

# AISHA YUSUF

George Mason University, Department of Economics, 4400 University Drive 3G4, Fairfax, VA 22030  
210-240-5562 ◊ [ayusuf3@gmu.edu](mailto:ayusuf3@gmu.edu) ◊ [www.aisha-yusuf.com](http://www.aisha-yusuf.com)

## EDUCATION

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**George Mason University, Fairfax, VA**  
Ph.D candidate in Economics

Expected graduation date: 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

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Primary Field: Applied Microeconomics, Institutional Analysis  
Secondary Field: Political Economy, Economic History

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Lecturer, George Mason University**

Economic Problems and Public Policies (ECON 309)  
[Teaching Evaluations](#): 4.6/5

June 2020 - August 2020

Economies of Developing Areas (ECON 360)  
[Teaching Evaluations](#): 4.71/5

May 2019 - June 2019

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, George Mason University**

Public Economics/Public Choice (ECON 695)  
Econometrics I (Econ 637)

August 2021- October 2021  
January 2021 - May 2021

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at San Antonio**

Econometrics (ECON 3123)  
Mathematical Economics (ECON 6113)  
Mathematical Economics (ECON 3113)

January 2016 - May 2016  
August 2015 - December 2015  
August 2015 - December 2015

## EMPLOYMENT AND RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Research Assistant to Dr. Thomas Stratmann  
George Mason University

July 2018 - Present

Research Assistant to Dr. Don Lien  
University of Texas at San Antonio

June 2015 - August 2015

Research Assistant to Dr. John Merrifield  
University of Texas at San Antonio

August 2014 - May 2015

Investment Analyst  
National Pension Commission, Abuja, Nigeria  
National Youth Service Corps

February 2013 - February 2014

## AWARDS, HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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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
2nd Place, 2019 Area 21, D29, Evaluation Contest, Toastmasters International	
2nd Place, 2019 Area 21, D29, International Speech Contest, Toastmasters International	
1st Place, 2016 Area F14, D55, International Speech Contest, Toastmasters International	

## RESEARCH PAPERS

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“Ethnic Identity and Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in Africa” ([Job Market Paper](#))

How do traditional ethnic practices and experiences affect 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 number of literature that shows that past events and experiences can affect gender norms, I examine how deeply-entrenched ethnic norms affect the rates of FGM today. Using both ethnographic and contemporary survey data for over 125,000 women across 9 African countries, I find that the rate of FGM has been declining among women from historically polygynous societies. In contrast, women ancestors who lived in environments that practiced plow agriculture have high cutting rates today.

“Review of Female Genital Mutilation”

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.

## RESEARCH PAPERS IN PROGRESS

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

We examine the effect of a reform that improves women’s inheritance rights on educational outcomes across various caste groups in India. Using the 2004-2005 wave of Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) data, we find that the Hindu Succession Act (HSA) reform led to an increase in educational

attainment among women from the brahmin, high caste and low caste groups. Moreover, the inter-generational effect of the reform shows that educational outcome increased for children belonging to the brahmin caste group. However, kids from the low caste and high caste experienced a decline in educational attainment and this is mainly attributed to a fall in boys' years of schooling.

## PRESENTATION AND MEDIA

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Ethnic Identity and Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in Africa. 2021 Sadie's Collective's Virtual Research and Networking Reception

Journey of an International Student, Podcast Interview with Positive Philter available [here](#)

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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Stata, SPSS, EViews, Tableau, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## REFeree SERVICES

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

## REFeree SERVICES

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Professor Tyler Cowen  
George Mason University  
tcowen@gmu.edu

Professor Thomas Stratmann  
George Mason University  
tstratma@gmu.edu

Professor Jonathan Schulz  
George Mason University  
jschulz4@gmu.edu

Professor Alice Evans  
King's College, London  
alice.evans@kcl.ac.uk