

BA Seminar: Development Policy Analysis

Syllabus *(last update: December 22nd)*

Description:

In this seminar we will study popular approaches to alleviate poverty in developing countries. In particular, we will focus on impact evaluation studies that evaluate the impact of development programs focused, for example, on education or microcredit on various outcomes, such as educational achievements, school attendance, entrepreneurial activity, or child labor. In addition to learning about these different programs the students will be made familiar with the techniques necessary to evaluate them. This will prepare them for their BA thesis in which they are expected to replicate and slightly extend an impact evaluation analysis in a published paper (many journals nowadays require the authors to make their data available on the journal website). In addition to a kick-off meeting in which the topics are introduced and the block with the presentations in July, there will be a Stata tutorial in May in which we will see what steps are necessary for such a replication undertaking.

Evaluation:

Students will choose a paper featuring an impact analysis either from a list of papers that are posted below or from the website of the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (<https://www.aeaweb.org/aej-applied/>), the major outlet for this type of studies. This paper will be presented in July. In addition, a short report on the paper has to be submitted. The presentation accounts for 30% of the grade, the report for 70%. The report should then be used as the starting point for the BA thesis.

Organizational details:

- Preliminary Meeting: 26.4. 17:00-18:30
- Topics: we will discuss possible articles (example studies are listed below) in the preliminary meeting. Students are free to suggest papers of their own choosing as long as they fit to the seminar topic. Papers should be selected until May 15th.
- Stata Session: we will have a Stata tutorial in May (exact date: tba)
- The report is due on June 15th
- Presentations are on 16.6. and 17.6. 10:00-18:00 (participation is mandatory on both days).
- Presentations and Report are in English

Example Papers:

- Ambler, K., Aycinena, D., & Yang, D. (2015). Channeling Remittances to Education: A Field Experiment among Migrants from El Salvador †. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(2), 207–232.
- Angelucci, M., Karlan, D., & Zinman, J. (2015). Microcredit impacts: Evidence from a Randomized Microcredit Program Placement Experiment by Compartamos Banco. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(1), 151–182.
- Attanasio, O. P., Oppedisano, V., & Vera-Hernandez, M. (2015). Should Cash Transfers Be Conditional? Conditionality, Preventive Care, and Health Outcomes. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(2), 35–52.
- Attanasio, O., Augsburg, B., De Haas, R., Fitzsimons, E., & Harmgart, H. (2015). The impacts of microfinance: Evidence from joint-liability lending in Mongolia. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(1), 90–122.
- Augsburg, Britta, Ralph De Haas, Heike Harmgart, and Costas Meghir. 2015. “The Impacts of Microcredit: Evidence from Bosnia and Herzegovina.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 7(1): 183–203.
- Beuermann, D. W., Cristia, J., Cueto, S., Malamud, O., & Cruz-Aguayo, Y. (2015). One laptop per child at home: Short-term impacts from a randomized experiment in Peru. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(2), 53–80.
- Blattman, C., Green, E. P., Jamison, J., Lehmann, M. C., & Annan, J. (2016). The Returns to Microenterprise Support among the Ultrapoor: A Field Experiment in Postwar Uganda †. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 8(2), 35–64.
- Blimpo, Moussa P. 2014. “Team Incentives for Education in Developing Countries: A Randomized Field Experiment in Benin.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 6(4): 90–109.
- Botelho, F., Madeira, R. A., & Rangel, M. A. (2015). Racial Discrimination in Grading: Evidence from Brazil. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(4), 37–52.
- Crépon, B., Devoto, F., Duflo, E., & Parienté, W. (2015). Estimating the Impact of Microcredit on Those Who Take It Up: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Morocco. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(1), 123–150.
- Duflo, Esther, Michael Kremer, and Jonathan Robinson. 2011. “Nudging Farmers to Use Fertilizer: Theory and Experimental Evidence from Kenya.” *American Economic Review* 101(6): 2350–90.
- Olken, B. A., Onishi, J., & Wong, S. (2014). Should Aid Reward performance? Evidence from a field experiment on health and education in Indonesia. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 6(4), 1–34.
- Tarozzi, A., Desai, J., & Johnson, K. (2015). The Impacts of Microcredit: Evidence from Ethiopia. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 7(1), 54–89.