

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

Jordan Blekking

*Department of Geography, Indiana University
Ostrom Research Awardee*

**“Migration and Urban Food Security in a
Secondary City of Zambia”**



Wednesday, November 20, 2019

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

Urbanization is rapidly occurring across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), somewhat as a result of migration patterns. Rapid urbanization through migration often leads to the spatial expansion of cities in SSA. Expansion in this manner is not typically paired with planning efforts, which can create challenges to the living conditions of urban residents. We use a reduced version of the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (rHFAS) to evaluate urban food security among 135 households in Mumbwa, Zambia. We divide households into three groups based on their migratory status in Mumbwa, Zambia: non-migrants, those that migrated since 2014, and those that migrated before 2014. Then we examine whether spatial patterns exist with regard to significant differences in food access throughout Mumbwa. We find more recent migrants have significantly higher food security outcomes than non-migrant residents and residents that migrated before 2014. We find household asset ownership, access to a farm, and more wage earning household members are all significantly associated with higher food security. We also find two statistically significant clusters of lower and higher than average food accessibility. These results illustrate the complex challenge policymakers face in addressing urban food security, due to the spatial, economic, and social complexity of the phenomenon.

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Jordan Blekking is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Geography. His research interests lie within human-environmental interactions; specifically, food security, food systems, and spatial analysis in urban areas. Jordan earned his M.S. from IU in 2017. Before coming to IU in 2015, Jordan served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia for three and a half years.

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).