

Tom Forzy

PhD Candidate in Epidemiology & Biostatistics

✉ tom.forzy@gmail.com | 📞 0000-0002-4393-0836 | 🌐 tom-forzy | 🎓 Google Scholar | 📍 Zurich, Switzerland

Education

2024–Present **PhD Candidate in Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of Zurich**

- Thesis: “From single disease reductionist research to informed Machine Learning: a new research paradigm for multi-morbidity”

2022 **Master’s Thesis Researcher, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Boston, MA, USA)**

- Topic: “Geospatial Analysis of Immunization Coverage and Its Determinants in Ethiopia” – Grade: 100%

2021–2022 **MSc in Statistics, ETH Zürich (Zurich, Switzerland)**

- Modules: Data Science, Data Processing, Statistical & Mathematical Modeling, Machine Learning, Bayesian Statistics, Causality, Biostatistics.

2020 **Training in Human Health, Nutrition & Environment, ETH Zürich**

- Focus: Public Health, Epidemiology, Physiology & Anatomy, Biostatistics.

2019–2020 **Exchange Program in Applied Sciences, Instituto Técnico Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal)**

- Focus: Applied Math & Engineering, Computer Science, Public Health, Epidemiology, Economy.

2017–2020 **BSc in Engineering, EPFL (Lausanne, Switzerland)**

- Foundations: Mathematics, computer science, biology, physics, chemistry, and engineering.

Research & Professional Experience

2024–Present **Doctoral Researcher, University of Zurich (Zurich, Switzerland)**

- Emulating target trials from large observational health databases with biostatistics & machine learning.
- Applying causal inference frameworks to evaluate outcomes in multimorbid populations, with a focus on people living with HIV.

2024–Present **Visiting Graduate Student, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Remote)**

- Evaluating impacts of health/social interventions using routine & survey data from Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Developing ready-to-use database for evaluating development programs in Ethiopia by harmonizing multiple data-sources (governments, international organizations, and published literature).
- Developing & disseminating statistical models for public policy analysis, focusing on school feeding programs.

2026 **Invited Guest Researcher, World Food Programme (Maseru, Lesotho & Yaoundé, Cameroon)**

2024–2025 **Consultant, AMREF Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia & Remote)**

- Developed a Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG-3) Acceleration Plan in Ethiopia.

2024 **Consultant, Imperial College London (Remote)**

- Assessed the value for money of national school feeding programs in Nigeria.

2022–2024 **Research Scholar, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Boston, MA, USA)**

- Technical lead in global health projects: data management, biostatistical/geospatial modeling.
- Led public policy analyses & organized high-level seminars with government stakeholders and NGOs.
- Specific topics: immunization coverage, TB service access, and the cost-benefit of school feeding in Sub-Saharan Africa.

2022, 2023 **Invited Guest Researcher, Ethiopian Public Health Institute (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)**

2023 **Invited Guest Researcher, World Food Programme (Lilongwe, Malawi & Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire)**

2021 **Research Trainee, ETH Zürich & University of Zurich (Zurich, Switzerland)**

- Developed machine learning and survival models for chronic opioid-use prediction from insurance claims.

Teaching Experience

2024–Present **Lecturer & Teaching Assistant, University of Zurich**

- Delivering lectures and leading practical exercises for *Statistical Methods for Epidemiology*.
- Supervising 2 Master’s theses in Statistics.

Awards & Grants

2026 **Nature | Research Highlight**

- “Schoolhouse meals serve up an income bump” – editorial coverage of **Nature Health** article.

2025 **Best Published PhD Article in Public Health**

- 2,000 CHF, **Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+)**

2025 **GRC Travel Grant**

- “Applied causal inference on Ethiopian data”, **University of Zurich**

Publications

Selected Peer-Reviewed Articles

- [1] **“Impact of school feeding programmes on educational attainment and economic returns in five African countries”**
Tom Forzy, Francesco Ramponi, Isabelle Iversen, Kathrin Durizzo, Sein Kim, Pratibha Gautam, Sylvie Avallone, Solomon Tessema Memirie, Mizan Habtemichael, Fentabil Getnet, Yohannes Wogasso, Hannah Peterson, Kingsley Masamba, Albert Saka, Jacques Nkengurutse, Willy-Marcel Ndayitwayeko, Mélance Ntunzwenimana, Liboire Bigirimana, Marthe Mbengue, Boka Stéphane K. Assa, Bridget Rieth, Salufu Nyambe, Rawan Taha, Gloria Kamwi, Selma Ingula, Naemi Johanna N. Shapwa, David Uchezuba, Albert Bernadu, Cesar Macuacua, Noimilto Mindo, Antonio Chioze, Victor Sitão, Emílio Tostão, Stéphane Verguet.
Nature Health (2026). ★ **Featured in *Nature Research Highlights*: “Schoolhouse meals serve up an income bump”**
- [2] **“Joint Treatment Effect Estimation from Incomplete Healthcare Data: Temporal Causal Normalizing Flows with LLM-driven Evolutionary MNAR Imputation”**
Olivia Jullian Parra, Sara Zoccheddu, David Catalan Cerezo, Tom Forzy, Franziska Ulrich, William Sutcliffe, Jakob Martin Burgstaller, Oliver Senn, Patrick Owen, Nicola Serra.
Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS). [Accepted, to appear] (2026). Preprint available at medRxiv
- [3] **“Informing local health priority setting: District-level estimation of institutional delivery and postnatal care coverage in rural settings of Ethiopia”**
Lisa Matay, Fentabil Getnet, Tom Forzy, Latera Tesfaye, Awoke Misganaw, Haftu Reda, Getaye Worku Tesema, Teklehaimanot Belete, Samson Warkaye Lamma, Solomon Kassahun Gelaw, Solomon Tessema Memirie, Asnake Worku, Meseret Zelalem Tadesse, Yohannes Lakew Tefera, Abreham Kassahun, Melkamu Abte Afele, Mesoud Mohammed, Muluken Argaw, Mesay Hailu Dangisso, Lia Tadesse Gebremedhin, Stéphane Verguet.
SSM - Health Systems (2026).
- [4] **“Assessing the geographic and socioeconomic determinants of vaccine coverage in Ethiopia: A spatial and multistage analysis at the district level”**
Tom Forzy, Latera Tesfaye, Fentabil Getnet, Awoke Misganaw, Samson Warkaye Lamma, Asnake Worku, Solomon Tessema Memirie, Meseret Zelalem, Yohannes Lakew Tefera, Mesay Hailu Dangisso, Stéphane Verguet.
Vaccine (2025). ★ **SSPH+ Best PhD Article in Public Health**
- [5] **“Inequalities in tuberculosis control in Ethiopia: A district-level distributional modelling analysis”**
Fentabil Getnet, Tom Forzy, Latera Tesfaye, Awoke Misganaw, Solomon Tessema Memirie, Shewayiref Geremew, Tezera Moshago Berheto, Naod Wendrad, Bantalem Yeshanew Yihun, Mizan Kiros Mirutse, Fasil Tsegaye, Mesay Hailu Dangisso, Stéphane Verguet.
Tropical Medicine & International Health (2025).
- [6] **“Estimating immunization coverage at the district level: A case study of measles and diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus-Hib-HepB vaccines in Ethiopia”**
Latera Tesfaye, Tom Forzy, Fentabil Getnet, Awoke Misganaw, Mesfin Agachew Woldekidan, Asrat Arja Wolde, Samson Warkaye, Solomon Kassahun Gelaw, Solomon Tessema Memirie, Tezera Moshago Berheto, Asnake Worku, Ryoko Sato, Nathaniel Hendrix, *et al.*, Stéphane Verguet.
PLOS Global Public Health (2024).
- [7] **“Development and internal validation of a prediction model for long-term opioid use: Analysis of insurance claims data”**
Ulrike Held, Tom Forzy, Andri Signorell, Manja Deforth, Jakob M Burgstaller, Maria M Wertli.
PAIN (2024). ★ **Editors’ Choice**.

Selected Reports, Pre-prints & White Papers

- [8] **“Value-for-money of school feeding programs in Sub-Saharan Africa: A multi-country cross-sectoral analysis”**
Francesco Ramponi* and Tom Forzy* (*co-first authors), Isabelle Iversen, Sein Kim, Kathrin Durizzo, Pratibha Gautam, Solomon Tessema Memirie, Mizan Habtemichael, Fentabil Getnet, Kingsley Masamba, Willy-Marcel Ndayitwayeko, Mélance Ntunzwenimana, Boka Stéphane Kévin Assa, Bridget Rieth, Gloria Kamwi, Selma Ingula, David Uchezuba, Cesar Macuacua, Noimilto Mindo, Antonio Chioze, Emílio Tostão, Donald A.P. Bundy, Stéphane Verguet.
medRxiv (2026).
- [9] **“Value for money of school feeding programs [National Policy Reports].”**
Published by the:
School Meals Coalition (2023–2026) for Cambodia, Niger, Mozambique, Namibia, and Burundi;
UNESCO–Health & Education Resource (2024) for Malawi and Ethiopia.
- [10] **“Comparative effectiveness of ACE inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers for cardiovascular disease prevention in people living with HIV and hypertension”**
Tom Forzy, *et al.*
medRxiv (2026).
- [11] **“Ethiopia’s progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 3: Is Ethiopia on track towards the targets?”**
Special Bulletin of the Ministry of Health, Ethiopia (2025).
- [12] **“Optimizing health extension workers’ task-shifting to improve tuberculosis case detection and treatment in Ethiopia”**
Special Bulletin of the Ministry of Health, Ethiopia (2023).

Conferences & Symposiums

2026 “A Sequential Target Trial Emulation in the NA-ACCORD” (Poster).

- 28th International Workshop on HIV and Hepatitis Observational Databases (IWHOD) – Thessaloniki, Greece.

2025 “Comparative Effectiveness of ACEIs and ARBs for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in People Living with HIV.”

- Causal Inference in the Health Sciences – UZH & UniFR, Zurich, Switzerland.

2024 Technical Expert for KEPT (CERFAM)

- Technical review of food-security and nutrition good practices across Africa in collaboration with the Government of Côte d’Ivoire and the WFP.

2023 “Assessing the Multisectoral Returns of School Meals Programmes.”

- Regional Conference of ECOWAS Member States on School Feeding – WFP & ECOWAS, Dakar, Senegal.

Skills & Languages

- **Statistical Modeling:** R, Python, Matlab, C++ (causal inference, time-series, biostatistics, spatial statistics).
- **Data Management & Analysis:** SQL, Excel, GIS.
- **Scientific Writing:** $\text{\LaTeX}$, Markdown, Microsoft Word.
- **Languages:** French (Native), English (Fluent), Portuguese (B1), German (B1).