

AISHA YUSUF

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Economics Department, Amherst College, Massachusetts
Visiting Assistant Professor

July 2022- June 2023

EDUCATION

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
Ph.D. Economics

May 2022

University of Texas at San Antonio
M.A Economics
GPA: 3.84/4.00

May 2016

American University of Nigeria, Yola
B.A Economics
Magna Cum Laude Honors

December 2012

RESEARH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics and Political Economy

RESEARCH PAPERS

“Female Genital Mutilation: Laws and Attitudes” (Job Market Paper, [click here](#))

In 2016, the Guinean government introduced a law that explicitly banned Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the country. This chapter examines the short-term effects of the FGM ban on attitudes towards ending the practice. I use IPUMS-DHS data for women belonging to the Malinke and Peulh ethnic groups in both Guinea and Mali, pre and post-intervention, to examine the impact of the FGM law ban. I employ a difference-in-difference approach that is made possible because of the artificial drawing of the African borders, which partitioned ethnic groups with identical beliefs and customs across countries. My result shows that the FGM law was associated with a 5.4 percentage point increase in attitudes that favored ending FGM. This negative attitude towards FGM was present regardless of whether the woman belonged to the Malinke or Peulh ethnic group.

“Ancestral Characteristics and Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in Africa” ([click here](#))

How do ancestral ethnic practices and experiences influence the rate of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) over time? Can the high and low trends of FGM be linked to pre-industrial characteristics associated with ethnic groups? Motivated by a large amount of literature that suggests that past events affect gender norms, I explore how deeply-entrenched ethnic norms determine FGM today. Using both ethnographic and contemporary survey data for over 130,000 women across 9 African countries, I find evidence that (i) there is a positive correlation between ethnic identity and FGM; (ii) FGM rates among women whose ancestors relied on pastoralism and plow agriculture has declined across birth cohorts;

(iii) FGM rates are rising among women from ethnic societies with historically loose kinship structures and norms regarding premarital sexual behavior.

“Review of Female Genital Mutilation” ([click here](#))

Gender inequality remains a global issue in developing countries. Recognizing why gender-biased norms emerge and persist across generations is crucial for closing gender gaps. This paper examines the norm of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to understand why it exists in some societies and not others. Using insights from Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, and Evolutionary Psychology, I study the historical background, persistence, and the enforcements of FGM norms. The paper highlights the role of the environment, social punishments, and kinship structures in establishing FGM traditions across cultures.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Armed Conflict and Education: Evidence from Banditry in Northwestern Nigeria”

“Women’s Property Rights, Caste and Education in India”

“Conflict and Birth Outcomes” with Adebanke Adebayo

“Public Distrust in Government and Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy”

PRESENTATION AND MEDIA

PRESENTATIONS

- Western Economic Association International -WEAI (upcoming - July 2023)
- African Econometric Society Conference (upcoming - June 2023)
- Amherst College (November 2022)
- Howard University (October 2022)
- Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre - BCEC (September 2022)
- Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference (April 2022)
- Applied Young Economist Webinar- AYEW (April 2022)
- Amherst College (March 2022)
- Allegheny College (March 2022)
- Sadie’s Collective’s Virtual Research and Networking Reception (November 2021)
- George Mason University (February 2021)

MEDIA

- Interview with The Amherst Student titled “Fresh Faculty: Aisha Yusuf” available [here](#)
- Journey of an International Student, Podcast Interview with Positive Philter available [here](#)
- Three Minute Thesis, George Mason University available on YouTube [here](#)

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

George Mason University Research Assistant for Prof. Thomas Stratmann	July 2018 - May 2022
University of Texas at San Antonio Research Assistant for Prof. Don Lien Research Assistant for Prof. John Merrifield	June 2015 - August 2015 August 2014 - May 2015
Investment Analyst National Pension Commission, Abuja, Nigeria National Youth Service Corps	February 2013 - February 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Amherst College Development Economics (ECON 262) Introduction to Economics (ECON 111)	Fall 2022 Fall 2022
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George Mason University Economic Problems and Public Policies (ECON 309) Teaching Evaluations : 4.6/5	Summer 2020
Economies of Developing Areas (ECON 360) Teaching Evaluations : 4.71/5	Summer 2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant

George Mason University Public Economics/Public Choice (ECON 695) Econometrics I (Econ 637)	Fall 2021 Spring 2021, Spring 2022
University of Texas at San Antonio Econometrics (ECON 3123) Mathematical Economics (ECON 6113) Mathematical Economics (ECON 3113)	Spring 2016 Fall 2015 Fall 2015

Graduate Tutor

George Mason University Contemporary Microeconomic Principles (ECON 103) Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles (ECON 104)	Fall 2017- Spring 2018 Fall 2017- Spring 2018
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AWARDS, HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Second Place, GMU Three-Minute Thesis Competition April 2022
2021 Sadie Collective Research Scholar
Ph.D Fellowship, Mercatus Center at George Mason University August 2018 - May 2022
Area 21 Director, Division B, District 29, Toastmasters International June 2020 - June 2021
GTA Fellow, Department of Economics, George Mason University August 2017 - May 2018
Graduate Assistant, Department of Economics, UTSA August 2014 - May 2016
Second Place, 2019 Area 21, D29, Evaluation Contest, Toastmasters International
Second Place, 2019 Area 21, D29, International Speech Contest, Toastmasters International
First Place, 2016 Area F14, D55, International Speech Contest, Toastmasters International

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Stata, SPSS, EViews, Tableau, L^AT_EX

REFEREE SERVICES

European Journal of Political Economy (EJPE)
Journal of Mason Graduate Research (JMGR)

REFERENCES

Tyler Cowen
Professor of Economics
George Mason University
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Thomas Stratmann
Professor of Economics
George Mason University
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Elizabeth Asiedu
Professor of Economics
Howard University
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Daniel Barbezat (Teaching)
Professor of Economics
Amherst College
dpbarbezat@amherst.edu