

## Cara Ebert

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### **Professional profile**

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I am a development economist with a passionate interest in human capital formation in developing countries, motivated by the ideal prospect of equality of opportunity and poverty reduction. In my work, I study effective ways to improve early childhood development, global health, and education by means of rigorous quantitative research. I believe that interdisciplinary collaborations with psychologists, nutritionists and epidemiologists are essential to reach this goal. As an economist, the evaluation of simple, cost-effective interventions is of particular interest to me. One of my dissertation projects is the design, implementation and evaluation of two interventions to foster early childhood development in the Indian state of Bihar in a randomized controlled trial. In my other projects, I use quasi-experimental approaches and cross-country analyses to identify causal effect mechanisms. It is my highest priority to conduct research that benefits people, which motivated me to take appointments with close policy proximity at the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations and The Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction in Indonesia.

### **Education**

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Since 04/2015

**PhD candidate in Economics**, Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany

- *Member of DFG Research Training Group 1723: Globalization and Development*
- *Research interests: Early childhood development, global health and education in developing countries, impact evaluation*
- *Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Vollmer, Prof. Stephan Klasen, PhD*

09/2013 – 08/2014

**Master of Science in Development Economics**, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

- *Final grade: 8.3/10 (Dutch grading scale)*
- *Master's thesis: Nature or Nurture: Evidence from Indonesia (final grade: 9/10, supervisor Prof. Dr. Erik Plug)*

10/2009 – 05/2013

**Bachelor of Science in Economics**, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

- *Final grade: 1.4/1.0 (German grading scale)*
- *Bachelor's thesis: Did Economic Integration Increase Inequality in Mexico? A Heckscher-Ohlin Analysis in a State Level Context (final grade: 1.0, supervisor: Prof. Dr. Kamecke)*

- 09/2011 – 06/2012      **Undergraduate in Economics**, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA
- *Study abroad, one year*
  - *Final grade: GPA 3.96/4.0 (American grading scale)*

## **Employment**

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- Since 04/2015      **Research Associate at the Chair of Development Economics**, Goettingen, Germany
- *Teaching of master's and bachelor's level courses and seminars*
  - *Supervision of master's and bachelor's theses*
  - *Conduct of impact evaluations / report writing*
  - *Grant applications*
- 04/2015 – 12/2015      **Consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**, Rome, Italy
- *Literature review on sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators in agriculture as part of the FAO/WB Global Strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics*
- 01/2015 – 03/2015      **Research analyst at The National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K)**, Jakarta, Indonesia
- *Department: Unified Database Unit for Social Protection Programs*
  - *Research topics: Determinants of teacher absenteeism in Indonesia / Age-cohort-period analysis of household welfare over life cycle in Indonesia*
- 08/2014 – 12/2014      **Internship at The National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K)**, Jakarta, Indonesia
- *Preparation of a comprehensive dataset containing survey waves from the 1970s until 2011*
  - *Research topic: Age-cohort-period analysis of household welfare over life cycle in Indonesia*
- 04/2013 – 08/3013      **Internship at Economics at PricewaterhouseCoopers AG**, Berlin, Germany
- *Development, programming and application of a trade structure forecasting model in R to measure socio-economic impact of corporate activities*
- 10/2012 – 04/2013      **Research assistant at the Institute of Economic Policy at Humboldt University of Berlin**, Germany
- *Assistance in teaching and research*
- 07/2012 – 09/2012      **Internship at Commerzbank AG**, Berlin, Germany
- *Analysis and documentation of the economic state of firms*
  - *Generation of ratings for credit prolongations*

## **Field experiences**

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- 10/2016 – 12/2016      **Baseline survey and intervention implementation** of own dissertation project in the field of early childhood development in Bihar, India.
- 10/2016 – 12/2016      **Endline survey** for the evaluation of Gram Varta, a randomized controlled trial using women's self-help groups to promote health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene in Bihar, India.
- 03/2016 – 04/2016      **Qualitative research** on child rearing and cooking habits in Bihar, India during intervention design phase of own dissertation project.
- 03/2016 – 04/2016      **Midline survey** for the evaluation of Gram Varta, a randomized controlled trial using women's self-help groups to promote health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene in Bihar, India.
- 12/2014                  **Qualitative research for Reality Check Approach** in West Java, Indonesia, where I lived with the poor for two days to identify the problems of Indonesia's social protection programs.

## **Publications in peer reviewed journals**

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Bärnighausen T, Oldenburg C, Tugwell P, Bommer C, Ebert C, Barreto M, Djimeu E, Haber N, Waddington H, Rockers P, Sianesi B, Bor J, Fink G, Valentine J, Tanner J, Stanley T, Sierra E, Tchetgen ET, Atun R, Vollmer S (2017). Quasi-experimental study designs series: assessing the assumptions. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*.

## **Other publications**

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Bogler L, Bommer C, Ebert C, Kumar A, Atre S, Subramanyam M, Vollmer S (2017). Impact evaluation of Gram Varta in Bihar, India: A mixed methods study. *International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)*, forthcoming.

FAO (2016). Sex-Disaggregated Data and Gender Indicators in Agriculture: A Review of Data Gaps and Good Practices. *Technical Report Series GO-12-2016*. Rome.

## **Current work**

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Iron supplementation and psychosocial stimulation to foster early childhood development: A randomized controlled trial in India. Joint work with Esther Heesemann and Prof. Dr. Sebastian Vollmer.

Son preference and child development: the gender-penalty for Bihari girls. Joint work with Prof. Dr. Sebastian Vollmer.

Socio-economic predictors of hyperlipidemia in low- and middle-income countries. Joint work with the HPACC Team from Harvard Chan School of Public Health and Prof. Dr. Sebastian Vollmer.

Intergenerational mobility in education: Disentangling nature from nurture components using the Indonesian Family Life Survey.

### ***Conference and workshop presentations***

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June 2016                      **AEL: German Economic Association – Research Group on Development Economics**, Annual international conference, University of Heidelberg

June 2016                      **UNU-WIDER conference on ‘Human Capital and Growth’**, Annual international conference, United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki

### ***Teaching***

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Since summer 2016              Supervision of master’s and bachelor’s theses

Summer term 2017              Lecture on **childhood development in India**

Winter term 2016/17              Master’s course **Quasi-experiments in development economics** with Prof. Dr. Sebastian Vollmer and Christian Bommer

Summer term 2016              Bachelor’s seminar **Why Nations Fail** with Prof Dr. Sebastian Vollmer and Christian Bommer

Summer term 2016              Lecture on **Women’s self-help groups** in India

### ***Scholarships and awards***

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Master Thesis Award              2014 H.K. Nieuwenhuis Thesis Award for my master’s thesis “Nature or Nurture: Evidence from Indonesia”.

Travel grant                      Awarded in 2011 by Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Gesellschaft an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin e.V. for the purpose of my study abroad.

### ***Skills and languages***

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Languages                      German: mother tongue, English: fluent, Latin: Latinum

Computer Skills                  Stata, LaTeX, ODK, R, GIS

## References

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*Cara Ebert*