

Econ 641: Topics in Development and Applied Microeconomics

Overview of Topics

- I. Healthcare Delivery, Health Resources, and Information
- II. Fetal Origins: Endowments and Parental Investments
- III. Enterprises
- IV. Firms

Assignments and Grading

The primary graded assignment will be a final paper due at the end of the semester. The only other graded assignments will be in-class presentations of existing literature.

Paper

The paper should be a well-developed empirical exploration of an open question in the development literature. The question of interest need not necessarily be related to any of the topics covered in the course. Additionally, the paper need not be entirely complete, but should be carefully argued. The data should be well-studied, the empirical strategy well-defended, and any remaining concerns regarding identification should be presented and discussed in detail. Potential topics for the paper should be discussed with me within the first month of the course to allow ample time for amendment.

Presentations

The papers with asterisks (*) by them will be presented by me. The remaining papers will be allocated equally to students, or groups of students depending on the total enrollment in the class, for in-class presentations. Students will give 20-25 minute presentations on each paper. The presentations should cover the question of interest, review the literature, discuss the data and empirical strategy, contributions to the literature, conclusions and generalizability, and concerns with identification. The presentations will be followed by 5-10 minutes of questions from rest of the class and discussion. The presentations will be anonymously graded by the other students in the class as well as by me.

I. Healthcare Delivery, Health Resources, and Information

A. Healthcare Delivery and Outcomes

January 14, Monday

* "Returns to Treatment in the Formal Health Care Sector: Evidence from Tanzania" Achyuta Adhvaryu and Anant Nyshadham http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AN_HCChoice_sep2012.pdf

* "AIDS treatment and intrahousehold resource allocation: Children's nutrition and schooling in Kenya" Joshua Graff Zivin, Harsha Thirumurthy and Markus Goldstein
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272709000346>

* "Schooling, Child Labor and the Returns to Healthcare in Tanzania" Achyuta Adhvaryu and Anant Nyshadham http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/IHR_version_indiv_labor_apr2011.pdf

January 16, Wednesday

* "Do Conditional Cash Transfers Improve Child Health? Evidence from PROGRESA's Control Randomized Experiment" Paul Gertler
<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/3592906?uid=3739576&uid=2129&uid=2&uid=70&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21101558944387>

* "Effectiveness of provider incentives for anaemia reduction in rural China: a cluster randomized trial" Miller et al. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3406729/pdf/bmj.e4809.pdf>

* "Paying Primary Health Care Centers for Performance in Rwanda" Basinga, Gertler, et al.
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTDEVIALOGUE/Images/537296-1238422761932/5968067-1269375819845/Rwanda_P4P.pdf

B. Health Information and Behaviors

January 23, Wednesday

"Do Teenagers Respond to HIV Risk Information? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Kenya" Pascaline Dupas <http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/app.3.1.1>

"Education, HIV, and Early Fertility: Experimental Evidence from Kenya" Pascaline Dupas and Michael Kremer http://www.econ.ucla.edu/pdupas/DDK_EducFertHIV.pdf

"The Demand for, and Impact of, Learning HIV Status" Rebecca Thornton
<http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/aer.98.5.1829>

“Empowering Adolescent Girls: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Uganda” Oriana Bandiera, Niklas Buehren, Robin Burgess, Markus Goldstein, Selim Gulesci, Imran Rasul, and Munshi Sulaiman <http://econ.lse.ac.uk/staff/rburgess/wp/EmpoweringAdolescentGirls.pdf>

C. Adoption of Health Technologies

January 28, Monday

* “Learning, Misallocation, and Technology Adoption: Evidence from New Malaria Therapy in Tanzania” Achyuta Adhvaryu http://www.yale.edu/adhvaryu/adhvaryu_learning.pdf

* “Price Subsidies, Diagnostic Tests, and Targeting of Malaria Treatment” Jessica Cohen, Pascaline Dupas, and Simone Schaner http://www.stanford.edu/~pdupas/CohenDupasSchaner_ACT.pdf

January 30, Wednesday

* “Short-Run Subsidies and Long-Run Adoption of New Health Products: Evidence from a Field Experiment” Pascaline Dupas <http://www.stanford.edu/~pdupas/Subsidies&Adoption.pdf>

* “Free Distribution of Cost-Sharing? Evidence from a Randomized Malaria Prevention Experiment” Jessica Cohen and Pascaline Dupas <http://www.stanford.edu/~pdupas/CohenDupas.pdf>

“Intra-household Externalities and Low Demand for a New Technology: Experimental Evidence on Improved Cookstoves” Grant Miller and A. Mushfiq Mobarak http://www.stanford.edu/~ngmiller/cookstove_demand.pdf

February 4, Monday

D. Health Resources (Water)

February 6, Wednesday

“Can Higher Prices Stimulate Product Use? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Zambia” Nava Ashraf, James Berry, and Jesse Shapiro <http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/aer.100.5.2383>

“Happiness on Tap: Piped Water Adoption in Urban Morocco” Florencia Devoto, Esther Duflo, Pascaline Dupas, William Pariente, and Vincent Pons <http://economics.mit.edu/files/7016>

February 11, Monday

“Spring Cleaning: Rural Water Impacts, Valuation, and Property Rights Institutions” Michael Kremer, Jessica Leino, Edward Miguel, and Alix Peterson Zwane

<http://qje.oxfordjournals.org/content/126/1/145.full.pdf+html>

“Water for Life: The impact of privatization of water services on child mortality in Argentina” Sebastian Galiani, Paul Gertler, and Ernesto Schargrotsky

<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.1086/426041?uid=3739576&uid=2&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21101559071917>

E. Health Resources (Nutrition)

February 13, Wednesday

* “Anemia and School Participation” Gustavo Bobonis, Edward Miguel, and Charu Puri Sharma

<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/40057287?uid=3739576&uid=2&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21101559071917>

* “Long-term economic effect of early childhood nutrition” Scott Grosse and Kakoli Roy

[http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(08\)60180-4](http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(08)60180-4)

* “What works? Interventions for maternal and child undernutrition and survival” Zulfiqar Bhutta, Tahmeed Ahmed, Robert Black, Simon Cousens, Kathryn Dewey, Elsa Giugliani, Batool Haider, et al.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(07\)61693-6/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(07)61693-6/abstract)

II. Fetal Origins: Endowments and Parental Investments

A. Fetal Origins

February 20, Wednesday

* “Health, Human Capital, and Development” Hoyt Bleakley

<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.economics.102308.124436?journalCode=economics>

* “Killing Me Softly: The Fetal Origins Hypothesis” Douglas Almond and Janet Currie

<http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/jep.25.3.153>

* “Is the 1918 Influenza Pandemic Over? Long-term Effects of In Utero Influenza Exposure in the Post-1940 U.S. Population” Douglas Almond <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/507154>

February 25, Monday

"Early-life Malaria Exposure and Adult Outcomes: Evidence from Malaria Eradication in India" David Cutler, Winnie Fung, Michael Kremer, Monica Singhal, and Tom Vogl

http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/kremer/files/AEJApp-2007-0058_paper.pdf

"Early Life Exposure to Malaria and Cognition in Adulthood: Evidence from Mexico" Atheendar Venkataramani <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167629612000896?v=s5>

February 27, Wednesday

"Cyclical, Mortality, and the Value of Time: The Case of Coffee Price Fluctuations and Child Survival in Colombia" Grant Miller and Piedad Urdinola <http://www.jstor.org/stable/full/10.1086/651673>

"From the Cradle to the Labor Market? The Effect of Birth Weight on Adult Outcomes" Sandra Black, Paul Devereux, Kjell Salvanes <http://qje.oxfordjournals.org/content/122/1/409.short>

March 4, Monday

"Health Capital and the Prenatal Environment: The Effect of Ramadan Observance During Pregnancy" Douglas Almond and Bhashkar Mazumder <http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/app.3.4.56>

"Iodine Deficiency and Schooling Attainment in Tanzania" Erica Field, Omar Robles, Maximo Torrero http://econ.duke.edu/uploads/media_items/aejapp-2008-0158-manuscript-title.original.pdf

March 6, Wednesday

"Early Childhood Nutrition and Academic Achievement: A longitudinal analysis" Paul Glewwe, Hanan Jacoby, and Elizabeth King <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0047272700001183>

"Child Health and School Enrollment: A Longitudinal Analysis" Harold Alderman, Jere Behrman, Victor Lavy, and Rekha Menon
<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/3069675?uid=3739576&uid=2129&uid=2&uid=70&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21101559071917>

B. Parental Investments

March 11, Monday

"Fetal Origins and Parental Responses" Douglas Almond and Bhashkar Mazumder

http://www.chicagofed.org/webpages/publications/working_papers/2012/wp_14.cfm

"Do Population Control Policies Induce More Human Capital Investment? Twins, Birth Weight, and China's 'One Child' Policy" Mark Rosenzweig and Junsen Zhang

<http://restud.oxfordjournals.org/content/76/3/1149.short>

March 13, Wednesday

"Endowments at Birth and Parents' Investments in Children" Achyuta Adhvaryu and Anant Nyshadham

http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AN_Iodine_sep2012.pdf

"Early Life Health Interventions and Academic Achievements" Prashant Bharadwaj, Katrine Loken,

Christopher Nielson <http://prbharadwaj.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/bln-rd-main-paper-april-20121.pdf>

"Grandmothers and Granddaughters: The effects of old age pension on child health in South Africa"

Esther Duflo <http://wber.oxfordjournals.org/content/17/1/1.short>

III. Enterprises

A. Finance

March 25, Monday

* "Impact Assessments in Finance and Private Sector Development: What have we learned and what should we learn?" David McKenzie

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEC/Resources/ImpactAssessmentsPSD.pdf>

"Returns to Capital in Microenterprises: Evidence from a Field Experiment" Suresh de Mel, David McKenzie, and Christopher Woodruff

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/academic/woodruff/returns_may_2008.pdf

"One-time Transfers of Cash and Capital Have Long-Lasting Effects on Microenterprises in Sri Lanka" Suresh de Mel, David McKenzie, and Christopher Woodruff

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/335/6071/962.full>

March 27, Wednesday

“Wage Subsidies in Microenterprises” Suresh de Mel, David McKenzie, and Christopher Woodruff
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/academic/woodruff/aea_pp_dmw_22dec.pdf

“Measuring Microenterprise Profits: Must We Ask How the Sausage Is Made?” Suresh de Mel, David McKenzie, and Christopher Woodruff
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/academic/woodruff/measuringprofits_jdrevision2.pdf

“Microcredit in Theory and Practice: Using Randomized Credit Scoring for Impact Evaluation” Dean Karlan and Jonathan Zinman <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/332/6035/1278.short>

April 1, Monday

“The miracle of microfinance? Evidence from a randomized evaluation” Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, Rachel Glennerster, and Cynthia Kinnan <http://economics.mit.edu/files/5993>

“Impact of microcredit in rural areas of Morocco: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation” Bruno Crepon, Florencia Devoto, Esther Duflo, and William Pariente <http://economics.mit.edu/files/6659>

“When is capital enough to get female microenterprises growing? Evidence from a randomized experiment in Ghana” Marcel Fafchamps, David McKenzie, Simon Quinn, and Christopher Woodruff
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/academic/woodruff/capitaldrop_june_2011.pdf

B. Training

April 3, Wednesday

*“What are we learning from business training and entrepreneurship evaluations around the developing world? David McKenzie and Christopher Woodruff
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/academic/woodruff/businesstrainingoverviewpaperdraftv4.pdf>

*“What capital is missing in developing countries?” Miriam Bruhn, Dean Karlan, and Antoinette Schoar
http://karlan.yale.edu/p/BruhnKarlanSchoar_AER_P&P.pdf

“Business Training and Female Enterprise Start-up, Growth, and Dynamics: Experimental evidence from Sri Lanka” Suresh de Mel, David McKenzie, and Christopher Woodruff
http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/academic/woodruff/genderbusinesstrainingpaper_120627.pdf

“Stimulating Managerial Capital in Emerging Markets: The Impact of Business and Financial Literacy for Young Entrepreneurs” Miriam Bruhn and Bilal Zia

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1824959

April 8, Monday

“Teaching Business in Tanzania: Evaluating participating and performance” Kjetil Bjorvatn and Bertil Tungodden <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1542-4774.2010.tb00526.x/abstract>

“The Impact of Consulting Services on Small and Medium Enterprises: Evidence from a Randomized Trial in Mexico” Miriam Bruhn, Dean Karlan, and Antoinette Schoar

http://karlan.yale.edu/p/sme_consulting_mexico.pdf

“Human and financial capital for microenterprise development: Evidence from a field and lab experiment” Lars Ivar Oppedal Berge, Kjetil Bjorvatn, and Bertil Tungodden

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1750026

April 10, Wednesday

“Business literacy and development: Evidence from a Randomized Trial in Rural Mexico” Gabriela Calderon, Jesse Cunha, Giacomo De Giorgi http://www.stanford.edu/~gabcal/financial_literacy.pdf

“Keeping it Simple: Financial Literacy and Rules of Thumb” Alejandro Drexler, Greg Fischer, and Antoinette Schoar <http://www.mit.edu/~aschoar/KIS%20DFS%20Jan2011.pdf>

“Money or Ideas? A field experiment on constraints to entrepreneurship in rural Pakistan” Xavier Gine and Ghazala Mansuri http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEC/Resources/Money_or_Ideas.pdf

April 15, Monday

“Teaching entrepreneurship: Impact of business training on microfinance clients and institutions” Dean Karlan and Martin Valdivia http://karlan.yale.edu/p/TeachingEntrepreneurship_revision_jan2010.pdf

“Entrepreneurship training and self-employment among university graduates: Evidence from a randomized trial in Tunisia” Patrick Premand, Stefanie Brodmann, Rita Almeida, Rebekka Grun and Mahdi Barouni http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2184653

“Training or technical assistance for female entrepreneurship? Evidence from a field experiment in Peru”
Martin Valdivia http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/336003-1303333954789/final_report_bustraining_BM_march31.pdf

C. Microenterprise owners

April 17, Wednesday

* “Who are the microenterprise owners? Evidence from Sri Lanka on Tokman v. de Soto” Suresh de Mel, David McKenzie, and Christopher Woodruff
<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/0,,contentMDK:20643884~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:469372,00.html>

* “The Divide between Subsistence and Transformational Entrepreneurship” Antoinette Schoar
<http://www.mit.edu/~aschoar/SubsistenceVsTransformationalEntrepreneurs.pdf>

* “Learning about Comparative Advantage in Entrepreneurship: Evidence from Thailand” Anant Nyshadham <http://www.anantnyshadham.com/research/>

April 22, Monday

* “Smoothing Consumption by Smoothing Income: Hours-of-Work Responses to Idiosyncratic Agricultural Shocks in Rural India” Anjini Kochar
<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/003465399767923818>

* “Health, Enterprise, and Labor Complementarity in the Household” Achyuta Adhvaryu and Anant Nyshadham <http://www.anantnyshadham.com/research/>

* “Agricultural Profitability and Enterprise Activity” Achyuta Adhvaryu, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham <http://www.anantnyshadham.com/research/>

IV. Firms

A. Formality

April 24, Wednesday

“The Demand for, and Consequences of, Formalization Among Informal Firms in Sri Lanka” Suresh de Mel, David McKenzie, and Christopher Woodruff

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/academic/woodruff/slkinformalitypaper_july2012_aej_rev.pdf

“Does it pay firms to register for taxes? The impact of formality on firm profitability” David McKenzie and Y.S. Sakho

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEC/Resources/Does_it_pay_firms_to_register_for_taxes.pdf

“The Quality of the Legal System, Firm Ownership, and Firm Size” Luc Laveen and Christopher Woodruff

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/academic/woodruff/laeven_woodruff_restat_final.pdf

B. Productivity

April 29, Monday

* “Does Management Matter? Evidence from India” Nick Bloom, Benn Eifert, Aprajit Mahajan, David McKenzie and John Roberts

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEC/Resources/DoesManagementMatter.pdf>

* “Team Incentives: Evidence from a Firm Level Experiment” Oriana Bandiera, Iwan Baranakay, Imran Rasul http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctpimr/research/teams_jeea.pdf

“Field Experiments with Firms” Oriana Bandiera, Iwan Baranakay, Imran Rasul

http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctpimr/research/fef_jep.pdf

May 1, Wednesday

“Social Connections and Incentives in the Workplace: Evidence from Personnel Data” Oriana Bandiera, Iwan Barankay, Imran Rasul

<http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctpimr/research/social%20connections.pdf>

“Social Incentives in the Workplace” Oriana Bandiera, Iwan Barankay, and Imran Rasul

http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctpimr/research/social_incentives_restud.pdf

“Incentives for Managers and Inequality among Workers: Evidence from a Firm-Level Experiment” Oriana Bandiera, Iwan Barankay, and Imran Rasul

http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctpimr/research/managerial_incentives_QJE.pdf

