Golvine de Rochambeau

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PROFILE

Applied economist with experience at the International Finance Corporation (IFC, World Bank Group) and in academia, specialising in private sector development in emerging markets and work at the intersection of research an policy. My work combines causal inference, firm-level and administrative data, and field research to understand what helps firms grow, innovate and access markets, with the goal of generating evidence that can inform policy and operational decisions. I have extensive field experience in Liberia and Sub-Saharan Africa, working with governments, development partners, NGOs, and private-sector partners.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Finance Corporation (IFC, World Bank Group) 2024 – present
Economist, Economic Research Unit, Private Markets Department

- Lead empirical research and impact evaluation, with a focus on understanding which investments improve firm growth, productivity, market access, and knowledge diffusion.
- Lead the evaluation of an IFC supplier-development programme supporting Mexican SMEs in meeting international standards required by multinational buyers; findings are intended to inform programme design and scale-up.
- Use administrative and firm-level datasets, including customs, patent, tax, and input-output data, to investigate development and private-sector questions and inform policy and investment decisions.
- Major contributing author of IFC flagship report *Innovation in Green Technologies* (2025), analysing the role of emerging markets in green innovation and identifying policy and financing barriers.
- Translate empirical findings into clear recommendations for governments, development partners, and IFC operational teams.

Sciences Po Paris 2018 – 2023
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

- Designed, fundraised for, and led multiple impact evaluations end-to-end in collaboration with governments, NGOs, private-sector partners, and development organisations in Liberia and East Africa.
- Evaluated development programmes using randomised and quasi-experimental methods, survey data, administrative and qualitative data; managed field teams and local research partners.
- Research included the direct and spillover effects of business support and cash-grant programmes, barriers to market access, and the effects of business networks and monitoring technologies on firms and workers.
- Produced policy-oriented research and communicated findings to policymakers and international organisations, including through policy presentations, a VoxEU column, and a VoxDev podcast.
- Scientific Director of the Master in International Development (PSIA) from 2021 to 2023.

World Bank 2014, 2018, 2022
Short Term Consultant

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), Liberia Apr–Aug 2016
Senior Research Associate

International Monetary Fund Apr–Jul 2012
Research Intern

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York 2018
Ph.D. in Economics

École Polytechnique, Paris 2012
Engineering Degree (Diplôme d'ingénieur)

SELECTED RESEARCH

Informational Barriers to Market Access: Experimental Evidence from Liberian Firms With Jonas Hjort, Vinayak Iyer, and Fei Ao. CEPR Discussion Paper No. 15219. *Revise and resubmit, Journal of Development Economics.* [link] [VoxEu BlogPost]
Experiment in Liberia showing that training small firms about standards helps them secure contracts with large buyers, leading to sustained growth.

Innovation Partnerships for Development along Green Value Chains With Samuel Edet, Ralf Martin, and Trang Thu Tran. *Revise and resubmit, Oxford Review of Economic Policy.*
Evidence that green-tech innovation in emerging markets generates valuable knowledge spillovers, particularly through collaboration with high-income-country firms, supporting greater R&D investment and development-finance co-investment.

Monitoring and Intrinsic Motivation: Evidence from Liberia's Trucking Firms [link] [VoxDev Podcast]
Experimental evidence showing that monitoring technologies can reduce effort among intrinsically motivated workers, highlighting behavioural responses to interventions.

Virtual Business Networks and Knowledge Diffusion: Experimental Evidence from Liberia With Anubhav Agarwal and Roberto Sormani. [link]
Randomised evaluation of virtual business networks in Liberia, showing how connecting firms facilitates knowledge diffusion and improves firm performance.

Direct and Spillover Effects of a Business Support Program: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment With Anubhav Agarwal and Roberto Sormani.
Evidence that business grants generate positive spillovers through demand expansion, implying higher social returns of a private sector development program.

Motivation for Reckless Driving: Evidence from a Lab-in-the-field Experiment With Theophile Bougna. [link]
Experimental evidence from Liberia on what motivates drivers to drive recklessly showing drivers hold motivated beliefs.

REPORTS

Innovation in Green Technologies: An Opportunity for Business in Low and Middle Income Countries? [link] IFC Report, July 2025
Analysis of the role of emerging markets in clean technologies innovation, and identifying policy and financing barriers to scaling these innovations.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Fraud Risks and Customs Bonded Warehouse in Tunisia With Lotfi Ayadi and Gaël Raballand. Global Trade and Customs Journal (2015), Vol. 10, Issue 11/12, pp. 417–425.

The Trucking Industry and the Price of Commodities in Liberia Chapter in *Liberia Development Conference Anthology: Engendering Collective Action for Advancing Liberia's Development* (2017). Monrovia: USAID/Liberia, Embassy of Sweden, and University of Liberia, pp. 341–352.

OTHER CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) 2021 – present
Affiliate (Organizational Economics)
Center for Development Economics and Policy (CDEP), Columbia University 2017 – present
Fellow

SKILLS

Technical: Impact evaluation (RCTs, quasi-experimental methods), survey design and data collection (quantitative and qualitative data), administrative and firm-level data analysis, Stata, R, working knowledge of Python and SQL
Languages: French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Italian (intermediate)