

# Carolyn Pelnik

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CONTACT	World Bank Development Research Group 1776 G Street NW Washington, DC 20006	<i>Email:</i> cpelnik@worldbank.org <i>Website:</i> carolynpelnik.com <i>Updated:</i> September 2025
EMPLOYMENT	<b>World Bank Development Research Group</b> , Research Economist	2025 -
EDUCATION	<b>Tufts University</b> , Ph.D. Economics and Public Policy Committee: Cynthia Kinnan (chair), Kyle Emerick, Adam Storeygard, Doug Gollin	2025
	<b>University of Virginia</b> , B.S. Engineering Science <i>with Distinction</i>	2013
	Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)	2014
	M.A. Economics	2018
FIELDS	Development Economics (esp. firms/entrepreneurship and financial inclusion), Urban Economics	
WORKING PAPERS	“How Important are Investment Indivisibilities for Development? Evidence from Uganda” with Joe Kaboski, Molly Lipscomb & Virgiliu Midrigan, R&R <i>Journal of Political Economy</i>	
	“Moving to Profitability? Alleviating Constraints on Microentrepreneur Location”	
	“Shocking Schools” with Wyatt Brooks, Viva Bartkus, Joe Kaboski, & Maurice Sikenyi	
PUBLICATIONS	“Big Fish in Thin Markets: Competing with the Middlemen to Increase Market Access” with Viva Bartkus, Wyatt Brooks & Joe Kaboski, <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> (2022)	
	“Implications of the Growth of Defined Contribution Retirement Plans for Safety Net Eligibility: The Case of Dual Eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid” with Melissa McInerney, Jennifer Mellor & Lindsay Sabik, <i>Journal of Aging &amp; Social Policy</i> (2025)	
RESEARCH GRANTS	Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) PhD Grant (£15,000)	2023
	Weiss Fund Research Grant (\$33,000)	2023
	STEG Large Grant with Lipscomb, Kaboski & Midrigan (£100,000)	2022
	Private Enterprise Development in LICs (PEDL) Exploratory Grant (£40,000)	2022
	International Growth Centre (IGC) Early Career Researcher Grant (£20,000)	2022
	J-PAL Jobs and Opportunity Initiative (JOI) Full-Scale Grant (\$47,000)	2021
	J-PAL JOI Proposal Development Grant (\$8,000)	2020
AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS	Northeastern Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Distinguished Paper Award	2024
	Fulbright Student Research Grant to Nigeria, Finalist ( <i>declined</i> )	2022
	SurveyCTO Graduate Research Fellowship	2021
	Best Master of Public Policy Thesis Project, University of Virginia	2014
	Outstanding Engineering Student, University of Virginia	2013
	Jefferson Scholar, full merit scholarship to the University of Virginia	2009 - 2013
PRESENTATIONS ( <i>inc. scheduled</i> )	Harvard/MIT Development Seminar, NBER Development Summer Institute, IGC Workshop on Sustainable Growth in Kampala, IGC Urbanization and Development Conference in Cape Town, World Bank/European Commission EuroCOMP Workshop on Jobs, Skills, and Competitiveness in Berlin, Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Conference at Oxford, Uganda Ministry for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, UC Berkeley Goldman, Vanderbilt, Inter-American Development Bank Research Department, Claremont McKenna College, World Bank Development Research Group, Wake Forest	2025

PRESENTATIONS ( <i>cntd</i> )	Northeastern Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), IGC Cities & Development Workshop at Harvard, CEPR Webinar in Finance and Development (WEFIDEV), Urban Economics Association (UEA) North America Meeting, UEA Summer School at the Geneva Graduate Institute, STEG Graduate Student Workshop	2024
	CEPR Workshop in Finance and Development at Warwick Business School	2022
	Boston University Women in Economics Seminar	2021
INVITED CONFERENCES	PEDL Workshop on AI, Finance and Entrepreneurship, Nairobi	2025
	Urban Economics Association Summer School, Geneva Graduate Institute	2024
	Becker Friedman Institute Price Theory Summer Camp, University of Chicago	2022
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Teaching Assistant, Principles of Economics (undergraduate, Tufts)	Spring 2022
	Teaching Assistant, Econometric Impact Evaluation (master's level, Tufts)	Spring 2021
	Teaching Assistant, Economics for Public Policy (undergraduate, UVA)	Fall 2013
PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE	Field Research Assistant (Uganda) for Joe Kaboski and Molly Lipscomb	2016 - 2018
	Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board of Governors	2014 - 2016
REFEREING	<i>Journal of Development Economics, Journal of African Economies</i>	
GRANT REVIEW	National Science Foundation	