

ECON 616: Economic Development Fall 2022

Monday/Wednesday, 2:00-3:15

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Description

Survey of a variety of models explaining how market failures may lead to poverty and underdevelopment, with an emphasis on the empirical evaluation of constraints faced by individuals in developing countries and the programs that attempt to alleviate those constraints. Topics include: agricultural and land markets, labor markets, human capital in developing countries, credit markets, and consumption smoothing and risk coping.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be familiar with the canonical papers in applied micro-economic development, and with more recent empirical work. Students will develop skills as critical readers; learn to assess the rigor of common empirical approaches in development economics; and learn to build upon past theoretical and empirical research to develop new questions of academic and policy relevance. Each student will write an empirical paper that extends a published paper, building on the original question and including new analysis. The goal of this assignment is to strengthen and apply econometric skills to data from developing countries, develop and evaluate identification strategies, and learn to build on the existing academic literature.

Requirements

In addition to the requirements listed below, reading the required papers (indicated with a * on the reading list below) is essential. You will be expected to discuss and answer questions about the required readings in class. You should also at least skim 1-2 other related papers for each topic, to have a better sense of how the required readings fit into the body of related literature.

- 1) **20% Class participation:** Active participation in the discussion of assigned readings, some familiarity with related papers (papers on the syllabus are fine; you may also use Google Scholar or other tools to look for additional, related papers on topics of particular interest), and thoughtful discussion of potential extensions to the assigned readings.

- What is the model (or conceptual framework) in this paper? In that model, who is optimizing? Over what are they optimizing (i.e., what do they choose)? What is their objective (what do they want to maximize)? What are the constraints?
 - What is the identifying assumption for the main empirical question in this paper?
 - What is one potential threat to identification or inference that the authors address? How do they address it? Are there other threats to identification they do not address to your satisfaction? How would those issues change the results or interpretation?
 - Explain the main conclusion – what do we learn from this paper?
- 2) 25% 1 page extension ideas (10, due throughout the semester – chose 10 of 19 possible due dates): To prepare for lectures and subsequent discussions, you are required to develop potential extensions to the required readings and submit these brief write-ups via ELMS, 24 hours before class. Typically, these extensions will be empirical questions, but you may propose constructing a theoretical model if you can clearly articulate its main attributes.

Your proposed extensions should relate directly to the assigned reading or to another paper on the topic that is included in the reading list.

These assignments do not need to be carefully-crafted papers; bullet points are sufficient so long as you explain yourself clearly. These extensions should include:

- A clearly stated research question, which is a sentence ending in a question-mark.
- A brief explanation of what we already know about the hypothesis you propose testing. What model(s) and evidence inform your null hypothesis? How would the research question you propose add to the existing literature?
 - It's ok if the extension is to test a hypothesis in a different context (different country, different time period, different population), but you should explain what we learn from this. What is different about the constraints, returns, institutions, etc. that might lead us to expect different effects? Or, what do we learn about preferences or constraints from finding the same/different effects in this context relative to the settings in the existing literature?
 - To start, you may consider extensions that add waves of survey data (but verify that additional waves exist), test the same question in a different country (verify that the data to do so exist), look at a similar policy change in a different country, test for heterogenous effects (be sure to provide the economic motivation for why we would expect different effects on different sub-populations), or offer a robustness

check that is important to interpreting the results of the original paper.

- Extensions that test for heterogenous effects are interesting if 1) there is a theoretical reason to expect different effects in different subgroups, and 2) the sample size is sufficient that tests of heterogenous effects have reasonable statistical power.
 - It's even better if the extension pushes the question – tests mechanisms, relaxes assumptions, explores relationships between topics.
 - One way to expand upon experimental papers is to think about how to test the same question using quasi-experimental variation. This is especially true when the experiment tests an intervention that is related to real-world government programs or policies.
 - If you propose an experiment, propose one that you expect that you could implement as part of a dissertation. The idea of these assignments is for you to begin developing research ideas, so hypothetical experiments that are impractical to implement do not meet the goal of the assignment.
- What type of variation and data would you need to test the research question you propose?
- 3) **25% 2 page literature reviews (5, due throughout the semester – complete this assignment for all dates on which it is listed in the syllabus):** These assignments are, effectively, very brief literature reviews – you are asked to choose a paper that was not among the assigned readings (but may be one of the other papers listed on the reading list, or may be another paper *published in an economics journal on a closely related topic*. You should explain the paper you select, answering the same questions as described in the section about preparing for class participation. Then, you should explain how the selected paper builds upon the assigned readings (or was the basis for the assigned readings, as the case may be). It is important to relate the selected paper to all of the assigned readings for the topic and to other related papers you identify, especially among recently published or working papers, and in doing so, to draw out the relationships between the papers. How do these papers come together to develop a conceptual framework and evidence for or against it? What does the selected paper add to or change what we already knew?
- Unlike the one-page extension ideas, these assignments should be written in complete sentences, in the style of journal articles in economics.
- 4) **30% Extension of the literature (due December 19, 2022):** You will develop and begin to execute a research project that extends paper that you have read in class, by building on the research question and strategy from that paper. This assignment should consider an empirical question. You may base it on one of the one-page extensions you submit during the semester. In order to complete the assignment by the due date, it is important to make sure that you can obtain the necessary data. You should submit a one page

description of your extension plan, following the format for the one-page extension assignments but specifying the source of data you will use, no later than November 14, 2022.

Your final written assignment will include approximately 10-15 pages of text and at least three tables, and will have four parts, corresponding to key sections of an empirical paper:

- a. **Introduction:** this should clearly state your research question and the motivation for asking it (this can include the welfare implications and the underlying question about an economic puzzle). You should also offer a short description of your empirical strategy and your preliminary results.
- b. This blog post by Dave Evans (<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/how-write-introduction-your-development-economics-paper>) offers useful advice on writing introductions, but because this assignment does not require a fully developed paper, your introduction may not include all of the elements it mentions (for example, you may not be prepared to discuss policy implications based on your preliminary empirical work), and will be shorter than described. **Literature review:** What is the related evidence? That is, how do other papers relate to yours? The literature review is not a summary of related papers; it is a discussion of how those papers fit together with and inform the question your paper addresses. The advice in Dave Evans's blog post is quite useful for this section of the assignment.
- c. **Empirical strategy:** What is the regression equation of interest, and what identification strategy will you use to estimate it? The identification strategy will be a quasi-experimental strategy such as regression discontinuity, instrumental variables, or differences in differences, that leverages some source of real-world variation. Explain both the method and the source of variation you leverage to implement it.
What are the identifying assumptions? What are the threats to identification? Explain these concepts as they pertain to the identification generically (parallel trends, valid instrument, etc.) and as they specifically relate to your application and source of variation.
What data do you use? What are the important properties of the data as they relate to your empirical strategy?
- d. **Results:** include at least three tables: one with summary statistics for the key variables, one that reports the results of the main specification, and one that provides the most important robustness check or validity check for the identification strategy. The text of this section should explain the results, focusing on interpreting the point estimates (magnitudes as well as statistical significance). Make sure to use the key coefficient in a sentence ("Treatment D increases outcome Y by beta percentage points") that makes clear the units of measure. If the robustness checks indicate problems with your

identification strategy (such as lack of parallel pre-trends for differences-in-differences) explain the problem, how it affects the interpretation of the results, and what if anything you could do to address it.

You are strongly encouraged to attend the Labor, Public Finance, and Development seminar, which meets from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM on Thursdays. You may also be interested in the AREC seminar, which meets on Wednesdays at 3:30 pm in Symons Hall.

Course Policies

UMD's policies on graduate courses and graduate student rights and responsibilities can be found here: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/faculty-and-staff/course-related-policies>

Reading List

Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are required and will be discussed in class. Other readings are provided as references for students especially interested in each topic.

This reading list is long, but does not include every important topic in development economics. In particular, macro development topics including poverty and inequality measurement and economic growth get less attention than they deserve. The course will not cover institutions, political economy or public infrastructure.

I strongly encourage you to build up your own file of notes as you read papers for this and other field classes. One option is to write brief summaries of papers after you read them. Another is to keep spreadsheet that records bibliographical information as well as the main research question, the identification strategy, the conclusion, and your brief comments on the paper. These files will be useful for finding related literature as you are writing papers, and in ensuring you are prepared to discuss the classic and recent literature in the field as you go on the job market.

In addition to the articles below, excellent general references and textbooks include:

Bardhan, Pranab and Christopher Udry (1999). Development Microeconomics. Oxford University Press.

Deaton, Angus (1997). The Analysis of Household Surveys. Johns Hopkins.

Ray, Debraj (1998). Development Economics. Princeton University Press.

1. Agriculture and land markets

Property rights and land tenure

- *Besley, Timothy (1995). "Property Rights and Investment Incentives: Theory and Evidence from Ghana," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 103, No. 5, pages 903-921.
- de Janvry, Alain, Kyle Emerick, Marco Gonzalez-Navarro, and Elisabeth Sadoulet (2015). "Delinking Land Rights from Land Use: Certification and Migration in Mexico." *American Economic Review*, Vol. 105, No. 10, pages 3125-49.
- Besley, Timothy and Robin Burgess (2000). "Land Reform, Poverty Reduction, and Growth: Evidence from India," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 115, No. 2, pages 389-430.
- Jacoby, Hanan, Guo Li, and Scott Rozelle (2002). "Hazards of Expropriation: Tenure Insecurity and Investment in Rural China," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 92, No. 5, pages 1420-1447.
- Field, Erica (2007). "Entitled to Work: Urban Property Rights and the Labor Supply in Peru," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 122, pages 1561-1602.
- Goldstein, Marcus and Chris Udry (2008). "The Profits of Power: Land Rights and Agricultural Investment in Ghana," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 116, No. 6, pages 981-1022.
- Udry, Chris (2011). "Land Tenure," in Ernest Aryeetey, Shantayanan Devarajan and Ravi Kanbur, eds. The Oxford Companion to the Economics of Africa.
- Fergusson, Leopoldo (2013). "The Political Economy of Rural Property Rights and the Persistence of the Dual Economy," *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 103, pages 167-181.

Tenancy

- *Otsuka, Keijiro, H. Chuma, and Yujiro Hayami (1992). "Land and Labor Contracts in Agrarian Economies," *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 30, No. 4, pages 1965-2018.
- *Banerjee, Abhijit, Paul Gertler, and Maitresh Ghatak (2002). "Empowerment and Efficiency: Tenancy Reform in West Bengal," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 110, No. 2, pages 239-280.
- Bardhan, Pranab and T. Srinivasan (1971). "Cropsharing Tenancy in Agriculture: A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis," *American Economic Review*, pages 48-64.
- Stiglitz, Joseph (1974). "Incentives and Risk in Sharecropping," *Review of Economic Studies*, pages 219-255.
- Newberry, David and Joseph Stiglitz (1978). "Sharecropping, Risk Sharing, and the Importance of Imperfect Information," in J. Roumasset et al., eds., Risk, Uncertainty, and Agricultural Development.
- Eswaran, Mukesh and A. Kotwal (1985). "A Theory of Contractual Structure in Agriculture," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 75, No. 3, pages 352-367.
- Eswaran, Mukesh and A. Kotwal (1986). "Access to Capital and Agrarian Production

- Organization,” *Economic Journal*, Vol. 96, pages 482-498.
- Shaban, Radwan (1987). “Testing between Competing Models of Sharecropping,” *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 95, No. 5, pages 893-920.
- Otsuka, Keijiro and Yujiro Hayami (1988). “Theories of Share Tenancy: A Critical Survey,” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Vol. 37, pages 31-68.
- Basu, Kaushik (1992). “Limited Liability and the Existence of Share Tenancy,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 38, No. 1, pages 203-220.
- Ackerberg, Daniel and Maristella Botticini (2002). “Endogenous Matching and the Empirical Determinants of Contract Form,” *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 110, No. 3, pages 564-591.
- Banerjee, Abhijit and Maitresh Ghatak (2004). “Eviction Threats and Investment Incentives,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 74, No. 2, pages 469-488.

Farm size and productivity

- *Benjamin, Dwayne (1995). “Can Unobserved Land Quality Explain the Inverse Productivity Relationship?” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 46, No. 1, pages 51-84.
- *Bardhan, Pranab (1973). “Size, Productivity, and Returns to Scale: An Analysis of Farm-Level Data in Indian Agriculture,” *Journal of Political Economy*, pages 1370-1380.
- Carter, Michael (1984). “Identification of the Inverse Relationship between Farm Size and Productivity: An Empirical Analysis of Peasant Agricultural Production,” *Oxford Economic Papers*, Vol. 36, pages 131-145.
- Khandker, Shahidur, Stuart Mestelman, and David Feeny (1987). “Allocative Efficiency, the Aggregation of Labor Inputs, and the Effects of Farm Size and Tenancy Status: Tests from Rural Bangladesh,” *Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. 24, pages 31-42.
- Feder, Gershon (1985). “The Relation Between Farm Size and Farm Productivity: The Role of Family Labor, Supervision, and Credit Constraints,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 18, pages 297-313.
- Foster, Andrew and Mark Rosenzweig (2017). “Are There Too Many Farms in the World? Labor-Market Transaction Costs, Machine Capacities, and Optimal Farm Size.” NBER Working Paper 23909.
- Gollin, Douglas (2018). “Farm Size and Productivity: Lessons from Recent Literature,” IFAD Research Series No. 34.

Technological adoption

- *Conley, Timothy G., and Christopher R. Udry (2010). "Learning about a New Technology: Pineapple in Ghana." *American Economic Review*, Vol. 100, No. 1, pages 35–69.
- Griliches, Zvi (1957). “Hybrid Corn: An Exploration in the Economics of

- Technological Change.” *Econometrica*, Vol. 25, No. 4, pages 501–222.
- Foster, Andrew and Mark Rosenzweig (1995). “Learning by Doing and Learning from Others: Human Capital and Technical Change in Agriculture,” *Journal of Political Economy*, pages 1176-1209.
- Munshi, Kaivan (2004). “Social Learning in a Heterogeneous Population: Technology Diffusion in the Indian Green Revolution.” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 73, No. 1, pages 185–213.
- Bandiera, Oriana, and Imran Rasul (2006). “Social Networks and Technology Adoption in Northern Mozambique.” *Economic Journal*, Vol. 116, No. 514, pages 869–902.
- Bloom, Nicholas and Benn Eifert, Aprajit Mahajan, David McKenzie, and John Roberts (2013). “Does Management Matter? Evidence from India.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 128.
- Emerick, Kyle (2016). “The Efficiency of Trading in Social Networks: Experimental Measures from India.” Mimeo, Tufts University.
- Jones, Maria, Florence Kondylis, John Loeser, and Jeremy Magruder (2020). “Factor Market Failures and the Adoption of Irrigation in Rwanda,” NBER Working Paper 26698.

2. Labor markets

Agricultural HH separability

- *Benjamin, Dwayne (1992). “Household Composition, Labor Markets, and Labor Demand: Testing for Separation in Agricultural Household Models.” *Econometrica*, Vol. 60, pages 287-322.
- *Skoufias, Emmanuel (1994). “Using Shadow Wages to Estimate Labor Supply of Agricultural Households,” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 76, No. 2, pages 215-227.
- Strauss, John (1984). “Joint Determination of Food Consumption and Production in Rural Sierra Leone: Estimates of a Household-Firm Model,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 14, pages 327-353.
- De Janvry, Alain, Marcel Fafchamps, and Elizabeth Sadoulet (1991). “Peasant Household Behavior with Missing Markets: Some Paradoxes Explained,” *Economic Journal*, Vol. 101, No. 409, pages 1400-1417.
- Jacoby, Hanan (1993). “Shadow Wages and Peasant Family Labor Supply: An Econometric Application to the Peruvian Sierra.” *Review of Economics Studies*, Vol. 60, pages 903-921.
- Udry, Christopher (1996). “Efficiency and Market Structure: Testing for Profit Maximization in African Agriculture.” Mimeo, Northwestern University.
- LaFave, Daniel and Duncan Thomas (2016). “Farms, Families, and Markets: New Evidence on Completeness of Markets in Agricultural Settings,” *Econometrica* Vol. 84, No. 5, pages 1917–60.
- Dillon, Brian, and Barrett, Christopher B (2017). “Agricultural Factor Markets in

- Sub-Saharan Africa: An Updated View with Formal Tests for Market Failure.” *Food Policy* Vol. 67, pages 64–77.
- Dillon, Brian, Peter Brummund, and Germano Mwabu (2019). “Asymmetric Non-Separation and Rural Labor Markets,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 139, pages 78-96.

Labor Supply

- *Jayachandran, Seema (2006). “Selling Labor Low: Wage Responses to Productivity Shocks in Developing Countries,” *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 114, No. 3, pages 538-575.
- Lewis, W. Arthur (1954). “Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labour.” *The Manchester School of Economic and Social Studies*, Vol. XXII, No. 2, pages 139-191.
- Rosenzweig, Mark (1978). “Rural Wages, Labor Supply, and Land Reform: A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis,” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 68, No. 5, pages 847-861.
- Bardhan, Pranab (1979). “Labor Supply Functions in a Poor Agrarian Economy,” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 69, No. 1, pages 73-83.
- Rosenzweig, Mark (1980). “Neoclassical Theory and the Optimizing Peasant: An Econometric Analysis of Market Family Labor Supply in a Developing Country,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 94, No. 1, pages 31-55.
- Kochar, Anjini (1989). “Smoothing Consumption by Smoothing Income: Hours-of-Work Responses to Idiosyncratic Agricultural Shocks in Rural India,” *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 81, No. 1, pages 50-61.
- Abduli, Awudu and Christopher Delgado (1999). “Determinants of Nonfarm Earnings of Farm-Based Husbands and Wives in Northern Ghana,” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 81, No. 1, pages 117-130.
- Rose, Elaina (2001). “Ex Ante and Ex Post Labor Supply Response to Risk in a Low-Income Area,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 64, pages 371-388.
- Goldberg, Jessica (2016). “Kwacha Gonna Do? Experimental Evidence about Labor Supply in Rural Malawi,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 129-149.
- Kaur, Supreet (2019). “Nominal Wage Rigidity in Village Labor Markets,” *American Review of Economics*, Vol. 109, No. 10, pages 3585-3616.

Labor Market Networks

- *Calvo-Armengol, A. and M. O. Jackson (2004). The Effects of Social Networks on Employment and Inequality,” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 94, pages 426-454.
- *Beaman, Lori and Jeremy Magruder (2012). “Who Gets the Job Referral? Evidence from a Social Networks Experiment,” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 102, No. 7, pages 3574-93.

- Bryan, Gharad Dean Karlan, and Jonathan Zinman (2010). "Making the Most of the Friends you Have: Referrals and Enforcement in a Referrals Field Experiment," Mimeo, Yale University.
- Heath, Rachel (2011). "Why do Firms Hire Using Referrals? Evidence from Bangladeshi Garment Factories." Mimeo, University of Washington.
- Burks, Stephen, Bo Cowgill, Mitchell Hoffman, and Michael Housman (2015). "The Value of Hiring through Employee Referrals," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 130, Issue 2, pages 805-839.
- Beaman, Lori, Niall Keleher and Jeremy Magruder (2018). "Do Job Networks Disadvantage Women? Evidence from a Recruitment Experiment in Malawi," *Journal of Labor Economics*, Vol. 36, No. 1.

Migration

- *Borjas, George (1987). "Self-Selection and the Earnings of Immigrants," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 77, No. 4, pages 531-553.
- **Munshi, Kaivan (2003). "Networks in the Modern Economy: Mexican Migrants in the U.S. Labor Market," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 118, No. 2, pages 549-597.
- *Gharad Bryan, Shyamal Chowdhury and Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak (2014). "Under-investment in a Profitable Technology: The Case of Seasonal Migration in Bangladesh," *Econometrica*.
- Harris, John and Michael Todaro (1970). "Migration, Unemployment, and Development: A Two Sector Analysis," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 60, pages 126-142.
- Lucas, Robert, and Oded Stark (1985). "Motivations to Remit: Evidence from Botswana," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 93, No. 5, pages 901-918.
- Chiquiar, Daniel and Gordon Hanson (2005). "International Migration, Self-Selection, and the Distribution of Wages," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 113, pages 239-281.
- Yang, Dean (2006). "Why do Migrants Return to Poor Countries? Evidence from Philippines Migrants' Responses to Exchange Rate Shocks," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 88, No. 4, pages 715-735.
- McKenzie, David, John Gibson, and Steven Stillman (2010). "How Important Is Selection? Experimental vs. Non-Experimental Measures of the Income Gains from Migration," *Journal of the European Economic Association*, Vol. 8, No. 4, pages 913-945.
- Gibson, John, David McKenzie, and Steven Stillman (2011). "The Impacts of International Migration on Remaining Household Members: Omnibus Results from a Migration Lottery Program," *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 93, No. 3, pages 1297-1318.
- Gibson, John and David McKenzie (2011). "The Microeconomic Determinants of

Emigration and Return Migration of the Best and Brightest: Evidence from the Pacific," *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 95, No. 1, pages 18-29.

Ashraf, Nava, Diego Aycinena, Claudia Martinez, and Dean Yang (2013). "Savings in Transnational Households: A Field Experiment among Migrants from El Salvador," Mimeo, University of Michigan.

3. Social norms and relationships

Household bargaining

- *Duflo, Esther (2003). "Grandmothers and Granddaughters: Old Age Pension and Intra-Household Allocation in South Africa," *World Bank Economic Review*, Vol. 17, No. 1, pages 1-25.
- McElroy, Marjorie and Mary Jean Horney (1981). "Nash-Bargained Household Decisions: Toward a Generalization of the Theory of Demand," *International Economic Review*, Vol. 22, No. 2, pages 333-349.
- Schultz, T. Paul (1990). "Testing the Neoclassical Model of Family Labor Supply and Fertility," *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 25, No. 4, pages 599-634.
- Thomas, Duncan (1990). "Intra-Household Resource Allocation: An Inferential Approach," *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 25, No. 4, pages 635-664.
- Chiappori, Pierre-Andre (1992). "Collective Labor Supply and Welfare," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 100, No. 3, pages 437-467.
- Parish, William L. and Robert J. Willis (1993). "Daughters, Education, and Family Budgets: Taiwan Experiences," *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 28, No. 4, pages 863-898.
- Thomas, Duncan (1994). "Like Father, Like Son, or Like Mother, Like Daughter: Parental Education and Child Health," *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 29, No. 4, pages 950-988.
- Udry, Christopher (1996). "Gender, Agricultural Production, and the Theory of the Household," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 104, No. 5, pages 1010-1146.
- Schaner, Simone (2015). "Do Opposites Detract? Intra-household Preference Heterogeneity and Inefficient Strategic Savings," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Vol. 7, No. 2, pages 135-174.
- Almas, Ingvild, Alex Armand, Orazio Attanasio, and Pedro Carneiro (2018). "Measuring and Changing Control: Women's Empowerment and Targeted Transfers," *The Economic Journal*, Vol. 128, Issue 612, Pages F609-F639.

Gender norms

- Heath, Rachel and A. Mushfiq Mobarak (2015). "Manufacturing Growth and the Lives of Bangladeshi Women," *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 115, pages 1-15.
- Jayachandran, Seema (2015). "The Roots of Gender Inequality in Developing

- Countries,” *Annual Review of Economics*, Vol. 7, pages 63-88.
- Jayachandran, Seema (2017). “Fertility Decline and Missing Women,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Vol. 9, No. 1, pages 118-139.
- Dhar, Diva, Tarun Jain, and Seema Jayachandran (2018). “Reshaping Adolescents’ Gender Attitudes: Evidence from a School-Based Experiment in India,” NBER Working Paper 25331.
- Jakiela, Pamela and Owen Ozier (2019). “Gendered Language,” CGD Working Paper 500.
- McKelway, Madeline (2021). “How Does Women’s Employment Affect Household Decision-Making? Experimental Evidence from India,” Working Paper, Dartmouth College.
- Field, Erica, Rohini Pande, Natalia Rigol, Simone Schaner, and Charity Troyer Moore (2021). “On Her Own Account: How Strengthening Women’s Financial Control Impacts Labor Supply and Gender Norms,” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 111, No. 7, pages 2342-2375.
- Jayachandran, Seema (forthcoming). “Social Norms as a Barrier to Women’s Employment in Developing Countries,” *IMF Economic Review*.

Social norms

- *Jakiela, Pamela and Owen Ozier (2016). “Does Africa Need a Rotten Kin Theorem? Experimental Evidence from Village Economies,” *The Review of Economic Studies*, Vol. 83, Issue 1, pages 231-268.
- Platteau, Jean-Philippe (2000). Institutions, Social Norms, and Economic Development, Singapore: Harwood Academic Publishers.
- La Ferrara, Eliana, Alberto Chong, and Suzanne Duryea (2012). “Soap Operas and Fertility: Evidence from Brazil,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Vol. 4, No. 4, pages 1-31.
- Goldberg, Jessica (2017). “The Effect of Social Pressure on Expenditures in Malawi,” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 143, page 173-185.
- Rao, Gautam (2019). “Familiarity Does Not Breed Contempt: Diversity, Discrimination, and Generosity in Delhi Schools,” *American Economic Review*, Vol. 109, No. 3, pages 774-809.

4. Coping with risk

Informal insurance and risk sharing

- *Townsend, Robert (1994). “Risk and Insurance in Village India,” *Econometrica*, Vol. 62, No. 3, pages 539-591.
- *Ravallion, Martin and Shubham Chaudhuri (1997). “Risk and Insurance in Village India: Comment,” *Econometrica*, Vol. 65, No. 1, pages 171-184.
- Rosenzweig, Mark and Oded Stark (1989). “Consumption Smoothing, Migration, and

- Marriage: Evidence from Rural India,” *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 97, No. 4, pages 905-926.
- Fafchamps, Marcel (1992). “Solidarity Networks in Pre-Industrial Societies: Rational Peasants with a Moral Economy,” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Vol. 41, No. 1, pages 147-174.
- Coate, Stephen and Martin Ravallion (1993). “Reciprocity without Commitment: Characterization and Performance of Informal Insurance Arrangements,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 40, No. 1, pages 1-24.
- Udry, Christopher (1994). “Credit Markets in Northern Nigeria: Credit as Insurance in a Rural Economy,” *World Bank Economic Review*, Vol. 4, No. 3, pages 251-269.
- Ligon, Ethan (1998). “Risk Sharing and Information in Village Economies,” *Review of Economic Studies*, Vol. 65, No. 4, pages 847-864.
- Baland, Jean-Marie, Catherine Guirkinger and Charlotte Mali (2011). “Pretending to Be Poor: Borrowing to Escape Forced Solidarity in Cameroon,” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Vol. 60, No. 1, pages 1-16.
- Kinnan, Cynthia (2017). “Distinguishing Barriers to Insurance in Thai Villages,” Mimeo, Northwestern University.

Insurance Markets

- *Mobarak, A. Mushfiq and Mark Rosenzweig (2012). “Selling Formal Insurance to the Informally Insured,” Yale Economics Department Working Paper No. 97.
- *Karlan, Dean, Robert Darko Osei, Isaac Osei-Akoto, and Christopher Udry (2014). “Agricultural Decisions after Relaxing Credit and Risk Constraints,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 129, No. 2, pages 697-652.
- Gine, Xavier and Dean Yang (2009). “Insurance, Credit, and Technological Adoption: Field Experimental Evidence from Malawi,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 89, pages 1-11.
- Gaurav, Sarthak, Shawn A. Cole, and Jeremy Tobacman (2011). “Marketing Complex Financial Products in Emerging Markets: Evidence from Rainfall Insurance in India,” Supplement. *JMR, Journal of Marketing Research*, Vol. 48, pages S150–S162.

5. Social Protection

Unconditional and conditional cash transfers

- *Schultz, T. Paul (2004). “School Subsidies for the Poor: Evaluating the Mexican Progressa Poverty Program,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 74, No. 1, pages 199-250.
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6. Human capital

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9. Financial inclusion

Microcredit

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Time inconsistency and commitment savings

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Date	Topic	Reading	Class structure	Assignment (due 24 hours before class)	Miscellaneous notes on potential extensions
29-Aug		none	Introduction, discussion of course expectations		
31-Aug	Property rights	Besley (JPE 1995)	Lecture, followed by discussion of Field (2007) in relation to the required reading		
5-Sep	No class -- Labor Day				
7-Sep	Agricultural productivity	Benjamin (JDE 1995)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
12-Sep	Technology adoption	Conley and Udry (AER 2010)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
14-Sep	Technology adoption	student-selected paper from syllabus, or a related paper published in a peer-reviewed economics journal	<i>Student led discussion of the selected papers in relation to the papers from the previous lecture and the related literature</i>	2 page written discussion of the relationship between the selected paper and the paper(s) from the previous lecture.	Network effects; adoption of digital technology; relationship to trade and trade regulations
19-Sep	Household separability	Benjamin (EMCA 1992)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
21-Sep	Labor supply	Jayachandran (JPE 2006)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
26-Sep	No class -- Rosh Hashanah				
3-Oct	Labor market networks	Calvo-Armengolo and Jackson (AER 2004) and Beaman and Magruder (AER 2012)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
5-Oct	No class -- Yom Kippur				
10-Oct	Labor markets	student-selected paper from syllabus, or a related paper published in a peer-reviewed economics journal	<i>Student led discussion of the selected papers in relation to the papers from the previous lecture and the related literature</i>	2 page written discussion of the relationship between the selected paper and the required readings about labor markets.	
12-Oct	Migration	Munshi (QJE 2003)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
17-Oct	Migration	Bryan et al. (EMCA 2014)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
19-Oct	Migration	student-selected paper from syllabus, or a related paper published in a peer-reviewed economics journal	<i>Student led discussion of the selected papers in relation to the papers from the previous lectures and the related literature</i>	2 page written discussion of the relationship between the selected paper and the required readings about migration.	Natural experiments that affect incentives to migrate; effects on families of migrants; remittances; effects on destination communities. More challenging but interesting: equilibrium effects, relation to growth, intellectual property, dissemination of social and political norms.
24-Oct	Household bargaining	Duflo (WBER 2003)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	Not especially fruitful: tests of the unitary HH model.
26-Oct	Gender norms	Jayachandran (IMF Review, forthcoming)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	Care-giving (child and elder care); heterogeneous effects of shocks.
31-Oct	Social norms	Jakiela and Ozier (ReStud 2016)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	Interactions between social norms and formal institutions (financial products, social protection schemes).
2-Nov	Household and social norms	student-selected paper from syllabus, or a related paper published in a peer-reviewed economics journal	<i>Student led discussion of the selected papers in relation to the papers from the previous lecture and the related literature</i>	2 page written discussion of the relationship between the selected paper and the required readings about norms.	Experiments are tempting, but need to be closely mapped to real-world constructs. Look for natural experiments, such as labor market disruptions with asymmetric impacts on men and women.
7-Nov	Informal insurance	Townsend (EMCA 1994)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	Not especially fruitful: tests for the existence of informal insurance.
9-Nov	Insurance markets	Mobarak and Rosenzweig (WP 2012)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
14-Nov	Insurance and risk-coping	student-selected paper from syllabus, or a related paper published in a peer-reviewed economics journal	<i>Student led discussion of the selected papers in relation to the papers from the previous lecture and the related literature</i>	2 page written discussion of the relationship between the selected paper and the required readings about insurance.	Interactions between insurance and other financial products or institutions; government policies that mitigate risk; strategies for coping with aggregate shocks; how imperfect risk coping affects other markets (labor, etc.).
16-Nov	Cash transfers	Baird et al. (QJE 2011)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
21-Nov	Education	Evans and Popova (WBRO 2016)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading and at least one additional empirical paper about education in developing countries.	Focus on learning rather than years of schooling; understanding the return to education in informal labor markets; think about access to formal sector employment.

Date	Topic	Reading	Class structure	Assignment (due 24 hours before class)	Miscellaneous notes on potential extensions
28-Nov	Health -- supply	Das et al. (JEP 2008)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
30-Nov	Health -- demand	Dupas (ARE 2011)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading and at least one additional empirical paper about demand for health care in developing countries.	
5-Dec	Micro credit	Banerjee et al. (AEJ: Applied 2015)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading and at least one additional empirical paper about micro credit.	
7-Dec	Savings	Dupas and Robinson (AEJ: Applied 2013)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	
12-Dec	Time inconsistency	Ashraf et al. (QJE 2006)	Lecture, followed by discussion of potential empirical or theoretical extensions.	1 page discussion of a research question that builds upon or extends the assigned reading.	