

## LOUISE FOX, Ph.D

1-202-257-6656  
fox.louise@outlook.com

++++  
Louise Fox is an internationally recognized development economist who specializes in strategies for employment creation, opportunity expansion, economic empowerment, and poverty reduction. She has advised governments in the developed and developing world, international organizations, and philanthropic and non-profit organizations on problem diagnosis, strategies for results, and outcome measurement. She held full-time positions at USAID (as Chief Economist) and at the World Bank. She is currently affiliated with the African Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution and the Overseas Development Institute, where she leads major research projects. Louise has published in the areas of inclusive growth, vulnerability and resilience, structural transformation, youth employment, the political economy of poverty reduction, gender and women's economic empowerment, employment, labor markets, and labor regulation, pension reform, reform of child welfare systems, social protection, effective public expenditures in the social sectors, and female-headed households and child welfare.  
++++

### EXPERIENCE

#### Current positions:

- **Nonresident Senior Fellow, African Growth Initiative (AGI), Global Economy and Development, The Brookings Institution**
- **Senior Research Associate, ODI, London, UK**
- **Independent Consulting Development Economist**

#### Current and recent projects:

- Senior Technical Lead, Evaluation of Sida (Sweden) employment impacts from projects in Africa (with ODI, London)
- Member, UN High Level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index
- Member, Economic Advisory Panel, Millennium Challenge Corporation
- Advisory and Review Panel, IFAD 2025 Rural Development Report
- Youth Employment in Africa – Progress and prospects (for Brookings AGI)
- Youth and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa; Urban Informality and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (for the Global Center on Climate Adaptation)
- Transformation, Food Security and Resilience in African Economies (with Michigan State University for USAID, AGRA)
- The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the Future of Work in Africa
- Women Informal Entrepreneurs in Kenya: a feminist analysis of economic empowerment challenges (with KORE Global Advisory)
- Analysis of the Impact of US Portfolio Equity Investment on West African Economic Development (for USAID)
- Advisory Panel for the Inclusive Growth Financing Forum (for the OECD)
- Team Lead, Evaluation, for review of Hewlett Foundation grantmaking for Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)
- Peer review, strategies and strategic reviews, World Bank, AfDB, IGC
- Advisor, selected graduate students, Blum Center for Developing Economies, UC Berkeley
- On demand – blogs, reviews, etc.

#### **2016-2019**

- **Chief Economist, US Agency for International Development, Washington D.C.**

As USAID's Chief Economist:

- (i) provided economic advice to management across the agency;
  - (ii) lead the professional development of the Agency's cadre of economists and developed a community of practice;
  - (iii) worked with other Agency professionals to encourage and improve evidence-based decision making; and
  - iv) undertook special studies of importance for new areas of programming.
- Special projects* included: (a) development of new Agency strategic framework for employment creation programming, and (b) advice on youth employment strategies for poor and rural areas.

#### **2013-2016:**

- **Visiting Professor, Masters in Development Practice Program, University of California, Berkeley, CA.**
- **Independent Consulting Development Economist.** Clients included: International Labor Organization, UNWomen, Mastercard Foundation, ACDI/VOCA, IFPRI.
- **Senior Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London, UK.** Developed framework for understanding gender-inclusive structural economic transformation, and applied the framework in Gates Foundation-funded project on inclusive rural transformation.

#### **1984-2013: The World Bank, Washington, D.C. (Final position: Lead Economist)**

##### ***Career highlights at the World Bank***

**2003 - 2013      *Sub-Saharan Africa Region***  
***Office of the Chief Economist for Sub-Saharan Africa and Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Departments***

As Lead Economist and Poverty Advisor for Eastern and Southern Africa, responsible for ensuring the quality of country and subregional analysis and advisory activities on the causes and consequences of poverty, and the impact of country poverty reduction strategies; lead author of Africa Regional Youth Employment Flagship report and regional reports on employment and scaling up poverty reduction ; developed new products used by the Bank and other donors for country level analysis and advisory activities; managed and mentored poverty and labor market specialists; led key analytical work, including poverty, social, and gender assessments and impact analysis of policies and projects; served on the editorial board for World Bank publications.

##### ***Other highlights (1984-2003)***

- Lead/Senior Economist for transition economies, focused on employment, social security, poverty reduction and safety nets; resident in Beijing, China, 2001-2003
- Lead Pension Specialist and Deputy Chief Economist in the global Human Development Network Selected as member of the team which prepared The World Bank's landmark study, *Averting the Old Age Crisis* (see publications below);
- Frequent lecturer, World Bank Institute courses;
- Six month assignment as assistant to managing directors on operational issues,
- In 1990, was selected through international and with-in Bank competition to first World Bank team for social sectors in transition economies
- Received multiple awards at Vice Presidential level; nominated 5 times for President's Award for Excellence

## EDUCATION

**Executive Development program**, Harvard/INSEAD/Stanford, 1998-99

**Ph.D. (Economics)**, Vanderbilt University, 1982

**B. A. (International Relations, Honors)** University of California (Berkeley), 1977

## PUBLICATIONS

(see <https://ideas.repec.org/f/pfo261.html>)

### **Books**

AGRA (2021) *A Decade of Action: Building Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems in Africa*. African Agricultural Status Report 2021. <https://agra.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/AASR-2021-A-Decade-of-Action- Building-Sustainable-and-Resilient-Food-Systems-in-Africa.pdf>. (Co-editor and co-author of 3 chapters)

Filmer, Deon and Louise Fox, *Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa* (2014). World Bank: Washington D.C. (available at [www.worldbank.org/africa/youthemploymentreport](http://www.worldbank.org/africa/youthemploymentreport))

Fox Louise, Lucrecia Santibañez, Vy Nguyen, and Pierre André. (2012). *Education Reform in Mozambique: Lessons and Challenges*. World Bank: Washington D.C. (Dimensions in Development series)

Fox, Louise (2008). *Beating the Odds: Sustaining Inclusion in a Growing Economy – A Poverty Gender and Social Assessment for Mozambique*. World Bank: Washington DC. (Winner of Africa Region Chief Economist's Award for Excellence, December, 2007.)

Fox, Louise and Melissa Gaal (2008). *Working Out of Poverty: Job Creation and the Quality of Growth in Africa*. World Bank: Washington DC. (Dimensions in Development series)

Fox, Louise and Robert Liebenthal, (eds.) (2006). *Attacking Africa's Poverty: Experience from the ground*. Washington D.C. World Bank.

Holzman, Stiglitz, Fox, James, and Orzag, (eds) *New Ideas About Old Age Security*, The World Bank Washington, D.C. (2001.)

World Bank (1994). *Averting the Old Age Crisis: Policies to Protect the Old and Promote Growth*. Oxford University Press, New York. (contributing author)

### **Articles and Working Papers**

Fox, Louise, David Kritzberg, and Michael Nichol森 (2023) Are Private Equity Investments Financing the SDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa? The Brookings Institution, October.

Fox, Louise and Landry Signe (2022) From subsistence to disruptive innovation: Africa, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the future of jobs. The Brookings Institution, March.  
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/from-subsistence-to-disruptive-innovation-africa-the-fourth-industrial-revolution-and-the-future-of-jobs/>

Fox, Louise, Danielle Resnick, Chris Heitzig, Aba Amissah Quainoo, and Susan Nartey (2022). "Urban Informality" *State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2022*, The Global Center on Adaptation. [https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GCA\\_State-and-Trends-in-Adaptation-2022\\_Fullreport.pdf](https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GCA_State-and-Trends-in-Adaptation-2022_Fullreport.pdf)

Fox, Louise, and Landry Signe (2021). *The Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Future of Work: Could this bring good jobs to Africa?* INCLUDE Evidence Synthesis Paper Series, August. <https://includeplatform.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-fourth-industrial-revolution-4IR-and-the-future-of-work.pdf>

Fox, Louise, (2021). "Youth and Climate Change" *State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2021*, The Global Center on Adaptation. [https://gca.org/reports/sta21/?\\_gl=1\\*8e4be\\*\\_ga\\*MTM5Nzg5NzQ4NC4xNjc1ODIwNjQ2\\*\\_up\\*MQ..](https://gca.org/reports/sta21/?_gl=1*8e4be*_ga*MTM5Nzg5NzQ4NC4xNjc1ODIwNjQ2*_up*MQ..)

Calder, Rebecca, Louise Fox, Shawna Walsh, Emily Boost, Grace Kohn, Jeanne Magnetti, Emily Waters, Isabella Blanchard and Rachael McGrath (2021). *External Evaluation of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's 2015-2020 Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy*. <https://hewlett.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Hewlett-Foundation-Womens-Economic-Empowerment-Strategy-Evaluation-2015-2020.pdf>

Fox, Louise, & Gandhi, Dhruv. (2021). *Youth employment in Africa: Progress and prospects* (Africa Growth Initiative Working Paper No. 28). The Brookings Institution.

Dolislager, Michael, Thomas Reardon, Aslihan Arslan, Louise Fox, Saweda Liverpool-Tasie, Christine Sauer, David Tschirley (2021). "Youth agrifood system employment in developing countries: a gender-differentiated spatial approach". *Journal of Development Studies*, vol. 57, issue 4, 571-593. DOI: [10.1080/00220388.2020.1808198](https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2020.1808198)

Fox, L., Mader, P., Sumberg, J., Flynn, J., & Oosterom, M. (2020). *Africa's 'youth employment' crisis is actually a missing jobs' crisis*. Brooke Shearer Series No. 9. Brookings Institution.

Jayne, T.S., Fox, L., Fuglie, K., & Adelaja, A. (2020). *Agricultural productivity growth, resilience, and economic transformation in sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for USAID*. USAID, BIFAD, and Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities. [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BIFAD\\_Agricultural\\_Productivity\\_Growth\\_Resilience\\_and\\_Economic\\_Transformation\\_in\\_SSA\\_Final\\_Report\\_4.20.21\\_2\\_2.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BIFAD_Agricultural_Productivity_Growth_Resilience_and_Economic_Transformation_in_SSA_Final_Report_4.20.21_2_2.pdf)

Fox, Louise (2019). "Economic participation of rural youth: what matters?" IFAD Research Series Working Paper # 46. Rome: ISBN 978-92-9072-963-1.

Fox, Louise & Kaul, Upaasna, (2018). "The evidence is in : how should youth employment programs in low-income countries be designed?", Policy Research Working Paper Series 8500, The World Bank.

Fox, Louise (2017). "Africa's Inclusive Growth Challenge: Reducing Deprivation and Creating Jobs", ch. 3 in *Africa Reset: A New Way Forward*, Ahlers and Kohli, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fox, Louise & Romero, Carolina, (2017). "In the mind, the household, or the market? Concepts and measurement of women's economic empowerment," Policy Research Working Paper Series 8079, The World Bank.

Fox, Louise, Alun H. Thomas & Cleary Haines, (2017). "Structural Transformation in Employment and Productivity - What Can Africa Hope For?," IMF Departmental Papers / Policy Papers 17/02, International Monetary Fund.

Bridges, Sarah, Louise Fox, Alessio Gaggero, Trudy Owens, (2017). "Youth Unemployment and Earnings in Africa: Evidence from Tanzanian Retrospective Data," *Journal of African Economies*, Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), vol. 26(2), pages 119-139.

- Fox, Louise and Thomas Pave Sohnesen, (2016). "Household Enterprises and Poverty Reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa," *Development Policy Review*, Overseas Development Institute, vol. 34(2), pages 197-221, March.
- Fox, Louise (2016). "Gender, Economic Transformation and Women's Economic Empowerment in Tanzania". ODI Working Paper. <http://set.odi.org/gender-and-economic-transformation/> March.
- Fox, Louise, Lemma W. Senbet and Witness Simbanegavi (2016) "Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Challenges, Constraints, and Opportunities". *Journal of African Economies*, Vol 25 Supplement 1, March.
- Fox, Louise and Alun Thomas (2016). "A Diagnostic of Youth Employment Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa". *Journal of African Economies* Vol 25 Supplement 1, March
- Fox, Louise (2016). "Africa's inclusive growth challenge: Reducing deprivation and creating jobs," Papers Presented at Global Meetings of the Emerging Markets Forum 2016, Emerging Markets Forum.
- Fox, Louise (2015). "Will Women in Low Income Countries Get Lost in Transformation?" ODI Working Paper. <http://set.odi.org/gender-and-economic-transformation/> October.
- World Bank (2015). *The Spirit of Boldness: Lessons from the Adolescent Girls Initiative*. Washington DC: World Bank (lead author).
- Fox, Louise (2015). "Are African Households Heterogeneous Agents? Stylized Facts on Patterns of Consumption, Employment, Income and Earnings for Macroeconomic Modelers, IMF Working Paper Series 15/102.
- Fox, Louise, Alun Thomas, Cleary Haines, and Jorge Huerta Munoz (2013). "Africa's Got Work to Do: Employment Prospects in the New Century." IMF Working Paper 13-201, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC.
- Fox, Louise and Ana Maria Oveido (2013) "Institutions and Job Growth in African Manufacturing: Does Employment Protection Regulation Matter?" *Journal of African Economies* 2013 22: 616-650
- Fox, Louise and Obert Pimhidzai, (2013) "Different Dreams, Same Bed: Collecting, Using, and Interpreting Employment Statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa - The Case of Uganda." Policy Research Working Paper 6436. World Bank, Washington D.C.
- Fox, Louise, and Thomas Pave Sohnesen. (2013). "Household enterprises in Mozambique : key to poverty reduction but not on the development agenda ?" Policy Research Working Paper No. 6570. World Bank, Washington, DC.
- Fox, Louise and Thomas Sohnesen, (2012). "Household Enterprise in Sub-Saharan Africa, - Why they matter for growth, jobs and livelihoods." Policy Research Working Paper no. 6184, Washington D.C.: World Bank.
- Fox, Louise and Obert Pimhidzai.(2011) "Is Informality Welfare-Enhancing Structural Transformation? Evidence from Uganda". World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 5866.
- Kweka, Josaphat, and Louise Fox. (2011). "The Household Enterprise Sector in Tanzania: Why It Matters and Who Cares?" Policy Working Paper No. 5882. World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- Fox, Louise and Ana Maria Oveido (2008). "Institutions and Labor Market Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa", Policy Research Working Paper 4721. The World Bank, Washington D.C.

Fox, Louise and Ana Maria Oveido (2008) "Are Skills Rewarded in Sub-Saharan Africa? Determinants of Wages and Productivity in the Manufacturing Sector." Policy Research Working Paper 4688, The World Bank, Washington D.C.

Fox, Louise, Rui Benfica and Melissa Sekkel (2008). "Halving the Poverty Rate by 2015" in *Post-Stabilization Economics in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from Mozambique* edited by Jean A. P. Clement and Shanaka Jayanath Pereis, Washington DC: International Monetary Fund.

*Job Creation in Mozambique: Is Labor Law Reform the Answer?* (2006) Poverty and Social Impact Analysis prepared by a Team from DNEAP/Ministry of Planning and Development/Mozambique (Channing Arndt, Fausto Mafambissa, and Sheila Samuel) and PREM/World Bank (Louise Fox, Jorge Abache, Rui Benfica, and Melissa Sekkel), November 2006. (team leader for project)

Mukandala, Rwekaza, Louise Fox and Robert Liebenthal. (2006). "The Political Economy of Pro-Poor Policies in Africa: lessons from the Shanghai conference Case Studies" in Fox, Louise and Robert Liebenthal, (eds.) (2006) *Attacking Africa's Poverty: Experience from the ground*. Washington D.C.: World Bank.

Fox, Louise, (2002). "Safety Nets in Transition Economies: A Primer Paper" World Bank, Social Protection Primer series # 036, available on [www.worldbank.org/safety\\_nets](http://www.worldbank.org/safety_nets).

Fox Louise, and Yaohui Zhao, (2002). "Workers in a Globalizing China: Outcomes and Issues." Processed; input to World Bank study on China's entry in WTO.

Fox, Louise and Ragnar Gotestam, (2002). "Redirecting Resources to Community-Based Services – A Concept Paper" Social Protection Discussion paper #311, available on [www.worldbank.org/safety\\_nets](http://www.worldbank.org/safety_nets).

Fox, Louise and Edward Palmer, (2001). "Pension Reform in Europe in the 90's and Lessons for Latin America" ECLA Working Paper, Santiago, Chile.

Fox, Louise and Edward Palmer, (2001). "New Approaches to Multi-Pillar Pension Systems: What in the World is Going On?", in Holzman, Stiglitz, Fox, James, and Orzag, (eds) *New Ideas About Old Age Security*, The World Bank Washington, D.C.

Fox, Louise and Edward Palmer, (1999) "Latvia Pension Reform", Social Protection Discussion Paper, Human Development Network, Washington, D.C.

Fox, Louise and Paulette Castel, (1999) "Gender Issues in Pension Reform in the Former Soviet Union", World Bank Policy Research Working Paper.

Fox, Louise (1997) "Pension Reform in Post-Communist Transition Economies", in Joan Nelson, Charles Tilly, and Lee Walker, (editors), *Transforming Post-Communist Political Economies*, Washington D.C. National Academy Press..

Barros, Ricardo, Louise Fox and Rosane Mendonca. (1997). "Female-Headed Households, Poverty, and the Welfare of Children in Urban Brazil." *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Vol. 45, No. 2, pp 231-257.

Fox, Louise. (1995). "Can Eastern Europe's Old-Age Crisis be Fixed?" *Finance & Development*, vol. 32, no. (December) 4, pp. 34-37.

Fox, Louise. (1995). "Social Insurance and Social Assistance." In Zeljko Bogetic and Arye L. Hillman, eds., *Financing Government in the Transition: Bulgaria*, pp. 203-223. World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Fox, Louise. (1994). "Old-Age Security in Transitional Economies." Policy Research Working Paper 1257 (February). World Bank, Policy Research Department, Washington, D.C.

Bogetic, Zeljko and Louise Fox. (1993). Incomes Policy During Stabilization: A Review and Lessons from Bulgaria and Romania. *Comparative Economic Studies* vol. XXXV, No.1. (Spring)

Fox, Louise and Samuel A. Morley. (1993). "Poverty and Adjustment in Brazil." In Michael Lipton and Jacques Van Der Gaag, eds., *Including the Poor*, pp. 463-486. World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Fox, Louise and Samuel A. Morley. (1991). Who Paid the Bill? Adjustment and Poverty in Brazil, 1980-95. World Bank Staff Working Paper 648 (April). Washington, D.C.

Fox, Louise. (1990). Poverty Alleviation in Brazil 1970-87. World Bank Internal Discussion Paper 072 (July). Washington, D.C.

Birdsall, Nancy and Louise Fox. (1985). "Why Males Earn More: Location and Training of Brazilian Schoolteachers", *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, vol. 33, no. 3, (April) pp. 533-556.

Fox, Louise. (1983). Income Distribution in Post-1964 Brazil - New Results. *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 43, no. 1, (March) pp. 261-271.