



## STAAARS+ Michigan State University Mentor Biographies

Dave Tschirley



David Tschirley is fixed-term professor of International Development in the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University, and Co-Director of the department's Food Security Group. He is also a member of the Core Technical Team of MSU's Global Center for Food Systems Innovation. He has over 20 years of experience in applied food security research, mentoring of developing country researchers, and active policy outreach. **His work emphasizes three main areas:** 1) agrifood system transformation in Africa focusing on diet change and its implications over a range of policy and programmatic issues, including employment; 2) the intersection of food aid, staple food markets, and emergency response, including extensive work on monetization, local and regional food aid procurement, and the role of food trade and government policy in emergency response, and 3) institutional approaches to linking smallholder farmers to cash crop markets such as cotton and fresh produce. He is the author of over 20 journal articles, several book chapters, one edited book volume, and dozens of working papers. Dr. Tschirley has consulted for and otherwise served the World Food Program, USAID, World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and The MasterCard Foundation. Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, Dr. Tschirley has had long-term assignments in Ecuador (1987–1990) and Mozambique (1995–98) and works most actively now in East and Southern Africa.



Ben Belton



Ben Belton is a fixed-term Associate Professor at AFRE and a rural sociologist who has worked extensively in South and Southeast Asia for more than a decade, in countries including Bangladesh, Thailand and Vietnam. He joined MSU in 2015, and is based full-time in Burma as Deputy Chief of Party of the USAID funded [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy: Burma](#) where he leads project research activities on agricultural commodity value chains, livelihoods and the rural economy. Ben is an expert on aquaculture and capture fisheries development and value chains, and their links to food and nutrition security, poverty, social wellbeing and the environment. Current focal areas of research in Burma include agricultural mechanization, migration, and rural transformation.



David Ortega



David Ortega is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University. He is appointed in the tenure system. His research program is positioned at the nexus of food marketing, agribusiness management, and international development and focuses on understanding consumer, producer, and agribusiness decision-making to better inform food policies and marketing strategies. Dr. Ortega's research interests include China's role in global agri-food systems and the Chinese consumer. Over the past thirteen years, his work on China has focused on the economics of food quality and on evaluating emerging markets for U.S. agricultural products. Dr. Ortega also has research experience in several developing and emerging countries, including India, Kenya, Malawi, and Rwanda. He has published over 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals, including *Food Policy*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *World Development*, *China Economic Review*, and the *European Review of Agricultural Economics*. Dr. Ortega has provided a timely analysis of the US-China trade war and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on domestic and global agri-food systems. His research and analysis have been featured in CNN, NBC News, NPR, China Global Television Network, Forbes, Politico, Newsweek, and various newspapers. Dr. Ortega earned his B.S. in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida and M.S. and Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University. He is an adjunct professor in the School of Public Affairs at Zhejiang University.



David Mather



David Mather is a fixed-term Assistant Professor of International Development in AFRE, associated with the Food Security Group. His research focuses on rural development and food policy issues in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and Central America. Prior to his graduate studies, he worked at Development Alternatives Inc in Bethesda MD, the Center for Agricultural Export Development at the University of Kentucky, and as an English teacher in Madrid, Spain. He is currently working on Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence.



Duncan Boughton



Duncan Boughton is a Fixed-term professor of International Development, Duncan Boughton has lived and worked for most of his professional life in Sub-Saharan Africa. He joined AFRE as Mozambique Project Country Coordinator in 1998. He returned to campus in August 2004 after six years as country coordinator for the Department's Agricultural Policy Analysis project in Mozambique, co-funded by USAID and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. He is presently Co-Director of the AFRE [Food Security Group](#) and Director of the [Feed The Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy](#). He also co-leads AFRE's projects in Myanmar and Malawi. Before moving to Mozambique, Duncan worked as a Senior Scientist with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) based in Malawi. Duncan conducted doctoral and post-doctoral research with the national agricultural research program of Mali (IER) during the period 1991-1996, and prior to beginning his PhD at MSU worked for the UK international aid program in The Gambia for five years.



Joey Goeb



Joey is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics. Joey works in Malawi with MwAPATA as a technical support Senior Research Fellow. He also continues to support the Myanmar Agricultural Policy Support Activity (MAPSA) after living in Yangon, Myanmar from 2019-21. Previously, he lived and worked in Zambia for three years, first as a Peace Corps Volunteer living and working in farming communities, and later conducting dissertation research supported by the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute. After completing his PhD in 2017, Joey worked as an economist in the private sector from 2017-19.



Justin George Kappiaruparampil



Dr. Justin George Kappiaruparampil is a fixed-term assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. He completed his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2016. His primary research interests include Development Economics, Conflict and Development, Terrorism and Applied Econometrics. He has published articles in peer-reviewed journals such as Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, European Journal of Political Economy and Defence and Peace Economics.



Kwame Yeboah



Dr. Kwame Yeboah is a fixed-term assistant professor of International Development and a member of the Food Security Group. He joined the department in December 2014 under the Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Intensification in Africa - GISAIA grant. Dr. Yeboah has expertise in multiple areas of social policy, including agricultural and food system transformation, natural resource management, and youth livelihood issues in Africa.

For the past decade, he has provided critical analysis to inform a range of social policies both in the US and in Africa. Notably, his research informed The MasterCard Foundation's strategies promoting youth employment in Africa's agri-food system; the State of Michigan's effort to reduce non-point source pollution in the Great Lakes; and strategic change initiatives advancing solid waste recycling and energy conservation at Michigan State University. More recently, he served as the lead author for the 2018 Global Food Security Report commissioned by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs to advise the US Government's strategies addressing youth employment challenges in developing countries. His research was also featured in the 2016 Africa's Agriculture Status Report, a flagship report of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. In 2012, he was recognized as a Milton H. Steinmueller scholar of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and a George and Nancy Axinn fellow of International Development.



Mywish Maredia



Mywish Maredia is a Fixed-term professor in International Development, Mywish Maredia's research has focused on the economic impacts of agricultural research, technology adoption, seed system efficiency, food policy, and the economics of science and technology policies. She has led several research initiatives in Africa, Asia and Central America involving field experiments and extensive data collection. Her research on impact evaluation has focused on a wide range of topics, including land titling, nutrition and value chain, information, and communication technologies (ICT), adoption of agricultural technologies, and the assessment of technology transfer models (extension). Mywish has worked as a consultant with many international organizations, served as the Director of the [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy](#) from 2016-2020, Associate Director of the USAID funded Bean/Cowpea and Dry Grain Pulses CRSP (later renamed as the Legume Innovation Lab) from 2000-2009, and as a member of the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment of the CGIAR's Science Council from 2006-2011. She was the recipient of the Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award in 1994 from the American Agricultural Economics Association.

Nicole Mason-Wardell



Dr. Nicole M. Mason-Wardell is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics (AFRE) at Michigan State University; she is also Associate Chairperson and Graduate Program Director in AFRE. Appointed in the tenure system since 2013 and a member of the AFRE faculty and Food Security Group since 2011, her research largely focuses on the question, how might we support poor African farmers to sustainably raise their productivity and incomes by improving the design, implementation, and impact evaluation of agricultural sector policies and programs? Much of her research focuses on policy analysis and issues at the agriculture-environment-development nexus (e.g., promoting sustainable agricultural intensification and mitigating the effects of climate change on smallholder farm households). Nicole works across disciplines and continents, collaborating with political scientists, agronomists, soil scientists, and nutritionists as well as fellow economists from around the world to tackle critical agricultural development challenges.

Upon joining the AFRE faculty, Nicole was based in Lusaka, Zambia from 2011-2013 with the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI). While there, she was involved in food policy research and outreach, taught at the University of Zambia, and served as IAPRI's Capacity Building Coordinator. Back in East Lansing, Nicole continues to collaborate with Zambian colleagues at IAPRI as well as with researchers based in Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, and the US. Nicole is a member of the Core Faculty of the African Studies Center at MSU and a Fellow of the MSU Academy for Global Engagement. She received the AFRE Excellence in Research Award in 2016, the AFRE Excellence in Teaching Award in 2019, and the AFRE Excellence in Outreach/Extension Award in 2020 with several colleagues for their policy outreach and engagement work under the (now complete) Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy project. In addition, Nicole and several collaborators were awarded the 2017 Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis by the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association for their work on farm input subsidy programs in SSA, and she also won the MSU John H. Hudzik Emerging Leader in Advancing International Studies and Programs Award that year.

Saweda Liverpool-Tasie



Saweda Liverpool-Tasie is a tenured professor in the department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics. Her current research focuses on emergent issues related to smallholder productivity and welfare within dynamic and transforming food markets in sub-Saharan Africa and alongside poorly functioning markets in the region. In addition to evaluating the heterogeneous effect of poverty reduction strategies (and social networks) on rural household behavior and livelihood, she has a keen interest in understanding input use and input markets as well as evaluating input policies. Before joining MSU, she was a Post Doctoral fellow at The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). She received her PhD in Agriculture and Consumer Economics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She holds an MSc in Urban and Regional Planning and an MA in Third World Development, both from The University of Iowa. She also holds a BSc. (Honors) in Economics from the University of Jos, Nigeria.

Her research work on poverty and international development has taken her to several states in the USA, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. Saweda was a Norman Borlaug Research Fellow in Ethiopia during the 2006/7 academic year. Her work on input use contributed to Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Intensification in Africa - GISAIA and was part of a portfolio of research recognized when she (and other colleagues) received the 2017 AAEE Bruce Gardener Memorial prize for applied policy analysis, in recognition of contributions to rigorous policy research that has impacted several countries. She is a 2016 recipient of the Michigan State University John K. Hudzik Emerging Leader in Advancing International Studies and Programs Award. In 2022 she was appointed to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), a USAID advisory board.

She is currently the lead Principal Investigator on a multi-million dollar project, Research Supporting African MSMEs to Provide Safe and Nutritious Food (RSM2SNF) in Nigeria and Tanzania. Previously, she was the Principal Investigator for Feed The Future Innovation Lab For Food Security Policy: Nigeria, which focused on strengthening capacity among Nigerian researchers and other stakeholders to support the agriculture policy processes with evidenced based policy recommendations.



Soji Adelaja



Dr. Soji Adelaja is appointed in the tenure stream in AFRE and in 2004 was named the [John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor in Land Policy](#). Until April 2011, he served as director of the [Land Policy Institute](#), which he founded in 2006. In that capacity, he also served as the director of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, funded Michigan Higher Education Land Policy Consortium (MiHELP), and the People and Land Initiative (PAL). Dr. Adelaja's work in public policy is highly respected and he has served as advisor to several key local, state, and national policy makers. Prior to coming to MSU in 2004, Dr. Adelaja was at Rutgers University for 18 years, during which period he served as Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dean of Cook College, Executive Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Professor and Chair of Agricultural Food and Resource Economics, Director of the Food Policy Institute, Director of the Food Innovation Center, and Director of the Eco-Policy Center. Soji has received numerous awards for excellence in research, outreach and policy leadership, including being named [ARER Fellow in 2012](#) by the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association, the 2011 Distinguished Faculty Award from Michigan State, 2010 tribute from the Governor of Michigan for his contribution to public policy and the State's economic development, a 2011 Outstanding article of the year award from Emerald Publishers, the 2010 Outstanding article of the year award from the Agricultural and Resource Economic Review, the 2003 Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Policy through Economics from NAREA, the Rutgers Presidential Award for Distinguished Public Service from Rutgers University, the 1999 Person of the Year Award from the National Prepared Foods Association, the 2002 Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Pennsylvania State University, and the New Jersey Governor's Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to the Garden State. [Click here for more details on Dr. Adelaja.](#)

Tom Reardon



Thomas Reardon is a University Distinguished Professor in the tenure system, Fellow of the AAEA (Agricultural and Applied Economics Association) and Honorary Lifetime Member (equivalent of “Fellow”) of the IAAE (International Association of Agricultural Economists). He holds Masters degrees from the Université de Nice and from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a Rockefeller Post-Doctoral Fellow with IFPRI posted to Burkina Faso with the University of Ouagadougou and ICRISAT, 1984-86, Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 1986-1991. He joined MSU in 1992. **Research.** Tom’s research focuses on transformation of food value chains, studying the “modern revolution” (the Supermarket Revolution and the e-commerce revolution) and the “Quiet Revolution” (the dynamic proliferation of SMEs in the midstream of value chains, particularly in wholesale, logistics, and food processing), and to date, in fish, horticulture, dairy, cereals, beef, and poultry. Tom studies the impacts of value chain transformations on small farms, consumption/nutrition, and rural employment in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Tom also has long studied rural nonfarm employment/livelihoods of rural households and “sustainable intensification” and productivity of small farms. Tom has published and in-press forthcoming in leading journals, including Journal of Economic Literature, PNAS, Science, Nature Sustainability, Nature Food, AJAE, Agricultural Economics, Food Policy, EDCC, Annual Review of Resource Economics, Journal of Economic Geography, Aquaculture, Applied Energy, Obesity Reviews, World Development, Journal of Agricultural Economics, Global Food Security, Journal of Development Studies, and others. His 2003 AJAE article on supermarkets in developing countries was awarded Honorable Mention for Enduring Quality by AAEA in 2019 and is one of the top five cited AJAE articles since 1980. With colleagues Tom has raised more than \$30 million in extramural research grants from foundations and government agencies focused on fieldwork in those regions. **International research fieldwork and collaborations.** Of Tom’s 40 years spent studying the above themes in spent 21 years in residence or long-term travel in those three regions, collaborating with national research institutions (NARS) and the CGIAR in extensive field survey work. 52/132 of Tom’s journal articles were published with NARS colleagues. Tom led/collaborated in many detailed primary field surveys totaling around 50,000 farm households, firms in value chains, and consumers in Africa and Asia. His main current fieldwork/data analysis/projects are in Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia; Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar; Colombia.



William Burke



An associate professor in the department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Bill Burke is an agricultural economist with a focus on Africa that began when he was a Peace Corps Volunteer in The Gambia, where he served from 2001 to 2003. Burke earned MSc and PhD degrees from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2009 and 2012 respectively. For three years (2010-12) he was on a long-term overseas assignment in Lusaka, Zambia, first as a Specialist and doctoral candidate, then Assistant Professor for the MSU Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics (AFRE).

His work in Zambia focused on several aspects of the heavily subsidized maize and fertilizer sectors. In addition to carrying out fieldwork, his time in Zambia was spent providing research, outreach and capacity building services for the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI, né Food Security Research Project). In 2012 he moved to Northern California to join Stanford University's Center on Food Security and the Environment, where he was a Research Scholar and lecturer for 4 years.

Veronique Theriault



Véronique Thériault joined the MSU AFRE faculty in 2011 as a fixed-term assistant professor after completing her doctorate at the University of Florida. She is working with the Food Security Research Project on campus and intensively on various in-country research and outreach projects.

Her areas of interests include development economics, institutional economics, production economics, and international trade in developing countries, especially in West Africa. She has recently conducted research on the effects of institutional changes and market-oriented reforms on the economic performance of cotton sectors in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali. She is the Technical Training Co-Lead for Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, & Influence

