

# MARIA DIECI

Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management  
Emory Rollins School of Public Health

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley  
Health Policy (concentration in Health Economics), May 2022  
*Committee:* William Dow (chair), Paul Gertler, Lia Fernald, Jonathan Kolstad  
  
*Economics:* Health Economics, Development Economics  
*Global Health Policy:* Maternal and Child Health, Quality of Care, Health Workforce
- M.A. University of California, Berkeley, Economics (concurrent), 2019  
*Minor Fields:* Development and Labor Economics
- B.A. Harvard University, Social Studies, *magna cum laude*, 2013

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022 - Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Emory Rollins School of Public Health, Atlanta, GA
- 2017-2021 Graduate Student Researcher, Division of Health Policy and Management, UC Berkeley
- 2018-2021 Teaching Assistant, Division of Health Policy and Management, UC Berkeley
- 2015-2016 Senior Research Associate, Innovations for Poverty Action, Zambia
- 2013-2015 Research Analyst for Prof. Dean Karlan (Yale), Innovations for Poverty Action

## PUBLICATIONS

- Hemlock, C., **Dieci, M.**, Fernald L., Galasso E., Ratsifandrihamanana L., Weber A. "Assessing the value-added contributions of community health workers and communities to early child development: a longitudinal study in a low-income setting." *BMJ Public Health* 3, no. 1 (2025). [link](#)
- Hemlock, C., Galasso, E., Weber, A., Randriamiarisoa, T., Col, M., **Dieci, M.**, Ratsifandrihamanana, L., Fernald, L. Integrating early child development into an existing health and nutrition program: evidence from a cluster-randomized controlled trial. *BMC Public Health* 24, 2583 (2024). [link](#)
- Galasso, E., Ratsifandrihamanana, L., Weber, A., Hemlock, C., Col, M., **Dieci, M.**, Rakotomalala, N., Rambeloson, V., Fernald, L. Integrating early stimulation and play at scale:

study protocol for “MAHAY Mikolo”, a multi-arm cluster-randomized controlled trial. *BMC Public Health* 22, 265 (2022). [link](#)

4. **Dieci, M.**, Wagner, Z., Friedman, W., Burgess, S., Vandermark, J., McCoy, S., Shah, M., Dow, W. "Measuring Family Planning Provider Bias: A Discrete Choice Experiment among Burkinabé, Pakistani, and Tanzanian Providers." *Studies in Family Planning* 52, no. 3 (2021): 299-320. [link](#)
5. **Dieci, M.**, Llibre-Rodriguez, J., Acosta, D., Dow, W. "Cuba's cardiovascular risk factors: International comparison of levels and education gradients." *PLOS One* 16, no. 3 (2021): e0247831. [link](#)
6. Rosen, D., Vernon, J., Silverman, R., Juma, E., **Dieci, M.**, Yadav, P. "Malaria Case Management After the Affordable Medicines Facility for Malaria (AMFm): Availability, Quality, and Market Share for ACTs in Kenya's Private Pharmacies," *Center for Global Development Working Paper Series* 561 (2020). [link](#)

## PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

1. **Dieci, M.**, Nekesa, C., Isavwa, N., Graetz, I., McFarland, D., Cummings, J. "One stop shop? Care trajectories for pediatric febrile illness episodes among caregivers who seek care at private pharmacies in Kenya." *Under review at BMC Infections Diseases*
2. Ogunsola, O., Gaydos, L., Ajayi, O., **Dieci, M.**, Kaonga, N., Awolude, O., Ezemelue, P., Salami, K., Idigbe, I., Ezechi, O., Flowers, L. "The CHESS Protocol: Increasing HPV screening for HIV positive women in Nigeria." *Under review at BMC Implementation Science*
3. Chehal P. K., **Dieci M.**, Li Z., Kramer M., Adams E. K., Dunlop A. L. "The Probability of Preterm or Early Term Second Live Births in Georgia, 2011-2020." *Under review at BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*.
4. Chehal P. K., **Dieci M.**, Li Z., Kramer M., Adams E. K., Dunlop A. L. "The Probability of Preterm or Early Term Second Births Among Georgia Black and White Mothers, 2011-2020" *Under review at BJOG*.
5. \*Ku, B., **Dieci, M.**, Druss, B., "Association of Medicaid Expansion with County-level Suicide Rates Among Nonelderly US Adults: Disparities in Rural Areas with Mental Health Provider Shortages." *Accepted for publication at Psychiatric Services*.

## WORKING PAPERS

1. **Dieci, M.**, Gertler, P., Kolstad, J., Paramo, C. "Designing incentive contracts to improve the diagnosis and treatment of malaria." [Pre-registration](#). [Draft](#).
2. **Dieci, M.**, Paramo, C.\*, Gertler, P. "Cost-sharing and Contraceptive Choice Using an App-based Decision Tool: Evidence from a Cluster Randomized Control Trial in Kenyan Pharmacies." *In preparation for BMC Global and Public Health*.
3. Paramo, C., **Dieci, M.**, Gertler, P. "Increasing adoption of a new contraceptive technology through targeted incentives." [Pre-registration](#). *Draft available upon request*.
4. **Dieci, M.**, Gertler, P., Kwan, A. "Do patient demands lead to more unnecessary antimalarial sales? Evidence from an unannounced standardized patient study in Kenyan pharmacies." *Draft available upon request*.
5. **Dieci, M.**, Gertler, P. "Altruistic or self-interested instincts: Pharmacist motivations and their impact on appropriate malaria case management." *Draft available upon request*.

*\* indicates co-authored with a student*

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- Evaluating malaria incentive program impact and cost-effectiveness at scale. *Funding obtained, research planning in progress. With Jessica Vernon, Paul Gertler, Carlos Paramo, Jonathan Kolstad and Maisha Meds in Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria*
- Caregiver Decision-making and Quality of Care for Childhood Fevers in Pharmacy Settings. *Data collection complete, manuscript writing in progress. With Deb McFarland, Iana Graetz, Janet Cummings, Carolyn Nekesa, Nettah Isavwa, Jessica Vernon and Maisha Meds in Kenya*
- Medicycles: Community-supported integrated outreach clinics in remote areas. *Funding obtained, research planning in progress. With Anne Fitzpatrick, Mahesh Karra, Aggrey Semeere, Kevin Gibbons, and Health Access Connect in Uganda*
- Developing and evaluating approaches for pharmacy-based care for children with non-malarial fevers. *Funding obtained, Research planning in progress. With Jessica Vernon and Maisha Meds in Uganda.*
- CHES: (Community, Home-based Education, Screening Services) Strategy for Cervical Cancer Prevention among Women Living with HIV in Nigeria. *Implementation underway.*

## TEACHING

- 2024 – HPM 520: Development economics and global health policy (Fall graduate course, 3 credits)
- 2023 – HPM 760: Advanced quantitative methods in health policy and health services research (Fall graduate course, 4 credits)

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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|-----------|--|
| 2025-2027 | Co-PI, WAM Foundation award for project “Malaria-Negative Fever: Pharmacy-Based Interventions for Children Under 5” (\$1.3 million USD)  |
| 2024-2027 | Co-I, NIH NCI U01 “CHES: (Community, Home-based Education, Screening Services) Strategy for Cervical Cancer Prevention among Women Living with HIV in Nigeria.   |
| 2023-2024 | PI, Emory Rollins School of Public Health Dean’s Pilot and Innovation Grant for project “Caregiver Decision-making and Quality of Care for Childhood Fevers in Pharmacy Settings” (\$49,000 USD)   |
| 2023-2025 | Co-PI, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation award for project “ccccccccc,” with Jessica Vernon and Maisha Meds. (\$250,000 USD)   |
| 2022      | Richard Scheffler Health Economics Award – Best UC Berkeley PhD Dissertation in the field of Health Economics  |
| 2021-2022 | Co-PI, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation grant for project “Increasing access to contraceptive choice through targeted incentives: a cluster randomized controlled trial.”, with Paul Gertler. (\$250,000 USD)   |
| 2019-2022 | Co-PI, United States Agency for International Development, Development Impact Ventures Stage II Award # 7200AA18FA00009 for project “A Digital Approach for Targeted Malaria Treatment”, with Paul Gertler, Jonathan Kolstad and Jessica Vernon. (\$400,000 USD) |

2019-2021	Co-PI, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation award for project “A Digital Approach for Targeted Malaria Treatment”, with Paul Gertler, Jonathan Kolstad and Jessica Vernon. (\$320,392 USD)
2019	Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award, UC Berkeley
2018-2021	UC Berkeley School of Public Health Alumni Association Award

## PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

2024	Yale Department of Health Policy and Management (invited seminar and guest lecture); American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting (presenter)
2023	American Economics Association Annual Meeting (presenter); Population Association of America (presenter); Society for Research in Child Development (coauthor); American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting (presenter); International Health Economics Association Annual Meeting (presenter); Society for Epidemiologic Research (coauthor); Reproductive Health Network in Kenya (presenter); Advances in Field Experiments (presenter & coauthor); Emory Health Services Research Day (presenter); Emory Rollins Huber Department of Global Health (invited seminar)
2022	Atlanta-Athens Health Economics Workshop (presenter); Southeastern Health Economics Working Group (presenter); Northeastern Universities Development Conference (presenter)
2021	Center for Global Development and Maisha Meds “New Approaches to Improve Malaria Case Management in the Private Sector” convening (presenter), UC Berkeley Development Economics Lunch Seminar Series (presenter)
2020	Population Association of America Annual Meeting (cancelled due to COVID-19); Society for Research in Child Development (session chair); UC Berkeley Development Economics Lunch Seminar Series (presenter)
2019	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Trainee Conference (presenter); Center for Effective Global Action Evidence to Action Conference (presenter); UC Berkeley Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging Workshop (presenter); Population Association of America Annual Meeting (presenter)
2018	Population Association of America Annual Meeting (presenter); American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Conference (presenter); International Health Economics Association World Congress (presenter)
2017	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Trainee Conference (presenter)
2014	Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference (presenter)

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

### MENTORSHIP

Liz Staton, PhD Dissertation Committee Member, Emory Rollins School of Public Health, 2024-present  
Nailah Nelson, MSPH Thesis Committee Member, Emory Rollins School of Public Health, 2024-present  
Marissa Coloske, PhD Dissertation Committee Member, Emory Rollins School of Public Health, 2024-present

George Nikopoulos, MSPH Thesis Committee Member, Emory Rollins School of Public Health, 2023-present

Mona Bandov, Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, UC Berkeley, 2021-2022

Leanne Bardoles, Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, UC Berkeley, 2021-2022

#### *AD-HOC PEER REVIEW*

Studies in Family Planning, Health Economics, PLOS One, Social Science and Medicine

#### *COMMITTEES*

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, Department of Health Policy and Management, Emory Rollins School of Public Health (2022- present)

Executive Committee, Health Policy and Management, UC Berkeley (2018-2021)

Graduate Admissions Committee, Health Policy and Management, UC Berkeley (2017-2018)

Finance & DEI Committees, Berkeley Economists for Equity (2020-2021)

#### *PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS*

Population Association of America (PAA)

International Health Economics Association (iHEA)

American Economic Association (AEA)

American Society for Health Economists (ASHEcon)

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

Languages	English (native), Italian (native), Spanish (professional), French (proficient)
Programming	Stata, R, Python, Open Data Kit, LaTeX, GIS, SQL, Matlab, GitHub