

# OLIVER HARMAN

(C.V. ABRIDGED)

## Lecturer in Urban Economics

Africa Urban Lab, African School of Economics, Zanzibar

## Research Officer in Economic Geography and Spatial Economics

Department of Geography and Environment & Global School of Sustainability,  
London School of Economics and Political Science

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## RESEARCH FIELDS

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**Primary:** Urban and regional economics; political economy of development; global value chains and foreign direct investment. **Secondary:** Fiscal decentralisation and local public finance; economic geography; computational measurement of institutions. **Regions:** Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia.

## EDUCATION

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2021– **University of Oxford**, DPhil Sustainable Urban Development.

Thesis: *Power and Place: Decentralisation, Urbanisation and Local Economic Development in Africa.*

Supervisor: Professor Vlad Mykhnenko.

2014 **London School of Economics and Political Science**, MSc Local Economic Development – *Merit*

2012 **University of Manchester**, BSc (Hons) International Business, Finance and Economics – *First Class Honours*

## APPOINTMENTS

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2026– **Research Officer in Economic Geography and Spatial Economics**, Department of Geography and Environment & Global School of Sustainability, London School of Economics and Political Science, U.K.

2024– **Lecturer in Urban Economics**, Africa Urban Lab, African School of Economics, Zanzibar, Tanzania

2023– **Research Affiliate**, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, U.K.

2022– **Doctoral Affiliate**, Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), University of Oxford, U.K.

2024–2026 **Senior Policy Economist**, International Growth Centre (IGC), Department of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, U.K.

2018–2023 **Cities Economist**, International Growth Centre (IGC), Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, U.K.

2017–2018 **Senior Economist & Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Fellow**, Ministry of Communities, Co-operative Republic of Guyana

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

- Crescenzi, R., & Harman, O. (2023). *Harnessing Global Value Chains for Regional Development: How to Upgrade through Regional Policy, FDI and Trade*. Regional Studies Policy Impact Book Series. Routledge.
- Crescenzi, R., & Harman, O. *Green Global Value Chains for Sustainable Regional Development*. Cambridge Elements, Cambridge University Press. In Press.

### Book Chapters

- Crescenzi, R., & Harman, O. (2026). Local and regional development. In V. De Marchi, R. Rabellotti & A. van Assche (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Global Value Chains*. Edward Elgar.
- Crescenzi, R., & Harman, O. (2023). From local regions in the EU to those in Ukraine (and back again): How FDI and global value chains tie our local economies together. In Y. Gorodnichenko & V. Rashkovan (Eds.), *Supporting Ukraine: More Critical Than Ever* (Ch. 24). CEPR Press.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Berland, O., Harman, O., & Moreau-Kastler, N. (2026). *Unequal Progress and Barriers for Women in Economics*. Reviews of Economic Literature, 1. Stanford University Press. doi:10.21627/aekeyv04

## WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

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- *Status without Power: The Political Economy of Administrative Unit Creation in Uganda*. Working paper.
- Harman, O., Hayward, J., & Sampó, G. *Measuring Metropolitan Authority in Africa: A Regional Authority Index for Five Countries, 1994–2024*. IGC Working Paper, in preparation.
- Alvarez-Vilanova, J., Crescenzi, R., Harman, O., & Lippitsch, C. *Green Foreign Direct Investment in Africa*. In preparation.
- Harman, O., & Shukla, R. *Transforming SME Integration into Global Value Chains*. In preparation.
- Franklin, S., Harman, O., Kakoulaki, G., Molla, K., & Read, M. *Degree of Urbanisation in Ethiopia*. In preparation.

## SELECTED POLICY PAPERS AND REPORTS

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- Franklin, S., Harman, O., Tilahun Mengistu, S., & Molla, K. *Understanding the Urbanisation Impacts of Ethiopia's Land and Property Tax Reform: A Scoping Study*. IGC Working Paper.
- Delbridge, V., Glaeser, E., Harman, O., Joshi, M., & Spence, E. (2025). *Creating Cleaner Cities: Policy Options for Solid Waste Management*. IGC Synthesis Paper.
- Ratra, V., Harman, O., Bhimsaria, S., & Dobermann, T. (2025). *Urbanisation, Rural Development and Migration*. IGC India Evidence Paper.
- Delbridge, V., Harman, O., Oliveira-Cunha, J., & Venables, A.J. (2022). *Sustainable Urbanisation in Developing Countries: Cities as Places to Innovate, Trade and Work*. IGC Growth Brief.
- Otunola, B., Harman, O., & Kriticos, S. (2019). *The BRT and the Danfo: A Study of Lagos' Transport Reforms from 1999–2019*. IGC Cities that Work Case Study.

*Twenty further policy papers, briefs and case studies for the IGC, UNHabitat, the European Commission and national governments are listed in the full CV.*

## RESEARCH GRANTS AND FUNDED PROJECTS

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- 2025 **Green Foreign Direct Investment in Africa**, with J. Alvarez-Vilanova, R. Crescenzi and C. Lippitsch. >GB£15k
- 2025 **Authority in African Cities**, International Growth Centre (Co-Investigator). >GB£10k
- 2025 **RSA Research Network on Green(ing) Global Value Chains for Sustainable Regional Development**, with V. De Marchi, R. Crescenzi and C. Hulke. >GB£10k
- 2024 **Urban Expansion and Drivers of Emissions in Cities**, with S. Barzin and C. Riom. >GB£15k
- 2023 **Spatial Vulnerabilities in Punjab**, with G. Bryan, H. Shaikh and N. Tsivanidis. >GB£15k
- 2021 **Thematic Lead, Cities Research**, Transformative Economic Policy Programme, Bangladesh. FCDO. Programme value >GB£2.25m
- 2018–2020 **Focal Point**, Global Future Cities Programme (19 cities, FCDO) and Enhancing the Financial Position of Cities Programme (Phases 2 and 3, European Commission), both with UNHabitat. >GB£200,000 and >US\$200,000

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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- 2026 *Still Too Early—or Too Slow? Urbanisation and Unequal Public Goods in African Cities*. CSAE Conference, University of Oxford.
- 2025 *Authority in African Cities*. Sustainable Urban Development Seminar, University of Oxford.
- 2025 *Urban Government Capacity and Decentralisation Hotspots in Africa*. CSAE Conference, University of Oxford.
- 2024 *Urban Government Capacity and Decentralisation Hotspots in Africa*. ODI Global, Public Financial Management Workshop, London.
- 2023 *Green Global Value Chains for Sustainable Regional Development* (Opening Plenary). Regional Studies Association Summer Conference, Ljubljana.
- 2020 *Spatial Productivity for Regional and Local Development*. OECD Spatial Productivity Lab, Trento.

## TEACHING

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- 2024–2026 **Lecturer in Urban Economics and Module Co-Creator**, ‘Urban Economics’, Professional Diploma, Africa Urban Lab, African School of Economics, Zanzibar
- 2024 **Course Co-Convener and Co-Host**, ‘BREAD–IGC Virtual PhD Course on Urban Economics’ (with Prof. Edward Glaeser)

- 2024–2026 **Guest Teacher**, ‘The Economics of Cities’ (GY210), BSc Years 2 and 3, Department of Geography and Environment, LSE
- 2023–2025 **Seminar Leader**, ‘Using Economics in Government’, BSc Year 3, School of Politics and Economics, King’s College London
- 2024 **Guest Lecturer**, ‘Sustainable Urban Development’, MSc, Department of Continuing Education, University of Oxford

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

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- 2026 Class Teacher Award (Student Support), Department of Geography and Environment, LSE
- 2025 Nominated, Outstanding Teacher of the Year, LSE Students’ Union
- 2021–2027 Clarendon Fund Scholarship, University of Oxford (top 0.05% of applicants) >GB£50,000
- 2020 Award for Excellence, University of Oxford. Nominated and presented by Prof. Sir Paul Collier >GB£1,000

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- 2019– **Co-organiser**, Urbanisation and Poverty Reduction Conference (6th–9th editions), with the World Bank and George Washington University
- 2025 **Organising Committee**, Winter School on Urban and Regional Economics in Africa, University of Cape Town, with ERSa, IGC and the World Bank
- 2024 **Pre-scoping contributor**, IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities
- 2020– **Referee**: *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*; *Economic Development Quarterly*; *Environment and Urbanization*; *Journal of Economic Geography*; *Spatial Economic Analysis*; Elgar; Routledge; Regional Studies Association; C40 Cities; International Centre for Tax and Development; International Growth Centre

## FIELDWORK, LANGUAGES AND IMPACT

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**Fieldwork**: Guyana (2016–18, resident); Ethiopia (2023–25); Uganda; Senegal; Somaliland; Malawi; Zanzibar and Tanzania (2025–26). **Languages**: English (native); French (CEFR B1). **Policy impact**: sixty-one externally validated instances of research internalisation with decision-makers across twenty-seven countries and four international organisations; full register in the extended CV. **References**: available on request.