

Carolyn Pelnik

CONTACT	World Bank Development Research Group 1776 G Street NW Washington, DC 20433	<i>Email:</i> cpelnik@worldbank.org <i>Website:</i> carolynpelnik.com <i>Updated:</i> May 2026
EMPLOYMENT	World Bank Development Research Group , Research Economist	2025 -
EDUCATION	Tufts University , Ph.D. Economics and Public Policy Committee: Cynthia Kinnan (chair), Kyle Emerick, Adam Storeygard, Doug Gollin	2025
	University of Virginia , 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”	
	“Schools, Staffing, and Free Lunch (No, not that kind)” 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 & Social Policy</i> (2025)	
RESEARCH GRANTS	<i>Firm Networks and Mobility</i> (Uganda) with Vitali: Weiss Fund Pilot Grant (\$25,000) STEG Small Research Grant (£21,000)	2026 2026
	<i>Human v. AI Business Consulting</i> (Bulgaria) with Campos, Dalton, de Nicola, Morales & Segnana: World Bank/EU Regional Competitiveness (EuroCOMP) Lab (€350,000)	2026
	<i>Moving to Profitability? Alleviating Constraints on Microentrepreneur Location</i> (Uganda): World Bank Research Support Budget (\$30,000) Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG) PhD Grant (£15,000) Weiss Fund Research Grant (\$33,000) Private Enterprise Development in LICs (PEDL) Exploratory Grant (£40,000) International Growth Centre (IGC) Early Career Researcher Grant (£20,000) J-PAL Jobs and Opportunity Initiative (JOI) Full-Scale Grant (\$47,000) J-PAL JOI Proposal Development Grant (\$8,000)	2026 2023 2023 2022 2022 2021 2020
	<i>Market Integration After Conflict</i> (Colombia) with Bartkus, Brooks & Kaboski: Weiss Fund Research Grant (\$56,000)	2023
	<i>Investment Indivisibilities in Development</i> (Uganda) with Lipscomb, Kaboski & Midrigan: STEG Large Grant (£100,000)	2022
AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS	Innovation Growth Lab Best Experimental Paper by a Junior Scholar Northeastern Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Distinguished Paper Award Fulbright Student Research Grant to Nigeria, Finalist (<i>declined</i>)	2025 2024 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	<p>2026 (inc. scheduled): Africa Econometric Society Meeting (The American University in Cairo); IFC Private Markets Brown Bag; George Washington University Trade and Development Seminar; Sciences Po Applied Micro Seminar; Paris School of Economics Development Seminar; PEDL Anniversary Conference (Oxford); Georgia State Greenberg School; STEG Annual Conference (Strathmore Business School, Nairobi)</p> <p>2025: HEC Paris Entrepreneurship Workshop; Harvard/MIT Development Seminar; NEUDC; IGC/EGC Firms, Trade, and Development Conference (Yale); NBER SI Development; IGC Workshop on Sustainable Growth (Kampala); IGC Urbanization and Development Conference (Cape Town); World Bank-EuroCOMP Workshop (Berlin); CSAE (Oxford); UC Berkeley Goldman; Vanderbilt; Inter-American Development Bank Research Department; Claremont McKenna College; World Bank Development Research Group; Wake Forest</p> <p>2024: NEUDC; IGC Cities & Development Workshop (Harvard); CEPR Webinar in Finance and Development (WEFIDEV); Urban Economics Association (UEA) North America Meeting (Georgetown); UEA Summer School (Geneva Graduate Institute); STEG Graduate Student Workshop (online)</p> <p>< 2024: CEPR Workshop in Finance and Development (Warwick Business School); Boston University Women in Economics Seminar, Tufts Economics and Public Policy Workshop (several)</p>	
TEACHING	Teaching Assistant, Principles of Economics (undergraduate, Tufts)	Spring 2022
EXPERIENCE	Teaching Assistant, Econometric Impact Evaluation (master's level, Tufts)	Spring 2021
	Teaching Assistant, Economics for Public Policy (undergraduate, UVA)	Fall 2013
PRIOR WORK	Field Research Assistant (Uganda) for Joe Kaboski and Molly Lipscomb	2016 - 2018
EXPERIENCE	Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board of Governors	2014 - 2016
REFEREEING	<i>Journal of Development Economics, Journal of African Economies, Environment and Development Economics</i>	
GRANT REVIEW	National Science Foundation	