

# Tarikua Erda

## Education

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### Columbia University

New York, NY

- Ph.D. Candidate, Sustainable Development 2019 – 2025 (expected)
- *Committee*: Sandra Black, Jeffrey Shrader, Suresh Naidu, Xavier Giroud
- *Fields*: Climate/environmental economics, entrepreneurship and innovation, labor
- Core microeconomics and econometrics PhD sequences in the Columbia economics department

### Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

- A.B., Economics (with honors) 2013 – 2017

## Research

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### Job market paper

- **Disasters, Capital, and Productivity** [PDF]

The fixed nature of physical capital could delay adjustment to rapidly occurring climate shocks. Prior theoretical work predicts this would amplify economic damages from climate change as global warming intensifies disaster risk. Using rich confidential microdata from the US Census Bureau, I establish novel causal evidence on how manufacturing firms readjust their capital, particularly their machinery, in response to large, federally declared floods. While floods degrade capital, surviving plants replace capital and see higher productivity because they upgrade technology as they rebuild. I document substantial reallocation of second-hand capital across plants following floods, notably from low-productivity exiters toward well-performing young plants. Ultimately, capital adjusts relatively quickly, and is reallocated toward better use following flooding, boosting aggregate productivity. These outcomes stem from the expanded credit access that federal disaster spending creates. My findings reveal a new channel through which government disaster spending revives disaster-hit economies and underscore its crucial importance in a warming world.

*Policy summary and outreach:* [Chicago Fed Insights](#), [Nada es Gratis](#)

### Working papers

- Erda, Tarikua. “Spillovers that Pay Dividends: The Indirect Impact of Federal Disaster Loans on Firm Entry.” June 2024. [PDF].
- Erda, Tarikua and Jeffrey Shrader. ”What’s in a Mane?: Appearance Norms and Racialized Hair Bias.” October 2024. [PDF] [AEA Pre-Registry: [AEARCTR-0010183](#)]

### Ongoing

- The On-campus Recruiting Labor Market (with Laura Caron)
  - AEA Pre-Registry: [AEARCTR-0009574](#) (*Surveys in field.*)

## Research Grants

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- Columbia Center for Political Economy, Graduate Student Grant, 2024 (\$1,000)
- Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Doctoral Research Grant, 2022 (\$15,000)
- National Science Foundation, Dissertation Grant in Economics [SES-2215219], 2022, (\$25,000)
- Russell Sage Foundation, Dissertation Research Grant, 2022 (\$10,000)

- Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Seed Grant (PI: Jeff Shrader), 2022 (\$30,550)
- Columbia Experimental Laboratory for Social Sciences, Seed Grant (PI: Jeff Shrader), 2021 (\$4,000)

## Invited Presentations, Conferences, Workshops

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- NBER Productivity Seminar Dec. 2024
- APPAM Annual Conference Nov. 2024
- Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Nov. 2024
- NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp Jul. 2024
- Chicago Entrepreneurship Workshop Jun. 2024
- University of Illinois-Chicago Economics Dept Apr. 2024
- APPAM Annual Conference Nov. 2023
- Eastern Economics Association (EEA) Annual Conference Feb. 2023
- APPAM Annual Conference Nov. 2022
- Sustainable Development Research Symposium at Columbia University May 2022
- Interdisciplinary PhD Workshop on Sustainable Development at Columbia University Apr. 2022
- Workshop on Entrepreneurial Finance and Innovation, PhD Student Workshop Nov. 2021
- NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp Aug. 2021

## Fellowships and Awards

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- Beijer Institute, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Beijer Young Scholar 2024-2026
- Columbia University, Dissertation Fellow 2024-2025
- APPAM, Entrepreneurship and Policy PhD Fellow 2022-2023
- Workshop on Entrepreneurial Finance and Innovation (WEFI), PhD Fellow 2022-present
- Columbia Population Research Center, Fellow 2021-present
- Columbia University, Dean's Doctoral Fellow 2019-2024
- Princeton University Economics Departmental Honors, Distinction 2017

## Relevant Positions and Employment

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**AEA Dissertation Fellow**, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Summer 2023

### Teaching Assistant

- *Disasters and Development* (for Profs. John Mutter & Sonali Deraniyagala) Fall '20, '21, '22, '23
- *Challenges of Sustainable Development* (for Prof. Lisa Dale) Spring '21, '22

### Research Assistant

- for Prof. Jeff Shrader Summer 2021
- for Prof. Elizabeth Ananat Summer, Fall 2020
- for Prof. Belinda Archibong Summer 2020

**Analyst**, Analysis Group 2017 – 2019

## Other

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- *Security Clearances*: Special Sworn Status Researcher, U.S. Census Bureau (2023-2028)
- *Visits*: University of Chicago, BFI; Chicago Fed, and Chicago-FSRDC (Fall 2023-Spring 2024)  
UC Santa Barbara, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management (Fall 2022)
- *Personal*: Ethiopian citizen, US permanent resident

## Skills

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- *Computing*: Stata, Python, R, ArcGIS, SQL, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2e
- *Languages*: English (native/bilingual proficiency); Amharic (native)

## References

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Sandra Black (Co-chair)  
Professor of Economics and Int'l & Public Affairs  
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Jeffrey Shrader (Co-chair)  
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