

Educational History

- Ph.D., August 2014, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University
Warren Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
Ph.D. fields: Development Economics, Nutrition Economics, Applied Econometrics
Dissertation: *Three Essays on the Economics of Early Childhood Development, Human Capital Formation and Psychosocial Well-Being in a Developing Country Context*
Advisor: David E. Sahn
- MS., August 2008, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University
Warren Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
MS. fields: Development Economics, Nutrition Economics
Thesis: *Nutrition and Dietary Diversity in East African Pastoralist Household: Mental Accounting, Market Failures and Intrahousehold Allocation*
Advisor: Christopher B. Barrett
- B.A., June 2002, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Ingraham Hall
Madison, WI 53706
B.A. fields: International Relations—Africa Area Studies

Employment History Part I

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131
August 2014 – present

Graduate Assistant, Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, Warren Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853, August 2007 – August 2014

Professional Recognition and Honors

- 2018 UNM Advance Women in STEM award for “The Intergenerational Health Impact of Early Life Climate Variability: Evidence from Indonesia.”
- 2012 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association’s Outstanding *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* Article of 2011-Honorable Mention for “Whose Fast and Whose Feast? Intrahousehold Asymmetries in Dietary Diversity Response Among East African Pastoralists.”

2012. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. Warren Award (First Place) for Whose Fast and Whose Feast? Intrahousehold Asymmetries in Dietary Diversity Response Among East African Pastoralists.”
2008. Cornell University. College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award (*can only be won once*).

Short Narrative Description of Research, Teaching and Service Interests

My research largely focuses on understanding determinants of human capital¹ as well as its importance to economic well-being in the context of economic development and poverty, with an emphasis on child poverty. In other words, in my research I hope to better understand the circumstances that allow individuals to develop the skills and characteristics necessary to flourish in resource poor settings. To this end, my research includes work examining the long-term effects of shocks during key transitional periods in human development—namely, early childhood and adolescence. My work also explores the relationship between climate variation and natural disasters and child and adolescent long-term well-being as well as how the influence of this relationship can cross generations.

My work has been presented and well received at professional meetings and conferences around the world. I have published in well-respected journals in development economics including *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and the *Journal of African Economies*. I also make explicit efforts to disseminate my research to policymakers and other stakeholders by participating in events and conferences designed to foster conversation and collaboration between academics and practitioners such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Early Childhood Symposium as well as the International Conference on Food Assistance.

My teaching program focuses on microeconomic theory with an emphasis on empirical application and international development. Since joining the department in August 2014, I have had five course preps including three undergraduate and two PhD courses. At the PhD level I have taught Sustainable Development, which I developed and taught for the first time here at UNM, and Econometric Theory I, a course which all first year PhD students are required to take. At the undergraduate level, I have enjoyed teaching Introductory Microeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics and Development Economics. In each of my classes, I aim to communicate to my students the broad scope of economic applications and to equip them with the quantitative tools of this discipline to pursue those applications with empirical rigor.

I also have a record of service to my profession, department and community. I have served as a peer reviewer for numerous well-respected journals. I have also acted as a discussant at numerous conferences and professional meetings. Within my department I have served on five committees: the seminar committee in which I help to bring and host speakers to the department; the econometrics committee, in which we organize the sequence of required PhD econometric courses as well as create and grade the econometrics core exam; the undergraduate committee; the graduate committee, an ad-hoc committee for a 3-2 degree program in the department of economics, in which we discussed the feasibility of offering such a program in the Department of Economics, and the graduate committee. In the graduate committee, we overhauled the Department's first-year PhD student with the aim of enhancing our graduate student's long-term success. Finally, I serve the community of Albuquerque through participating in an annual "Serve the City" event in which churches throughout the city partner to clean schools, serve homeless shelters, work at food banks, and numerous other service activities. I also do volunteer work for the Children, Youth, and Families Department.

¹ Human capital is comprised of the skills, knowledge and experience possessed by an individual that have economic value. It includes numerous individual traits such as health, education, cognitive ability, socio-emotional status, among others.

Scholarly Achievements

Articles Published in Refereed Journals

(* indicates UNM graduate student coauthor)

*Lui, Mengqi and **Kira Villa** (forthcoming) *Solution or Isolation: Is Boarding School a Good Solution for Left-behind Children in Rural China?* China Economic Review

Herrera, Catalina, David E. Sahn, and **Kira Villa**. (2019). *Teen Fertility and Female Employment Outcomes: Evidence from Madagascar*. Journal of African Economies. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/ejy024>
[Lead authorship shared]

*Bishwakarma, Rajan and **Kira Villa**. (2019) *First Come, First Served?: Birth Order Effects on Child Height in South Africa*. Journal of Demographic Economics. 85(1): 71—94.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/dem.2018.23>

*Whetton, Justin, **Kira Villa**, and Matias Fontenla. (2018). *Opportunities for Higher Education: The Ten-Year Effects of Conditional Cash Transfers on Upper-Secondary and Tertiary Enrollments*. Oxford Development Studies. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13600818.2018.1539472>

*Ali, Mohammad, **Kira Villa**, Janak Joshi. (2018). *Health and Hunger: Nutrient Response to Income Depending on Caloric Availability in Nepal*. Agricultural Economics. 49:611-621.

Villa, Kira. (2017) *Multidimensional Human Capital Formation in a Developing Country: Health, Cognition, and Locus of Control in the Philippines*. Journal of Economics & Human Biology. 27(A): 184-197.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X16302386>

*Bucheli, Jose, Alok Bohara, and **Kira Villa**. (2017) *Paths to Development? Rural Roads and Multidimensional Poverty in the Hills and Plains of Nepal*. The Journal of International Development, doi: [10.1002/jid.3327](https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3327).

Villa, Kira M., Christopher B. Barrett, and David R. Just, (2011) "[Whose Fast and Whose Feast? Intra-household Asymmetries in Dietary Diversity Response among East African Pastoralists.](#)" *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 93 (4): 1062-1081. doi: 10.1093/ajae/aar038 First published online: August 8, 2011.

Villa, Kira M., Christopher B. Barrett, and David R. Just (2010) "[Differential Nutritional Responses across Various Income Sources Among East African Pastoralists: Intra-household Effects, Missing Markets and Mental Accounting.](#)" *Journal of African Economies*, 29(2): 341—275. doi: 10.1093/jae/ejq038.

Articles Appearing in Chapters in Edited Volumes

Villa, Kira, and Cynthia Mathys. 2012. Quality and safety of food assistance. In *Uniting on food assistance: the case for transatlantic cooperation*, edited by C. B. Barrett, A. Binder and J. Steets. London; New York: Routledge.

Barrett, Christopher B., Andrea Binder, Alex Guas, Erin C. Lentz, Cynthia Mathys, Julia Steets, Joanna B. Upton, and **Kira Villa**. 2012. Moving food assistance forward. In *Uniting on food assistance: the case for transatlantic cooperation*, edited by C. B. Barrett, A. Binder and J. Steets. London; New York: Routledge.

[Lead authorship shared]

Other Scholarly Works

Reports:

Catalina Herrera Almanza, Fred Aubery, Francesca Marchetta, Aurore Pelissier, Harivelo Rajemison, Faly Rakotomanana, David Sahn, and **Kira Villa**. (2014) “Madagascar Young Adults Transitions Survey: Preliminary Descriptive Results.” Centre D’Etudes et de Recherches sur le Developement International. Serie Etudes et Documents du CERDI. No. 23.

[Lead authorship shared]

Policy Briefs:

Robert P Berrens, Melissa Binder, **Kira M. Villa**. “Catalyst for a Great Transition? Increased Investments in Early Childhood Education in New Mexico.” White Paper, Department of Economics, University of New Mexico. January, 2019.

<https://econ.unm.edu/common/documents/catalyst-for-a-great-transition.pdf>

[Lead authorship shared]

Christopher B. Barrett, Erin C. Lentz, Cynthia Mathys, Joanna B. Upton and **Kira M. Villa**, “Misconceptions about Food Assistance,” Cornell/Global Public Policy Institute policy brief no. 2, June 2011.

[Lead authorship shared]

Christopher B. Barrett, Andrea Binder, Alexander Gaus, Erin C. Lentz, Cynthia Mathys, Julia Steets, Joanna Upton and **Kira Villa**, “Uniting on Food Assistance: Action Paper,” Cornell/Global Public Policy Institute, June 2011.

[Lead authorship shared]

Works in Progress

Submitted for Publication

Bevis, Leah and **Kira Villa**. (2019) *Intergenerational Transmission of Maternal Health: Evidence from Cebu, the Philippines*.
Journal of Human Resources. *Revise and Resubmit Requested; Resubmitted February 2020*
[Lead authorship shared]

*Liu, Mengqi and **Kira Villa**. (2019) *Solution or Isolation: Is Boarding School a Good Solution for Left behind Children in Rural China?*
China Economic Review. 2nd *Revise and Resubmit Requested* **Accepted for publication and so is moved up to publications and marked as forthcoming**

Agüero, Jorge, Catalina Herrera, and **Kira Villa**. (2019) *Human Capital and the Intergenerational Transmission of Domestic Violence in a Developing Country Setting*.
World Development, *Under Review*
[Lead authorship shared]

*Lu, Na and **Kira Villa**. (2019) *Agricultural Subsidies and Contaminated Spillovers: The Health Effects of Agricultural Water Pollution in China*.
Applied Economics and Perspectives *Invited for Review to appear as a Featured article*

In Preparation

Sahn, David E. and **Kira Villa**. *Labor Outcomes during the Transition from Adolescence to Adulthood: the Role of Personality, Cognition, and Shocks in Madagascar*. IZA discussion paper No. 10359.
[Lead authorship shared]

*Ali, Mohammad and **Kira Villa**. *Are Healthy Kids All Work and No Study: Unpacking the Effect of Current Health on Time Allocation and Cognitive Production in Ethiopia*.

*Ali, Mohammad and **Kira Villa**. *Early or Bust? Persistence and Catch-Up in Cognition Scores for Ethiopian Children during Childhood and Adolescence?*

* Whetton, Justin, Matias Fontenla, **Kira Villa**, and Brandon Bridge. (2019) *Water & Sanitation Effects on Income, Health, and Education: A Synthetic Control Analysis*

*Whetton, Justin, Matias Fontenla, and **Kira Villa**, and Brandon Bridge. (2018) *Effects of Water Poverty on Household Welfare*.

Invited or Refereed Abstracts and/or Presentations at Professional Meetings

Intergenerational Transmission of Maternal Health: Evidence from Cebu, the Philippines.
Scottish Development Workshop. May 24, 2019.

Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital: Health, Cognition and Typhoons in the Philippines; Centre for the Study of African Economics (CSAE) Conference; Oxford, England; (March 2018)

Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital: Health, Cognition and Typhoons in the Philippines; Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference; Boston, MA; (November 2017)

Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital: Health, Cognition and Typhoons in the Philippines; Annual Meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association; Chicago, IL; (July 2017)

Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital: Health, Cognition and Typhoons in the Philippines; Trade and Development Seminar, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota; Minneapolis, MN; (April 2017).

Early Fertility and Labor Market Segmentation: Evidence from Madagascar; Annual Conference on Population, Reproductive Health and Economic Development; Washington, D.C.; September 2016.

Early Fertility and Labor Market Segmentation: Evidence from Madagascar; Conference on Adolescence, Youth and Gender: Building Knowledge for Change; Oxford, England. September, 2016.

Early Fertility and Labor Market Segmentation: Evidence from Madagascar; Annual Meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association; Boston, MA; July 2016.

Early Fertility and Labor Market Segmentation: Evidence from Madagascar; United Nations University-Wider Development Conference on Human Capital and Growth; Helsinki, Finland; June 2016.

Early Fertility and Labor Market Segmentation: Evidence from Madagascar; Midwest International Economic Development Conference; Minneapolis, MN; May 2016.

Young Mothers are Working but are They Getting Paid? Evidence on Female Labor Outcomes in Madagascar; Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America; Washington, D.C.; March 2016.

The Role of Personality, Cognition, and Shocks in Determining Labor Outcomes of Young Adults in Madagascar; Annual Meeting the American Agricultural Economics Association; San Francisco, CA. July 2015.

The Role of Personality, Cognition, and Shocks in Determining School Attainment and Age of Entry into the Labor Market; Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America; San Diego, CA; April 2015.

Panel: Early Child Development and Health: Connecting Research to Policy; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Early Childhood Symposium; Albuquerque, NM; April 2015.

Child Development and the Joint Production of Health, Cognition, and Noncognitive Ability for Children in the Philippines; Conference on Economics of Global Poverty; Boston, MA; January, 2015

Child Development and the Joint Production of Health, Cognition, and Noncognitive Ability for Children in the Philippines; Development Seminar. Cornell Economics Department; Ithaca, NY; October, 2013.

Child Development and the Joint Production of Health, Cognition, and Noncognitive Ability for Children in the Philippines; Conference on Inequalities in Children's Outcomes in Developing Countries; Oxford, England; July, 2013.

Food Quality and Food Assistance; International Conference on Food Assistance; Washington, D.C.; May, 2010.

Organized Track Session (Refereed) at Professional Meeting

Using Climate Shocks to Estimate Early Human Capital Formation in Development Countries. Econometrics Track Section at Annual Meeting the American Agricultural Economics Association; Chicago, IL; (July 2017).

Contributed (un-refereed) Abstracts and/or Oral Presentations at Professional Meetings

Long-term Impacts of Childhood Poverty. UNM Grand Challenges Conversation: Poverty & Economic Health. November 29, 2018.

Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital: Health, Cognition and Typhoons in the Philippines; Department of Economics Seminar, University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, NM; October 2017.

Early Fertility and Labor Market Segmentation: Evidence from Madagascar; Department of Economics Seminar; University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, NM; October 2016.

The Role of Personality, Cognition, and Shocks in Determining Labor Outcomes of Young Adults in Madagascar; Department of Economics Seminar, University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, NM; September 2015.

Early Childhood, Human Capital Formation and Multidimensional Child Development; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Symposium on Early Childhood; Albuquerque, NM; January 2015.

Whose Fast and Whose Feast? Intrahousehold Asymmetries in Dietary Diversity Response among East African Pastoralist; Graduate Student Seminar. Cornell Dyson School of Applied Economics; Ithaca, NY; Spring 2011.

Research

Research Funding

Human Capital Inequality and Mobility in Madagascar, David Sahn PI
Center for the Study of Inequality

Investigator

\$74,885.25

June 2019—September 2020

***For this grant, I helped write the grant and design the survey. Data collection started in Fall 2019 and is ongoing. Data collection will complete in Spring 2020 and I will then have a role in cleaning and analyzing the data and producing papers for it.*

***Money for this grant went through Cornell University (no money came through UNM) and was used entirely for data collection*

The intergenerational health impact of early life climate variability and its implications for child recovery from natural disasters: Evidence from Indonesia
UNM Research Allocations Committee (RAC)

Principle Investigator

\$7433.60

August 2018—May 2019

***This was an internal UNM grant.*

The intergenerational health impact of early life climate variability and its implications for child recovery from natural disasters: Evidence from Indonesia
Women in Stem (WIS) Faculty Development Fund Research Seed Award

Principle Investigator

\$10,000.00

August 2018—May 2019

***This was an internal UNM grant.*

Pending Research Funding

CAREER: Environment, Climate, Natural Disasters, and Human Development:
The Long-Term and Intergenerational Effects of Shocks during Childhood and
Adolescence.

Principle Investigator

NSF CAREER Grant

\$445,027

January 2020—January 2025

Awaiting Decision

***If awarded this grant will come to UNM*

Grants Submitted (Unfunded)

Human Capital, Family Dynamics, and Health and Labor Market Outcomes:
Collection and Analysis of Panel Data in Madagascar
IZA Institute of Labor Economics, Growth and Labor Markets in Low Income
Countries Programme (GLM LIC).

Investigator

€ 299,266.00

April 2018—December, 2020

Submitted, October 15, 2018

Parental Death, Human Capital Formation, and Missing Children in a Developing Country
Context

Kira Villa

University of New Mexico Women in STEM (WIS) Faculty Development Fund

August 2016 – August 2017; \$10,000

Research Fellowship

Jacobs Foundation

150,000 CHF (\$148,967.65)

2019-2021

Submitted March 2018.

Teaching

Doctoral Advisement

Chair

Chair, Mohammad Ali; defense October 25, 2019; *Essays on Nutrition and Cognitive Production in Developing Countries: Evidence from Ethiopia and Nepal*, expected August 2019

Co-Chair (with Janie Chermak), Na Lu; defense November 6, 2019; *Essays on Agricultural Water Pollution and Human Health*

Co-Chair (with Alok Bohara), Mengqi Liu; expected December 2020; *Stronger Transition: Coping Strategies with Natural Disasters and Health-economic Investments for Adolescents in Developing Countries*

Co-Chair (with Janie Chermak), Jake Organ; expected Summer 2020; *Chad: Climate Injustice, a Neo-Malthusian Narrative and Demographic Adaptation to Changing Weather*

Chair, Eva Nurwita; expected Summer 2021; *Intergenerational Transmissions of Human Capital and Natural Disasters in Indonesia*

Minor Committee Member

Member, Michael Benjamin Goodwin

Member, Rajan Bishwakarma

Member, Mohammad Adnan Shahid

Member, Rajan Bishwakarma;

Member, Jose Bucheli; defense March 29, 2019; *Migration, Return Migration, and Economic Development in Latin America*

Member, Soumi Roy Chowdury; defense April 6, 2018; *An Analysis of Socio-Economic Consequences of Cancer in Nepal*

Member, Justin Whetten; defense June 25, 2018; *Weather and Healthcare Access to Disparities: Impacts on Health, Wealth and Education.*

Economics Field Paper Committee

Chair

Chair, Khusiman Pun, expected May 2020

Chair, Kritika Sen, expected Fall 2020

Chair, Eva Nurwita, expected April 2020

Chair, Jake Organ, defense February 27, 2019; *Climate Change, Fertility, and Sahelian Demographics*

Chair, Mohammad Ali; April 2016; *Health and Hunger: Nutrient Response to Income Depending on Caloric Availability in Nepal*

Chair, Justin Whetten; February 2017; *Opportunities for Higher Education: The Ten-Year Effects of Conditional Cash Transfers on Upper-Secondary and Tertiary Enrollments*

Chair, Mengqi Liu, December 12, 2018; *Solution or Isolation: Is Boarding School a Good Solution for Left-behind Children in Rural China?*

Minor Committee Member

- Member, Kevin Estes, May 2, 2019; *What are the effects of playing in sports championship games on high school academic performance?*
- Member, Michael (Ben) Goodwin; February 7, 2019; *Pollution and the choice of where to work and live within Mexico City.*
- Member, Mohammad Adnan Shahid; April 2018; *Does Microfinance Increase Food Insecurity? Evidence from Nepal*
- Member, Jamal Mamkhezri; January 30, 2017; *Air Pollution and Daily Count of Death in Mexico City*
- Member, Veeshan Rayamajhee; December 14, 2016; *Do voluntary associations reduce hunger? An empirical exploration of the social capital-food security nexus among food impoverished households in western Nepal*
- Member, Rajan Bishwakarma; November 16, 2016; *First come, first served? Birth order effects on health status*
- Member, Jose Bucheli, October 1, 2015; *The Impact of a Rural Road Development Project on Poverty in Nepal*
- Member Soumi Roy Chowdury, October 2015; *Balance of Power Domestic Violence and Health Outcomes: Evidence from Demographic and Health Survey of Nepal*
- Member, Guido Doque, expected December 2017

Masters Advisement

- Chair, James Kaminsky, December 2019; *Labor Market Implications on the Uptake of Earned Income Tax Credit in New Mexico post Great Recession: 2008-2015*
- Chair, Fatemeh Shahandeh. July 2018; *Effects of Exposure to Violence on Health in Iraq between 2006-2007*
- Chair, Tej Guatem; July 2015; *Differential Returns to Education across Cognitive Ability Levels: Evidence from Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey Data*

Undergraduate Student Mentoring

Jacob Moya; expected May 2020; Robert McNair Scholar Faculty Advisor

Classroom Teaching

<u>Year</u>	<u>Semester</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Course ID</u>	<u>Students</u>
2020	Spring	Introductory Microeconomics	ECON 2120	85
2020	Spring	Econometric Theory I	ECON 585	9
2019	Fall	Introductory Microeconomics	ECON 2120	74
2019	Fall	Development Economics	ECON 321	30
2019	Spring	Introductory Microeconomics	ECON 106	111
2019	Spring	Econometric Theory I	ECON 509	12

2018	Fall	Sustainable Development	ECON 585	13
2018	Fall	Introductory Microeconomics	ECON 106	94
2018	Spring	Intermediate Microeconomics	ECON 300	41
2018	Spring	Econometric Theory I	ECON 509	9
2017	Spring	Intermediate Microeconomics	ECON 300	18
2017	Spring	Econometric Theory I	ECON 509	9
2016	Fall	Development Economics	ECON 321	27
2016	Fall	Sustainable Development	ECON 585	13
2016	Spring	Intermediate Microeconomics	ECON 300	22
2016	Spring	Econometric Theory I	ECON 509	14
2015	Fall	Intermediate Microeconomics	ECON 300	20
2015	Fall	Development Economics	ECON 321	13
2015	Spring	Intermediate Microeconomics	ECON 300	20
2015	Spring	Econometric Theory I	ECON 509	10
2014	Fall	Intermediate Microeconomics	ECON 300	10
2014	Fall	Sustainable Development	ECON 585	14

Service

Editing for Journals

Associate editor, *Faith & Economics*

Reviewing for Journals

American Journal of Agricultural Economics; 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019

Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy; 2017

Demography, 2019

Economics & Human Biology 2019

Food Policy; 2012, 2018, 2019

Journal of Demographic Economics; 2017, 2018

Oxford Development Studies; 2016

PLOS ONE; 2016

World Development; 2017, 2019

Reviewing Grant National Science Foundation (NSF)

NSF grant proposal; 2018

NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant Proposal; 2018

University Service

Faculty Adviser, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

Spring 2018—Current

Global Health Research Group,

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy

Summer 2016 – Spring 2017

Departmental Service

Research Excellence Committee

Fall 2019—Current

Econometrics Core Committee, Dept. of Economics

Fall 2014 – Current

Graduate Committee

Fall 2018—Current

Undergraduate Committee

Fall 2017—Spring 2018

Seminar Committee, Dept. of Economics

Fall 2014 – Spring 2017

Ad Hoc Committee on 3-2 Degree Program, Dept. of Economics

Fall 2016 – Spring 2016

Community Service

Steelbridge; Programs for the Homeless

Winter 2018 –Current

Serve the City

Spring 2015 – Current

Volunteer support to New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Dept.

Spring 2016 – Current