

Claus C Pörtner

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Research Interests

Population; Development; Health; Labor; Applied Microeconomics

Employment

Seattle University, Seattle

Professor of Economics	07/2025 –
Associate Professor of Economics	07/2017 – 06/2025
Howard J. Bosanko Professor of International Economics and Finance	07/2020 – 06/2023
Robert D. O'Brien Chair of Business	07/2018 – 06/2020
Assistant Professor of Economics	09/2011 – 06/2017

University of Washington, Seattle

Assistant Professor of Economics	09/2003 – 06/2011
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Brown University, Providence

Visiting Assistant Professor of Population Studies and Economics	01/2005 – 06/2005
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Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics	08/2002 – 06/2003
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Professional Activities

Deputy Editor, Demography	06/2024 –
External Research Affiliate, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology	06/2003 –

Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of Copenhagen	2001
M.Sc., Economics (Cand. Polit.), University of Copenhagen	1996
M.A., Development Economics, University of Sussex	1995
B.Sc., Economics, University of Copenhagen	1993

Publications

Claus C. Pörtner. How is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different? Demography, Forthcoming.

Claus C. Pörtner, Shamma A. Alam, and Ishraq Ahmed. Impact of twin lockdowns on hunger, labor market outcomes, and household coping mechanisms: Evidence from Uganda. World Bank Economic Review, Forthcoming.

Shamma Adeeb Alam, Shi Xi Liu, and Claus C. Pörtner. Navigating food price shocks in a pandemic: Food insecurity and coping mechanisms in Burkina Faso. World Development, 182:106714, 2024.

Bijetri Bose, Shamma A. Alam, and Claus C. Pörtner. Impacts of the COVID-19 Lockdown on Healthcare Inaccessibility and Unaffordability in Uganda. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 109(3):527–535, September 2023.

Claus C. Pörtner. Birth Spacing and Fertility in the Presence of Son Preference and Sex-Selective Abortions: India's Experience Over Four Decades. *Demography*, 59(1):61–88, 02 2022.

Shamma Adeeb Alam and Claus C. Pörtner. Income shocks, contraceptive use, and timing of fertility. *Journal of Development Economics*, 131:96 – 103, March 2018.

Claus C. Pörtner and Yu-hsuan Su. Differences in child health across rural, urban, and slum areas: Evidence from India. *Demography*, 55(1):223–247, February 2018.

Claus C. Pörtner. Effects of parental absence on child labor and school attendance in the Philippines. *Review of Economics of the Household*, 14(1):103–130, March 2016.

D. Mark Anderson and Claus C. Pörtner. High school dropouts and sexually transmitted infections. *Southern Economic Journal*, 81(1):113–134, July 2014.

Niels-Hugo Blunch and Claus C. Pörtner. Literacy, Skills, and Welfare: Effects of Participation in Adult Literacy Programs. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 60(1):17–66, October 2011.

Michael Toomim, Travis Kriplean, Claus C. Pörtner, and James A Landay. Utility of Human-Computer Interactions: Toward a Science of Preference Measurement. In *Proceedings of the 2011 annual conference on Human factors in computing systems*, pages 2275–2284. ACM, 2011.

Mette Ejrnæs and Claus C. Pörtner. Birth Order and the Intrahousehold Allocation of Time and Education. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 86(4):1008–1019, November 2004.

Jens Kovsted, Claus C. Pörtner, and Finn Tarp. Child Health and Mortality: Does Health Knowledge Matter? *Journal of African Economies*, 11(4):542–560, December 2002.

Claus C. Pörtner. Children as Insurance. *Journal of Population Economics*, 14(1):119–136, May 2001.

Book Chapters

Shamma A. Alam, Claus C. Pörtner, and Claire Simpson. Economic shocks and children's education. In Klaus F. Zimmerman, editor, *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*. Springer Nature, 2022.

Claus C. Pörtner. Fertility issues and policy in developing countries. In Susan L. Averett, Laura Argys, and Saul Hoffman, editors, *Oxford Handbook of Women and the Economy*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Claus C. Pörtner. Fertility in developing countries. In Esther Redmount, editor, *The Economics of the Family: How the Household Affects Markets and Economic Growth*, chapter 8. Praeger, Santa Barbara, CA, 2015.

Lykke Andersen, John Geary, Claus C. Pörtner, and Dorte Verner. Human Health and Climate Change. In Dorte Verner, editor, *Reducing Poverty, Protecting Livelihoods, and Building Assets in a Changing Climate*, pages 167–194. The World Bank, Washington, DC, 2010.

Working Papers

“The Sources of Researcher Variation in Economics” (project organizer with Nick Huntington-Klein; 148 coauthors contributed). Funded by the Sloan Foundation. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5152665>. Submitted to the *American Economic Review*.

“Economic Shocks and Mental Health in Bangladesh” (with Shamma A. Alam, Wameq Azfar Raza, Shabab Wahid, and Malabika Sarker). Submitted to *BMJ Global Health*.

“Research Recommendations Following from the Many-Economists Project” (with Nick Huntington-Klein). Funded by the Sloan Foundation. Submitted to the *Journal of Economic Methodology*.

“Does Expanding Female Economic Opportunities Improve Children’s Human Capital? Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Bangladesh” (with Shamma Alam).

“What Labor Supply Elasticities do Employers Face? Evidence from Field Experiments” (with Nail Hassairi).

“Only if You Pay Me More: Field Experiments Support Compensating Wage Differentials Theory” (with Nail Hassairi and Michael Toomim).

“Gone With the Wind? Hurricane Risk, Fertility and Education.” Financed by the World Bank’s Human Development Network, Social Protection, and IFPRI.

Work in Progress

“School Quality, Literacy, and the Differences in Fertility across Regions”

“The Effects of Expanding Female Economic Opportunities on Fertility: Causal Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Bangladesh” (with Shamma Alam).

“Does Reducing Required Number of Court Attendance Reduce Failure to Appear? Evidence from Washington State Supreme Court Policy Changes” (with David Baker, King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office)

Technical Reports/Policy Briefs

“Returns after Failure to Appear” prepared for King County Superior Court, King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, and King County Jail. Used for deciding on the rate of case

scheduling after COVID.

“Sex-Selective Abortions, Fertility, and Birth Spacing.” World Bank Policy Research Working Paper, no. WPS 7189, 2015. Washington, DC: World Bank Group. <https://doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-7189> Heavily revised version published in *Demography* in 2022.

“Family Planning and Fertility: Estimating Program Effects using Cross-sectional Data” (with Kathleen Beegle and Luc Christiaensen). World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. WPS 5812 (2011). Washington, DC: World Bank Group. <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/Delivery.cfm?abstractid=1934673>

“Evolution of Poverty and Welfare in Ghana in the 1990s: Achievements and Challenges” (with Sudharshan Canagarajah). World Bank Africa Region Working Paper Series No. 61 (2003).

Grants and Awards

Albers School of Business and Economics, Seattle University	USD 7,100
<i>Albers Summer Research Grant</i>	2024
Seattle University	USD 7,100
Summer Faculty Fellowship	2018
Albers School of Business and Economics, Seattle University	USD 7,100
Albers Summer Research Grant	2017
Albers School of Business and Economics, Seattle University	USD 7,100
<i>Albers Summer Research Grant</i>	2016
National Science Foundation	USD 750,000
Interaction Economics: Instruments that Measure Social-Computational Systems	2011–2016
Co-PI with James Landay (PI), Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington	
Albers School of Business and Economics, Seattle University	USD 7,100
<i>Albers Summer Research Grant</i>	2014
International Growth Centre	USD 9,500
<i>Pre-proposal grant for evaluating adult non-formal education programs in Ghana</i>	2010
Joint with Niels-Hugo Blunch, Washington and Lee University, and Robert Darko Osei, ISSER, University of Ghana	
International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)	USD 5,000
<i>Pre-proposal grant for evaluating adult non-formal education programs in Ghana</i>	2010
Joint with Niels-Hugo Blunch, Washington and Lee University	
University of Washington’s Royalty Research Fund	USD 26,635
<i>Determinants of sex-selective abortion in India</i>	2005
Royalty Research Scholar (course buy-out) for Spring 2005.	
University of Copenhagen, Denmark	North/South PhD scholarship
<i>Children and Household Behaviour in Developing Countries</i>	1996–1999

Refereeing

Economics: B.E. Journals in Economic Analysis and Policy, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Inquiry, Economics and Human Biology, Economics Letters, Economics of Education Review, European Economic Review, Food Policy, Health Economics, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE), Journal of African Economies, Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Quantitative Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics of the Household, Risk Management and Insurance Review, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Southern Economic Journal, World Bank Economic Review, World Development

Population, Health, and Sociology: American Sociology Review, Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health, Biodemography and Social Biology, Children & Society, Demographic Research, Demography, International Migration Review, Journal of Biosocial Science, Pan American Journal of Public Health, Population and Environment, Population and Development Review, Population Studies, Studies in Family Planning

University Service

University

Office of Sponsored Programs Faculty Advisory Council (founding member) 2018 – 2023

Provost's Awards Selection Committee 2020 – 2023

Task Force on Pricing and Financial Aid 2015 – 2016

Albers School of Business and Economics

Personnel Committee 2025 –

O'Brien Chair Committee 2024

Assessment of Learning for MSBA 2023

ADVANCE Grant Taskforce Committee 2021 – 2022

CAPCOM (Curriculum and Program Committee) 2014 – 2022

NTT Promotion Review Committee 2019, 2023

Marketing Undergraduate Program Review Committee 2021

Albers Summer Faculty Research Committee 2019,

2020 Mentoring of junior colleagues

Department

Economics Advisory Board liaison 2019 –

Seattle University Economics Club faculty advisor 2023 –

Search committees (various assistant professor and NTT positions) 2018, 2019, 2020

Other Professional Service

Organized "Workshop on Household Economics in Developing Countries,"
with Shamma Alam at Dickinson College 2024

Proposal evaluations for Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique
(Belgium NFS) 2021, 2024

Claus C Pörtner: July 24, 2025

Abstract/paper reviewer for the 29th IUSSP International Population Conference	2021
Review Panel for Hewlett Foundation Dissertation Fellowship in Population, Reproductive Health, and Economic Development	2013
Session organizer for “Methods and Measurement in Population-Development-Environment Research” and “Environment, Food, and Health,” Population Association of America Annual Meeting	2012

Ph.D. Students

Chair:

Momoe Makino (2011, Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo)

D. Mark Anderson (2011, Montana State University)

Edwin Wong (2010, VA Health Services Research and Development Service)

Committee member:

Nail Hassairi (2017, University of Washington)

Chasya J Hoagland (2015, Washington State Institute for Public Policy)

Shamma A Alam (2014, Dickinson College)

Yu-hsuan Su (2014, National Chengchi University, Taiwan)

Yu-i Peng (2010, National Taipei University)

Nalina Varanasi (2010, IHME, University of Washington)

Christina Panagiotis Tapia (2009, KPMG)

Jin Sung Yoo (2009, SK Research Institute)

Giedrius Blazys (2009, Uppsala University)

Meherun Ahmed (2006, Carleton College)

Arif Al Mamun (2005, Mathematica)

Conference, Seminar, and Workshop Presentations – Last 4 Years

Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, Jul. 2025: “School Quality, Literacy, and the Differences in Fertility across Regions”

2025 IUSSP International Population Conference, Brisbane, Australia, Jul. 2025: “School Quality, Literacy, and the Differences in Fertility across Regions” and “The Effects of Expanding Female Economic Opportunities on Fertility: Causal Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Bangladesh”

Population Association of America, Washington, DC, Apr. 2025: “School Quality, Literacy, and the Differences in Fertility across Regions” and “How is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

Fordham University, New York City, NY, Apr. 2025: “School Quality, Literacy, and the Differences in Fertility across Regions”

Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev), Los Angeles, CA, Mar. 2025: “Does Expanding Female Economic Opportunities Improve Children’s Human Capital? Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Bangladesh”

Southern Economic Association, Washington, DC, Nov. 2024: “School Quality, Literacy, and the Differences in Fertility across Regions”, “The Effects of Expanding Female Economic Opportunities on Fertility: Causal Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Bangladesh”, and “Economic Shocks and Mental Health in Bangladesh”

University of Houston, Department of Economics, TX, Sep. 2024: “The Effects of Expanding Female Economic Opportunities on Fertility: Causal Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Bangladesh”

Population Association of America, Columbus, OH, Apr. 2024: “How is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?” and “The Effects of Expanding Female Economic Opportunities on Fertility: Causal Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Bangladesh”

Southern Economic Association, New Orleans, LA, Nov. 2023: “The Effects of Expanding Female Economic Opportunities on Fertility: Causal Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Bangladesh”

European Society for Population Economics, Belgrade, Serbia, Jun. 2023: “How is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA, Apr. 2023: “How is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

Fordham University, New York City, NY, Mar. 2023: “How is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev), Seattle, WA, Mar. 2023: “How is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

Southern Economic Association, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Nov. 2022: “Is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

Graduate Institute of Development Studies (GIDS), NCCU, Taiwan, Virtual, Oct. 2022: “Is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

Pacific Northwest Labor Day Workshop, Oregon State University Portland Center, Portland, OR, Sep. 2022: “What Labor Supply Elasticities do Employers Face? Evidence from Field Experiments”

Howard University, Washington, D.C., Aug. 2022: “Impact of COVID-19 Lockdowns on Hunger, Labor Market Outcomes, and Household Coping Mechanisms: Evidence from Uganda”

Population Association of America, Atlanta, GA, April 2022: “Is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, Mar. 2022: “Is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

2021 IUSSP International Population Conference, Virtual, Dec. 2021: “Is Fertility Behavior in Africa Different?”

Southern Economic Association, Houston, TX, Nov. 2021: “Only if You Pay Me More: Using Field Experiments to Derive Willingness-to-pay for Job Characteristics”

Computer/programming/software Skills

Git, L^AT_EX, Linux, macOS, Python, R, Stata

Teaching Experience

Seattle University, 2011–current: “Economics for Business” (online graduate), “Development Economics” (undergraduate), “Intermediate Microeconomics” (undergraduate), “Microeconomics of Development” (undergraduate), “Policy Analysis in International Development” (undergraduate), “Principles of Microeconomics” (undergraduate).

“Quantitative Methods and Applications” (undergraduate and face-to-face and online graduate),

University of Washington, 2004–2011: “Population Economics” (graduate and undergraduate), “Microeconomics of Development” (graduate) “Development Economics” for (undergraduate).

Brown University, 2005: “Development Economics” (undergraduate)

Georgetown University, 2002–2003: “Introduction to Econometrics” (undergraduate), “Topics in Economic Development” (undergraduate).

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Population Association of America, Southern Economic Association

References

Shelly Lundberg
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2127 North Hall, University of California
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David Ribar
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Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
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Tania Barham
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University of Colorado at Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309-0256
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