

# Alex Eble

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## **Office Contact Information**

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Teachers College, Columbia University, 525 W 120<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY 10027

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## **Employment**

2023–present Associate Professor of Economics and Education, with tenure  
Teachers College, Columbia University

2016–2023 Assistant Professor of Economics and Education  
Teachers College, Columbia University

## **External Appointments and Affiliations**

2023–present Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)  
(*previously Faculty Research Fellow*)

2021–present Faculty Affiliate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

2019–present Research Fellow, IZA Institute of Labor Economics

## **Education**

PhD, Economics, Brown University, 2016

AM, Economics, Brown University, 2011

MSc, Development Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2006

BA, Economics and East Asian Languages and Cultures, Indiana University Bloomington, 2005

Certificate in Mandarin Chinese, Associated Colleges in China, Beijing, China, 2004

## **Publications and Forthcoming Articles**

Alex Eble and Feng Hu “Signals, Information, and the Value of College Names” forthcoming in the *Review of Economics and Statistics*

Anjali Adukia, Alex Eble, Emileigh Harrison, Hakizumwami Birali Runesha, and Teodora Tsasz (2023). “What We Teach about Race and Gender: Representation in Images and Text of Children’s Books” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 138(4): 2225-2285

Alex Eble and Feng Hu (2022). “Gendered Beliefs About Math Ability Transmit Across Generations Through Children’s Peers” *Nature Human Behaviour* 6: 868-879

\*Ila Fazzio<sup>Ⓔ</sup>, Alex Eble<sup>Ⓔ</sup>, Robin L. Lumsdaine, Peter Boone, Baboucarr Bouy, Jenny Hsieh, Chitra Jayanty, Simon Johnson, and Ana Filipa Silva (2021). “Large Learning Gains in Pockets of Extreme Poverty: Experimental Evidence from Guinea Bissau” *Journal of Public Economics* 199: 104385

\*Alex Eble, Chris Frost, Alpha Camara, Baboucarr Bouy, Momodou Bah, Maitri Sivaraman, Jenny Hsieh, Chitra Jayanty, Tony Brady, Piotr Gawron, Stijn Vansteelandt, Peter Boone, and Diana Elbourne (2021). “How Much Can We Remedy Very Low Learning Levels in Rural Parts of Low-Income Countries? Impact and Generalizability of a Multi-pronged Para-teacher Intervention from a Cluster-randomized Trial in The Gambia” *Journal of Development Economics* 148: 102539

Alex Eble and Feng Hu (2020). “Child Beliefs, Societal Beliefs, and Teacher-Student Identity Match” *Economics of Education Review* 77: 101994

Alex Eble and Feng Hu (2019). “Does Primary School Duration Matter? Evaluating the Consequences of a Large Chinese Policy Experiment” *Economics of Education Review* 70: 61-74

\*Alex Eble, Peter Boone, and Diana Elbourne (2017). “On Minimizing the Risk of Bias in Randomized Controlled Trials in Economics” *World Bank Economic Review* 31(3): 687–707

Peter Boone, Alex Eble, Diana Elbourne, Chris Frost, Chitra Jayanty, Rashmi Lakshminarayana, Vera Mann, Rohini Mukherjee, and M Reddy Padmanabh (2017). “Community Health Promotion and Medical Provision for Neonatal Health—CHAMPION Cluster Randomised Trial in Nagarkurnool District, Telangana (formerly Andhra Pradesh), India” *PLoS Medicine* 14(7): e1002324

\*Rashmi Lakshminarayana, Alex Eble, Preetha Bhakta, Chris Frost, Peter Boone, Diana Elbourne, and Vera Mann (2013). “The Support to Rural India’s Public Education System (STRIPES) Trial: A Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial of Supplementary Teaching, Learning Material and Material Support” *PLoS ONE* 8(7): e65775

\*Vera Mann, Alex Eble, Chris Frost, Ramaswamy Premkumar and Peter Boone (2010). “A Comparative Study to Assess the Lasting Impact of a Long-running Community-based Primary Health Care Programme on Under-5 Mortality in Jamkhed, India” *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 88: 727–34

### **Papers Accepted in Computer Science Conference Proceedings**<sup>Ⓓ</sup>

Anjali Adukia, Celia Anderson, Patricia Chiril, Callista Christ, Anjali Das, Alex Eble, Emileigh Harrison, and Hakizumwani Biralu Runesha (2022) “Tales and Tropes: Gender Roles from Word Embeddings in a Century of Children’s Books” *COLING – 29<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computational Linguistics*

### **Working Papers**

Alex Eble and Maya Escueta<sup>‡</sup> “When your bootstraps are not enough: How demand and supply interact to generate learning in settings of extreme poverty” *NBER Working Paper Number 31388*

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\* Indicates that order of authorship reflects size of contribution, with largest contribution coming first. Authorship on articles without asterisk is in the alphabetical order of authors’ last names.

<sup>Ⓔ</sup> Indicates that these two authors share “co-first author” status; order of co-first authors randomized.

<sup>Ⓓ</sup> Peer-reviewed and equivalent to publication in the field.

<sup>‡</sup> Indicates graduate student co-author.

Anjali Adukia, Alex Eble, and Emileigh Harrison “Category Embeddings Measure Intersectional Portrayals of Race and Gender” (this paper is temporarily embargoed; revisions invited from *Nature*)

Alex Eble and Feng Hu “How Gender Shapes the Labor Market Impacts of Network Shocks: Evidence from Academic Science” (draft available by request)

### **Work in Progress**

Alex Eble and Feng Hu “Can Affirmative Action Remedy Gender Inequality in Science? Evidence from Early Career Funding”

Alex Eble, Ila Fazzio, Peter Boone, Alpha Camara, Robin Lumsdaine, and Baboucar Bouy “How do transformative learning gains in childhood affect adolescent outcomes? Medium-term follow-ups to studies of highly impactful education interventions in The Gambia and Guinea Bissau”

### **Research Funding, Fellowships, and Grants**

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| 2023–25 | Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship, CHF 165,000 (~ US \$180,000). Project title: “Dramatically reducing global inequality in education outcomes using bundled interventions and behavioral economics”; PI |
| 2020–24 | Institute of Education Sciences, \$884,205. Project title: “What Difference Can Textbooks Make in Achievement Gaps? Exploring Early Exposure to Messages About Gender and Race”; co-PI                       |
| 2020–21 | Russell Sage Foundation, \$13,740 (supervising PI for award won by two of my PhD students, Yifeng Luo and Ying Xu). Project title: “The Impact of School Closures on Student Achievements”; PI               |
| 2020    | Initiative for the Study of Gender in the Economy, Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago, \$34,000. Project title: “Early Exposure to Messages about Gender and Race”; co-PI                      |
| 2019–20 | National Academy of Education / Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$70,000 direct)   |
| 2018–20 | Teachers College Provost’s Investment Fund (\$20,000)  |
| 2017–19 | Teachers College Provost’s Investment Fund (\$20,000)  |
| 2015–18 | Private donors, total budget > \$2,500,000. Project title: “The SCORE Trial”; co-PI  |
| 2010–15 | National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship (\$94,000 direct)  |
| 2011–13 | National Science Foundation, IGERT Traineeship (\$60,000 direct)   |

### **Appointments and Affiliations at Columbia**

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| 2016–present | Member, Columbia University Committee on the Economics of Education  |
| 2016–present | Faculty Affiliate, Center for Development Economics and Policy, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University |

- 2017–present Faculty Affiliate, Columbia University Population Research Center
- 2017–present Faculty Affiliate, China Center for Social Policy, School of Social Work, Columbia University
- 2018–present Faculty Affiliate, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University
- 2018–present Faculty Affiliate, Center for African Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

**Other Professional Activities**

*External Leadership Roles*

- 2023–present Editorial Board, *Education Finance and Policy*
- 2021–present Editorial Board, *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*
- 2021–2022 Co-chair, “Scholars of Education in Developing Countries” Community Group, Association for Education Finance And Policy (AEFP)
- 2019–present Advisory Member, Learning at Scale Research Group, Center for Global Development
- 2019–present Advisory Board, The Luminos Fund
- 2019 Spring Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Annual Conference Section Chair for “Education in Global Contexts” section

*Presentations in the past five years*

2024 (scheduled): Copenhagen University / Danish Ministry of Children and Education, Paris School of Economics, Princeton (SPIA), Stockholm School of Economics

2023 (including scheduled): Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference, American Economic Association/Allied Social Science Association (AEA/ASSA) Annual Conference<sup>§</sup>, Michigan State University (School of Human Resources & Labor Relations), National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Conference on Investments in Early Career Scientists: Promoting Diversity in Science Careers, Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Annual Conference, University of Pittsburgh/Carnegie Mellon Labor & Development Seminar

2022: American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Conference / Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP) session (discussant), AEFP, CESifo Venice Summer Institute Workshop on Economics of Education and Equality of Opportunity, NBER Economics of Culture and Institutions Spring Meeting<sup>§</sup>, NBER Program on Children Spring Meeting, New York University (IES-PIRT seminar), Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev), SOLE, University of Chicago (Chicago Education Workshop), Utrecht University School of Economics

2021: AEFP<sup>§</sup>, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy / Africa Practice), Center for Global Development, Chinese Education Finance and Policy Association, Economics of Discrimination and Disparities Online Seminar, Georgetown University Initiative on Innovation, Development and Evaluation (joint between economics and policy school) / World

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<sup>§</sup> Presented by coauthor.

Bank, Indian Statistical Institute Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, NBER Education Program Fall Meeting, NBER Education Program Spring Meeting<sup>s</sup>, Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Annual Conference, SREE<sup>s</sup>, University of Minnesota (Applied Economics – Trade and Development)

2020: China Econ Lab Chinese Economy Early Stage Workshop (中国经济最前沿), Columbia (Development Economics), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Northeast Universities Development Conference (NEUDC), Southern Economic Association, SREE

2019: AEFPP, American University (Economics/Gender), Briq / IZA Workshop on the Behavioral Economics of Education, Center for Global Development, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Queens College (Economics), RISE Annual Conference, SREE, World Bank (Education Global Practice)

2018: AERA, Columbia (Human Development), Columbia (Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences), NEUDC, Northwestern (MPES), Rutgers (Economics), University of Texas Austin (Economics), Texas A&M (Economics)

#### *Journal Refereeing*

*In economics:* American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, China Economic Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Journal, Economic Inquiry, Economic Modelling, Economics of Education Review, Education Finance and Policy, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Labour Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Southern Economic Journal, World Bank Economic Review

*General interest:* Nature, Nature Human Behavior, Science Advances

*In education:* AERA Open, American Educational Research Journal, Educational Researcher, International Journal of Educational Development, Journal of Education in Emergencies, Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness

*Other:* British Journal of Educational Psychology, Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Emerging Themes in Epidemiology, Journal of Asian and African Studies, Routledge Books, Social Science and Medicine, UNESCO

#### *Other Refereeing*

*Funders:* Russell Sage Foundation, World Bank Development Economics Research Group

*Conferences:* AEFPP, APPAM, CIES, SREE

#### *Internal Service*

2023–present	Program Director, Economics and Education
2023–24	Co-chair, Columbia Center for Development Economics and Policy Development Economics Seminar Series
2022–23	Co-chair, Faculty Search in Economics and Education (two hires / tenure lines)
2022–23	Faculty Advisory Committee

2022–23	Faculty Research Advisory Committee
2021–22	Selection Committee, Dean’s Grant for Faculty
2020–21	Program Adjacencies Committee
2018–19	Campus Safety Advisory Committee
2017–19	Faculty Salary Committee

**Academic Honors and Scholarships**

2022	APPAM Annual Conference Poster Session, First Place
2020	Emerging Education Policy Scholar
2013	Abramson Award (third year paper prize)
2005–06	London School of Economics (LSE) Graduate Support Award
2005–06	American Friends of the LSE Annual Scholarship

**Other Writing**

*Public Communication*

“What Award-winning Children’s Books Teach Children About Race and Gender” *Brookings Institution – Brown Center Chalkboard*, June 2023

“How Beliefs About Girls’ and Boys’ Math Ability Spread and Act Across Generations” *Nature: Behind the Paper*, April 2022

“Achieving Child Literacy and Numeracy in the World’s Poorest Areas: Evidence from Rural Guinea Bissau” *VoxEU*, December 2020

“Countering Messages of ‘Stereotype Bias’ to Children” *GlobalDev*, May 2019

“Bias Minimization Lessons from Medicine – How We Are Leaving a \$100 Bill on the Ground” *Berkeley Institute for Transparency in the Social Sciences Blog*, September 2013

*Published Study Protocols*

\*Suzanne Keddie; Ila Fazzio; Siddharudha Shivalli; Nicholas Magill; Diana Elbourne; Dropti Sharma; Sajjan Singh Shekhawat; Rukmini Banerji; Sridevi Karnati; R. Harshavardhan Reddy; Alex Eble; Peter Boone; Chris Frost (2023). “Statistical Analysis Plan for a Cluster Randomised trial in Madhya Pradesh, India: support to rural India’s public education system and impact on numeracy and literacy scores (STRIPES2)” *Trials* 24:469

Peter Boone, Alpha Camara, Alex Eble, Diana Elbourne, Chris Frost, Samory Fernandes, Chitra Jayanty, Maitri Lenin, and Ana Filipa Silva (2015). “Remedial After-school Support Classes Offered in Rural Gambia (The SCORE Trial): Study Protocol for a Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial” *Trials* 16:574

\*Alex Eble, Vera Mann, Preetha Bhakta, Rashmi Lakshminarayana, Chris Frost, Diana Elbourne and Peter Boone (2010). “Support to Rural India’s Primary Education System – the STRIPES Trial” *Trials* 11:10

\*Peter Boone, Vera Mann, Alex Eble, Tarana Mendiratta, Rohini Mukherjee, Ryan Figueiredo, Chitra Jayanty, Chris Frost, M Reddy Padmanabh and Diana Elbourne (2007). “Community Health and Medical Provision: Impact on Neonates (the CHAMPION trial)” *BMC Pediatrics* 7:26

*Book Chapter*

Alex Eble (2013). “Child Mortality in Rural India: How the ASHA Programme Works, and How it Might Fail” in India's Human Security: Lost Debates, Forgotten People, Intractable Challenges, Jason Miklian and Ashild Kolas, Editors, Routledge, New York

**Teaching Experience**

2016–18, 20–23 Microeconomic Theory with Applications to Education (MA), Columbia U.  
2016–18, 20–24 Workshop in the Economics of Education (PhD), Columbia U.  
2023 Evaluating Social Programs (Professional), Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL), Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
2017–19 Education and Economic Development (MA), Columbia U.  
2018, 21, 23 Education and Economic Development: Advanced Topics (PhD), Columbia U.

**PhD Supervision**

I am currently the primary advisor for **nine PhD students** in the economics of education program at Teachers College. I also served as primary advisor for five PhD students who successfully defended their dissertations, listed here by graduation year and first placement.

2023 Ifeatu Oliobi, Ithaca S+R  
2021 Maya Escueta, Duke University / NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship  
2021 Yifeng Luo, Columbia University Earth Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship  
2021 Viviana Rodriguez-Andrade, University of Texas San Antonio - joint appointment between Departments of Economics and Ed. Leadership and Policy Studies  
2020 Maurice Mamba, Catholic Church of Seattle