

Jenny C. Aker is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD). She will join the faculty of Tufts University (Economics Department and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy) as an Assistant Professor of Development Economics in 2009. Ms. Aker received her Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics at the University of California-Berkeley. Ms. Aker's research agenda assesses the impact of agro-food market performance on producer and consumer welfare in sub-Saharan Africa, with a specific focus on the impact of information (technology) on grain price dispersion, market actors' behavior and welfare in Niger. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in History and French from Duke University (1993), Ms. Aker worked as a teacher at the Casablanca American School in Morocco. She obtained her Master's degree in Development Economics and Public International Law from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) in 1997, and worked as a researcher on a Fulbright grant at the University of Hassan-II in Morocco. Ms. Aker then worked as the Regional Food Security Advisor and Deputy Regional Director for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in West and Central Africa from 1998-2003. Her primary responsibilities included providing technical assistance to CRS country programs in West and Central Africa for agricultural marketing, food aid and food security, in addition to managing a team of regional technical advisors.

During her time as a PhD student, Ms. Aker has continued to work as a consultant for a variety of international and non-governmental organizations in West, Central and East Africa, including Catholic Relief Services, CHF International, CARE, Helen Keller International, the World Bank and the FAO.