

CONTACT	Department of Economics University of North Carolina 141 South Road, Gardner Hall Chapel Hill, NC 27599, USA	Email: dturkson@unc.edu Website: dannyturkson.github.io LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/dannyturkson Work Authorization: US Permanent Resident
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Applied Microeconomics: Labor Economics Family Economics Health Economics	
EDUCATION	Ph.D. in Economics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Advisor: Donna Gilleskie Committee: Jane Fruehwirth, Luca Flabbi, Désiré Kédagni, Jacob Kohlhepp	Expected 2027
	M.A. in Applied Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro	2020
	M.Phil. in Economics, University of Ghana	2018
	B.A. in Economics and Statistics, University of Ghana	2015
JOB MARKET PAPER	<i>From Cradle to Consequence: The Dynamic Impact of Parental Behaviors on Teenage Outcomes Among Fragile Families.</i> [Link] Abstract: How do parental behaviors at different stages of childhood causally shape a child's teenage outcomes? This paper estimates the causal impacts of observed parental behaviors (marriage/cohabitation, employment, welfare receipt, substance use, and criminal activity) on cognitive ability, and teenage educational attainment, substance use, and criminal behavior among fragile families. I jointly estimate a dynamic model of parental behaviors, child cognitive skill production, and teenage outcome production using data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study. The model accounts for theoretically relevant and empirically tested exclusion restriction, and permanent and time-varying family unobserved heterogeneity throughout, enabling credible causal identification. A key finding is that parental behaviors shape teenage outcomes primarily through direct behavioral pathways rather than through cognitive skill formation, suggesting that policies aimed solely at boosting cognitive test scores are unlikely to undo the long-run damage of adverse parental trajectories. Three policy experiments – a Sin-to-Skill tax, a Father-to-Foundation marriage promotion policy, and a Peer-to-Promise policy – illustrate that sustained, multi-dimensional interventions targeting early childhood and the adolescent social environment offer the greatest potential for improving long-run child outcomes in fragile families.	
WORKING PAPERS	<i>Under the Influence: Marijuana Legalization, Crime, and Father Well-Being in Fragile Families.</i> [Link] This paper studies the effect of state medical marijuana legalization on family well-being outcomes using data from the FFCWS, a longitudinal cohort of largely unmarried, economically disadvantaged parents. Exploiting staggered state-level adoption of medical marijuana laws between 2001 and 2018, I estimate both a two-way fixed effects (TWFE) event-study specification and the state-clustered Callaway and Sant'Anna group-time average treatment effect estimator across eight outcome domains, including mental health, substance use, criminal justice contact, and family structure. Significant father-side effects include a reduced likelihood of repartnering after separation, increased criminal justice contact, worsened mental health, and greater welfare receipt, with mechanism and heterogeneity checks pointing to a channel specific to fathers' own exposure rather than a generic household- or state-level confound. <i>The Causal Effects of Multidimensional School and Household Poverty on Student Achievement: An IV-Latent Class Analysis.</i> (with S. Wahab, F.R. Yorke, & S. Akyena). [Link] This paper estimates the causal effects of multidimensional school and household poverty on student achievement in Mathematics and English, using data from the 2016/17 Young Lives school survey covering seventh- and eighth-grade students across 30 public schools in Ethiopia. We construct Alkire-Foster poverty indices at the school and household level and estimate value-added models combining instrumental variables with latent class analysis (IV+LCA), exploiting cross-subject scores as an instrument and recovering five discrete student ability types. Household poverty carries a robust negative effect on English achievement but not Mathematics,	

while school poverty loses significance once student composition is accounted for, with effects concentrated among average-ability students and larger for girls than boys.

3. ***Cash Transfers and Labour Supply of Vulnerable Households: Does Household Indebtedness Matter? A Triple-Difference Analysis.*** (with Onyina, K.) [\[Link\]](#)

This paper examines how household indebtedness shapes the labor supply effects of Ghana's LEAP 1000 cash transfer program, addressing an underexplored constraint on how households respond to income transfers. Using a quasi-experimental triple-difference design on household panel data, we find that indebted beneficiaries increase wage work and non-farm enterprise formation but decrease part-time and agricultural employment, with effects varying by debt type (informal debt raising wage work via repayment pressure; formal debt raising entrepreneurship, especially among women).

4. ***Impact of Alcohol Use on Academic Performance Among College Students: The Case of Acute and Chronic Drinking*** [\[draft\]](#)

JOURNAL
ARTICLES

1. Kuperberg, A., **Turkson, D.**, Mazelis, J.M., Fredricks, K., & Pant, A. (2025). Student Loan Debt and Higher Education Disruptions During COVID-19. *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, 54 (2): Article 8. [\[Link\]](#)
2. Yorke, F.R., Wahab, S., & **Turkson, D.** (2023). Maternal Education and Child Malnutrition: Evidence from West Africa. *SN Social Sciences*, 3 (200): 1-30. [\[Link\]](#)
3. Nyarkpoh, M.K., **Turkson, D.**, & Buaka, E.S. (2023). Tax compliance in Ghana: does corruption and trust in the government matter? *SN Social Sciences*, 3 (155): 1-18. [\[Link\]](#)
4. Osei, K.B., & **Turkson, D.** (2022). Cash Transfer and Multidimensional Child Poverty: Evidence from Ghana. *International Journal of Social Economics*, 49 (5): 744-764. [\[Link\]](#)
5. **Turkson, D.**, Addai, N.B., Chowdhury, F., & Mohammed, F. (2021). Government Policies and Firm Performance in the COVID-19 Pandemic Era: A Sectoral Analysis. *SN Business Economics*, 1(12): 1-22. [\[Link\]](#)
6. Arthur, G.A. & **Turkson, D.** (2021). The Welfare Impact of Household Loans: An Analysis for Ghana. *Journal of Finance and Economics*, 9(2): 83-92. [\[Link\]](#)
7. **Turkson, D.**, & Ahiabor, J.K. (2020). Implication of Natal Care and Maternity Leave on Child Morbidity: Evidence from Ghana. *Global Journal of Health Science*, 12(9): 94-104. [\[Link\]](#)
8. **Turkson, D.**, & Codjoe, E.A. (2020). The Household Enterprise Sector in Ghana: Overview and Challenges. *International Journal of Business and Management*, 15(8): 140-151. [\[Link\]](#)

WORKS
IN PROGRESS

“Parental Substance Use, Incarceration, and Long-Run Educational Attainment of Children in Fragile Families”
“Rural Hospitals Closures and Hospital Surge Capacity” (with Tyler Malone)

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

UNC-Chapel Hill

Instructor

ECON101: Introduction to Economics Summer 23, Fall 23, Summer 24, Summer 25, Summer 26

Teaching Assistant

ECON470: Econometrics Spring 2025

ECON440: Analysis of Public Finance Fall 2024

ECON410: Intermediate Microeconomics Fall 2022, Spring 2026

ECON101: Introduction to Economics Spring 2023

UNC-Greensboro

Teaching Assistant

ECON201: Principles of Microeconomics Fall 2020, Spring 2021

University of Ghana

Teaching Assistant

EPMP602: Microeconomics Fall 2018

ECON316: Applied Statistics for Economists Spring 2019

ECON315: Applied Mathematics for Economists Fall 2018

ECON443 & 444: Econometrics I & II Fall 2015, Spring 2016

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Consultant at Enterprise Analysis Unit, The World Bank	Aug 2023 - Dec 2026
	Researcher at UNC Sheps Center for Health Services Research	Jun 2025 - Jan 2026
	Research Assistant to Andrés Hincapié, UNC Chapel Hill	Spring 2024
	Research Assistant to Arielle Kuperberg, UNC Greensboro	Summer 2021
	Research Assistant to Jeremy Bray, UNC Greensboro	2019–2020
TECHNICAL REPORTS	Modeling Energy Consumption at UNC Greensboro II. (2021) <i>Green Fund Project</i> (with Addai, N.B., Sturdivant J., Holland S., & Queen W.) [Link]	
	Modeling Energy Consumption at UNC Greensboro. (2020) <i>Green Fund Project</i> (with Queen W., Holland S., Addai, N.B., & Willis K.) [Link]	
GRANTS	Green Fund	
	Modelling Energy Consumption II — \$9,720	May 2021 - August 2021
	Modelling Energy Consumption I — \$11,232	May 2020 - August 2020
HONORS & AWARDS	UNC Dissertation Fellowship (\$24,000)	2026 - 2027
	Joseph M. Kampf and the Elizabeth & Harry Brainard Scholarship (\$21,700)	2021
	Data Dive Hackathon - 2 nd Runner-up , Arch MI (\$2,000)	2021
	Joseph M. Bryan Foundation Scholarship, UNCG (\$26,000)	2020 - 2021
	BB&T Academic Excellence Fellow, UNCG (\$6,000)	2019
	Bryan Sch of Business and Economics - Academic Excellence Medal	2020
MEMBERSHIP	American Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Kathleen Price & Joseph M. Bryan Fellow	
OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	Co-founder, QuantBridge webinar series	
	Graduate Program Ambassador, Bryan Sch of Business and Economics	
	i-Ambassador, International Student Rep, UNCG	
REFEREE SERVICE	<i>Review of Development Economics, BMC Public Health</i>	
SKILLS	Stata, R, SAS, MATLAB, Fortran	
TOOLS	L ^A T _E X, GitHub, Microsoft office	
REFERENCES	Donna Gilleskie Edwin Averyt Poston Distinguished Professor University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill donna.gilleskie@unc.edu	Jane Cooley Fruehwirth Professor of Economics University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill jane_fruehwirth@unc.edu
	Michelle Sheran-Andrews Teaching Professor of Economics University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill mesheran@email.unc.edu	