

Research in Development Economics

Summer School 2015

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June 10, 2015

- Development Economics = $f(\text{poverty, behavior})$
- Development Economics is very interdisciplinary in nature.
- Focus on development microeconomics in this presentation, not comprehensive (reflects my own research interests).

- Journals: JDE, WD, WBER, WBRO, ED&CC, JDS
- Conferences:
 - NEUDC
 - BREAD @ Duke
- RePEc: <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.dev.html>

- Empirical methods - it's all about causality
 - Regressions: DiD, Discontinuity, etc.
 - Experimental methods: RCT, Lab experiments
- Theoretical methods: incentive theory, distribution/population models

- Reverse causality issue (relevant in almost all macroeconomic studies)
- Acemoglu, Robinson and Johnson (2001, AER)
- "Why Nations Fail" - Acemoglu and Robinson (2011)

- Labor market discrimination:
 - Wage gaps (Heckman selection, etc.)
 - Resume audit studies (Betrand and Mullanaithan, 2004 AER)
- Looking for child gender bias in household expenditure data:
 - Deaton's outlay equivalence analysis (numerous papers)
 - Jayachandran and Kuziemko (2011, QJE)
 - Bharadwaj and Lakdawala (2013, JHR)

- Credit rationing and poverty trap
- Financing the poor as a solution
 - Grameen model (surprisingly high repayment rates)
 - leverage on social capital
 - dynamic incentives
 - ROSCAs
 - Does microfinance work to reduce poverty? - J-PAL studies based on RCTs
- "Economics of Microfinance" Armendariz and Morduch (2010)

Inducing prosocial behavior

- Dictator games
- Kindergarden experiment in Israel
- Blood donation experiment
- Organ donation commitment

- Creating effective incentive schemes
 - bednets against Malaria - paid vs for free
 - oral dehydration salts - access to information
 - getting immunization for lentils - tangible benefits

Benefits of poverty

- Lab experiments on cognitive tunneling
- "Scarcity: Why having too little means so much" - Mullainathan and Shafir (2013)
- Ruhm (2000, QJE)