List of Themes for Master Theses

Most of the suggested literature consists of empirical studies applying quantitative methods. Candidates should have basic econometric knowledge in order to be able to interpret regression outputs.

Institutions and Development

Democratic Reforms and Local Governance


Property Rights and Investment Behaviour


Clientelism and Development


Fighting corruption: experimental evidence (literature review)


**Experimental and behavioral economics**

**External validity of behavioral experiments**

Fehr and Leibbrandt (2011), A field study on cooperativeness and impatience in the Tragedy of the Commons. *Journal of Public Economics* 95, 1144-55

Levitt and List (2007), What do laboratory experiments measuring social preferences tell us about the real world? *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 21, 153-174

Kessler and Vesterlund (2011): The external validity of laboratory experiments: qualitative rather than quantitative effects. University of Pittsburgh

**Self-control problems and its consequences**


**Can corruption be studied in the laboratory?**

Armantier and Boly (2013) Economic Journal


Abbink et al. (2004), Laboratory experiments on corruption. In: Rose-Ackerman (eds.) The Handbook of Corruption, Edward Elgar Publisher, Cheltenham, UK.
Behavioral constraints on savings

Karlan et al. (2014), Savings by and for the poor: A research review and agenda. Review of Income and Wealth 60


Environment and behavior


The behavioral consequences of violent conflict


Bauer et al. (2012), Warfare Experience During Ontogeny Increases Egalitarian and Parochial Motivations. mimeo (published in 2014)

Microenterprise performance

Cash grants and firm performance


Savings constraints and microenterprise development


Karlan et al. (2014), Savings by and for the poor: A research review and agenda. Review of Income and Wealth 60

Gender-differences in microenterprise performance


Can business trainings improve managerial capital and firm outcomes?

Bruhn et al. (2010), What Capital is Missing in Developing Countries? American Economic Review PP, 629-33.


Gine & Mansuri (2011). Money or Ideas? A Field Experiment on Constraints to Entrepreneurship in Rural Pakistan. mimeo

Microfinance

Access to finance and female empowerment


Behavioral constraints on savings

Karlan et al. (2014), Savings by and for the poor: A research review and agenda. *Review of Income and Wealth* 60


Empirical Master theses

There is the possibility to write an empirical thesis based on primary panel data on microenterprises in Uganda and/or Sri Lanka. Good econometric knowledge is mandatory. Possible topics are:

- Female empowerment and firm performance
- Determinants of innovation activities in small firms
- Risk attitudes, impatience and investment decisions

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