

Dr. Yael Borofsky

Personal Data

Place and Date of Birth: USA | 20 May 1987
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Education

- January 2022 PhD, Development Economics Group & Institute of Science, Tech. & Policy, **ETH Zurich**
Thesis: "Night in the Informal City: How Limited Public Infrastructure Shapes Life After Dark in Informal Settlements"
- June 2015 MCP in City Planning and MS in Technology & Policy, **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, GPA: 4.9/5.0
Thesis: "Towards a Transdisciplinary Approach to Rural Electrification Planning for Universal Access in India"
- May 2009 BS in Human Development, **Cornell University**, GPA: 3.7/4.0

Academic Experience

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| Sep. 2023 - June 2024 | Early-Career Fellow, Collegium Helveticum, ETH Zurich
Leading own research on electricity access in informal settlements using generative AI and natural language processing. |
| Jan. 2022 - July 2023 | Senior Scientist, Development Economics Group, ETH Zurich
Conducted research on infrastructure access in informal settlements; Managed interdisciplinary, international research projects and proposals; Mentored PhD students. |
| June 2017 - Jan. 2022 | Research Scientist, Institute of Science, Technology and Policy (ISTP) & Development Economics Group (DEC), ETH Zurich
Pursued transdisciplinary doctoral research evaluating the impact of public lighting in informal settlements in the Urban Research Incubator. |
| May 2016 - May 2017 | Research Associate & Lecturer, MIT Energy Initiative
Developed and co-taught first-ever graduate-level course on planning and policy for energy access in low-income countries. |
| Sep. 2015 - Dec. 2016 | Research Assistant, NADEL Center for Development & Cooperation, ETH Zurich
Processed analyzed sensor data from solar and kerosene lanterns as part of a randomized controlled trial on the impact of indoor solar lamps in western Kenya. |
| June 2013 - May 2015 | Research Assistant, Universal Energy Access Group, MIT Energy Initiative
Co-developed the concept for a spatial rural electrification planning tool; Researched non-technical planning factors with fieldwork in Bihar, India. |
| Sep. 2012 - June 2013 | Research Assistant, Urban Sustainability Assessment, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning
Conducted interviews with various US city officials on municipal composting programs. |

Peer-Reviewed Publications & Book Chapters

Borofsky, Y., S. Briers, & I. Guenther. 2024. "An empirical test of pedestrian activity theories within informal settlements." In D. Iossifova & D. Kostenwein (Eds.), *Urban borderlands: Difference, inequality, and spatio-temporal in-betweenness in cities*. Urban Planning, 9. *In Press*.

Borofsky, Y.. 2022. "Beleuchtung in Informelle Siedlungen: das Schattendasein beenden." *Almanach Entwicklungspolitik 2023: Urbanisierung in Globalen Süden*. pp. 221-230, Luzern: Caritas-Verlag.

Borofsky, Y. & I. Guenther. 2022. "Mobility in informal settlements during a public lockdown: a case study in South Africa." *PLoS ONE*, 17(12): e0277465.

Borofsky, Y. & I. Guenther. 2022. "Bringing light to the dark — Can solar public lighting improve nighttime life for the urban poor?" *Working Paper*.

Briers, S. & **Y. Borofsky**. TBD. "*Everynight life* in informal settlements." In H. Klumpner, G. Theodore, and K.E. Papanicolaou (Eds.), *SDG 11 Volume: Transitioning to Sustainable Cities and Communities*, MDPI Publishers. *In Publication*.

Rom, A., Guenther, I., & **Y. Borofsky**. 2020. "Using sensors to measure technology adoption in the social sciences." *Development Engineering*, vol 5.

Iller, P., Ellman, D., Vergara Ramirez, C.R., Gonzalez-Garcia, A., Lee, S.J., Drouin, C., Brusnahan, M. **Borofsky, Y.**, Mateo, C., Amatya, R., Palacios, R., Stoner, R.J., de Cuadra, F., & I.J. Perez-Arriaga. 2019. "Optimal electrification planning incorporating on- and off-grid technologies: the Reference Electrification Model (REM)." *Proceedings of the IEEE*, vol. 107, no. 9, pp. 1872-1905, September 2019. [Online: July 2019]

Other Relevant Writing & Research Output

Agutu, C. & **Y. Borofsky**. 2022. "Two key ways Switzerland can promote electricity access and take climate action in low-income countries." Energy Blog @ ETH Zurich. (<https://blogs.ethz.ch/energy/IC-forum/>).

Borofsky, Y. 2022. "Shadows to Light: Solar public lighting illuminates informal settlements at night." ETH Ambassadors Blog. (<https://tinyurl.com/5n8stdys>).

Borofsky, Y., Brugger, F., Büttner, N., Patel, S., & I. Günther. 2022. "Swiss Panel Global Cooperation 2022a: Political leanings and values, not group identities, drive attitudes towards global cooperation." NADEL Center for Development and Cooperation. (<https://tinyurl.com/SPGCa>).

Borofsky, Y., Brugger, F., Büttner, N., Patel, S., & I. Günther. 2022. "Swiss Panel Global Cooperation 2022b: How information impacts attitudes towards global inequality and development cooperation." NADEL Center for Development and Cooperation. (<https://tinyurl.com/SPGCb>).

Borofsky, Y., Brugger, F., Günther, I., & S. Patel. 2021. "Swiss Panel Global Cooperation 2021: Attitudes of the Swiss population towards Switzerland's commitment to global poverty reductions." NADEL Center for Development and Cooperation. (<https://tinyurl.com/SPGC21>).

van der Merwe, A. & **Y. Borofsky**. 2021. "A smarter, not stricter lockdown is necessary." Mail & Guardian. (<https://tinyurl.com/MandG2021>).

Borofsky, Y. 2021. "The love-hate relationship with self-generation." Energy for Growth Hub. (<https://tinyurl.com/E4GH21>).

Borofsky, Y. 2019. "Understanding the scale of back-up generation in the developing world." Energy Blog @ ETH Zurich. (<https://blogs.ethz.ch/energy/back-up-generation-developing-world/>).

Borofsky, Y. 2019. "Power and the urban informal economy." Energy for Growth Hub. (<https://www.energyforgrowth.org/memo/power-and-the-urban-informal-economy/>).

Borofsky, Y. 2019. "After Day Zero: How water conservation undermines adaptation in Cape town." Breakthrough Journal. (<https://thebreakthrough.org/journal/no-11-summer-2019/after-day-zero>).

Borofsky, Y., Perez-Arriaga, I.J. & R. Stoner. 2017. "A Model for Better Electrification Planning." ABB Review. (<https://tinyurl.com/ABBRev17>).

Teaching

Spring 2023	Co-Lecturer, Designing Public Policy Research, ETH Zurich
Spring 2022	Guest Lecturer on Energy Access, Introduction to Electricity, Princeton University
Spring 2022	Teaching Assistant/Lecturer, International Development Engineering, ETH Zurich
Fall 2020	Teaching Assistant, Policy Evaluation and Statistics, ETH Zurich
Fall 2019	Teaching Assistant, International Aid and Development, ETH Zurich
Spring 2017	Co-Instructor, Planning, Policy, and Technology for Energy Access in Developing Countries, MIT Sloan School of Management.15.S02

Grants and Awards

Jun. 2023	Robert Gnehm Grant (apply: June 2023; 750 CHF)
Dec. 2021	GreenCape ASDU Making it Mainstream Video Grant (apply: Nov. 2021; project video)
May 2020	Co-investigator, ETH4D Research Challenge Grant (apply: Feb. 2020; 18,385 CHF)
May 2014	Outstanding New Leader Award, MIT Student Activities (nominated)
June 2013	Tata Fellowship, MIT Tata Center for Technology & Design (apply: Apr. 2013; two years tuition)
June 2009	Breakthrough Generation Fellowship, Breakthrough Institute (apply: Feb. 2009; \$3,000)
Fall 2008	Outstanding Public Policy Research Award, Cornell-in-Washington (nominated)

Invited Presentations & Workshops

Nov. 2023	Presenter, Leibniz Environment & Development Symposium, RWI-Essen (upcoming)
June 2023	Presenter, German Development Economics Conference, TU Dresden
May 2023	Speaker, Exeter Urban Symposium, Univ. of Exeter
May 2023	Speaker, Environment & Sustainability Research Group Seminar, Univ. of Exeter
Nov. 2022	Speaker, Change Seminar (online), Univ. of Washington
Sep. 2022	Panelist, Entwicklungszusammenarbeit als Mittel gegen den Klimawandel, Solafrica
April 2022	Panelist, Sustainability & Technologies in IC – a happy marriage or a conflictual relationship?, International Cooperation Forum, Geneva, Switzerland
May 2019	Poster, 2nd Workshop on Geodata and Economics, Univ. of Hamburg
May 2017	Speaker, Symposium on International Relations, League of Women's Voters, Connecticut
Feb. 2017	Panelist, Distributed Energy Solutions Driving Electrification, Tufts Energy Conference
Sept. 2016	Participant, CACHE Development Effectiveness Workshop, Univ. of Illinois
Mar. 2015	Participant, Energy Access Targets Working Group, Center for Global Development

Leadership Activities & Affiliations

Sept. 2019 - June 2022	Co-Founder/Editor, Energy Blog @ ETH Zurich, ETH Zurich
Sept. 2018 - Dec. 2022	Fellow, Energy for Growth Hub, Center for Global Development
Nov. 2014 - May 2015	Founding Editor, e4Dev column, The Energy Collective
Sept. 2013 - May 2014	Co-founder/co-chair, e4Dev, MIT