

Ami Adjoh-Baliki

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Education

<i>Ph.D. in Economics, Washington, D.C.</i>	Howard University 2021–2025
<i>M.A. in Economics, Washington, D.C.</i>	Howard University 2021–2023
<i>M.A. in Economics, Los Angeles, CA</i>	University of Southern California 2012–2014
<i>B.A. in Economics, Los Angeles, CA</i>	University of Southern California 2008–2012

Research Interests

Economic Growth and Development, Urban Economics, Economics of Crime

References

Elizabeth Asiedu, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics
Howard University
elizabeth.asiedu@howard.edu

Rebecca Hsu, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Economics
Howard University
linchi.hsu@howard.edu

Ama Baafra Abeberese, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Economics
Wellesley College
aabeberese@wellesley.edu

Garima Siwach, Ph.D.
Principal Economist
American Institute for Research
gsiwach@air.org

Job Market Paper

Understanding the Relationship Between Intimate Partner Violence Exposure and Child Mental Health in Ghana

Abstract: This paper examines the relationship between exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) and children's mental health in Ghana, utilizing nationally representative data from the Ghana Socioeconomic Panel Survey (GSPS). While the mental health impacts of IPV have been extensively studied in high-income countries, there is a lack of evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa, despite its unique socioeconomic and cultural context. The study analyzes data from over 1,500 children to test three hypotheses: (H1) IPV exposure is positively associated with negative mental health outcomes in children; (H2) IPV exposure is one of the strongest predictors of child mental health compared to other socioeconomic factors; and (H3) maternal mental health mediates this relationship. Using methods such as probit regression, ordinary least squares, propensity score matching, inverse probability weighting, and instrumental variable estimations, the results consistently demonstrate that IPV exposure is significantly linked to increased psychological distress in children, with more

severe effects observed in rural households. Maternal mental distress accounts for up to a quarter of this relationship. The findings emphasize the intergenerational psychological costs of IPV and highlight the need for integrated, family-centered policies that address the mental health of both women and children in developing contexts.

Publications

The Mental Health of Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence: A Systematic Literature Review, with Elizabeth Asiedu, *Developmental Child Welfare*, March 2025

Working Papers

The Intergenerational Transmission of Female Genital Mutilation in Nigeria (with Aisha Yusuf, Alexander Opoku, and Elizabeth Asiedu)

Abstract: This paper examines the intergenerational transmission of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Nigeria using nationally representative data from 24,935 women collected through the 2013 and 2018 Nigerian Standard Demographic and Health Surveys. We investigate whether women who have undergone FGM are more likely to have daughters who are also circumcised. Across all model specifications, including linear probability models, dominance analysis, and supervised machine learning algorithms, we find a consistent and statistically significant link between maternal circumcision status and daughter circumcision. This relationship persists across different time periods, geographic regions, and rural–urban divides. Dominance analysis and the supervised machine learning models identify maternal FGM status as the most influential predictor, followed by the belief that FGM is a religious obligation. Mediation analysis shows that maternal tolerance of the practice partly explains this intergenerational persistence, particularly in urban areas. These findings emphasize that the continuation of FGM is rooted not only in personal histories but also in deeply held cultural and religious norms. Policy interventions should prioritize behavioral change communication, integrate FGM counseling into maternal healthcare, and engage religious, community, and state-level actors to break the cycle of intergenerational transmission.

Papers in Progress

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Child Marriage in Nigeria (with Rebecca Hsu and Omoneka Adams)

Teaching Experience

Applied Statistics for Business and Economics

Instructor

Responsible for designing and teaching the undergraduate course
Developed and delivered lectures, assignments, and exams
Held regular office hours and provided academic support to students

Howard University

Spring 2025

Economic Growth and Development

Teaching Assistant

Supported course delivery through grading and discussion sessions
Assisted students during office hours and helped clarify course material
Contributed to exam and assignment preparation

Howard University

Fall 2024

Work and Research Experience

Post Doctoral Fellow

Researcher

American Institute for Research

July 2025 - December 2026

I conduct policy-relevant research on programs that promote women's economic empowerment, with a focus on self-help group initiatives in Nigeria. This work is part of the Opportunity Fund at the American Institutes for Research, which supports early-career scholars engaged in applied research on development and social policy.

Economic Analyst

Analyst

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

June 2016 - June 2025

Compiled and analyzed U.S. international trade and services data for inclusion in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA)

Contributed to the estimation and publication of quarterly U.S. GDP statistics, with a focus on trade-related components

Collaborated with internal and external partners to implement data revisions, improve methodologies, and ensure accuracy in official economic statistics

Conducted quality assurance reviews and prepared briefing materials for senior leadership and external stakeholders

Investment Performance Analyst

Analyst

Wilshire Associates

September 2014 - June 2016

Conducted performance evaluations for retirement and pension funds, identifying risks and opportunities.

Delivered financial analyses, including cash management, asset pricing, and risk assessment.

Produced comprehensive client investment portfolio reports, advising on market trends.

Grants and Fellowships

Howard University Graduate Student Travel Grant

SEA Graduate Student Award

World Bank/AAAWE Travel Grant

AEA CSMGEP 2025 Dissertation Award

American Institute for Research Fellowship (3 years)

AEA Mentoring Program Travel Grant

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

November 2025: SEA Annual Conference, Tampa (Presenter)

July 2025: AFEA Annual Conference, Nairobi (Presenter)

July 2025: IAFFE Annual Conference, Amherst (Presenter)

June 2025: AEAMP Conference, Washington, D.C. (Presenter and Discussant)

June 2025: WEAI Annual Conference, San Francisco (Presenter and Discussant)

June 2025: CAAS Annual Conference, Toronto (Presenter)

April 2025: Towson International Development Economics Symposium (TIDES), Towson (Presenter and Discussant)

April 2025: Department of Economics, Allegheny College (Guest Lecturer)

February 2025: EEA Annual Conference, New York (Presenter)

January 2025: AEA ASSA Annual Conference, San Francisco (Presenter)

November 2024: SEA Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. (Presenter)

July 2024: WEAI Annual Conference, Seattle, WA (Presenter and Discussant)

June 2024: AEAMP Conference, Washington, D.C. (Presenter)

June 2024: Econometric Society (AFES), Abidjan (Presenter)

Skills

Programming: LaTeX, R, Python, STATA, SAS

Languages: Fluent in English and French

Personal

Citizenship: USA

Hobbies: Reading, Hiking, Gardening, and Traveling