Cheick Camara

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Fields of interest

Public Finance: fiscal policy, fiscal decentralization, fiscal transparency, tax expenditures, tax incidence, public financial management, digitalization in revenue administration.
International Development: applied econometrics, applied macroeconomics, governance, inequality and poverty, gender equality, women's empowerment.
Econometrics and statistics: Staggered Differences in Difference, regression discontinuity design, Macro and Micro-econometrics, time series econometrics, panel data analysis, qualitative variables methods.

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, CERDI, Nov 2021- 2025
Dissertation: "Assessing local public policies in India: gender budgeting and federalism in focus".
Advisors: Bertrand LAPORTE and Emilie CALDEIRA.

M.S. in Economics with a focus on public finance, Clermont Auvergne University, 2019-2021
Thesis: "Fiscal decentralization and economic growth".
Advisors: Bertrand LAPORTE and Emilie CALDEIRA.

B.S. in Public policy analysis, Clermont Auvergne University, 2016-2019

Research Experience

Scientific Trainee, EU Joint Research Center, Sevilla, Oct 2025- Feb 2026
<u>Activities</u> : Contributing to the evaluation of EU public funds at the regional level across EU countries. Supporting empirical analyses on the effectiveness and efficiency of cohesion policy investments. Assisting in the harmonization of regional datasets and the development of indicators to monitor territorial disparities and convergence trends.
<u>Production</u> :

Consultant, Council on Economic Policies, Online, Apr 2024- Dec 2025
<u>Activities</u> : Filling out the Global Tax Expenditures Transparency Index (GTETI) questionnaire and collecting supporting documentation; Responsible for analyzing and evaluating how countries define their benchmark tax systems and structural reliefs for tax expenditure assessments. I also analyze the methods and assumptions used. Additionally, I examine how tax expenditures are integrated into the medium-term budgetary strategy of these countries.
<u>Production</u> : Responsible of final revision for GTETI for Mali and Côte d'Ivoire. Reviewing the assessments of all countries, updating the format, and ensuring fairness and equity across the sample for the aforementioned aspects.

Research Assistant for Michael KEEN, CERDI, Clermont Auvergne University, Jun 2022 - Aug 2022
Activities : Literature review, data collection, analysis and management, writing of country case notes.
Production : Report on environmental taxation for the French foreign ministry. The works aim to assess how tax policy can help to tackle waste management, urban congestion, and other issues which directly affect the population in African countries.

Research Assistant, FERDI, Apr 2022 - Jun 2022
Activities : Literature review; notes writing, data collection, analysis and management.
Production : Writing notes on social and behavioural effects of indirect taxation in African countries.
Presentation of this note.

Resrach Assistant Intern, LASAARE/University Hassan II of Casablanca, Jun 2021 - Sep 2021
Activities : Literature review, data collection, analysis and management, reflection on the formalization of empirical models.
Production : Report to assess the impact of tax expenditures on the consumption of cultural goods by Moroccan households.

Economist - Intern, French treasury, Mar 2021 - Jun 2021
Activities : Writing policy briefs, data collection, analysis and management, meeting with banking sector professionals and public sector officials.
Production : Writing notes on banking sector in Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles.
Writing notes on international trade for Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles.
Confidential notes on Comorian fiscal policy and FATF assessment on money laundering and terrorism financing for Seychelles and Mauritius.

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Lecturer, Clermont Auvergne University, Sep 2024 - Feb 2025.
microeconomics, macroeconomics, quantitative techniques.

Teaching Assistant, Inferential Statistics, Clermont Auvergne University, Jan 2022 - May 2024.
Teaching statistics to undergraduate and magister students, including tailored lessons for English speakers. Guiding students in applying statistical methods to their research projects, emphasizing analytical rigor and quality outcomes.

Guest Lecturer, Wesford Business School, Sep 2023 - Jan 2024.
Data analysis; geopolitics and corporate strategy for undergraduate and MBA students.

IT and educational consultant, Clermont Auvergne University, Jul 2022 - Oct 2022.
Contribution to the creation of an interactive statistics training tool for undergraduate students, enhancing their learning experience through engaging features and activities.

Working Papers

Building credibility: How gender budget transparency boosts commitment to fiscal policy and women's empowerment in Indian states -Job Market Paper-
This study examines the effects of gender budgeting on fiscal policies within Indian states from 1991 to 2020, using both macro and micro-level analyses. Employing a Difference-in-Differences (DiD) framework and alternative estimators, it addresses endogeneity concerns for robust findings. Results show states adopting gender budgeting allocate more to gender-inclusive sectors like education and infrastructure. Gender budget-

ing enhances state credibility in prioritizing pro-gender policies. This macroeconomic credibility effect also positively impacts the individual situation of women. However, it may affect fiscal autonomy, necessitating careful resource allocation and intergovernmental relations.

Fiscal federalism and local conflicts: Evidence of Indian States-link-
This paper examines the relationship between fiscal federalism, decentralization, and conflict dynamics in India, with a focus on resource-related and secessionist conflicts. By disaggregating conflicts into distinct types and constructing a robust measure of conflict intensity, we provide a nuanced understanding of how federal structures interact with conflict triggers across states. Using game theory and empirical analysis, we argue that tailored autonomy measures can mitigate conflicts, particularly in resource-rich regions. Our results show that increased state autonomy reduces the intensity of secessionist and natural resource-related conflicts, while the effects on state creation conflicts remain inconclusive. The study contributes to the literature by offering a detailed framework for analyzing federalism's role in conflict management and provides policy insights for enhancing stability in federated systems.

Gender Budgeting and Health Spending Efficiency in Indian States: A Staggered Difference-in-Differences Analysis -CERDI Working paper- a different version is available here.
Gender-responsive budgeting integrates gender considerations into budgeting to address disparities and promote equality. This study investigates its impact on fiscal efficiency in Indian states using a Staggered Difference-in-Differences framework and Entropy Balancing for robustness. Results show a persistent positive effect on fiscal efficiency due to improved revenue forecasts, allowing precise and timely resource allocation. The study highlights the role of gender-responsive budgeting in enhancing fiscal efficiency and governance through increased transparency and equitable resource distribution.

Federalism and women empowerment in India -link-
This paper aims to assess the effect of Indian States' fiscal autonomy on women's empowerment. By using a two-stage least square estimation method with some political factors such as partisan affiliation as an instrument, I found a positive effect of states' fiscal autonomy on women's situation and a negative effect on gender inequality. So, Indian federalism provides better access to education, health care, and economic opportunities for women while men seem to be the main beneficiaries of these policies.

Revenues versus expenditures, how can fiscal decentralization improve infrastructure public spending efficiency? -link-
This research investigates the impact of decentralization on public expenditure effectiveness for infrastructure in developing countries. Focusing on both expenditure and revenue aspects, the study uses a combined measure of revenue, capital expenditure, and accountability levels. Employing instrumental variables for a static approach with ethnic tensions as instruments, and GMMs for a dynamic approach, the analysis spans 40 countries from 2002-2016. Findings indicate a positive effect of both revenue and expenditure in the static approach, while in the dynamic approach, decentralizing expenditure has a positive impact, and decentralizing revenue has a negative impact.

Mobile money adoption and poverty reduction in African countries *joint with Asbath ALAS-SANI and Jule TINTA* -link-
This study analyzes the impact of digitizing government-to-person (G2P) payments on income distribution using a panel dataset from 46 African countries between 1990 and 2020, applying a Difference-in-Difference methodology. The findings indicate a significant improvement in income distribution following the introduction of digital G2P systems. Robustness checks confirm the validity of these results, showing they are not influenced by spurious trends, confounding factors, or other concurrent reforms. The impact varies by macroeconomic conditions and structural factors. Policymakers should note that while G2P can reduce income inequality, enhancing identification systems and social registries is essential for effective social protection and inclusive growth.

Work in Progress

Reshaping citizen-government Dynamics: The impact of mobile money on state relations *joint with Asbath ALASSANI, Tina George Karippacheril and Jule TINTA*

Conference Presentations

2024: French Development Economist Association Doctoral Days (Paris); EUDN Ph.D Workshop (Paris).
2023: 22nd LAGV (Marseille); 1st Welfare and Policy Conference (Bordeaux).
2022: 22nd Global Development Network Conference (Clermont-Ferrand); FERDI/MRIP Webinar (online).

Reviewer Activities

Reviewer for : *Public Choice (x2)*

Skills

Software: Eviews; STATA; R; Latex; Python; GAMS(Intermediate); Julia (Intermediate).

Languages: French (Native); English (C1); Spanish (B1).

Scientific Communication: Extensive training in communicating research and analysis in the media. Competed in the local finals of the "My Thesis in 180 Seconds" (MT180) competition, which requires presenting complex research topics clearly and concisely to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes.

Competitiveness and Discipline: Achieved third place in the university judo championship, demonstrating skills such as discipline, perseverance, stress management, and sportsmanship.

Certifications

IMF Financial Programming and Policies: Macroeconomics Account.

IMF Public Financial Management.

References

Emilie Caldeira -Associate professor CERDI- (emilie.caldeira@uca.fr)
Bertrand Laporte -Associate professor CERDI- (bertrand.laporte@uca.fr)
Marie Eliette Dury -Associate professor CERDI- (m-eliette.dury@uca.fr)
Michael Keen -CERDI affiliate researcher- (mickjkeen@gmail.com)