

MAHOUNAN YEDOMIFFI

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- Education** **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)**
Ph.D. Economics, Expected May 2024
African School of Economics, Benin
MSc, Economics, 2016
University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin)
BSc, Economics, 1st-Ranked, 2012
- Fields** Development, Education, Labor
- Research Grants** Ferber & Sudman Dissertation Award for Survey Research, University of Illinois Graduate College, 2023
Dissertation Research Travel Grant, University of Illinois Graduate College, 2022
Nelle M. Signor Research Grant, University of Illinois Graduate College, 2021
Applied Micro Research Grant, University of Illinois, Economics Department, 2022
Boltz Grant, University of Illinois, Economics Department, 2022

Job Market Paper **Does Parental Involvement Improve Student Learning? The Role of Monitoring**

Primary education enrollment rates in developing countries have increased significantly over the past few decades, but secondary school completion rates still lag far behind. This study presents the findings of a randomized controlled trial I conducted in Benin investigating the effects of providing parents with information about their role in their child's education through weekly phone calls. Including 2,094 8th-grade students in 20 secondary schools, the intervention led to a substantial 6 percent increase in grade completion. This stems from a statistically significant 0.11 standard deviation increase in year-end GPA, driven by STEM subjects. The intervention benefits academically weaker students elevating their likelihood of progression by 33 percent. Educational improvements are due to heightened parental awareness regarding their child's academic performance, augmented parental involvement at school and home, and reductions in household child chores. For sub-Saharan Africa, these results offer a promising and extremely cost-effective strategy to improve educational outcomes.

Working Papers **Covid-19 Learning Losses, Parental Investment and Recovery: Evidence from Low-Cost Private Schools in Nigeria** (with Adedji Adeniran, Dozie Okoye, Leonard Wantchekon)
RISE Working Paper Series 22/120

About 2 billion children were affected by school closures globally at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has led to documented learning losses, and an especially precarious future academic path for pupils in developing countries where learning and continued enrolment remain important issues. This paper studies the extent of learning losses and recovery in Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, and provides some evidence that a full recovery is possible. Using data from a random sample of schools, we find significant learning losses of about .6 standard deviations in English and Math. However, a program designed to slow down the curriculum and cover what was missed during school closures led to a rebound within 2 months, and a recovery of all learning losses. Students who were a part of the program do not lag behind one year later and remain in school.

Papers in Progress *Report Cards in Developing Countries (with Rebecca Thornton)*

Terrorism Activities and Children Outcomes (Joint with Togbedji Gansey and Vinicius Okada da Silva)

Who Are Your Friends? How Student Networks Shape Educational Success

Teaching African School of Economics, Lecturer
Introduction to Causal Inference, 2022-2023
Impact Evaluation and Causal Inference Certificate, 2016-2017

University of Illinois, Economics Department and Business School, Teaching Assistant
List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students: Fall 2018, Spring 2019, and Fall 2019
Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Fall 2023
Macroeconomics for MBA Program, Summer 2021
Macroeconomics (Undergraduate), 2019-2022
Winter break Study Abroad to Benin, January 2020

Employment Amazon, Economist Intern, 2022

Research Plan International Canada, Short-Term Consultant, 2021
Research Assistant, University of Illinois, Prof Richard Akresh, 2018-2020
Research Coordinator, African School of Economics, 2016-2017
Assistant Research Coordinator, African School of Economics, 2016

Seminars & Conferences Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Conference, Oxford, 2024
Northwestern University, Development Lunch Seminar, 2023
University of Illinois, Agricultural & Consumer Economics Department, 2023
University of Illinois, Economics Department, Applied Micro Seminars, 2020-2023
2018 Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society, African School of Economics, 2018
Summer Institute for Economic Research, African School of Economics, 2017

Fellowships University of Illinois, Graduate Student Fellowship, 2017-2018
University of Illinois, Summer Fellowship, 2021
African School of Economics, Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 2016-2017
World Bank, African Fellowship, 2015
Benin Government, Academic Fellowship, 2011-2012

Academic Service Referee for *Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance*

References Prof. Richard Akresh Prof. Adam Osman Prof. Leonard Wantchekon
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