

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

August 26

Introduction

* "Returns to Treatment in the Formal Health Care Sector: Evidence from Tanzania" Achyuta Adhvaryu and Anant Nyshadham http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AN_HCChoice_final.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/JHR_version_indiv_labor_apr2011.pdf

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

September 2

"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>

"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>

September 9 – No class

September 16

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

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

* "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>

* "Congestion, Willingness to Pay, and the Demand for Healthcare in Developing Countries" Achyuta Adhvaryu, Emilio Guitierrez, and Anant Nyshadham

II. Fetal Origins: Endowments and Parental Investments

September 23 & 30

"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>

"Health, Human Capital, and Development" Hoyt Bleakley
<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.economics.102308.124436?journalCode=economics>

"The Cognitive Effects of Micronutrient Deficiency: Evidence from Salt Iodization in the United States" James Feyrer, Dimitra Politi, and David Weil
http://homepages.econ.ed.ac.uk/~dpoliti/FPW_2013_07_11.pdf

"Fetal Origins and Parental Responses" Douglas Almond and Bhashkar Mazumder
http://www.chicagofed.org/webpages/publications/working_papers/2012/wp_14.cfm

"Vitamin A and Resilience to Early-life Shocks" Achyuta Adhvaryu, Snaebjorn Gunnesteinsson et al.

October 7

* "Salt Iodization and the Enfranchisement of the American Worker" Achyuta Adhvaryu, Steven Bednar, Teresa Molina, Quynh Nguyen, and Anant Nyshadham

http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/ABMNN_MortonSalt_sep2013.pdf

* "Early Life Circumstance and Mental Health in Ghana" Achyuta Adhvaryu, James Fenske, and Anant Nyshadham <http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AFNMentalHealthGhanaJan2014.pdf>

* "Recovering from Early-Life Trauma: Dynamic Substitution between Endowments and Investments" Achyuta Adhvaryu, Teresa Molina, Anant Nyshadham, and Jorge Tamayo

* "Endowments at Birth and Parents' Investments in Children" Achyuta Adhvaryu and Anant Nyshadham http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AN_Iodine_sep2012.pdf

October 14 & 21

"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>

"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>

"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>

"Cyclicity, 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>

"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
https://econ.duke.edu/uploads/media_items/aejapp-2008-0158-manuscript-title.original.pdf

"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>

III. Environment

A. Environment and Health

October 28 & November 4

"Environment, Health, and Human Capital" Joshua Graff Zivin and Matthew Neidell
http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1116&context=josh_graffzivin

"Does the Effect of Pollution on Infant Mortality Differ Between Developing and Developed Countries? Evidence from Mexico City" Eva Arceo, Rema Hanna, and Paulina Oliva
<http://www.econ.ucsb.edu/~oliva/Docs/Infant%20Mortality%20Paper%20Tables%20Appendix%20August%202012.pdf>

"Atmospheric Air Pollution and Birth Weight" Prashant Bharadwaj and Juan Eberhard
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1197443

"Environmental Regulations, Air and Water Pollution, and Infant Mortality in India" Michael Greenstone and Rema Hanna <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/fs/rhanna/Environmental%20Regulations%2007.11.pdf>

"The Effect of Pollution on Labor Supply: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Mexico City" Rema Hanna and Paulina Oliva
http://www.econ.ucsb.edu/~oliva/Docs/Labor%20Supply%20Paper%20+%20Tables%20Dec_12_2011.pdf

"Temperature and the Allocation of Time" Joshua Graff Zivin and Matthew Neidell
http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1118&context=josh_graffzivin

"The Impact of Pollution on Worker Productivity" Joshua Graff Zivin and Matthew Neidell
http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1104&context=josh_graffzivin

IV. Firms

November 11

* “The Light and the Heat: Productivity Co-benefits of Energy-saving Technology” Achyuta Adhvaryu, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham

http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AKN_LED_dec2013_final.pdf

* “Particulate Matter, Health, and Worker Productivity” Achyuta Adhvaryu, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham

* “Power Cuts and Productivity” Achyuta Adhvaryu, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham

* “Sectoral Linkages: Evidence from Garment Factories in India” Achyuta Adhvaryu, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham

November 18 & 25

“Does Management Matter? Evidence from India” Nick Bloom, Benn Eifert, Aprajit Mahajan, David McKenzie and John Roberts <http://www.stanford.edu/~nbloom/DMM.pdf>

“Does Working from Home Work? Evidence from a Chinese Experiment” Nick Bloom, James Liang, John Roberts, and Zichung Jenny Ying <http://www.stanford.edu/~nbloom/w18871.pdf>

“The Importance of Being Nice: Supervisory Skill Training in the Cambodian Garment Industry” Antoinette Schoar

“Modern Management: Good for the Environment or Just Hot Air?” Nick Bloom, Christos Genakos, Ralf Martin and Raffaella Sadun <http://www.stanford.edu/~nbloom/BloomGenakosMartinSadun.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/fe_fep.pdf

“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_QIE.pdf

Dec 2

Term Papers Due

In Class Presentations of Papers

Extra Papers

“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

“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>

“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 Schargrodsky

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

“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>

“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_jderevision2.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>

“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

“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

“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

“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

* “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>

* “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

* “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/>

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