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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Officer and Doctoral Researcher

NATIONALITY: Canadian and French

LANGUAGES: French, English

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Young people, employment, livelihoods, decent work, rural, agriculture, savings groups, microfinance

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: Sub-Saharan Africa; Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya

OVERVIEW

Justin Flynn is a Research Officer and Doctoral Researcher in the Rural Futures cluster interested in youth employment and livelihoods, with a focus on young people living in rural areas; he also has interests in sustainable production and consumption. Justin is currently undertaking a PhD looking at pathways to meaningful and/or decent work for rural young people in Côte d'Ivoire. He has ongoing and previous experience conducting research on policy responses to youth unemployment, including entrepreneurship. He has conducted a mixed-methods study on youth savings groups in four African countries (Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia).

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2017 - PRESENT **PhD in Development Studies** (ongoing, part-time)
Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK

2013 - 2014 **M.A. Poverty & Development**
Institute of Development Studies, UK

2005 - 2010 **Honours B.A. History**
University of Ottawa, Canada

2007 - 2008 **Ontario/Baden-Württemberg exchange programme, History**
University of Heidelberg, Germany

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2015 – PRESENT **Research Officer, Institute of Development Studies, UK**
Conducting literature and evidence reviews/syntheses on the topic of rural youth employment in Sub-Saharan Africa, and providing methodological and analytical support on related primary research 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.

2022	Tutor, Institute of Development Studies, UK Leading and delivering a weekly seminar for Debating Poverty and Vulnerability: Policy and Programmes (DPV), a full 30-credit module.
2020 – 2022	Teaching Assistant, Institute of Development Studies, UK Providing course-based support to IDS MA students from different programmes, and delivering sessions to MA students on academic skills.
2014 – 2015	Research Assistant, Institute of Development Studies, UK Conducted various literature reviews on the agricultural sector in Africa and on the evaluation of impact investments.
2011 – 2012	Volunteer, Be the Change Academy – Kenya, Kenya 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.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS

Hernandez, K.; Flynn, J.; He, J. and Alsahi, H. (2023) *Towards Digital Inclusion in Rural Transformation*. Rome: FAO. (forthcoming)

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

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: CAB International

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

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

Maïga, W.H.E. et al. (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

Yeboah, T. (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

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

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

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

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

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

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: Institute of Development Studies