

Henry Cust

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Summary

Henry is an applied health and development economist with over a decade of experience in research and impact evaluation across low- and middle-income countries, studying how poverty, economic and climate shocks, and policy choices shape health behaviours and outcomes. His research agenda has two connected strands. The first examines what happens to health systems when their financing is withdrawn, with a headline paper on the impact of the USAID and PEPFAR cuts on key HIV populations in sub-Saharan Africa forthcoming in *The Lancet Global Health*. The second examines the structural and economic determinants of HIV among women engaged in transactional and commercial sex, how economic support can buffer young women against infection, and increasingly the men in these relationships and the networks through which risk moves. He is extending this work to antimicrobial resistance, where incentives and information shape antibiotic use by patients and prescribers and where a diagnostic pilot he led in India contributed to an NIH R01, and to the health consequences of climate change and adaptation. Methodologically he employs experimental and quasi-experimental methods, alongside the design of elicitation instruments for behaviours that are rarely reported accurately, and is published in leading health economics journals, with his primary PhD paper winning first prize at the International Health Economics Association Student Paper Prize competition.

Education

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (University of London), UK 2018 – 2024

PhD Health Economics

Thesis title: “Economic Shocks and Risky Sexual Behaviours in Low- and Middle-Income Countries”
Supervisors: Aurélia Lépine (UCL), Timothy Powell-Jackson (LSHTM), Rosalba Radice (City University)

Advisors: Olukorede Abiona (Macquarie University Sydney)

University of Nottingham, UK 2013 – 2014

MSc Economics and Development Economics

University of York, UK 2010 – 2013

BSc Economics

Employment

London School of Economics, UK September 2026 – Present

LSE Fellow, Department of Health Policy

- Leading personal research agenda in the economics of health in low- and middle-income countries, health financing and impacts of climate change on health.
- Teaching modules: **HP420** Health Economics; **HP422** Health Care Economic Evaluation; **HP434** Methods and Data for Health Science.

Duke University, USA September 2024 – September 2026

Research Scientist, Sanford School of Public Policy

- Piloting an RCT testing a new diagnostic tool to improve providers’ ability to appropriately prescribe antibiotics for paediatric patients.
- Analysing a 200,000 observation household dataset investigating the link between parental mental health and childhood vaccination.

- Principal Investigator (PI) examining the impacts of the USAID cuts on HIV service delivery in NGOs across sub-Saharan Africa. First research paper R&R at *The Lancet Global Health*.

University College London (UCL), Institute for Global Health, UK July 2022 – September 2024

Research Fellow

- Led the statistical and econometric analysis of the POWER health insurance for HIV prevention RCT in Cameroon, in addition to supporting the implementation and coordination of data collection and quality assurance.
- Taught economics courses on microeconomics, health economics, health systems and econometrics.
- Used the results of our research to advocate for protecting vulnerable women from economic shocks and HIV.

ITAD, UK

March 2022 – May 2024

Consultant (part-time), March – October 2022

- Advised and led the econometric/statistical analysis and dissemination of the outcomes survey for the GCRF evaluation.

Family Planning Metrics Evaluator (part-time), November 2022 – September 2024

- Supported technical and evaluation leads of The Challenge Initiative (TCI) to advise on overall MEL, plus advised on host programmes' data quality to conduct robust econometric analysis, including synthetic control and interrupted time series analyses.

Macquarie University Sydney, Australia (remote)

May 2022 – September 2022

Consultant (part-time)

- Led the generation of climate and drought metrics from precipitation data, linking to multi-wave survey data.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK September 2018 – September 2022

Research Fellow, Seminar Leader, Assignment Marker (2018 – 2022)

- Taught seminars and marked assignments for six MSc modules in health economics and health systems.
- Taught and contributed to the curriculum on econometric evaluation techniques, including synthetic control, natural experiments, difference-in-difference, instrumental variable, and interrupted time series methods.

Research Assistant – part-time consultant (March 2021 – August 2021)

- Lancet Global Health Commission and RESPOND project.

Student Representative (2019 – 2021)

- Led and chaired RD work-in-progress seminars and arranged social events.

Economic Development Initiatives, Tanzania and UK

August 2016 – September 2018

Research Officer

- Responsible for managing large and small-scale primary data collection projects within international development in Tanzania, including managing teams of survey enumerators, survey instrument design, training data collection teams and overseeing quantitative and qualitative data collection activities.
- Liaised with local partners, community leaders and high-profile external clients including the Tanzanian Government Ministries to advise on local context and technical requirements for running RCTs, monitoring and evaluation and observational studies.

- Led the preparation of project proposals, expressions of interest and tenders for business development, winning projects with a combined value of over \$1.5m.

King's College London, UK

March 2015 – August 2016

Research Assistant, King's Health Economics

- Contributed to several large-scale health economic projects across UK and EU countries, including cost-effectiveness (Markov modelling) and other applied health economic analysis.
- Completed “Advanced Decision Modelling for Health Economics” at the University of Glasgow.

Personal Prizes, Grants, Awards and Scholarships

- Duke Global Publications Fund at Duke University – \$1,500
- Trent Memorial Fund, Duke University – \$7,500
- UCL Early Career Catalyst Award in Population Health – £5,000
- 1st Place, International Health Economics Association student paper prize, 2022 – Cash prize, costs of registration and expedited publication of the winning paper.
- Bloomsbury PhD Scholarship, 2018 – Fees and stipend awarded for three years of PhD programme at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Proficiencies and Languages

Software skills – Stata (proficient), R (intermediate), ODK (proficient), Microsoft Office package (proficient), $\text{\LaTeX}$ (intermediate), SQL (intermediate), Git (basic), QGIS (intermediate), Python (beginner), NVivo (beginner).

Languages – English (native), French (A2).

Publications

1. **H. Cust**, S. Chabata, et al. HIV service delivery following the PEPFAR and USAID HIV funding withdrawal in Uganda and Zimbabwe: an interrupted time-series study. (*forthcoming* – *The Lancet Global Health*)
2. **H. Cust**, A. Lépine, C. Treibich, T. Powell-Jackson, R. Radice, C. T. Ndour. (2024) Trading HIV for Sheep: An estimation of the sexual behaviours response of female sex workers to Tabaski in Senegal. *Health Economics*. **International Health Economics Association Student Paper Prize: 1st Place**
3. R. Njuguna, **H. Cust** (joint first author), S. Szawlowski, E. Nitcheu, E. D. Tamgno, J. Noo, I. Mfochive, S. Billong, U. Tamoufe, A. Lépine. (2025) Does the risk premium differ between women engaged in commercial and transactional sex? Evidence from urban Cameroon. *Health Economics*.
4. **H. Cust**, H. Jones, T. Powell-Jackson, A. Lépine, R. Radice. (2021) Economic shocks and risky sexual behaviours in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review of the literature. *Journal of Development Effectiveness*.
5. A. Lépine, **H. Cust**, C. Treibich (joint first authors). (2023) What drives HIV in Africa? Addressing economic gender inequalities to close the HIV gender gap. *Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Economics and Finance*.
6. H. Jones, R. Anderson, **H. Cust**, ..., J. Hargraves, O. Stevens. (2024) HIV incidence among women engaging in sex work in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Global Health*.
7. A. Kasim, **H. Cust**, I. Mfochive, S. Szawlowski, E. Nitcheu, E. D. Tamgno, S. Moyoum, J. Noo,

- S. Billong, U. Tamoufe, A. Lépine. (2025) Cost-effectiveness of health insurance among women engaged in transactional sex and impacts on HIV transmission in Cameroon: a mathematical model. *BMJ Global Health* 10, no. 2.
8. W. Toh, C. Treibich, S. Szawlowski, **H. Cust**, E. H. Mbaye, K. Gueye, C. T. Ndour, A. Lépine. (2025) Condom use prevalence during the COVID-19 pandemic among female sex workers in Dakar, Senegal: a retrospective, cross-sectional analysis. *Health Policy and Planning*.
 9. A. Lépine, **H. Cust**, A. Ndjore, C. Treibich, L. Foubert, M. Passey, S. Binder. (2024) Estimating the prevalence of child labour in the cocoa industry via indirect elicitation methods: A mixed-methods study. *Journal of Population Economics*.
 10. A. Lépine, C. Henderson, E. Nitchou, F. Procureur, **H. Cust**, ... (2024) 'Public prostitutes and private prostitutes': A study of women's perceptions of transactional sex in Cameroon. *Social Science and Medicine*.
 11. A. Lépine, S. Szawlowski, E. Nitchou, **H. Cust**, ... (2024) The effect of protecting women against economic shocks to fight HIV in Cameroon, Africa: The POWER randomised controlled trial. *PLoS Medicine*.
 12. J. Fang, J. Xu, **H. Cust**, ... (2025) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on smoking in adolescents: a scoping review. *BMC Public Health*.
 13. J. Choumert-Nkolo, **H. Cust**, C. Taylor. (2019) Using Paradata to Collect Better Survey Data: Evidence from a Household Survey in Tanzania. *Journal of Development Studies*.
 14. R. Torrance, Q. Akli, R. Ahmed, **H. Cust**, B. Cislaghi. (2024) The influence of social norms on sexual and intimate partner violence in Somalia: a systematic literature review. *Aggression and Violent Behaviour*.
 15. J. Shaw, P. McCrone, **H. Cust**, et al. (2017) Critical time Intervention for Severely mentally ill Prisoners (CrISP): a randomised controlled trial. *Health Services and Delivery Research*, No. 5.8.

Submitted

1. **H. Cust**, M. Vera-Hernandez, J. Maselko, J. Lansford, A. Mukherji, M. Mohanan. Parental Mental Health and Childhood Vaccinations in India: A SEHAT study. (target – *Social Science and Medicine*)
2. M. Mohanan, V. S. Rajan, K. M. Swanson, **H. Cust**, H. Thirumurthy. Improving Public Delivery of Health and Nutrition Services with Social Accountability: Evidence from India. (submitted – *Journal of Health Economics*)
3. A. Lépine, X. Zhou, **H. Cust**, C. Treibich and The POWER Team. Learning but Not Paying: The Effect of Free Health Insurance on Willingness to Pay. (under review – *Journal of Development Economics*)

Working Papers

1. **H. Cust**, Z. Wagner. (2026) "Assessing the Feasibility of Rapid Stool Pathogen Testing to Improve Diarrhoea Management in India."
2. J. Choumert-Nkolo, M. Mallet, C. Taylor, **H. Cust**. (2017) "Randomising Respondent Selection using Surveybe." EDI Working Paper.
3. A. Chandrasekhar, M. Mohanan, J. Moody, H. Thirumurthy, **H. Cust**, K. Swanson. (2026) "Networks, Common Knowledge, and Participation in Collective Action."
4. **H. Cust**, O. Abiona, T. Powell-Jackson, A. Lépine. "Weather shocks and transactional sex in Africa."

Conferences and Presentations

- UCL Global Business School for Health: Workshop, May 2026
- Workshop on Health Economics in LMICs, Rotterdam, NL, June 2026
- ASHECON 2026: Preliminary Empirical Insights into the Real Cost of PEPFAR and USAID HIV Funding Cuts in sub-Saharan Africa
- Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health: Invited Seminar, March 2026
- University of North Carolina: Invited Seminar, February 2026
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health Annual Conference 2026, Washington DC
- SEHAT Workshop (hosted IIMB Bangalore) 2025: Parental Mental Health and Childhood Vaccinations in India: A SEHAT study
- IHEA Congress 2025:
 - The Role of Health Expenses on Condomless Sex Among Female Sex Workers in Urban Senegal
 - Learning but Not Paying: The Effect of Free Health Insurance on Willingness to Pay
- ASHECON 2025: Parental Mental Health and Childhood Vaccinations in India: A SEHAT study
- University of Oxford: Oxford Global Health and Care Systems Society 2023 Invited Seminar
- EUHEA Conference 2024: Weather Shocks and Transactional Sex in Africa
- IHEA Congress 2023:
 - Paper prize oral presentation: Trading HIV for Sheep: An estimation of the sexual behaviours response of female sex workers to Tabaski in Senegal
 - Poster presentation: Weather Shocks and Transactional Sex in Africa
- Nordic Conference of Development Economics 2024: Does the risk premium differ between women engaged in commercial and transactional sex? Evidence from urban Cameroon
- Nordic Conference of Development Economics 2023: Weather Shocks and Transactional Sex in Africa
- Nordic Conference of Development Economics 2022: Trading HIV for Sheep: An estimation of the sexual behaviours response of female sex workers to Tabaski in Senegal
- EUHEA Conference 2022, oral presentations:
 - Trading HIV for Sheep: An estimation of the sexual behaviours response of female sex workers to Tabaski in Senegal
 - Economic shocks and risky sexual behaviours in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review of the literature
 - Weather Shocks and Transactional Sex in Africa
- IHEA Congress 2021 (virtual): Oral presentations as part of the organised session – New Approach to HIV Prevention: Protecting Women from Economic Shock to Fight HIV in Africa:
 - Economic shocks and risky sexual behaviours in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review of the literature
 - The effect of anticipated and unanticipated economic shocks on condom behaviours of female sex workers in Senegal
- LSHTM virtual poster day (2021): PhD poster presentation titled “Economic Shocks and Risky Sexual Behaviours”
- LSHTM Faculty Research Degree work-in-progress (2018 – 2021): Organised and presented my work numerous times for students and faculty members

Professional Membership

International Health Economics Association, American Society of Health Economists

Peer Review

Journal of Labour Economics, Review of Development Economics, Health Policy and Planning, PLOS ONE, Journal of Development Studies, AIDS Care, BMC Women's Health

Teaching

Lecturer and seminar leader at UCL for:

- Health Systems in a Global Context – Lectures and Seminars
- Microeconomics for Health – Seminars
- Key Principles for Health Economics – Seminars

Seminar leader at LSHTM for:

- Introduction to Health Economics – Seminars
- Economic Analysis of Health Policy – Seminars and curriculum development
- Evaluation of Public Health Interventions – Seminars and curriculum development
- Health Systems – Seminars

Student Supervision

- Michele Coleman (LSHTM), 2024 – present – DrPH thesis advisor
- Mingxuan Wu, 2024 – MSc dissertation supervisor
- Rebecca Njuguna, 2023 – MSc dissertation supervisor

Referees

Professor Manoj Mohanan – manoj.mohanan@duke.edu

Dr Aurélia Lépine – a.lepine@ucl.ac.uk

Professor Timothy Powell-Jackson – timothy.powell-jackson@lshtm.ac.uk