

# Zaki Wahhaj

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**DATE OF BIRTH:** June 28, 1976

**CITIZENSHIP:** Bangladesh

## **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:**

University of Kent  
Lecturer in Economics, School of Economics  
January 2012 – Present

University of Oxford  
Departmental Lecturer in Economic Development, Queen Elizabeth House  
September 2008 – December 2011

University of Namur, Belgium  
Post-doctoral Fellow, Center for Research in the Economics of Development  
September 2006 – September 2008

## **GRADUATE STUDIES:**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D., Economics, 2006

THESIS TITLE: Essays on the Microeconomics of the Household

THESIS SUPERVISORS: Professors Abhijit Banerjee and Bengt Holmstrom

## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES:**

Yale University, B.Sc., Economics with Mathematics (cum laude), 1999

## **HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

Research Associate, Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford, 2010-Present  
Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Namur, Belgium, 2006-08  
Associate Fellow, CORE, Université Catholique de Louvain, 2006-08  
Social Science Research Council Field Research Grant, Program in Applied Economics, 2003  
George Schulz Grant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2003  
Research Fellow, London School of Economics, STICERD, 2002  
Presidential Graduate Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2001-03  
Morton Weeks Scholarship, Yale University, 1998-99  
Research Assistant, Cowles Foundation, Yale University, 1996

## **OTHER POSITIONS HELD:**

Research Assistant, Goldman Sachs International, Economic Research Division, 1999-2001

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

“Social Norms and Individual Savings in the Context of Informal Insurance”, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 76(3), December 2010.

“Legal Reform in the Presence of a Living Custom”, with Gani Aldashev & Jean-Philippe Platteau, *Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences*, Vol 108, Supplement 4, December 2011.

“Using the Law to Change the Custom”, with Gani Aldashev, Imane Chaara & Jean-Philippe Platteau, *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 97(2), March 2012.

“Modern Law as a Magnet to Reform Unfair Customs”, with Gani Aldashev, Imane Chaara & Jean-Philippe Platteau, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, forthcoming, July 2012.

“Microfinance and Gender Empowerment”, with Thi Minh-Phuong Ngo, *Journal of Development Economics*, in press.

“Gender, Social Norms and Household Production in Burkina Faso”, with Harounan Kazianga, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, forthcoming, April 2013.

### **WORKING PAPERS:**

“Microfinance and Gender Empowerment”, with Thi Minh-Phuong Ngo, CSAE Working Paper Series 2010-34 (a longer version of the JDE article).

“Repayment Incentives and Distribution of Gains from Group Lending”, with Jean-Marie Baland and Rohini Somanathan. BREAD Working Paper Series 2011, No. 292

“Elite Capture through Information Distortion”, with Vincent Somville & Jean-Philippe Platteau.

“Social Norms, Higher Order Beliefs and the Emperor's New Clothes”

### **SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS:**

Allied Social Sciences Association Conference 2012, AEDSB session, Chicago, January 2012  
IGC Bangladesh Growth Research Conference, December 2011  
PAI Workshop, University of Namur, December 2011  
UKFIET Conference, Oxford, September 2011  
Nuffield College, University of Oxford, Discussion Group on Learning, Games and Networks, February 2011  
Department of Economics, University of Edinburgh, September 2010  
Centre for the Study of African Economies Annual Conference, University of Oxford, March 2010  
School of International Development, University of East Anglia, December 2009  
Department of Economics, Brunel University, October 2009  
School of Oriental and African Studies, October 2009  
Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford, June 2009  
Centre for Research in the Economics of Development, University of Namur, June 2009  
First European Research Conference on Microfinance, Université Libre de Bruxelles, June 2009  
Canadian Economic Association Meetings, Toronto, May 2009  
Annual Conference on Development and Institutions, CEDI, Brunel University, June 2008  
European School on New Institutional Economics, Cargèse, Corsica, May 2008  
Department of Economics, Swansea University, March 2008  
Department of Economics, National University of Singapore, February 2008  
Paris School of Economics, February 2008  
Toulouse School of Economics, January 2008  
Université Libre de Bruxelles, Solvay School of Business, May 2007