

# Sylvie Sanou

Curriculum Vitae

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## NIU Job Market Coordinator

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of Economics, Northern Illinois University

Expected completion May 2024

Dissertation Title: “Three Essays on the Impact of Debt on Young American Adults’ Lives After Graduation”

M.S. Department of Statistics, Northern Illinois University, May 2023

M.A. Department of Economics, Western Illinois University, July 2018

B.A. Department of Economics, Universite Saint Thomas D’Aquin, Burkina Faso, 2012

**Fields:** Labor Economics, Health Economics, Applied Econometrics, Public Economics, Education, Development Economics.

## DISSERTATION COMMITTEE & REFERENCES

Dr. Virginia Wilcox

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Dr. Maria Ponomareva

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Teaching Experience

#### Teaching Assistant, Northern Illinois University

Macroeconomics Analysis I

Spring 2023

History of Economics Thought

Fall 2021

Intermediate Macroeconomics

Spring 2021

Intermediate Econometrics

Fall 2020

Intermediate Macroeconomics

Spring 2020

Econometrics	Fall 2019
Principles of Microeconomics	Spring 2019
Principles of Microeconomics	Fall 2018

## Instructor, Northern Illinois University

Principal of Microeconomics	Fall 2022
Principal of Macroeconomics	Spring 2022

## Research Experience

- 2015      **Research Assistant**, Institut FREE Afrik  
Independently designed and used econometrics models to investigate the impact of the banking system on economic growth using STATA.  
Wrote literature review papers that enhanced my writing skills.  
Collaborated with other researchers on research projects aiming to identify financial factors affecting economic growth.  
Facilitated the organization of research seminars, and conferences and consistently met deadlines in research paper presentations.
- 2015      **Surveyor**, Commercial Chamber of Burkina Faso  
Collaborated with cross-functional teams to collect statistical information about firms' financial conditions, resulting in the identification of firms that are financially constrained.  
Assisted in creating databases while ensuring data quality and consistency.

## Industry Experience

- 2011      **Intern in the Statistics Department**, Central Bank of West African Economic and Monetary Union Countries  
Employed statistical methods to visualize the evolution of macroeconomic data, ensuring the stability of the economy.  
Created a table of international transactions in Burkina Faso, leading to the evaluation of the value of the commercial balance.  
Calculated the inflation rate in Burkina Faso to monitor the inflation rate and ensure price stability.
- 2009      **Intern in the Office of Budget**, Commercial Bank of Burkina Faso  
Estimated the institution's monthly expenses and collaborated with cross-functional teams to prepare comprehensive financial documents to assist with budget creation.  
Used accounting and statistical methods to ensure that the budget was strictly respected.

## Research in Progress

- **Impact of Debt on Multiple jobholding (Job Market Paper)**

**Abstract:** I examine whether debt causes young American adults to have several jobs using the 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY97) data. My research contributes to the literature by being the first to evaluate the impact of student loan debt and other types of debt on U.S. young adults' multiple jobholding. Using a Poisson regression, I find that debt has a positive impact on young American adults' multiple job-holding. Specifically, student loan debt and other types of debt increase the rate of young American adults' multiple jobholding. However, the effect of student loan debt on the probability of holding multiple jobs is smaller than that of other types of debt. I conclude that financially constrained young adults are more likely to have several jobs compared to their counterparts who are not financially constrained. Besides debt, I find gender and racial differences in multiple jobholding: Women are less likely to have several jobs compared to men, while Blacks or Hispanics are less likely to moonlight compared to their White and Mixed-race counterparts.

- **Impact of Student Loan Debt on The Mental Health of U.S. Young Adults**

**Abstract:** I investigate the impact of student loan debt on the mental health of U.S. young adults using restricted-access data from the 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY97). Prior studies found that debt negatively affects mental health, however, few papers focused on educational debt. Unlike other debt, student loan debt is special because it funds a human capital, and borrowers expect to receive a significant return on the investment. My study also improves prior literature by proposing a theoretical model explaining the link between student loan debt and mental. Using a two-stage estimation model, I find that educational debt, like every other debt, negatively affects US young adults' mental health. An increase in education debt by \$10,000 increases the probability of being depressed by 7.37%. The effect of debt on mental health is more prominent during the first years of loan repayment.

- **Impact of Debt on Donations and Volunteering of U.S. Young Adults**

**Abstract:** I explore the impact of debt on donations and volunteering using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY97). This aspect has not yet been explored in the existing literature. Using an ordered logistic model I find that student loan debt does not have a significant effect on time and money donations, while other types of debt such as credit cards and vehicle debt significantly affect monetary donations but have no significant impact on volunteering. I further find gender and racial differences in monetary donations. Women are more likely to donate compared to men, while Blacks and Hispanics are less likely to make monetary donations compared to their White and Mixed-race counterparts. My results suggest that volunteering is considered by young adults as an investment rather than a consumption good.

## **AWARDS, HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2023      Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Fall 2023 & Spring 2024)  
2016      Fulbright Scholarship (Jan.2016-Jul.2018)  
2012      Burkina Faso Government Scholarship (Oct.2012-Aug.2014)

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

### **Papers Presented**

- 2022      Impact of Student Loan Debt on the Mental Health of Young American Adults,  
51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Illinois Economics Association (IEAs) (Chicago, IL),  
November 4-5.
- 2022      Impact of Student Loan Debt on the Mental Health of Young American Adults,  
51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEAs)  
(Saint Louis, MO), October 6-8.
- 2021      Impact of Student Loan Debt on the Mental Health of Young American Adults,  
Annual Conference of the MidWest Economics Association (MEAs), March 22-26.

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

### **Conference Session Moderator**

Annual Meeting of Illinois Economic Association (MEAs)  
Session Moderator, 2021 (virtual)

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- 2023      Volunteer at Northern Illinois Food Bank  
2017      Treasurer of Redeemed Student Association, Western Illinois University (WIU)

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

Statistical software: SAS and SPSS  
Other software: STATA, R, Python, Eviews, Tableau, and PowerBi.  
Microsoft (Excel and PowerPoint)  
Environment: L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
Database management: SQL/SQLite

## **LANGUAGES**

English, fluent

French, native

Dioula, native

Moore, native

## **AFFILIATIONS & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Economic Association, 2021-present

Illinois Economic Association, 2022-present

Missouri Valley Economic Association, 2022-present

The Sadie Collective, 2021-present

Phi Kappa Phi, 2018-2022