

Aubrey Jolex

Development Economist | Field Experiments | Field Data Systems | Governance Frameworks in AI-Assisted Research

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SUMMARY

Research Manager & Development Economist with 7+ years of experience leading the complete research lifecycle, from research design and rigorous RCT protocol development to large-scale field survey operations and econometric analysis. Proven track record of directing complex data collection pipelines, managing field teams, and translating data into peer-reviewed publications and actionable policy insights.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

Manila, Philippines

Senior Research Associate

October 2025 - Present

- Lead implementation of the Philippines Socioeconomic Panel Survey (PSPS), a longitudinal study tracking 15,000+ households across 500 communities, covering budget planning, stratified sampling design, SurveyCTO programming, donor reporting, and data management.
- Direct and mentor junior research staff; design high-frequency data quality controls, back-checking protocols, and debrief processes across large-scale multi-wave operations.
- Serve as a Senior Research Associate on a cross-border remittances study in the Pakistan-GCC corridor using a discrete choice experiment to quantify preferences for cost, speed, convenience, and transparency.
- Supervise follow-up surveys for a Dean Karlan-led RCT on ultra-poor livelihoods interventions.
- Presented Code in the Machine: Can Large Language Models Reproduce Econometric Analyses? at the World Bank and CEGA Measuring Development Conference 2026.
- Pioneered a feasibility study on WhatsApp-based longitudinal data collection in the Philippines.
- Represent IPA at workshops with Philippine government counterparts.

December 2022 - September

2025

Research Associate

- Co-led PSPS from inception through first-wave completion, including questionnaire design, sampling strategy, SurveyCTO programming, and data quality assurance.
- Hired, trained, and co-managed 100+ field staff across 500 communities; built monitoring dashboards with consistency checks and attrition tracking.
- Contributed technical leadership to an IPA Philippines aspirations and wellbeing RCT, including power analysis, pre-analysis plan drafting, and Stata workflows.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Lilongwe, Malawi

Research Analyst

November 2020 - November 2022

- Led agricultural commodity price monitoring across Malawi and produced monthly maize market reports for emergency food security responses.
- Presented findings before the Donor Committee in Agriculture and Food Security (DCAFS).
- Co-authored peer-reviewed research and policy briefs on farmer prices, commercialization, and household welfare.
- Developed the price monitoring methodology published in The Journal of Development Studies (2024).

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

Lilongwe, Malawi

- Won a competitive IFAD-CARE research fellowship to study ICT adoption and profitability among young agribusiness entrepreneurs in Malawi.
- Managed the full research lifecycle independently from concept development to publication in Sustainability (Jolex & Tufa, 2022).

Malawi National Statistical Office*Lilongwe, Malawi***Field Supervisor, 2018 Population and Housing Census**

September 2018

- Supervised and quality-checked enumerators for Malawi's national decennial census.

Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC)*Lilongwe, Malawi***Research Assistant**

November - December 2017

- Collected electronic data for the 2017 MVAC market situation analysis supporting national vulnerability mapping.

EDUCATION

- M.A. in Economics, University of Malawi, 2018 - 2022. Specialization: Quantitative Methods and Econometrics.
- B.Sc. in Social Science (Economics Major), University of Malawi, 2012 - 2016.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Econometrics & Causal Inference: Randomized controlled trials (RCTs), Instrumental variables, Propensity score matching, Fixed effects / panel data methods, Power analysis, Pre-analysis plans, Heterogeneous treatment effects, Quasi-experimental methods

Programming & Software: Stata (advanced - primary analysis tool), Python (data processing, automation, scripting), R (working knowledge), SurveyCTO / ODK, LaTeX, Git / GitHub

Survey & Field Research Methods: Multi-stage stratified sampling, CAPI/CATI instrument design, High-frequency monitoring systems, Attrition management, Back-checking and data quality protocols, Digital data collection

AI & Emerging Methods: LLM capability evaluation, Automated econometric replication, AI validation frameworks, Human-AI collaboration protocols for quantitative research

Research Management: Multi-study portfolio oversight, Budget planning and financial reporting, Donor reporting, IRB / ethics compliance, Procurement contracts, Work-planning and risk management

Languages: English - C2, Chichewa - Native, French - basic knowledge

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Jolex, A. (2026). The Overeducation Trap: Household Wealth and Education-Occupation Mismatch Among College Graduates in the Philippines. Education Economics.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09645292.2026.2700279>
2. Jolex, A., & Felizardo, M.A. (2026). Does home food production insure against food price shocks? Evidence from matched subsistence and market households in the Philippines. Cogent Economics & Finance, 14(1).
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23322039.2026.2690752>
3. Baulch, B., Kok, S.K., & Jolex, A. (2024). A New Approach to Monitoring Farmer Prices: Method and an Application to Malawi. The Journal of Development Studies, 60(6), 874-894.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2023.2291320>
4. Jolex, A. (2022). Influence of Agricultural Extension Services on Technical Efficiency of Maize Farmers in Malawi. African Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 17(1), 91-105.
<https://doi.org/10.22004/ag.econ.333956>

5. Jolex, A., & Kaluwa, B. (2022). Crowding Out Effects of Alcohol Consumption Expenditure on Household Resource Allocation in Malawi. PLoS ONE, 17(2), e0263330.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0263330>
6. Jolex, A., & Tufa, A. (2022). The Effect of ICT Use on the Profitability of Young Agripreneurs in Malawi. Sustainability, 14(5), 2536.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/su14052536>

WORKING PAPERS & POLICY REPORTS

1. Jolex, A. (2026). Code in the Machine: Can Large Language Models Reproduce Econometric Analyses? Working Paper WP2026_07.
2. Chiwaula, L., De Weerd, J., Duchoslav, J., Goeb, J., Gondwe, A., & Jolex, A. (2024). Welfare Impacts of Seasonal Maize Price Fluctuations in Malawi. MaSSP Working Paper 45.
<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/139137>
3. Jolex, A., & Benson, T. (2021). Are the Drivers of Production and Sales of Maize, Groundnut, and Soybean by Farming Households in Malawi Changing? MaSSP Working Paper 38.
<https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.134730>
4. Baulch, B., & Jolex, A. (2021). Mixed Fortunes: Prices Paid to Soybean Farmers Have Improved in 2021...But Not Those to Maize Farmers. MaSSP Policy Note 41.
<https://massp.ifpri.info/2021/08/22/policy-note-41-mixed-fortunes-prices-paid-to-soybean-farmers-have-improved-in-2021but-not-those-to-maize-farmers/>
5. Benson, T., & Jolex, A. (2022). Key Facts Sheet on Agricultural Commercialization. MaSSP Key Facts, January 2022.
<https://massp.ifpri.info/2022/01/24/key-facts-series-key-facts-sheet-on-agricultural-commercialization/>
6. Benson, T., & Jolex, A. (2022). Key Facts Sheet on Employment. MaSSP Key Facts, May 2022.
<https://massp.ifpri.info/2022/05/23/key-facts-series-key-facts-sheet-on-employment/>
7. Banda, C., De Weerd, J., Duchoslav, J., & Jolex, A. (2022). Self-targeted Fertilizer Subsidies. MaSSP Policy Note 48.
<https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.136464>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Jolex, A. (April 2026). Code in the Machine: Can Large Language Models Reproduce Econometric Analyses? World Bank and CECA Measuring Development Conference 2026, Washington, D.C.

REFERENCES

- Rene Marlon Panti - Senior Research Manager, Innovations for Poverty Action
- Dr. Jan Duchoslav - Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI-Malawi)
- Dr. Gowokani Chirwa - Associate Professor of Economics, University of Malawi