

JESSICA LEE COHEN

Research Fellow in Development Economics
Global Economy and Development
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2007

B.A. Economics, Wesleyan University, 2000

FELLOWSHIPS/HONORS

Graduate

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

National Science Foundation International Travel Fellowship (Kenya)

MIT Dept. of Economics Schultz Fund Research Grant

MIT Dept. of Economics Faculty Fellowship

Undergraduate

Phi Beta Kappa

Hallowell Prize, for academic excellence in the social sciences

Horace White Prize, for excellence in Economics

Davenport Grant, funding senior thesis research, awarded by the Surdna Foundation

Plukas Publishing Award, supporting thesis publication

Joint Program in Survey Methodology Junior Fellowship

RESEARCH

“Free Distribution vs. Cost-Sharing: Evidence from a Malaria-Prevention Field Experiment in Kenya”
(with Pascaline Dupas), Brookings Institution Global Economy and Development Working Paper,
2007.

“Financial Incentives for Special Education Placement: The Impact of SSI Benefit Expansion on Special
Education Enrollment,” MIT Dept. of Economics Working Paper, 2007.

“Causes and Consequences of Special Education Placement: Evidence from Chicago Public Schools,”
MIT Dept. of Economics Working Paper, 2006.

“Toward a Theory of Corporate Culture: An Evolutionary Approach to Reciprocity in the Employment
Relationship,” Center for Social and Economic Dynamics (Brookings Institution) Working Paper, 2001.

PUBLICATIONS

“A Foundation for Behavioral Economics,” with W. Dickens, *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 92(2), May, 2002.

“Have the New Human Resource Management Practices Lowered the Unemployment Rate?” with W. Dickens and A. Posen, in *The Roaring Nineties: Can Full Employment be Sustained?* A. Krueger and R. Solow, eds. Russell Sage Foundation Press, 2002.

“Instinct and Choice: The Implications of Behavioral Genetics and Evolutionary Psychology for Policy Analysis,” with W. Dickens, in *Nature and Nurture: The Complex Interplay of Genetic and Environmental Influences on Human Behavior*, C. G. Coll, E. Bearer, and R. Lerner, eds. Erlbaum, 2004.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

TAMTAM (Together Against Malaria), Inc., President & Co-Founder, Kenya 2003-Present

TAMTAM (www.tamtamafrica.org) is an international NGO which implements and evaluates projects related to malaria prevention and maternal and child health. The purpose of TAMTAM is to experiment with innovative development interventions and carefully evaluate their impact (usually using randomized trials) in order to simultaneously improve the efficacy of our programs and to contribute to academic and policy research on poverty and health. Projects include the distribution of free, long-lasting, insecticide-treated mosquito nets at prenatal clinics and subsequent evaluation of the impact on prenatal care uptake, HIV testing and birth weight.

Economics Dept, MIT, Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics Spring, 2007

Economics Dept, MIT, Teaching Assistant 2004 - 2006

Economics Research and Communication (Professor Michael Greenstone)
Intermediate Applied Macroeconomics (Professor Peter Temin)
Information Technology and the Labor Market (Professor Frank Levy)

Harvard School of Public Health, Research Assistant for Prof. Katherine Swartz Spring, 2005

ICS Africa/Profs. Michael Kremer & Esther Duflo, Research Assistant, Kenya Summer, 2002

Brookings Institution, Economic Studies, Research Assistant for Profs. William Dickens & Joseph Stiglitz 2000-2001

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Joint Program in Survey Methodology Junior Fellow Summer, 1999

INVITED TALKS

World Health Organization (Geneva): Conference on Scaling-Up Integrated Delivery of Long-Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (February, 2008)

Brookings Institution (Washington, DC): Global Economy and Development Seminar Series (January, 2008)

Center for Global Development (Washington, DC): Massachusetts Avenue Development Seminar Series (January, 2008)

Brookings Institution (Washington, DC): Economic Studies Seminar Series (November, 2007)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Boston, MA): Public Economics Seminar Series (November, 2006)

American Economic Association (Atlanta, GA): Annual Meetings (January, 2002)

Brookings Institution (Washington, DC): Center for Social and Economic Dynamics Seminar Series (April, 2001)

Brown University (Providence, RI): Genetic Influences on Human Behavior and Development Conference (April, 2001)

Russell Sage Foundation: Sustainable Employment Conference (January 2001)