

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

Jordan Blekking

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IU Bloomington*

“A Multi-Level Analysis of Household
Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Despite decades of research and intervention aimed at the alleviation of food security in Sub-Saharan Africa, the problem remains. Attempts to understand and ensure food security have often focused on rural communities throughout the region, but adhering to the status quo is no longer possible as urban food security comes further into focus for policymakers throughout the region. As the urbanization of African cities continues, there will exist a greater need to understand the drivers of urban food security, especially the food security of low-income urbanites. The food security of low-income residents is the result of mixed policies and institutions that come together at varying levels of effectiveness in order to ensure consumption of safe and healthy food. In an effort to empirically study urban food security, we examine the interplay between market dynamics and socioeconomic status on household food security. Our analysis brings forth a nuanced examination of the drivers of urban food security through the use of primary household, residential area, and market data in order to understand how household-market interactions affect the attainment of food security within disparate residential areas of an urban center.



Jordan Blekking is a PhD student in the Department of Geography. His primary research interest focuses on human-environmental interactions; specifically, the linkages between rural production and urban consumption and how this interplay affects urban food systems and food security in Southern Africa. Previously, Jordan received his Master's of Science degree from the Department of Geography, where his thesis looked at the role of institutions and governance on the availability and accessibility of hybrid maize seed for use by smallholder farmers in rural Zambia ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).