

Deon Filmer

The World Bank
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC, 20433

Email: dfilmer@worldbank.org

Professional experience

The World Bank, Washington, DC

2020/8-present Director, Development Research Group
2020/4-2020/8 Acting Research Manager, Development Research Group
2008-2020/4 Lead Economist, Development Research Group
2016-2017 Co-Director, World Development Report 2018
2011-2014 Lead Economist, Africa Region—Human Development Department
2001-2008 Senior Economist, Development Research Group
2002-2003 Senior Economist, World Development Report 2004
1999-2001 Economist, Development Research Group
1995-1999 Consultant, Policy Research Department/Development Research Group
1994-1995 Consultant, World Development Report 1995
1992 Consultant, Women in Development Division

Education

Ph.D., Economics, September 1995, Brown University, Providence, RI.
M.A., Economics, May 1989, Brown University, Providence, RI.
B.A., Quantitative Economics and International Relations, May 1988, Tufts University, Medford, MA.

Journal publications

“Teacher Performance-Based Incentives and Learning Inequality” with James Habyarimana and Shwetlena Sabarwal. Forthcoming. *Journal of Human Resources*.

“Improving Preschool Provision and Encouraging-Demand: Evidence from a Large Construction Program” with Jan Berkes, Adrien Bouguen, and Tsuyoshi Fukao. 2024. *Journal of Public Economics*. 230: 105050.

“Cognitive and Socioemotional Skills in Low-Income Countries : Measurement and Associations with Schooling and Earnings” with Alice Danon, Jishnu Das, and Andreas de Barros. 2024. *Journal of Development Economics*. 168: 103132.

“Long-Term Impacts of Primary School Scholarships: Evidence from Cambodia” with Felipe Barrera-Osorio and Andreas de Barros. 2024. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. 43(1):10-38.

“Long-Lived Consequences of Rapid Scale-Up? The Case of Free Primary Education in Six Sub-Saharan African Countries.” 2023. *International Journal of Educational Development*. 102: 102872.

“Cash Transfers, Food Prices, and Nutrition Impacts on Ineligible Children” with Jed Friedman, Eeshani Kandpal, and Junko Onishi. 2023. *Review of Economics and Statistics* 105(2):327-343.

- “Teacher Pay in Africa : Evidence from 15 Countries” with David K. Evans and Fei Yuan. 2022. *World Development*. 155: 105893.
- “Heterogenous Teacher Effects of Two Incentive Schemes: Evidence from a Low-Income Country” with Felipe Barrera-Osorio, Jacobus Cilliers, and Marie-Helene Cloutier. 2022. *Journal of Development Economics*. 156. 102820.
- “Information, Knowledge and Behavior: Evaluating Alternative Methods of Delivering School Information to Parents” with Pedro Cerdan-Infantes and Santoso. 2022. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 70(2). 791-822.
- “Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling (LAYS): Defining A New Macro Measure of Education” with Halsey Rogers, Noam Angrist, and Shwetlena Sabarwal. 2020. *Economics of Education Review*. 77. 101971.
- “Joint Effects of Parenting and Nutrition Status on Child Development: Evidence from Rural Cambodia” with Jan Berkes, Abbie Raikes, and Adrien Bouguen. 2019. *Developmental Science*. 22(5).
- “Preschool and Parental Response in a Second Best World: Evidence from a School Construction Experiment” with Adrien Bouguen, Karen Macours and Sophie Naudeau. 2018. *Journal of Human Resources*. 53(2):474-512.
- “Enrollment without Learning: Teacher Effort, Knowledge and Skill in Primary Schools in Africa” with Tessa Bold, Gayle Martin, Ezequiel Molina, Brian Stacy, Christophe Rockmore, Jakob Svensson and Waly Wane. 2017. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 31(4): 185-204.
- “A Conditional Cash Transfer Program in the Philippines Reduces Severe Stunting” with Eeshani Kandpal, Harold Alderman, Jed Friedman, Junko Onishi, and Jorge Avalos. 2016. *The Journal of Nutrition*. 146(9):1793-1800.
- “Incentivizing Schooling for Learning: Evidence on the Impact of Alternative Targeting Approaches” with Felipe Barrera-Osorio. 2016. *Journal of Human Resources*. 51(2):461-499.
- “The Medium-Term Effects of Scholarships in a Low- Income Country” with Norbert Schady. *Journal of Human Resources*. 2014. 49(3):663-694.
- “Trends and Socioeconomic Gradients in Adult Mortality around the Developing World” with Damien de Walque. *Population and Development Review*. 2013. 39(1):1-29.
- “The Socioeconomic Distribution of Adult Mortality during Conflicts in Africa” with Damien de Walque. 2012. *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy*. 18(3):1-9.
- “Assessing Asset Indices” with Kinnon Scott. 2011. *Demography*. 49(1):359-392.
- “Orphanhood and the Living Arrangements of Children in Sub-Saharan Africa” with Kathleen Beegle, Andrew Stokes and Lucia Tiererova. 2010. *World Development*. 38(12):1727-1746.
- “Does More Cash in Conditional Cash Transfer Programs Always Lead to Larger Impacts on School Attendance?” with Norbert Schady. 2010. *Journal of Development Economics*. 96(1):150-157.

- “Development, Modernization, and Childbearing: The Role of Family Sex Composition” with Jed Friedman and Norbert Schady. 2009. *World Bank Economic Review*. 23(3):371-398.
- “Getting Girls into School: Evidence from a Scholarship Program in Cambodia” with Norbert Schady. 2008. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. 56(3):581-617.
- “Disability, Poverty and Schooling in Developing Countries: Results from 14 Household Surveys.” 2008. *World Bank Economic Review*. 22(1):141-163.
- “If You Build It, Will They Come? School Availability and School Enrollment in 21 Poor Countries.” 2007. *Journal of Development Studies*. 43(5):901-928.
- “Autonomy, Participation and Learning in Argentine Schools: Findings and their Implications for Decentralization” with Gunnar Eskeland. 2007. *Education Economics*. 15(1):103-127.
- “Children's Schooling: AIDS, Orphanhood, Poverty, and Gender” with Martha Ainsworth. 2006. *World Development*. 34(6):1099-1128.
- “Gender and Wealth Disparities in Schooling: Evidence from 44 Countries.” 2005. *International Journal of Education Research*. 43(6):351-369.
- “Fever and its Treatment among the More and Less Poor in Sub-Saharan Africa.” 2005. *Health Policy and Planning*. 20(6):337-346.
- “Testing for Pay and Promotion Bias in an International Organization” with Elizabeth M. King and Dominique van de Walle. 2005. *International Journal of Manpower*. 26(5):404-420.
- “Weak Links in the Chain II: A Prescription for Health Policy in Poor Countries” with Jeffrey Hammer and Lant Pritchett. 2002. *World Bank Research Observer*. 17(1):47-66.
- “Environmental Degradation and the Demand for Children: Searching for the Vicious Circle” with Lant Pritchett. 2002. *Environment and Development Economics*. 7(1):123-146.
- “Does Indonesia Have a "Low Pay" Civil Service?” with David Lindauer. 2001. *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*. 37(2):189-205.
- “Estimating Wealth Effects without Expenditure Data – or Tears: With an Application to Educational Enrollments in States of India” with Lant Pritchett. 2001. *Demography*. 38(1):115-132.
- “Weak Links in the Chain: A Diagnosis of Health Policy in Poor Countries” with Jeffrey Hammer and Lant Pritchett. 2000. *World Bank Research Observer*. 15(2):199-224.
- “The Effect of Household Wealth on Educational Attainment: Evidence from 35 Countries” with Lant Pritchett. 1999. *Population and Development Review*. 25(1):85-120.
- “The Impact of Public Spending on Health: Does Money Matter?” with Lant Pritchett. 1999. *Social Science and Medicine*. 49(10): 1309-1323.
- “Educational Enrollment and Attainment in India: Household Wealth, Gender, Village and State Effects” with Lant Pritchett. 1999. *Journal of Educational Planning and Administration*. 13(2):135-164.

“What Education Production Functions Really Show: A Positive Theory of Education Expenditures” with Lant Pritchett. 1999. *Economics of Education Review*. 18(2):223-239.

“Educational Attainment in Developing Countries: New Estimates and Projections Disaggregated by Gender” with Vinod Ahuja. 1996. *Journal of Educational Planning and Administration*. 10(3):229-254.

Working papers

“Preparation, Practice, and Beliefs: A Machine Learning Approach to Understanding Teacher Effectiveness” with Natsal Vahata and Shwetlena Sabarwal. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 9847*. November 2021.

“How to Improve Education Outcomes Most Efficiently? A Comparison of 150 Interventions Using the New Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling Metric” with Noam Angrist, David K. Evans, Rachel Glennerster, Halsey Rogers, and Shwetlena Sabarwal. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 9450*. October 2020.

“Identifying Effective Teachers: Lessons from Four Classroom Observation Tools” with Ezequiel Molina and Waly Wane. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 9365* and *RISE Working Paper 20/045*. August 2020.

“Toward Successful Development Policies: Insights from Research in Development Economics” with others. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 9133*. January 2020.

“The Lost Human Capital: Teacher Knowledge and Student Achievement in Africa” with Tessa Bold, Ezequiel Molina, Jakob Svensson. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 8849*. May 2019.

“What do Teachers Know and Do? Does it Matter?” with Tessa Bold, Gayle Martin, Ezequiel Molina, Brian Stacy, Christophe Rockmore, Jakob Svensson and Waly Wane. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 7956*. January 2017.

“Impact Evaluation of Three Types of Early Childhood Development Interventions in Cambodia” with Adrien Bouguen, Karen Macours and Sophie Naudeau. *World Bank Policy Research Paper 6540*. July 2013.

“School Enrollment, Selection and Test Scores” with Norbert Schady. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4998*. July 2009.

“A Millennium Learning Goal: Measuring Real Progress in Education” with Amer Hasan and Lant Pritchett. *Center for Global Development Working Paper 97*. August 2006.

“Gender Disparity in South Asia: Comparisons Between and Within Countries” with Elizabeth M. King and Lant Pritchett. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 1867*. January 1998.

“Estimating the World at Work” World Development Report 1995 Background Paper. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 1488*. July 1995.

“Schooling and Cognitive Outcomes in Morocco: Can the Government Improve Outcomes?” with Shahidur Khandker and Victor Lavy. *World Bank Discussion Paper No. 264*. 1994.

World Bank Flagship Reports

World Development Report 2018: Learning to Realize Education's Promise. Washington, DC: The World Bank and Oxford University Press. 2018. Co-Director of Report.

From Mines and Wells to Well-Built Minds: Turning Sub-Saharan Africa's Natural Resource Wealth into Human Capital with de la Brière, Bénédicte, Dena Ringold, Dominic Rohner, Karelle Samuda and Anastasiya Denisova. 2017. The World Bank. Washington, DC.

Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa with Louise Fox; and Karen Brooks, Aparajita Goyal, Taye Mengistae, Patrick Premand, Dena Ringold, Siddharth Sharma, and Sergiy Zorya. 2014. The World Bank and Agence Française de Développement. Washington, DC.

Making Schools Work: New Evidence on Accountability Reforms with Barbara Bruns and Harry Anthony Patrinos. 2011. The World Bank. Washington, DC.

World Development Report 2007: Development and the Next Generation. Washington, DC: The World Bank and Oxford University Press. 2006. Contributor to “Chapter 3: Learning for Work and Life.”

World Development Report 2004: Making Services Work for Poor People. Washington, DC: The World Bank and Oxford University Press. 2003. Co-author and principal author of “Chapter 1: Services can work for poor people, but too often they fail” and “Chapter 2: Governments should make services work.”

World Development Report 1995: Workers in an Integrating World. Washington, DC: The World Bank and Oxford University Press. 1994. Contributor to “Part 1: Which Development Strategies are Good for Workers?”

Book chapters

“Education and Health” with Roberta Gatti, Halsey Rogers, Nikola Spatafora, Drilona Emrullahu. 2022. In *How to Achieve Inclusive Growth*. Valerie Cerra, Barry Eichengreen, Asmaa El-Ganainy, and Martin Schindler (eds.), Oxford University Press.

“Own and Sibling Effects of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs: Theory and Evidence from Cambodia” with Francisco H. G. Ferreira and Norbert Schady. In Bandyopadhyay, Sanghamitra ed. *Research on Economic Inequality Volume 25*. 2017. Emerald Publishing Ltd.

“Cognitive Development among Young Children in Low-Income Countries” with Sophie Naudeau, Sebastian Martinez, and Patrick Premand. In Harold Alderman, ed. *No Small Matter: The Impact of Poverty, Shocks, and Human Capital Investments in Early Childhood Development*. 2011. Washington, DC: The World Bank.

“Inequalities in Education: Effects of Gender, Poverty, Orphanhood, and Disability.” In Mercy Tembon and Lucia Fort eds. *Girls' Education in the 21st Century: Gender Equality, Empowerment, and Economic Growth*. 2008. Washington DC: The World Bank.

“Lessons from School Surveys in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.” In Samia Amin, Jishnu Das and Markus Goldstein eds. *Are you being served? New Tools for Measuring Service Delivery*. 2007. Washington DC: The World Bank.

“Education Inequalities around the World.” In Commonwealth Secretariat *Commonwealth Education Partnerships 2007*. 2006. Cambridge UK: Nexus Strategic Partnerships for the Commonwealth Secretariat.

“Primary Health Care in Poor Countries: Rethinking Health Policy” with Jeffrey Hammer and Lant Pritchett. In Martine Audibert, Jacky Mathonnat, and Éric de Roodenbeke, eds. *Le Financement de la Santé dans les Pays d’Afrique et d’Asie à Faible Revenu*. 2003. Paris: Éditions Karthala.

“Inequalities in Education: International Experience” in *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS), Human Development Theme*. 2002. Paris and Oxford: UNESCO-EOLSS.

“The Socio-Economic Correlates of Sexual Behavior: A Summary of Results from an Analysis of DHS Data.” In Martha Ainsworth, Lieve Fransen, and Mead Over eds. *Confronting AIDS: Evidence from the Developing World*. 1998. Brussels and Washington: The European Commission and The World Bank.

“The Impact of Adult Mortality on Individual Fertility: Evidence from Tanzania” with Martha Ainsworth and Innocent Semali. In Mark R. Montgomery and Barney Cohen eds. *From Death to Birth: Mortality Decline and Reproductive Change*. 1998. Washington DC: National Academy Press.

Non-refereed papers, reports, and chapters

Schooling, Skills, and Success: Trends and Linkages in Schooling and Work among Cambodian youth—A Cohort Panel Analysis with Haijing Huang and Tsuyoshi Fukao. 2017. Report No. AUS19668. The World Bank.

A Longitudinal Analysis Linking Test Scores and Later Cognitive and Socio-Emotional Outcomes Among Cambodian Youth with Haijing Huang and Tsuyoshi Fukao. 2016. Report No. 136507. The World Bank.

Evaluating Pantawid Pamilya Using Regression Discontinuity Design: Key Results and Lessons with Jed Freidman, Eeshani Kandpal, and Junko Onishi. 2013. Report Number 78134-PH. The World Bank

“Challenges and Options for Technical and Post-Basic Education in South Africa.” The World Bank. March 2012.

“Education.” Chapter in World Bank report *Accountability in Public Services in South Africa: Selected Issues*. 2011. Report Number 70748. The World Bank.

Making Services Work for the Poor in Indonesia: Focusing on Achieving Results on the Ground with Menno Pradhan, Vicente Paqueo, Elizabeth King, Scott Guggenheim and Anne-Liese Klausen. 2006. Report Number AAA12. The World Bank.

Papua New Guinea: Public Expenditures and Service Delivery (PESD) with Gaurav Datt, Dilip Parajuli, Vicky Hwang, Martín Cumpa, Robert Ackland, and Thomas Walker. 2004. Report Number 123970. The World Bank.

“Indonesia: Evaluating the Performance of SGP and SIGP, A Review of the Existing Literature and Beyond” with Cristobal Ridao-Cano. The World Bank. *Human Development Sector Unit, East Asia and the Pacific Region Working Paper 2004-3*. May 2004.

“Local level governance and schooling in decentralizing Indonesia” with Vivi Alatas. February 2004. Conference Draft: Governance and Accountability in Social Sector Decentralization Conference.

“Determinants of Health and Education Outcomes.” Background paper for *World Development Report 2004: Making Services Work for Poor People*. May 2003.

“The Incidence of Public Expenditures on Health and Education.” Background paper for *World Development Report 2004: Making Services Work for Poor People*. May 2003.

Indonesia’s Primary and Junior Secondary Schools in a post-crisis environment: Findings from a re-survey of 600 schools with Dean Nielsen, Nanik Suyarwani, and Bambang Indriyanto. The World Bank and Ministry of National Education, Washington and Jakarta. April 2001.

“A Note on Financing Basic Education in four districts of West Sumatra.” The World Bank. March 2001.

“Zambia: The Distribution and Variability of Consumption and Income Through the 1990’s: An Analysis of Three Household Surveys” with Jeffrey S. Hammer. The World Bank. August 2000.

“A Note on Public Spending and Health and Education Outcomes” The World Bank. April 1999.

The Impact of Indonesia’s Economic Crisis on Basic Education: Findings from a Survey of Schools with Haneen Sayed, Boediono, Jiyono, Nanik Suwaryani, Bambang Indriyanto. DECRG and EASHD, The World Bank, Washington and Ministry of National Education, Jakarta. December 1998.

“The Intrahousehold Allocation of Schooling and Preventive Care: Estimates from Ghana.” The World Bank. August 1999.

“Who Knows How Much? A Note on Knowledge Regarding HIV/AIDS from Demographic and Health Surveys.” The World Bank. February 1997.

“Education Outcomes and Household Spending per Student in the West Java, South Sulawesi and Maluku Provinces of Indonesia.” The World Bank. January 1997.

Outreach material

“Cambodia: Can New and Improved Preschools Improve Child Development in Rural Communities?” May 2020. *From Evidence to Policy Note*. The World Bank.

“Learning to realize education’s promise.” June 2018. *Seminar Magazine* (706). The Monthly Symposium. India.

“Realizing Education’s Promise” Fall 2017. *World Bank Research Digest* 12(1). The World Bank.

“Cambodia: Challenges in scaling up preschools.” November 2013. *From Evidence to Policy Note*. The World Bank.

“Cambodia: Do Scholarships Help Students Continue Their Education?” October 2010. *From Evidence to Policy Note*. The World Bank.

“Linking research and operations: Scholarships in Cambodia” in *Human Development Quarterly Update (Q3 2010)*. Development Research Group. The World Bank.

“Disability, Poverty, and Schooling in Developing Countries.” 2007. *World Bank Research Digest* 2(1). The World Bank.

“Getting Girls into School: Evidence from Cambodia” with Norbert Schady. 2006. *World Bank Research Digest* 1(2). The World Bank.

“Orphanhood, Poverty, and School Enrollment” with Martha Ainsworth. DECRG-HDPS website feature article. The World Bank. July 2006.

“PROGRESA for Progress: Mexico’s Health, Nutrition, and Education Program” with David P. Coady and Davidson R. Gwatkin. *Development Outreach*. The World Bank Institute. The World Bank. May 2005.

“Do we Need Special Programmes to Keep Orphans in School” with Martha Ainsworth. *Sexual Health Exchange*. Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service. Spring 2004.

“*Making Services Work in East Asia,*” with Philippe Auffret, Elizabeth M. King, and Rekha Menon. Special Focus section of the East Asia Half-Yearly Update “*From Cyclical Recovery to Long Run Growth.*” East Asia and Pacific Region, The World Bank. October 2003

“Education and the Poor: Eradicating the Plague of Illiteracy” with Josef Ritzen and F. Halsey Rodgers. DECRG and DECVP, The World Bank. October 2000.

Datasets

“Education attainment and enrollment around the world.” Continually updated website reporting inequalities in education attainment and enrollment as derived from household survey datasets from developing countries. Currently reports results for over 280 household surveys from over 90 countries. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/research/brief/edattain>.

Estimates of Adult Mortality from around the Developing World. Includes adult mortality estimates derived from each relevant DHS survey, as well as adult mortality estimates averaged for each country/period across different rounds of the DHS. <http://go.worldbank.org/RIIWM53VS0>.

Papua New Guinea Service Delivery Survey. Data, questionnaires, and information documents for survey of 200 schools and 100 health clinics available at <http://go.worldbank.org/OIACCH22U0>.

Areas of concentration

Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Economics of Education, Economic Demography.

Referee for

American Economic Review; Comparative Education Review; Demography; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Education Economics; Health Policy and Planning; Journal of African Economies; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Oxford Economic Papers; Population and Development Review; Population Studies; Review of Income and Wealth; Social Science and Medicine; The World Bank Economic Review; The Review of Economics and Statistics; World Development.

Language skills

English and French (fluent).