

# Hannah Blackburn

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## SUMMARY

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I am seeking a position as an economic research assistant. I have strong quantitative research skills, including use of Stata, basic R, ArcGIS, QGIS, and SurveyCTO, and experience managing research projects in developing countries. I would be a proactive, curious, and dedicated member of your research team. My research interests include development economics, applied microeconomics, and econometrics. I am particularly interested in the intersections of health, poverty, and geography in developing countries.

## EDUCATION

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- 2013 - 2017 **Middlebury College** *Middlebury, VT*
- B.A. in Economics with Highest Honors, minor in Global Health
  - Phi Beta Kappa, *summa cum laude*
  - Relevant coursework: Empirical Economic Research (RCT, diff-in-diff, IV, and regression discontinuity designs), Regression Analysis, Economics of Global Health, Senior Economics Seminar in Population Growth and the Global Future, Spatial Thinking with GIS
- Lady Shri Ram College (Spring 2016)** *Delhi, India*
- Study abroad coursework in Hindi, Indian history and literature

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2017- present **IDinsight Associate** *Nairobi, Kenya & Johannesburg, South Africa*
- Kenya and Uganda: Designed an RCT to measure the impact of a graduation-out-of-poverty program on household consumption, assets, and savings in Kenya and Uganda for a development impact bond (DIB). Additionally, designed and implemented a cash transfer verification system to monitor grant distribution; managed a team of 4 enumerators and performed daily data quality checks; led meetings with senior members of the implementing organization and funders; and guided a junior IDinsight team member through survey instrument development
  - Liberia: Developed a comprehensive data collection plan for a quasi-experimental matching design study comparing student achievement in Liberian primary schools under either private or public management. Managed a team of three Liberian field managers to determine logistics such as enumerator recruitment and training, travel, budget, and timeline. Technical field work preparation included survey design, sampling design, and performing spatial analysis in QGIS to create inputs to the school matching algorithm, e.g. school distance from road
  - Tanzania: Analyzed pneumonia prevalence, pneumonia diagnosis, and pneumonia medication availability results from the third round of data collection for a catalytic funding program to increase the availability of pneumonia medication in health centers in Tanzania
  - Other workstreams: a) Reviewing the economic literature on beneficiary preferences and the utility function for cash transfers to poor households in rural Africa to refine the client's cost-effectiveness model comparing health and cash transfer interventions; b) Mapping predicted numbers of out-of-school children for districts in three Indian states using QGIS to improve targeting of a program to promote gender equity in schooling in India; c) Writing a winning grant proposal for a multi-country, \$1.8 million RCT measuring the effect of improved chicken breeds on household consumption, child nutrition, and women's bargaining power; and d) Leading client development and recruitment workstreams in IDinsight's new South Africa office

- 2017 **Middlebury College Economics Department** *Middlebury, VT*  
**Senior Economic Thesis (Highest Honors)**
- "Do Famines Happen in Democracies? Democracy and Health in Sub-Saharan Africa"
  - Utilized a spatial regression discontinuity design to offer empirical evidence on the causal link between democratic institutions and health, by taking advantage of the plausibly exogenous drawing of modern African country borders by European leaders during the scramble for Africa in the mid- to late-nineteenth century; Compared outcomes for children living across country borders but in the same pre-colonial ethnic homelands
  - Analyzed multiple models in Stata and ArcGIS using a cleaned and merged dataset containing data on 826 ethnic homelands from an historical map, democracy scores from the World Bank Governance Indicators, child health outcomes from 76 Demographic Health Surveys across 45 countries, and drought shocks calculated from the CHIRPS local historical rainfall dataset and a localized crop calendar dataset from Univ. Wisconsin-Madison
  - Presented research design and preliminary findings at the Women in Economic Research Conference at Williams College and the Middlebury College Student Spring Symposium

- 2016 – 2017 **Middlebury College Economics Department** *Middlebury, VT*  
**Economic Research Assistant**
- Investigated and evaluated potential paths of inquiry for a paper on the connection between deforestation and malaria in Nigeria, now published in AER by Berazneva and Byker
  - Surveyed relevant development, environment, and health literature to prepare an annotated bibliography
  - Cleaned and analyzed Demographic Health Survey data using Stata

## ACTIVITIES

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- 2017 GIS Lab Assistant in Middlebury College Geography Dept. *Middlebury, VT*
- Taught ArcGIS theory, data management, georeferencing, cartography, and spatial analysis to students via open-ended lab exercises
- 2015 – 2017 Opinions editor for the Middlebury *Campus* *Middlebury, VT*
- Wrote weekly editorial for college newspaper via collaboration with ideologically diverse team; cultivated and edited submissions; and designed section using Adobe InDesign
- 2015 MiddCORE Leadership and Innovation Program *Middlebury, VT*
- Completed 160+ hours of mentor-driven workshops in entrepreneurship
  - Built capacities in leadership, strategic thinking, persuasive communication, financial literacy, negotiation, ethical decision-making and crisis management
- 2014 – 2015 Executive board member of GlobeMed at Middlebury *Kigali, Rwanda*
- Financed, planned, and led a grassroots work trip to Rwanda
  - Conceptualized and implemented an organization improvement plan at a nation-wide conference of participating colleges
- 2013 – 2016 Middlebury varsity volleyball and track & field athlete *Middlebury, VT*
- Selected volleyball team captain for 2016 and 2017 seasons
  - Committed approximately 30 hours per week to training, meetings, film study, travel, and competitions while maintaining full course load
  - Ran two years of varsity track, and hold Middlebury record in long jump

## SKILLS

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**Language:** Proficient French; basic Hindi, Arabic, and Swahili

**Computer:** Stata, ArcGIS, QGIS, basic R, SurveyCTO, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office, Adobe InDesign & Photoshop