

## Christian R. Ahlin

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Michigan State University  
Department of Economics  
Marshall-Adams Hall, 486 W Circle Dr, Rm 110  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1038

### Education:

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Ph.D. Economics, August 2001  
“Corruption: Political Determinants and Macroeconomic Effects”  
Thesis Committee: Robert M. Townsend (chair), Gary S. Becker, Maitreesh Ghatak

Duke University, Durham, NC  
B.S. *summa cum laude*, May 1995, in Math and Computer Science

### Professional Experience:

Michigan State University, Department of Economics, East Lansing, MI  
Associate Professor, July 2009 – present  
Assistant Professor, August 2007 – June 2009

Vanderbilt University, Department of Economics, Nashville, TN  
Assistant Professor, September 2001 – June 2007

Small Business Training Center, Karaganda, Kazakhstan  
Lecturer, Academic Year 1995-96

### Affiliations:

Affiliate, Bureau for Research in Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), 2006 – Present

Associate, Theoretical Research in Development Economics (ThReD), 2011 – present

### Editorial Service:

*Journal of Development Economics*, Associate Editor, December 2009 – present

### Fellowships and Honors:

National Science Foundation  
Graduate Research Fellowship, 1997-2000

University of Chicago  
Lee Prize for top Macroeconomics Ph.D. qualifying examination, 1997

**Papers:**

- “Using Repayment Data to Test Across Models of Joint Liability Lending,” with Robert M. Townsend, *Economic Journal*, 117(517): F11-F51, February 2007.
- “Selection into and across Credit Contracts: Theory and Field Research,” with Robert M. Townsend, *Journal of Econometrics*, 136(2): 665-698, February 2007.
- “Menu Costs and Markov Inflation: A Theoretical Revision with New Evidence,” with Mototsugu Shintani, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 54(3): 753-784, April 2007.
- “Bribery, Inefficiency, and Bureaucratic Delay,” with Pinaki Bose, *Journal of Development Economics*, 84(1): 465-486, September 2007.
- “Can Micro-Credit Bring Development?” with Neville Jiang, *Journal of Development Economics*, 86(1): 1-21, April 2008.
- “Are Financial Development and Corruption Control Substitutes in Promoting Growth?” with Jiaren Pang, *Journal of Development Economics*, 86(2): 414-433, June 2008.
- “Where does Microfinance Flourish? Microfinance Institution Performance in Macroeconomic Context,” with Jocelyn S. Lin and Michael Maio, *Journal of Development Economics*, 95(2): 105-120, July 2011.
- “Product Differentiation under Congestion: Hotelling was Right,” with Peter D. Ahlin, *Economic Inquiry*, 51(3): 1750-1763, July 2013.
- “The Role of Group Size in Group Lending,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 115: 140-155, July 2015.
- “Dynamic Microlending under Adverse Selection: Can it Rival Group Lending?” with Brian Waters, *Journal of Development Economics*, 121: 237-257, July 2016.
- “Matching Patterns when Group Size Exceeds Two.” *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, 9(1): 352-384, February 2017.

**Book Chapters, Comments:**

- “Comment on ‘A Note on the Hotelling Principle of Minimum Differentiation: Imitation and Crowd’,” *Research in Economics*, 62(1): 55-56, March 2008.
- “Economic Theory Meets Evidence in Rural Thailand: Lessons for Group Lending.” In Aditya Goenka and David Henley, editors, *Southeast Asia’s Credit Revolution: From Moneylenders to Microfinance*. Routledge Press, 2009.

**Working Papers/Work in Progress:**

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“Group Lending, Matching Patterns, and the Mystery of Microcredit: Evidence from Thailand,” January 2016.

“The Conditional Gini: Estimation and Application to the Relationship between Wealth, Financial Use, and Income Inequality,” with Hyeok Jeong, December 2015.

“Group lending over time and in macroeconomic context,” with Matthew Suandi, October 2016.

“Effects and (In)Tractability of Decentralized Corruption,” December 2005.

“Dynamics of Corruption and the Distribution of Power.”

### **Presentations:**

University of Chicago, East Asia Workshop, April 2000

“Corruption: Political Determinants and Macroeconomic Effects”

Midwest Macroeconomics Conference, University of Iowa, April 2000

“Corruption: Political Determinants and Macroeconomic Effects”

University of Chicago Department of Economics, Economic Theory Workshop, May 2000

“Corruption: Political Determinants and Macroeconomic Effects”

Northeast Universities Development Conference, Cornell University, October 2000

“Corruption: Political Determinants and Macroeconomic Effects”

Northeast Universities Development Conference, Boston University, October 2001

“Using Repayment Data to Test Across Theories of Joint Liability Lending”

Southeast Economic Theory and International Economics Conference, Florida International University, November 2001

“Corruption: Political Determinants and Macroeconomic Effects”

European Summer Symposium in Financial Markets, Gerzensee, Switzerland, July 2002

“Using Repayment Data to Test Across Theories of Joint Liability Lending”

Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics, Stanford University, July 2003

“Selection into and across Credit Contracts: Theory and Field Research”

Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association Annual Conference, Puebla, Mexico, October 2003

“Using Repayment Data to Test Across Theories of Joint Liability Lending”

Northeast Universities Development Conference, Yale University, October 2003

“Selection into and across Credit Contracts: Theory and Field Research”

Midwest Economic Association annual meeting, Chicago, March 2004

“Using Repayment Data to Test Across Theories of Joint Liability Lending”

Fourth BREAD Conference on Development Economics, Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C., April 2004

“Using Repayment Data to Test Across Theories of Joint Liability Lending”

75 Years of Economic Development Conference, Cornell University, May 2004

“Are Financial Development and Corruption Control Substitutes in Promoting Growth?”

Midwest Macroeconomic Meetings, Iowa State University, May 2004

“Menu Costs and Markov Inflation: A Theoretical Revision with New Evidence”

Ohio State University Department of Economics, Macroeconomics Seminar, May 2004

“Menu Costs and Markov Inflation: A Theoretical Revision with New Evidence”

University of Memphis Department of Economics, Seminar, October 2004

“Are Financial Development and Corruption Control Substitutes in Promoting Growth?”

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- University of Southern California Department of Economics, Economic Development Seminar, November 2004  
“Are Financial Development and Corruption Control Substitutes in Promoting Growth?”
- Conference “Does Microfinance Work?”, University of Groningen, Netherlands, July 2005  
“Using Repayment Data to Test Across Theories of Joint Liability Lending”
- Econometric Society World Congress, University College London, U.K., August 2005  
“Menu Costs and Markov Inflation: A Theoretical Revision with New Evidence”
- Carnegie-Bosch Institute Conference on Microeconomic Sources of Real Exchange Rates, Carnegie-Mellon University, September 2005  
“Menu Costs and Markov Inflation: A Theoretical Revision with New Evidence.”
- Northeast Universities Development Conference, Brown University, September 2005  
“Self-Segregation in Joint Liability Borrowing Groups”
- Conference “From Moneylenders to Microfinance”, National University of Singapore, Singapore, October 2005  
“Economic Theory Meets Evidence in Rural Thailand: Lessons for Group Lending”
- University of Chicago Department of Economics, Applied Dynamics Seminar, May 2006  
“Risk-Matching and Diversification in Joint Liability Borrowing Groups”
- Northeast Universities Development Conference, Cornell University, September 2006  
“Can Microcredit Bring Development?”
- University of Georgia Department of Economics, Seminar, October 2006  
“Risk-Matching and Diversification in Joint Liability Borrowing Groups”
- Michigan State University Department of Economics, Applied Economics Seminar, October 2006  
“Risk-Matching and Diversification in Microcredit Borrowing Groups”
- Vanderbilt University, GPED 50th Anniversary Conference, November 2006  
“Luck or Skill? MFI Performance in Macroeconomic Context”
- Midwest Economic Theory Conference, University of Minnesota, April 2007  
“Hotelling was Right about Snob/Congestion Goods (Asymptotically)”
- Minnesota International Economic Development Conference, University of Minnesota, May 2007  
“How Does MicroCredit Work? Risk-Matching, Diversification, and Borrower Selection”
- North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, Duke University, June 2007  
“How Does MicroCredit Work? Risk-Matching, Diversification, and Borrower Selection”
- Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics, Stanford University, June 2007  
“How Does MicroCredit Work? Risk-Matching, Diversification, and Borrower Selection”
- Boston University Department of Economics, IED seminar, October 2007  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Micro-borrowing Groups”
- Northeast Universities Development Conference, Harvard University, October 2007  
“Luck or Skill? MFI Performance in Macroeconomic Context”
- Southern Economic Association annual meeting, New Orleans, November 2007  
“Hotelling was Right under Snobbery or Congestion (Asymptotically)”
- University of Groningen, “Microfinance: What do we know?” Conference, Netherlands, December 2007  
“Luck or Skill? MFI Performance in Macroeconomic Context”
- University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, “Innovations in Development Theory and Survey Data: Implications for Policy” Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, August 2008  
Panel participant in “Experiments vs. Models and the Role of Survey Data”
- Colegio de Mexico, “Frontiers of the Theory of Economic Development” Conference, Mexico City, Mexico, December 2008  
“Dynamic Lending vs. Group Lending in the Ghatak/Stiglitz/Weiss adverse selection model”

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- London School of Economics/University College London, development seminar, March 2009  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Microcredit Groups”
- Oxford CSAE (Center for Study of African Economies) seminar, March 2009  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Microcredit Groups”
- Trinity College Dublin economics department seminar, March 2009  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Microcredit Groups”
- World Bank, “Measurement, Promotion, and Impact of Access to Financial Services” Conference, March 2009  
Discussant for “Financial Services for the Poor: Welfare, Savings and Consumption”
- ESF SCSS Exploratory Workshop: Microfinance and Entrepreneurship in Developing Countries: Evaluation, Constraints and Opportunities; Oxford, June 2009  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Microcredit Groups”
- Northeast Universities Development Conference, Tufts University, November 2009  
“Dynamic Lending vs. Group Lending in the Ghatak/Stiglitz/Weiss adverse selection model”
- Trento/Verona/BREAD Summer Research Workshop in development economics (Conference), Alba di Canazei, Italy, July/August 2010  
“The Conditional Gini: Using Dyadic Regressions to Understand Inequality”
- Western Michigan University economics department seminar, September 2010  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Microcredit Groups”
- Notre Dame University economics department seminar, October 2010  
“The Conditional Gini: Using Dyadic Regressions to Understand Inequality”
- UM/MSU/NotreDame Development Day, Ann Arbor, December 2010  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Microcredit Groups”
- CIRPEE/U Laval Mini-Conference on Development, Quebec City, April 2011  
“The Conditional Gini: Estimation and Application to the Relationship between Wealth, Financial Use, and Income Inequality”
- ThReD Spring 2011 Conference, Barcelona, Spain, May 2011  
“Dynamic Lending vs. Group Lending in the Ghatak/Stiglitz/Weiss adverse selection model”
- Northeast Universities Development Conference, Yale University, November 2011  
“The Conditional Gini: Estimation and Application to the Relationship between Wealth, Financial Use, and Income Inequality”
- UM/MSU/NotreDame/NW/UofChicago Development Day, Notre Dame, December 2011  
“Dynamic Lending in the Ghatak/Stiglitz/Weiss adverse selection model, with Comparison to Group Lending”
- European Summer Symposium on Financial Markets, Gerzensee Switzerland, July 2012  
“Dynamic Lending under adverse selection with limited borrower commitment: Can it outperform group lending?”
- BREAD/Minneapolis Fed Conference on Finance and Development, Minneapolis Fed, October 2012  
“Dynamic Lending under adverse selection with limited borrower commitment: Can it outperform group lending?”
- ThReD Conference on Economic Development Theory, CIDE, Mexico City, November 2012  
“Group Lending under Adverse Selection with Local Information: The Role of Group Size”
- MWIEDC (Midwest International Economic Development Conference), U Wisconsin, April 2013  
“The Conditional Gini: Estimation and Application to the Relationship between Wealth, Financial Use, and Income Inequality”
- ThReD Conference on Economic Development Theory, University of Oslo, June 2013  
“Group Formation with Fixed Group Size: Complementarity vs. Substitutability”

- New Economic School economics department seminar, Moscow, Russia, October 2013  
“Group Formation with Fixed Group Size: Complementarity vs. Substitutability”
- University of Oregon economics department seminar, Eugene, OR, November 2013  
“Group Formation with Fixed Group Size: Complementarity vs. Substitutability”
- Hunter College economics department seminar, New York, NY, December 2013  
“The Conditional Gini: Estimation and Application to the Relationship between Wealth, Financial Use, and Income Inequality”
- Florida Atlantic University economics department seminar, Boca Raton, FL, April 2014  
“The Conditional Gini: Estimation and Application to the Relationship between Wealth, Financial Use, and Income Inequality”
- University of British Columbia economics department seminar, Vancouver, BC, September 2014  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Microcredit Groups”
- Simon Fraser University economics department seminar, Vancouver, BC, September 2014  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Microcredit Groups”
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Conference on Matching, Barcelona, Spain, October 2014  
“Matching with Group Size Larger than Two”
- Boston College economics department seminar, Boston, MA, November 2014  
“Matching for Credit: Risk and Diversification in Thai Microcredit Groups”
- The Economics of Global Poverty Conference, Gordon College and ACE, Wenham, MA, January 2015  
“The Conditional Gini: Estimation and Application to the Relationship between Wealth, Financial Use, and Income Inequality”
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte economics department seminar, Charlotte, NC, November 2015  
“Group Lending, Matching Patterns, and the Mystery of Microcredit: Evidence from Thailand”
- Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Commonweal Project Invited Lecture, September 2016  
“Economic Development from a Christian Perspective”
- University of Louisville, Economics Department Seminar, September 2016  
“The Conditional Gini: Estimation and Application to the Relationship between Wealth, Financial Use, and Income Inequality”
- G20/OECD Seminar on Corruption and the Global Economy, Paris, France, October 2016  
Invited presentation on “Corruption and Economic Development”
- Western Michigan University, Economics Department Seminar, January 2017  
“The Conditional Gini: Estimation and Application to the Relationship between Wealth, Financial Use, and Income Inequality”

**Refereeing activity:**

Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Review*, 2014

*American Economic Journal – Microeconomics, American Economic Review, BE Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, Econometrica, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economic Theory, Economica, Economics Bulletin, Economics Letters, Economics of Transition, European Economic Review, International Economic Review, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Economic Education, Journal of*

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*Economic Growth, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Economics and Management Strategy, Journal of Emerging Market Finance, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics, Journal of Institutional Economics, Journal of Macroeconomics, Journal of Money Credit & Banking, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economic Theory, Journal of Public Economics, Manchester School, Oxford Economic Papers, Quantitative Economics, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economic Dynamics, Review of Economic Studies, Southern Economic Journal, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, Social Science and Medicine, World Bank Economic Review, World Development; NSF grant proposals, FRS-FNRS grant proposal, Swiss National Bank Working Paper Series*