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**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:** Research Officer and Doctoral Researcher

**NATIONALITY:** Canadian and French

**LANGUAGES:** French, English

**THEMATIC EXPERTISE:** Young people, employment, agriculture, food security, food systems, savings groups, microfinance

**GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE:** Sub-Saharan Africa; Kenya

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## OVERVIEW

Justin Flynn is a Research Officer and Doctoral Researcher in the Rural Futures cluster interested in youth employment, with a focus on young people living in rural areas; he also has interests in food security, sustainable food systems, and agricultural policy. He has ongoing and previous experience conducting research on policy responses to youth unemployment, including in rural areas and entrepreneurship. He has also conducted a mixed-methods study on youth savings groups in four African countries (Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia). Justin is currently undertaking a PhD looking at the pathways to sustainable and meaningful employment for rural young people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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## EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

<b>2017 – PRESENT</b>	<b>PhD in Development Studies</b> (ongoing, part-time) Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK
<b>2013 - 2014</b>	<b>M.A. Poverty &amp; Development</b> Institute of Development Studies, UK
<b>2005 - 2010</b>	<b>Honours B.A. History</b> University of Ottawa, Canada
<b>2007 - 2008</b>	<b>Ontario/Baden-Württemberg exchange programme, History</b> University of Heidelberg, Germany

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## RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

<b>2015 – PRESENT</b>	<b>Research Officer, Institute of Development Studies, UK</b> Conducting literature, evidence reviews/syntheses on the topic of rural youth employment in Sub-Saharan Africa, and providing methodological and analytical support on related projects. Co-authored and published a systematic review of the impacts of skills training on agricultural employment. Conducted mixed methods research in Sub-Saharan Africa on youth savings groups. Regularly supervising MA students, including for dissertations.
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<b>2022</b>	<b>Tutor, Institute of Development Studies, UK</b> Leading and delivering a weekly seminar for Debating Poverty and Vulnerability: Policy and Programmes (DPV), a full 30-credit module.
<b>2020 – 2022</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant, Institute of Development Studies, UK</b> Providing course-based support to IDS MA students from different programmes, and delivering sessions to MA students on academic skills.
<b>2014 – 2015</b>	<b>Research Assistant, Institute of Development Studies, UK</b> Conducted various literature reviews on the agricultural sector in Africa and on the evaluation of impact investments.
<b>2011 – 2012</b>	<b>Volunteer, Be the Change Academy – Kenya, Kenya</b> Trained young people in financial literacy and entrepreneurship and helped them develop business plans. Also wrote various grant proposals, and successfully obtained €20,000 in funding from the French Agency for Development in Nairobi, Kenya.

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## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Yeboah, T. and **Flynn, J.** (2021). *Rural Youth Employment in Africa: An Evidence Review*. Evidence Synthesis Paper 10/2021. Leiden, The Netherlands: INCLUDE Knowledge Platform. [[Available here](#)]

**Flynn, J.** and Sumberg, J. (2021). Are young people abandoning agriculture? in Sumberg, J. (Ed.), *Youth and the Rural Economy in Africa: Hard Work and Hazard*. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. [[Available here](#)] (open access)

Yeboah, T., Crossouard, B., and **Flynn, J.** (2021). Young people's imagined futures, in Sumberg, J. (Ed.) *Youth and the rural economy in Africa: Hard Work and Hazard*. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. [[Available here](#)] (open access)

Sumberg, J., **Flynn, J.**, Oosterom, M., Yeboah, T., Crossouard, B. and Thorsen, D. (2021). African youth and the rural economy: Points of departure, in Sumberg, J. (Ed.), *Youth and the Rural Economy in Africa: Hard Work and Hazard*. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. [[Available here](#)] (open access)

Sumberg, J., Fox, L., **Flynn, J.**, Mader, P. and Oosterom, M. (2021). Africa's "youth employment" crisis is actually a "missing jobs" crisis. *Dev Policy Rev.* 00: 1–23. DOI: [10.1111/dpr.12528](#) (open access)

Maïga, W.H.E., Porgo, M., Zahonogo, P., Amegnaglo, C. J., Coulibaly, D. A., **Flynn, J.**, Seogo, W., Traoré, S., Kelly, J. A. and Chimwaza, G. (2020). A systematic review of employment outcomes from youth skills training programmes in agriculture in low- and middle-income countries. *Nature Food*, 1, 605–619. DOI: [10.1038/s43016-020-00172-x](#) (open access)

Yeboah, T., Chigumira, E., John, I., Anyidoho, N. A., Manyong, V., **Flynn, J.** and Sumberg, J. (2020). Hard work and hazard: Young people and agricultural commercialisation in Africa. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 76, 142-151. DOI: [10.1016/j.jrurstud.2020.04.027](#) (open access)

Quak, E.-J. and **Flynn, J.** (2019). *Private Sector Development Interventions and Better-Quality Job Creation for Youth in Africa: Linking Business Performance with Productivity Growth and Sustainable Job Creation*. Evidence Synthesis Paper 1/2019. Leiden: INCLUDE Platform. [[Available here](#)]

Sumberg, J., Chamberlin, J., **Flynn, J.**, Glover, D. and Johnson, V. (2019). *Landscapes of Rural Youth Opportunity*. 2019 Rural Development Report Background Paper No. 7. Rome: IFAD. [[Available here](#)]

**Flynn, J.** and Sumberg, J. (2018). Are savings groups a livelihoods game changer for young people in Africa? *Development in Practice*. 28(1), 51-64. DOI: [10.1080/09614524.2018.1397102](#) (open access)

Irwin, S., Mader, P. and **Flynn, J.** (2018). *How Youth-Specific is Africa's Youth Employment Challenge?* K4D Emerging Issues Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies [[Available here](#)]

**Flynn, J.** and Sumberg, J. (2017). Youth savings groups in Africa: they're a family affair. *Enterprise Development and Microfinance*. 28(3), 147-161. DOI: [10.3362/1755-1986.16-00005](#) (open access)

**Flynn, J.**, Mader, P., Oosterom, M. and Ripoll, S. (2017). *Failing Young People? Addressing the Supply-side Bias and Individualisation in Youth Employment Programming*. IDS Evidence Report 216. Brighton: IDS. [[Available here](#)]