Alexis Atchade

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Education & Credentials

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Houston — 2022 – Expected May 2027
M.A. in Economics, University of Houston — 2022 – 2024
M.Sc. in Mathematics, Economics, and Statistics, African School of Economics — 2017 – 2019
B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics, National University of Benin — 2013 – 2016

Fields of Interest: Development Economics, Agricultural Economics, Labor Economics, and Education Economics

Research

Job Market Paper

"Commodity Prices, Sectoral Factor Allocation, and Deforestation: Evidence from Ghana"

This paper examines the short-run supply responses of agricultural commodity producers in Ghana to external price shocks and the resulting deforestation. It focuses on how supply adjusts across several margins, including land allocation, input use, labor, agricultural production, and forest loss, particularly when competing producers face different constraints on their ability to respond to market conditions.

Working Papers

"Property Rights and Agricultural Land Market in Ethiopia" (2025)

Using a household-plot panel from Ethiopia, I study how a land certification program affects participation in rental markets, contract choice, and land reallocation across farmers. I find certification significantly increases rental market participation, especially land supplied by low-productivity farmers, and facilitates reallocation to higher-productivity farmers.

Work in Progress

"Household Education Spending After a School-Management Reform: Evidence from the Partnership Schools for Liberia Program" (2025), with G. Dackermue Dolo and Joseph Kamara

"Social Networks and Agricultural Land Use: Evidence from Above (Satellite Imagery)" (2026)

Teaching Experience

University of Houston — Teaching Assistant

Macroeconomics II — 2024
Macroeconomics I — 2023

- Conducted weekly tutorials for the first-year Ph.D. macroeconomics sequence: growth models (Solow, Ramsey, overlapping generations), dynamic programming, asset pricing, real business cycle and New Keynesian models (MATLAB, Dynare), and heterogeneous-agent models with incomplete markets.

Intermediate Microeconomics — 2025, 2026
Introduction to Econometrics — 2025
Industrial Organization and Antitrust Policy — 2023

- Conducted tutorials for undergraduates on market structure, pricing, and asymmetric information (Intermediate Microeconomics); regression, panel data, and instrumental variables in Stata (Econometrics); and demand estimation, price discrimination, and utility regulation (Industrial Organization).

African School of Economics — Teaching Assistant

Macroeconomics I & II	2019 – 2022
Econometrics I	2020 – 2021
Principles of Macroeconomics	2019
Mathematics for Economics I & II	2018, 2019

- Conducted tutorials for graduate macroeconomics (growth, dynamic optimization, business cycles, policy) and econometrics (linear regression, inference, instrumental variables, maximum likelihood), and for undergraduates on macroeconomic principles and on linear algebra, calculus, and optimization.

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

Presidential Graduate Fellowship, University of Houston	2022 – 2024
Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, African School of Economics	2019 – 2022
Master's Scholarship, Centre d'Excellence d'Afrique en Sciences Mathématiques et Applications (CEA-SMA), Benin	2017 – 2019
Outstanding Undergraduate Student Scholarship	2013 – 2016

National Baccalaureate Office, Government of Benin – awarded based on Baccalaureate results in Mathematics and Physics; $1,409.05 per year for 3 years

Memberships and Conferences

Professional Memberships

- Econometric Society
- International Development Economics Association

Conference Presentations and Attendance

- JMC Symposium, 2026 – presented job market paper (Climate & Agriculture session)
- Texas Development Workshop, Austin, TX, 2026 – presented job market paper poster
- Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society (AFES), 2024; 2018

Other Work Experience

Research Assistant, Education Research Center (ERC, UH) 2025

- Project: *School District Takeover: Exploring the Short- and Long-Term Outcomes of the State Takeover of the Houston Independent School District*

Research Consultant, Research & Innovations Hub (RIH), Liberia 2024

Projects: Starting Small Business (SSB), Labor Intensive Public Works (LIPW), and Social Registry & Social Cash Transfer, all sponsored by the Government of Liberia

- Developed HFC do-files, resolved data inconsistencies, and held weekly meetings for research idea brainstorming.

Research Assistant, Profs. Steven Craig and Bent E. Sørensen 2023
Project: *Employment Education Capital: School Capital Investment at Long and Short Horizons*

- Prepared data description materials and analyzed data.

Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant, African School of Economics 2019 – 2022
Selected projects:

"Mission and Colonial Schools" and "Free Primary Education" (RISE program) 2020 – 2022
RA for Profs. Leonard Wantchekon, Gabor Nyeki, and Dozie Okoye

- Designed survey instruments and supervised field data collection and quality assurance across study sites in Nigeria.

"Reducing Violence Through Inclusive Economic Opportunities" (Benin) 2021 – 2022
RA for Prof. Ian Heffernan

- Cleaned and analyzed data for a study evaluating whether a job training program promotes non-violent dispute resolution; organized related research workshops.

"Political Cost, Funding Source, and Political Entry" (NIMD) and "Business Interests and Clientelist Contracts" (DFID, UK), Benin 2020

- Constructed administrative datasets supporting research on political financing and clientelist business networks in Benin.

Consultant, Fonds National de la Microfinance, Benin 2021

- Project: *Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Benin's Decentralized Financial System*

Skills

Computer Programs: MATLAB, R and R Markdown, Stata, LaTeX (TeXstudio), QGIS, SurveyCTO, Google Earth Engine, Microsoft Office Suite

Languages: French, English, and Yoruba (native)

Additional Coursework During Ph.D.

Spatial Analysis and Satellite Imagery in a GIS 2025
BREAD/IGC Non-Credit Ph.D. Course on Political Economy and Development 2026

References

Willa Friedman
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