

Devis Decet

Contact Information	Eilert Sundts house, N-0851 Oslo (Norway)	devis.decet@econ.uio.no https://devisdecet.com
Fields	Development Economics, Environmental Economics, Political Economics	
Employment	University of Oslo, Postdoctoral Researcher Department of Economics	2026-
	Bocconi University, Postdoctoral Researcher Laboratory for Effective Anti-poverty Policies (LEAP)	2025-2026
Affiliations	INSPIRE LEAP, Bocconi University, Faculty Affiliate Department of Economics	2056-
Education	Ph.D. Economics, Northwestern University	2025
	- M.A. Economics, 2020	
	M.A. Economics, University of Bologna	2018
	- Visiting student, UC Berkeley, 2018	
	B.A. Economics and Management, University of Trento	2016
	- Visiting student, University of León, 2014	
Working papers	"Water Wars" with Andrea Marcucci How does the geography of water resources shape violent conflict? We assemble a georeferenced panel spanning the entire African continent from 1997 to 2023, combining detailed data on hydrology and conflict. Leveraging the spatial inequality in surface water resources and the structure of the river network, we show that heat shocks trigger conflict in nearby water-rich areas and that they propagate upstream along rivers, but not downstream. These effects are more pronounced when shocks cross ethnic boundaries along the river, in countries with weak national institutions, and in areas with persistent heat and declining water availability. Our findings highlight the geography of water resources as a key mechanism through which climatic shocks propagate into violence.	
	"Organizing Fiscal Capacity" <i>World Bank 1st Conference on Public Institutions Best Paper Award</i> This paper investigates how the spatial organization of a tax authority shapes fiscal capacity. I study a reform of the Brazilian tax authority that consolidated agents and decision-making power in fewer, larger offices. Leveraging regional variation in the reform and geographically disaggregated data on tax collection and local office organization, I find that consolidation increased tax revenues by 3.3%. However, the reform led to a divergence in tax revenues between the center and the periphery of consolidated regions. I find the consolidation affects revenues through three channels: an improved utilization of managerial resources, increased distance preventing access to local information, and a relocation of staff effort	

across locations. These findings highlight how organizational reforms can lead to efficiency gains but also to increased spatial inequality.

“Child Labour, Human Capital and Beliefs” with Kaman Lyu

Public Policy Research Network 4th Graduate Workshop Best Paper Award

In contexts where child labour is pervasive, household decisions about allocating children’s time between school and work involve a trade-off: current returns from child labour versus future returns from education. This paper tests for the existence of a third factor: future returns from child labour, as parents view farm work as an investment in agricultural skills. We provide evidence on each component of this trade-off in the context of rural Ghana by leveraging four waves of survey data on 5,000 households, exogenous shocks to agricultural productivity, and a vignette survey design to elicit parental beliefs.

Fellowships, Grants & Awards	Dissertation Fellowship, Northwestern University	2024-2025
	University Fellowship, Northwestern University	2023-2024
	GPRL Travel Grant, Northwestern University	2022
	Marco Fanno Scholarship, Unicredit Foundation	2018
	BESAP scholarship, University of Bologna	2017
	Erasmus Scholarship, European Union	2014, 2017
	Merit Award, University of Trento	2016
Presentations	2026: CSEF-IGIER Symposium on Economics and Institutions, MWIEDC Madison, World Bank Land Conference, University of Oslo	
	2025: World Bank Public Institutions Conference, Bocconi LEAP, Analysis Group, UC Berkeley Goldman, Cornerstone Research, PACDEV Los Angeles, Marco Fanno Alumni Conference Torino, Workshop Public Administration Hohenheim, NEUDC Tufts	
	2024 and before: Novafrica Lisbon, Northwestern Development Seminar, DEVPEC Stanford, EGI Bari	
Relevant Past Position	Research Assistant, Ameet Morjaria, Northwestern University, USA	2023
	Research Assistant, GPRL, Northwestern University, Winneba, Ghana	2022
	Research Assistant, Seema Jayachandran, Northwestern University, USA	2021-2022
	Research Fellow, University of Bologna, Italy	2018-2019
	Research Assistant, Matteo Cervellati and Paolo Masella, University of Bologna, Italy	2018
Teaching Experience	Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University	2020-2024
	Statistical Decision Analysis, Executive MBA (6X)	
	Global Initiatives in Management: China-Africa, MBA	
	Economic Development in Africa, U	
	Introduction to Econometrics, U	
	Teaching Assistant, University of Bologna	2018-2019
	Statistics, MA	
	Applied Econometrics, MA	
	Economic Growth, MA	
Refereeing	Journal of European Economic Association, Public Choice	
Professional Activities	CEGA Fellow PhD Peer Mentor, Northwestern University	2023
	Applied Microeconomics Lunch seminar organizer, Northwestern University	2021-2022
	Northwestern Graduate Mentorship Program Mentor	2020-2023

Languages	English (fluent), Italian (native), Spanish (fluent)	
Programming	R (advanced), Stata (advanced), Python (intermediate)	
References	Professor Christopher Udry Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 christopher.udry@northwestern.edu	Professor Seema Jayachandran Department of Economics Princeton University 126 Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building Princeton, NJ 08544 jayachandran@princeton.edu
	Professor Nancy Qian Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 nancy.qian@kellogg.northwestern.edu	Professor Edoardo Teso Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 edoardo.teso@kellogg.northwestern.edu
	Professor Silvia Vannutelli Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 silvia.vannutelli@northwestern.edu	
Last Updated	September 2026	