar, co-chair
- 2021-2025 Drake University Crew Scholars Program, mentor
- 2019-2024 Steering committee for Drake University's Data Analytics program, member
- 2020-2023 Drake University (Zimpleman College of Business) research committee, member
- 2019-2023 Drake University Faculty Senate Compensation Committee, member
- 2022 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, project coach
- 2020-2022 Drake University (Zimpleman College of Business) First Friday Brown Bag Seminar, organizer
- 2018-2022 Drake University Social Science Journal, faculty advisor
- 2021 Nelson Student Research Symposium, faculty moderator
- 2015-2020 Phi Chi Theta professional fraternity in business and economics, faculty advisor
- 2019 Drake University spring undergraduate commencement, faculty marshal
- 2019 Drake University committee for selecting the Levitt Teacher of the Year, member
- 2016 23rd Annual Latino College Expo, guest lecturer
- 2015-2016 Drake University (Zimpleman College of Business) hiring committee for assistant professor of economics, member

Professional Service

- Editorial Associate Editor, Journal of Human Development and Capabilities (2022-Present)
- Referee Journal of Development Economics (2024), World Development (2024), Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (2023), Poverty and Public Policy (2022), World Development (2021), Empirical Economics (2021), Journal of Agricultural Economics (2020), World Development (2019), Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (2018), Journal of Productivity Analysis (2017), Review of Development Economics (2017), American Journal of Agricultural Economics (2016), Forum for Social Economics (2016), Agricultural Economics (2015), Operations Research and Decisions (2014)
- Session Chair or Moderator Sustainability and Development Conference (2019, 2022), Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings (2014, 2021, 2022), 50x2030 Global Data Use Conference (2021), Eastern Economic Association Annual Meetings (2015, 2016, 2017)
- Discussant Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings (2014, 2021, 2022), Human Development and Capability Association's quantitative research methods thematic group (2021), Eastern Economic Association Annual Meetings (2012, 2013, 2016, 2017), World Food Prize Global Youth Institute (2017)
- Program Committee Annual Conference of the Computational Social Science Society of the Americas (2016, 2017, 2018)

Consulting and Outreach

- 2024-Present Iowa United Nations Association, board member

- 2025 Selection committee for the Iowa United Nations Association's College Ambassadors Program, member
- 2025 Iowa Hunger Summit, World Food Prize Foundation, exhibitor
- 2024 Fireflies Audiovisual, Antananarivo, Madagascar
- 2024 Poverty and Equity Global Practice, The World Bank
- 2022 Poverty and Equity Global Practice, The World Bank
- 2021 Research and Impact Assessment Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- 2021 OpportUNITY, United Way of Central Iowa
- 2017 Research and Impact Assessment Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- 2016 Research and Impact Assessment Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- 2016 Office of Strategic Planning and Development Effectiveness, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- 2015 Office of Strategic Planning and Development Effectiveness, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

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