

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

Associate Professor of Economics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131
August 2020 – present

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131
August 2014 – August 2020

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*).

Scholarly Achievements

Articles Published in Refereed Journals

(* indicates UNM graduate student coauthor)

- *Ali, Mohammad and **Kira Villa** (2023) *Persistence and Catch-up in Mathematics Skills in Ethiopia: Evidence from Childhood and Adolescence*. Journal of African Development. 24(2): 228-252.
<https://doi.org/10.5325/jafrideve.24.2.0228>
- Bevis, Leah and **Kira Villa**. (2022) *Intergenerational Transmission of Maternal Health: Evidence from Cebu, the Philippines*. Journal of Human Resources. 57(5): 1425-1465.
- *Pun, Khusiman, Matias Fontenla, and **Kira Villa**. (2022) *The impact of Nepal's earthquake on the health status of rural children*. Review of Development Economics. 27(2): 710-734.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.12957>
- *Ali, Mohammad and **Kira Villa** (2022) *We are how much we eat: Nutrient-specific versus calorie-based adult-equivalent scales*. Agricultural and Food Sciences Research. 7(1):1-30.
- Agüero, Jorge, Catalina Herrera, and **Kira Villa**. (2022) *Do human capital investments mediate the intergenerational transmission of domestic violence?* SSM-Population Health. 17: 100985.
- *Organ, Jake, David S. Dixon, and **Kira M. Villa** (2022) *Climate Change, Fertility, and Sahelian Demographics*. Journal of Sustainable Development 16(1):1.
- *Lu, Na and **Kira Villa** (2021) *Agricultural support and contaminated spillovers: The effects of agricultural water pollution on adult health in China*, Applied Economics Perspectives and Policy. *Featured Article*. DOI: 10.1002/aep.13195
- *Lui, Mengqi and **Kira Villa** (2020) *Solution or Isolation: Is Boarding School a Good Solution for Left-behind Children in Rural China?* China Economic Review. 61 (101456)
- Herrera, Catalina, David E. Sahn, and **Kira Villa**. (2019). *Teen Fertility and Female Employment Outcomes: Evidence from Madagascar*. Journal of African Economies. 28(3): 277—303. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/ejy024>
- *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. 47(2): 222—237.
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*. *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*. 30(3):430—456. 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

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 Développement International. Serie Etudes et Documents du CERDI. No. 23.

[Lead authorship shared]

Policy Briefs:

Villa, Kira and Karmakar, Abhradeep New Mexico Prekindergarten and its Medium-Term Association with County-Level Math and Reading Proficiency Levels. August 2023

Abhradeep Karmakar, Kritika Sen, and **Kira Villa** “New Mexico Prekindergarten and its Short-Term Effects on County-Level Female Employment and Child Maltreatment” White Paper, Department of Economics, University of New Mexico. August 2022.

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

Sen, Kritika and **Kira Villa**. Teen parent trap? The education and labor implications of motherhood and fatherhood during the transition from adolescence to adulthood in Cebu, the Philippines.

In Preparation

Bevis, Leah and **Kira Villa**. *An instrumental adaptation of Sequential G-estimation.*

Karmakar, Abhradeep and **Kira Villa**. Going to school at better schools can improve children’s health: The health benefits of the 2009 Right to Education Act in India. *Preparing for resubmission.*

Karmakar, Abhradeep and **Kira Villa**. *Right to education and children’s human capital: Experimental evidence from Andhra Pradesh, India.*

Karmakar, Abhradeep and **Kira Villa**. *Child Cognitive Benefits of Clean India’s Mission Sanitation Program.*

Sen, Kritika and **Kira Villa**. *Cash Transfers and adolescent nutrition outcomes: Evidence from the Child Support Grant in South Africa*.

Sen, Kritika and **Kira Villa**. *Rainfall, human capital, and labor market outcomes: Evidence from Rural South Africa*.

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]

*Liu, Mengqi and **Kira Villa**. Long-term Impacts of Exposure to Natural Disasters during Childhood and Adolescence: Evidence from Indonesia.

*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*.

Invited or Refereed Abstracts and/or Presentations at Professional Meetings

New Mexico Prekindergarten and its Medium-Term Association with County-Level Math and Reading Proficiency Levels. UNM Econ Days, UNM Economics Department. August 2023

An instrumental adaptation of Sequential G-estimation.” Annual meeting of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association. August 3, 2021

An instrumental adaptation of Sequential G-estimation.” Development Seminar at the University of San Francisco. November 18, 2021

Intergenerational Transmission of Maternal Health: Evidence from Cebu, the Philippines. Annual Meeting of the American Economics Association. January 4, 2020

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

Microeconomic Studies in Development

American Economics Association Annual Meetings, Hosted by the Association for Christian Economists; New Orleans, LA; January 2022.

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

County-level Benefits of New Mexico State Prekindergarten Support: UNM Prevention Resource Center (PRC) Conference Series. December 2023.

County-level Benefits of New Mexico State Prekindergarten Support: UNM Grand Challenges Research & Discovery Week. November 2023.

Measuring characteristics that are hard to measure: an application to personality in Madagascar: Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies (CEIDS) Annual Workshop, June 2023.

An instrumental adaptation of Sequential G-estimation. Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies (CEIDS) Brown Bag, January 2022.

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.*

Early childhood interventions in New Mexico: Short- and Medium-Term Outcomes.

New Mexico State Legislature

Co-Principle Investigator

\$35,552

August 2021—August 2022

Early childhood programs in New Mexico: Data building and impact analysis
New Mexico State Legislature

Principle Investigator
\$40,597
August 2022—August 2023

Teaching

PhD Advisee Placements

Abhradeep Karmakar (PhD, 2023), Visiting Assistant Professor, St. Lawrence College
Kritika Sen (PhD, 2023), Visiting Assistant Professor, Colgate University
Khusiman Pun (PhD, 2023), Visiting Assistant Professor, Whitman College
Mengqi “Mandy” Liu (PhD, 2021), Assistant Professor, Gordon College
Jake Organ (PhD, 2020), Assistant Professor, University of Memphis
Mohammad Ali (OhD, 2019), Assistant Professor, Centenary College
Na Lu (PhD, 2019), Presbyterian Hospital

Doctoral Advisement

Chair, Stephen Owusu, expected Spring 2025
Chair, Eva Nurwita (on leave of absence)
Co-Chair, Md Atiqur Rahman (on leave of absence)

Chair, Abhradeep Karmakar; defended June 2023; Essays on the Child Health and Education Benefits of Government Programs
Chair, Khusiman Pun; defended June 2023; Three Essays on the Economics of Children’s Health and Education in Nepal
Chair, Kritika Sen; defended May 2023; Essays on Human Capital, Labor, and Gender
Co-Chair, Mengqi Liu; defended June 2021; Stronger Transition: Coping Strategies with Natural Disasters and Health-economic Investments for Adolescents in Developing Countries
Co-Chair, Na Lu; defense November 6, 2019; Essays on Agricultural Water Pollution and Human Health
Chair, Jake Organ; defended August 10, 2020; Chad: Climate Injustice, a Neo-Malthusian Narrative and Demographic Adaptation to Changing Weather.
Chair, Mohommad Ali; defense October 25, 2019; Essays on Nutrition and Cognitive Production in Developing Countries: Evidence from Ethiopia and Nepal, expected August 2019

Economics Field Paper Committee

Chair, Stephen Owusu, presented October 2022; *Remittance effects on Education Outcomes are Gender Biased in South Africa: Inverse Probability Weighted Regression Adjustment Approach.*
Chair, Abhradeep Karmakar, presented April 2021; Health benefits of the Right to Education Act (2009) in India
Chair, Eva Nurwita, presented December 2021; *When Sated is not Enough: How Rice Price affects Children Nutritional Status in Indonesia*

Chair, Khusiman Pun, presented November 2020; *Gender Differences in the Impact of Earthquake on Child Health: Evidence from Rural Nepal*

Chair, Kritika Sen, presented October 2020; *Education and Labor Outcomes of Teen Mothers and Teen Fathers: Evidence from Cebu, the Philippines*

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

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; Robert McNair Scholar Faculty Advisor
Silas Wyatt, Honors Thesis Advisor

Courses Taught

ECON 2120	Introductory Microeconomics
ECON 300	Intermediate Microeconomics
ECON 309	Introductory Stats & Econometrics
ECON 321	Development Economics
ECON 509	Econometric Theory 1
ECON 585	Sustainable Development

Service

Editing for Journals

Associate editor, *Faith & Economics*

Reviewing for Journals

American Journal of Agricultural Economics; Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy; Demography; Economics & Human Biology; Food Policy; Journal of Demographic Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Oxford Development Studies; PLOS ONE; Population and Development Review; World Development

Reviewing Grant National Science Foundation (NSF)

NSF grant proposal; 2018

NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant Proposal; 2018

Professional Service

Leadership Team, Collaborative for Econometrics and Integrated Development Studies (CEIDS)
Fall 2021—Current

Treasurer, International Section Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA)
Spring 2022—Current

Executive Committee Member, Association of Christian Economists (ACE)
Spring 2020—Current

University Service

Faculty Adviser, Graduate Intersity Christian Fellowship
Spring 2022—Current

Faculty Adviser, Intersity Christian Fellowship
Spring 2018—Current

Global Health Research Group,
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy
Summer 2016 – Spring 2017

Departmental Service

Graduate Director
Fall 2021—Current

Salary Committee
Fall 2021—Current

Econometrics Core Committee, Dept. of Economics
Fall 2014 – Current

Graduate Committee
Fall 2018—Current

Research Excellence Committee
Fall 2019—Spring 2020

Undergraduate Committee
Fall 2017—Spring 2018

Seminar Committee, Dept. of Economics
Fall 2014 – Spring 2017

Ad Hoc Committee on Shared Credit Degree Program
Fall 2016 – Spring 2016