

# PATRICK OPOKU ASUMING

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## Education:

2013 (expected)	Ph.D. Economics	Columbia University
2010	M.Phil Economics	Columbia University
2009	M.A. Economics	Columbia University
2006	M.Phil Development Studies	Cambridge University
2004	B.A. Economics	University of Ghana

## Honors and Awards:

2012	Summer Fellowship, Columbia University
2007-Present	Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University
2005	Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Scholarship, Cambridge University
2005	Unilever Prize for Best Graduating Student in Economics, University of Ghana

## Fields of Specialization:

Development Economics, Health Economics

## Job Market Paper:

“Getting the Poor to Enroll in Health Insurance, and Its Effect on Their Health: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Ghana”

## Abstract:

Many developing countries have recently instituted social health insurance schemes (SHIs) to ease financial barriers to utilization of healthcare services and help mitigate the effects of adverse health shocks. Although these SHIs offer generous terms and benefits enrollment remains low especially among the poorest households who are the intended primary beneficiaries. This paper implements randomized interventions to (i) understand the reasons for low enrollment; (ii) estimate the effects of insurance coverage on utilization of healthcare, financial protection and health; and (iii) provide insights into intra-household allocation of health resources. My results show that imperfect information, and insurance premium and fees affect enrollment. The demand for insurance is price elastic in the sense that small subsidies generate substantial enrollment effects. I find that insurance coverage leads to increased utilization of healthcare services, reduced out-of-pocket payments among individuals with prior positive expenses and improvement in health outcomes. My results suggest strong complementarities between providing information and providing subsidies in utilization and health outcomes, an indication of the importance of the combined interventions for achieving changes in health-seeking

behavior and outcomes. Finally, I find evidence of son preference in the allocation of health resources within households.

### **Working Papers & Work in Progress**

"Fertility Behavior of Various Socio-economic Groups in Rural Africa: Longitudinal Evidence from the Kassena-Nankana Districts of Northern Ghana" (with Ayaga Bawah and James Phillips) September 2012

"Effect of Mass Immunization Campaigns on Childhood Mortality and Morbidity: Evidence from Measles Campaigns in Africa", September 2010.

"Asymmetric Information in Ghana's Health Insurance Scheme: Evidence from Administrative Data", in progress

"The Relative Contributions of Mortality and Contraceptive use to Fertility Decline in the Kassena-Nankana Districts in Ghana", in progress

"Education and Fertility: Evidence from Ghana's Education Reforms", In progress

### **Publications**

"Supplementary Polio Immunization Activities and Prior Use of Routine Immunization Services in non-Polio-Endemic Sub-Saharan Africa" (with Stephane Helleringer, Jemima Frimpong, Jalaa Abdelwahab, Hamadassalia Touré, John Koku Awoonor-Williams, Thomas Abachie & Flavia Guidetti), *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 90: 495-503, 2012.

### **Non-Academic Publications**

"Recent FDI Flows to Ghana: Facts and Fiction", Opinion, *African Agenda*, 15(2): 31-34, 2012

"Creating Opportunities Under AGOA: The Need for a Rethink of the AGOA Package", TWN-Africa, *Occasional Paper*, 2007

### **Conferences**

2013            Population Association of America Annual Meetings (*scheduled*)  
                  CSAE Conference: Economic Development in Africa (*scheduled*)  
2012            IUSSP Panel on Historical Demography International Seminar (*Alghero, Italy*)

### **Research Experience**

Research Assistantships  
2011-2012    RA for Prof. James F. Phillips, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

### **Teaching Experience**

Teaching Assistantships:

Fall 2009; Fall 2011	Intermediate Macroeconomics, Columbia University (for Prof. Xavier Sala-i-Martin)
Fall 2010	Economic Growth and Development, Columbia University (for Prof. Xavier Sala-i-Martin)
Summer 2010, 2011	Global Economic Environment, Executive MBA, Columbia Business School (for Prof. Andrea Tambalotti and Prof. Nicholas Vincent, and Prof. Annamaria Lusardi)
Spring 2010, 2011	Economic Development, Columbia University (for Prof. Ronald Findlay)
Spring 2009	Principles of Economics, Columbia University (for Ed Steinberg)
Summer 2008	Global Economic Environment, MBA, Columbia Business School (for Prof. Andrea Tambalotti)
2004-2005	Econometrics, Department of Economics, University of Ghana (for Dr. S.K.K. Akoena)

### **Other Work Experience**

2006-2007	Research Associate, Third World Network - Africa
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### **Community Service**

2003-2004	Director of Community Services, Rotaract Club of University of Ghana, Legon
2003-2004	Director of Programs, Legon Economics Students Society, University of Ghana, Legon

### **Professional Activities**

Referee: *Journal of Development Economics*

### **Professional Associations**

American Economic Association  
 Population Association of America  
 International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

### **References**

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 Steinhardt School, New York University  
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