

# Graduate Research Assistant Memory, Trauma and Economic Behavior Among Refugees: Experimental Evidence from Teaching “Positive Imagery” in Ethiopia



## Project Background

The economic inclusion of refugees is a challenge for host economy governments and development partners. While there is evidence that poor mental health can hold back the economic inclusion of refugees, little is known about potential low-cost and scalable interventions to overcome ‘internal’ constraints, such as the effects of trauma on the ability to imagine the present or future. In this project, we use a representative survey among refugees in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and a randomized control trial of a psychological program on positive imagery to study the role of these constraints. We hypothesize that learning to vividly and precisely imagine a positive present or future and to contrast negative memories from past traumatic experiences can help refugees take steps towards improving their economic livelihoods in the host economy. More information about the study can be found here: <https://www.socialscisceregistry.org/trials/8934>.

The team includes Gharad Bryan (LSE), Alexia Delfino (Bocconi), Christian Meyer (Oxford), and Ashley Pople (Oxford). The project was implemented in collaboration with the Ethiopian Refugee & Returnee Service (RRS).

The intervention and endline data collection is now complete. We are looking to hire a graduate research assistant for a period of two to three months (starting immediately) to support our team in cleaning the data and producing preliminary results, following our pre-analysis plan.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The research assistant will be hired through a casual research assistant contract, starting as soon as possible. The RA will support the research team on the following tasks:

1. Match and clean four sets of data: (1) registry; (2) baseline; (3) follow up surveys; and (4) endline. The baseline dataset has already been cleaned and analysed, but we would like the RA to check this analysis before integrating with the other datasets.
2. Produce descriptive statistics and preliminary results following the pre-analysis plan.
3. Communicate regular updates to the research team over Slack and present updates on the analysis regularly (up to once a week)

Remote working would be feasible, conditional on having the right to work in the home location and with reasonable overlap of working hours with the research team based in the UK and Italy.

## Qualifications

- Graduate degree in economics, data science, or a related field. Or an undergraduate degree in these fields plus work experience with empirical research and quantitative data analysis
- Advanced experience working with Stata
- Demonstrated experience with data analysis (specify relevant software skills in application)
- Interest in working on randomised control trials
- Excited to work on innovative interventions that sit at the intersection of economics and psychology
- Ability to work independently, strong organisational skills and a willingness to pitch in

## Apply

Interested applicants should send their CV, a commented do-file from previous work, and a writing sample as soon as possible to Christian Meyer ([christian.meyer@nuffield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:christian.meyer@nuffield.ox.ac.uk)) and Alexia Delfino ([alexia.delfino@unibocconi.it](mailto:alexia.delfino@unibocconi.it)), and no later than midnight BST on 15 November 2022. Use the subject line “Application for Research Assistant Position”. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.