

ECON 8830 – Topics in Empirical Development

Instructor: Anant Nyshadham

Time: MW 1:30 – 2:45

Class Location: Maloney 313

Contact Information: nyshadha@bc.edu

Course description:

The objective of this course is to review the state of the art in the field with respect to applied theory, structural estimation procedures, and experimental design. We will review the latest papers from the field exemplifying these approaches and then practice applying these approaches in paper topics of the students' choosing. The development of these papers will be guided by periodic presentations and group discussions.

Learning objectives:

This course is open to PhD students wishing to learn about the frontier of topics, methods, and practices in the field of development economics. The objective is to learn how to identify open questions in strands of literature, construct applied theoretical frameworks, design and implement defensible identification strategies, and contextually interpret results.

Course notes: Grading type is letter grade

Grading: students are expected to attend all sessions and to write a term paper.

Participation 20%

In-class presentations 30%

Term paper 50%

Description of assignments: The purpose of the term paper is either to write a motivated literature review on a selected topic or to start writing a research paper that will be a chapter of your dissertation.

Readings: The course is self-contained and material will be posted online at <http://www.anantnyshadham.com/teaching.html>. Readings will include recently published articles and working paper drafts on various topics in development economics. The topics explored are varied and listed below

Course schedule

January 17

Introduction

January 22

Review of Reduced-Form Estimation Techniques

Optional Reading: Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. *Econometric Analysis of Cross Section and Panel Data*, Second Edition, MIT Press

January 24

Endogeneity and Causality

January 29

Differencing

January 31 & February 5

Example Paper: “The Light and the Heat: Productivity Co-benefits of Energy-Saving Technology”

http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AKN_LED_feb2014_combined.pdf

Example Paper: “Early Life Circumstance and Adult Mental Health”

<http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AFNMentalHealthGhanaFeb2014.pdf>

February 7 & February 12

In-class paper presentations

February 14

Instrumental Variables

February 19 & 21

Example Paper: “Returns to Treatment in the Formal Health Care Sector: Evidence from Tanzania”

http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AN_HCChoice_Jun2014.pdf

Example Paper: “Health, Enterprise, and Labor Complementarity”

http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/AN_HealthEnterprise_0814.pdf

February 26 & 28

In-class paper presentations

Monday, March 5 No Class Spring Break

Wednesday, March 7 No Class Spring Break

March 12

Discussion of Ideas for Research Papers in Class

March 14

Regression Discontinuity

March 19 & 21

Example Paper: “Describing the Marginal Enrollee: Merit-Based Tuition Subsidies Revisited”

http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/Nyshadham_MargEnr_nov2013.pdf

Example Paper: “Formal Employment and Organized Crime: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from Colombia”

March 26 & 28

In-class presentations

Monday, April 2 No Class Easter Weekend

April 4 & 9

In-class presentations of ideas for Research Papers

April 11 & 16

Structural Estimation & Extremum Estimators

April 18 & 23

Example Paper: “Managerial Quality and Productivity Dynamics”

Example Paper: “Learning about Comparative Advantage in Entrepreneurship”

April 25

Discussion of any remaining issues on research papers

April 30 & May 2

How to Identify Opportunities for and Design RCTs (*Time Permitting*)

May 7

Papers due emailed to me by 5pm

Candidate Papers for Presentations:

I. Healthcare Delivery, Health Resources, and Information

“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/>

“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>

“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

"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.

"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

"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>

"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>

"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

"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

"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>

IV. Firms, Labor Markets, Personnel, and Organization

"Nominal Wage Rigidity in Village Labor Markets" Supreet Kaur

http://www.supreetkaur.com/files/Kaur_WageRigidity.pdf?attredirects=0

"The Morale Effects of Pay Inequality" Emily Breza, Supreet Kaur, and Yogita Shamdasani

http://www.supreetkaur.com/files/BrezaKaurShamdasani_MoraleEffects.pdf

"Self-Control at Work" Supreet Kaur, Michael Kremer, and Sendhil Mullainathan

<http://www.supreetkaur.com/files/KaurKremerMullainathan%20SelfControl.pdf?attredirects=0>

"Tackling Youth Unemployment: Evidence from a Labor Market Experiment in Uganda" Livia Alfonsi, Vittorio Bassi, Oriana Bandiera, Robin Burgess, Imran Rasul, Munshi Sulaiman, and Anna Vitali

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5hvcti19rv2llxt/Training.pdf?dl=0>

"Information Frictions in the Labor Market: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Uganda" Vittorio Bassi and Aisha Nansamba

"Input Allocation, Workforce Management and Productivity Spillovers: Evidence from Personnel Data"

Francesco Amodio and Miguel A. Martinez Carrasco <https://sites.google.com/site/fscoamodio/home/amodio-martinez-jmp.pdf?attredirects=0>

"Making do with What You Have: Conflict, Input Misallocation and Firm Performance" Francesco Amodio and Michele Di Maio <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ecoj.12518>

"Hostel Takeover: Living Conditions, Reference Dependence, and the Well-being of Migrant Workers" Achyuta Adhvaryu, Anant Nyshadham, and Huayu Xu <http://www.anantnyshadham.com/research/>

“More Money, More Problems? Expectations, Wage Hikes, and Worker Voice” Achyuta Adhvaryu, Teresa Molina, and Anant Nyshadham <http://www.anantnyshadham.com/research/>

“Managerial Quality and Productivity Dynamics” Achyuta Adhvaryu, Anant Nyshadham, and Jorge Tamayo <http://www.anantnyshadham.com/research/>

“Management and Shocks to Worker Productivity” Achyuta Adhvaryu, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham <http://www.anantnyshadham.com/research/>

“The Skills to Pay the Bills: Returns to On-the-job Soft Skills Training” Achyuta Adhvaryu, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham http://www.anantnyshadham.com/storage/PACE_june2017.pdf

“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

“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_jea.pdf

“Field Experiments with Firms” Oriana Bandiera, Iwan Baranakay, Imran Rasul http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctpimr/research/fef_jep.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_OJE.pdf

IV. Enterprises

“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_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>

“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/~gabcalf/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>

"Booms, Busts, and Household Enterprise: Evidence from Coffee Farmers in Tanzania" Achyuta Adhvaryu, Namrata Kala, and Anant Nyshadham
<http://www.anantnyshadham.com/research/>

"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/>