

Espen Villanger



Born: 1972

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Professional positions

Chr. Michelsen Institute

Deputy Director, 2021 - present

Director, Development Learning Lab, 2021 - present.

Research Professor, 2018 - present.

Research Director, 2017 - present.

Senior Researcher, 2012 - 2017.

Research Director, 2006 - 2009.

Acting Director, 2 months in 2007, 1 month in 2008.

Senior Researcher, 2003 - 2006.

Researcher 2002 - 2003.

World Bank

Consultant, Post Conflict and Social Development Practice Group, 2012 - 2017.

Senior Economist and Gender Focal Point at the Ethiopia Country Office. Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Department, 2009 - 2012.

Selected additional leadership positions/training

Fjell municipality

Acting Mayor, 20% position, 2003-2007.

Deputy Mayor, 2003-2007.

Leader of the majority coalition, 2003-2007.

Member of the municipality council, 1991 - 2007.

Leader, Fjell Labour Party, 2001-2005.

Leader of the program committee, Fjell Labour Party, 2002-2003.

Hordaland county

Leader of the program committee, Hordaland Labour Party, 2002.

Member of the county council, 1995 - 1999.

Leader of the Workers' Youth League (AUF), 1994-1995.

National

Member of the Labour Party's International Committee, 2003-2006, 2017 – date.
Member of the Labour Party's program committee, 2003.
Executive Board member, Workers' Youth League, 1998-2000.
Political secretary, Workers' Youth League Head Office, 100% position, 1995-1996.
National Delegates Board member, Workers' Youth League, 1994-1995.
Recruits representative (Hovedtillitsvalgt rekruttene), Royal Norwegian Naval Basic Training Establishment, Norwegian Navy, 1992.

Selected leadership training

Workers' Youth League leadership school 1994.
Responsible for organizing the Workers' Youth League leadership school 1995-1996.

Education

- 2003 PhD in Economics, Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration.
Dissertation title: "Fighting Poverty: Company Interests and Foreign Aid Policy, and an Impact Analysis of Natural Disasters".
- 2001 Invited PhD student, Department of Economics, Cornell University (spring).
Visiting PhD student, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC (summer).
- 1999 Master of Science in Economics, Department of Economics, University of Bergen.
Thesis title: "A theory of bonded labor".

Publications

Work in progress

Jobs and Intimate Partner Violence - Evidence from a Field Experiment in Ethiopia (with Andreas Kotsadam), *CESifo* WP 8108, 2020.

Does Wealth Reduce Support for Redistribution? Evidence from an Ethiopian Housing Lottery (with V. Somville, A. Andersen, S. Franklin, T. Getahun and A. Kotsadam), NHH Dept. of Economics Discussion Paper 18, 2020.

Jobs and Political Participation - Evidence from a Field Experiment in Ethiopia (with L. Aalen, A. Kotsadam, J. Pieters), submitted 2021.

Awareness raising and intimate partner violence: Evidence from Ethiopia. Under review, 2021.

Empowerment training and intimate partner violence. Mimeo, 2020 (with A. Kotsadam).

Factory employment and fertility decisions. Mimeo, 2020 (with S. Halvorsen and A. Kotsadam).

Journal articles

Factories against Poverty? Women and manufacturing jobs in Ethiopia (in Norwegian, with Sandra Halvorsen). *Magma*, 22, 56-64. **2019**.

Family Law Reform, Employment and Women's Political Participation in Ethiopia (with Andreas Kotsadam and Lovise Aalen). *Social Policy*, 26(2) 299–323. **2019**.

Active private sector development policies revisited: Impacts of the Ethiopian industrial cluster policy (with Tigabu Getahun). *Journal of Development Studies*, 55(7), 1548-1564. **2019**.

Labor-intensive jobs for women and development: Intrahousehold welfare effects and its transmission channels (with Tigabu Getahun). *Journal of Development Studies*. **2018**. 54:7, 1232-1252.

Local content requirements in the petroleum sector in Tanzania: A thorny road from inception to implementation? *The Extractive Industries and Society*. **2017**.

Why can we not demonstrate the difference that Norwegian aid makes? An evaluation of the results measurement system and practice (with Rob Lloyd, Derek Poate and Merima Ali). *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 8(2), 171-195, **2016**.

Back in business: Private sector development for poverty reduction in Norwegian aid. *Forum for Development Studies*. **2016**.

Entrepreneurial abilities and barriers to microenterprise growth: A case study in Nepal, *Journal of Entrepreneurship*, 24(2), **2015**.

Assessing aid impacts revisited: results measurement in Norwegian aid (with Rob Lloyd). *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 6(4), **2014**.

Results measurement and evaluability: a comparative analysis (with Derek Poate and Rob Lloyd). *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 6(4), **2014**.

Assessing aid impact: A review of Norwegian evaluation practice (with Alf Morten Jerve). *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, 1(2), **2009**.

Cash transfers contributing to social protection: A review of evaluation findings. *Forum for Development Studies*, 35(2), **2008**.

Determinants of foreign direct investments in services (with Ivar Kolstad). *European Journal of Political Economy*, 24(2), **2008**.

Foreign direct investment in the Caribbean (with Ivar Kolstad). *Development Policy Review*, 26(1), **2008**.

Arab foreign aid: Disbursement patterns, aid policies and motives. *Forum for Development Studies*, 34(2), **2007**.

Company interests and foreign aid policy: Playing donors off against one another. *European Economic Review*, 50(3), **2006**.

Economic Aid to Post-Conflict Countries: A Methodological Critique of Collier and Hoeffler (Co-authored with A. Suhrke and S. L. Woodward). *Conflict, Security and Development*, 5(3), **2005**.

Company Influence on Foreign Aid Disbursement: Is Conditionality Credible when Donors have mixed motives?, *Southern Economic Journal*, 71(2), **2004**.

Selected evaluations and reports relevant for Norwegian aid

Evaluation of the Norwegian Aid Administration's Approach to Portfolio Management. *Norad Evaluation Department Evaluation Report*, February 2020.

Norwegian Development Assistance to Private Sector Development and Job Creation. *Norad Evaluation Department Evaluation Report*, February 2020.

Evaluation of the Norwegian Aid Administration's Practice of Results-Based Management. *Norad Evaluation Department Evaluation Report*, March 2018.

From Donors to Partners? Evaluation of Norwegian Support to Strengthen Civil Society in Developing Countries through Norwegian Civil Society Organisations. *Norad Evaluation Department Evaluation Report*, January 2018.

The Quality of Reviews and Decentralised Evaluations in Norwegian Development Cooperation. *Norad Evaluation Department Evaluation Report*, February 2017.

Business development for poverty reduction. Report to the *Norwegian Church Aid*, 2015 (with LIO. Berge).

Private sector development interventions in poor countries: Opportunities and challenges for Norwegian development aid. *CMI Report* 2015:9. (with Lars Ivar Oppedal Berge).

Can we demonstrate the effect that Norwegian aid makes? Evaluation of results measurement and how this can be improved, *Norad Evaluation Department Evaluation Report* 1/2014 (with D. Poate and R. Loyd).

End Review of the Entrepreneurship Development of the Youth, *Norad collected reviews* 6/2014.

The Stromme Foundation. An Organisational Review, *CMI Commissioned Reports*, June 2013 (with Elling Tjønneland).

Caste Discrimination and Barriers to Microenterprise Development in Nepal. *CMI WP* 2012: 9.

Improving the integrated rural development projects in Western Ethiopia. *CMI Commissioned Report* 2008 (with Messele Endalew, Mabrat Galalcha and Sorssa Natea).

Cash transfers contributing to social protection: A synthesis of evaluation findings. *NORAD Synthesis Report* 2/2008.

Accounting for poverty reduction in Norwegian development aid to Mozambique. *CMI Report* 2008: 15 (with Inge Tvedten).

The challenge of assessing aid impact: A review of Norwegian evaluation practice. *Norad Evaluation Study* 1/ 2008 (with Alf M. Jerve).

Matsikkerhet og sult: en strategisk plattform for handling. Report from the working group on food security established by the Minister of Development. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2007.

Will international trade reduce poverty? A background note to NORAD. *CMI Report 2007:16* (Co-authored with Arne Wiig and Line Tøndel, with contributions from Ottar Mæstad).

Economic Prospects for Ethiopia and Challenges for Poverty Reduction, *CMI Report 2006: 17*.

Economic Aid to Post-Conflict Countries. (co-authored with Astri Suhrke and Susan Woodward), *CMI Working Paper, WP 2005:4*).

The role of participation and empowerment in income and poverty dynamics in Indonesia 1993-2000" (with Anette W. Enes), *CMI Working Paper, WP 2004:13*.

Aid, policy and growth in post-conflict societies revisited". Paper presented at UNU WIDER June 2004.

Selected recent popular presentations and debates

Norfund investments in the petroleum sector, 2020 (in Norwegian).

- Dagsnytt 18 debate with Norfund CEO T. Thorleifsson:
<https://radio.nrk.no/serie/dagsnytt-atten/sesong/202010/NMAG03021020>
- Newspaper debate, in Dagbladet:
 1. <https://borsen.dagbladet.no/nyheter/bistand-gar-til-luksus-for-olje-ansatte/72937941>
 2. <https://www.dagbladet.no/meninger/viktig-og-riktig-norfund-kritikk/72979540>
 3. <https://www.dagbladet.no/meninger/norfund-uten-analyse/73056506>

How women's employment affects partner violence, 2020.

- Op-Ed, Development Today (with A. Kotsadam)
<https://www.development-today.com/archive/dt-2020/dt-3-2020/how-womens-employment-affects-partner-violence>

Working conditions in the new industries in Ethiopia, 2020.

- Bistandsaktuelt, news.
<https://www.bistandsaktuelt.no/nyheter/2020/etiopia-fabrikkarbeid-ingen-enkel-vei-ut-av-fattigdom/>

Can aid to the private sector contribute to sustainable development? 2020.

- Norad presentation and debate (public event with live streaming).
<https://www.norad.no/aktuelt/arrangementskalender/2020/kan-bistand-til-privat-sektor-bidra-til-barekraftig-utvikling/>

Appointment of new World Bank President, 2019.

- NRK P2, Studio 2. Comment.

<https://radio.nrk.no/serie/studio-2-p2/sesong/201901/MKRD04000719>

Den Store Utviklingsdebatten (the key development debate), Arendalsuka, 2018.

- Debate with the Minister of Development (N. Astrup) and CEO KrF (H. Frafjord Johnsen): <https://www.cmi.no/events/1965-den-store-utviklingsdebatten-2018>

The Development Conference 2015 (Norwegian Church Aid).

- Keynote speaker. Private sector development, jobs and livelihoods. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPXtudWZwV0&list=PL0eVNWuD_jmFxlJ20KoBnMOcSbsJmGhmr&index=9

Can we demonstrate the effect that Norwegian aid makes? 2014.

- Dagsnytt 18 debate with State Secretary B. Glad Pedersen: <https://radio.nrk.no/serie/dagsnytt-atten/sesong/201404/nmag03006714>

Selected recent projects

Ethiopia	Assessing the effects of the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and Save the Children (SC) program to combat female genital mutilation and child marriage Funded by Norad, NCA, SC and the Research Council of Norway, 2019-2025. Team leader.
Tanzania Nepal Ethiopia	Research Network on Competence and Jobs creation Developing a new research network on competence building and job creation for the poor in less developed countries. Partners: Policy Studies Institute (Ethiopia), REPOA (Tanzania), Social Science Baha (Nepal), NHH, the Frisch Centre and University of Gothenburg. Funded by the Research Council of Norway. 2021-2025. Team leader.
Ethiopia	Education for Sustainable Job Creation An impact evaluation of the UNDP entrepreneurship program in Ethiopia. Funded by the Research Council of Norway. 2020-2024. Principal investigator.
Ethiopia	Women in Transition Assessing the effects of jobs for women on their political participation. Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2019-2024.
Global south	The Development Learning Lab Strategic funds to develop and establish the Development Learning Lab. Funded by the Research Council of Norway, CMI, UiB and NHH, 2019-2023.
Sudan	Assisting Regional Universities in Sudan (ARUS) Capacity building of regional universities in Sudan. Funded by the Norwegian Embassy in Sudan, 2018-2021.

Curriculum vitae

- Tanzania **Impact Evaluation of Skills in the Oil and Gas Sector in Africa (SOGA)**
Impact evaluation of the income, employment and job effects of value chain based aid interventions (GIZ – the German cooperation) to support smallholder farmers to connect to higher-paying markets. Funded by the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania, 2015-2019. Team leader.
- Norwegian aid **Norwegian aid to private sector development**
Assessing how to support private sector development and the potential role of using aid for investments in companies (Norfund). Funded by the Norad Evaluation Department, 2019-2020. Team leader.
- Tanzania **Tanzania as a Future Petro State**
A joint program with REPOA on research, capacity building and policy dialogue. Funded by the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania, 2015-2019.
- Ethiopia **Women in the Developmental State**
Assessing the effects of jobs to women in the manufacturing industries in Ethiopia. Evaluating the gendered impacts of jobs on a range of outcomes; domestic violence, empowerment, income, household decision making and fertility. Leading the implementation of the RCT. Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2015-2019.
- Norwegian aid **The Norwegian Aid Administration's Practice of Results-Based Management**
Evaluation of the Norwegian aid administration's practice of results-based management and how this affects partners, such as civil society organisations and multilateral organisations. Funded by the Norad Evaluation Department, 2017-2018.
- SSA **Engineering Gender Equality: The Impacts of Aid on Women's Political Representation in Malawi, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.**
Survey design and methodological contributions. Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2014-2018.
- Norwegian aid **The Quality of Reviews and Decentralised Evaluations in Norwegian Development Cooperation**
Evaluation of the quality of reviews and decentralised evaluations commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian embassies and Norad. Funded by the Norad Evaluation Department, 2016-2017.
- Sudan **Assisting Regional Universities in Sudan and South Sudan (ARUSS)**
Capacity building of regional universities in Sudan and South Sudan, including through joint research. Funded by the Norwegian Embassy in Sudan, 2012-2017.
- Ethiopia **The Women Entrepreneurship Development Project (WEDP)**
Developing a World Bank program to support growth-oriented entrepreneurs in the small business segment through provision of credit/finance, entrepreneurship training, skills training and mentoring/coaching. Member of the WEDP team, various roles from design to implementation to operation of a large (USD 120 million)

- entrepreneurship development project in Ethiopia. World Bank funded project. 2009-2017.
- Ethiopia **Assessing the industrial cluster development policies of the Ethiopian government**
Impact evaluation of the industrial cluster policy of Ethiopia in the shoe industry. Funded by Bonn University, 2012-2016.
- Ethiopia **Multinational investments in the horticulture sector in Ethiopia, structural change and job creation.** Analysing effects on employment, welfare, household responsibilities and intra household decision making. Funding from the Research Council of Norway. Team Leader. 2009-2016.
- International **The Norad Framework Agreement on Microfinance, Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Development 2013-2015.** Team Leader.
- Norway **Can We Demonstrate the Difference that Norwegian Aid Makes?**
Evaluation of the guidelines and practices in the Norwegian aid administration and assesses the reasons why it has proven difficult to measure results. Funded by the Norad Evaluation Department, 2014.
- Ethiopia **Impact Evaluation of Powering Up: Empowerment of Vulnerable Girls**
Funded by the Italian Cooperation. 2012-2014.
- Mozambique **Review of the “Entrepreneurship Development of the Youth” –**
assessment of an aid funded program (UNIDO) to develop competencies suitable for the private sector. Team leader. Funded by Norad. 2013.
- Norway **Evaluation of the Norwegian Aid Administration System and Practices to Ensure Evaluability of Norwegian Grants.** In partnership with ITAD. Core member of the evaluation team, responsible for the impact evaluation assessment. Funded by Norad, 2013.
- Ethiopia **Impact Evaluation of Domestic Violence Interventions in Ethiopia**
Randomizing an awareness raising campaign against domestic violence. Funding from the Research Council of Norway, 2009-2013. Team Leader.
- Ethiopia **Ethiopia Poverty Analytical Program**
Analysing the main challenges for poverty reduction, gender gaps and inequality in Ethiopia. The World Bank, 2011-2013. Team Leader.
- Ethiopia **Internal Migration in Ethiopia**
Analysing internal migration in Ethiopia. The World Bank, 2009-2011. Team Leader.
- Nepal **Poverty Traps in Microenterprise Industries with low Knowledge and Investment Barriers.**
Analysis of household data to understand the barriers to economic growth and employment generation for poor entrepreneurs in Nepal. Funded by the Research Council of Norway, 2009-2011.
- Ethiopia **Urban Poverty and Inequality**
Technical Assistance to the Ethiopian Government on the changes in urban poverty and inequality, and on policies to address the challenges. The World Bank, 2009-2010. Team Leader.