

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

Bardhan and Mookherjee (2000), Capture and Governance at Local and National Levels. *American Economic Review* 90, 135-39.

Beath, Fotini and Enikolopov (2013), Do Elected Councils Improve Governance? Experimental Evidence on Local Institutions in Afghanistan. Working Paper

Dal Bo et al. (2010), Institutions and Behavior: Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Democracy. *American Economic Review* 100, 2205–2229.

Property Rights and Investment Behaviour

Besley (1995), Property Rights and Investment Incentives: Theory and Evidence from Ghana. *The Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 103, No. 5 (Oct., 1995), pp. 903-937

Braselle et al. (2002), Land tenure security and investment incentives: puzzling evidence from Burkina Faso. *Journal of Development Economics* Vol. 67 (2002) 373–418.

Clientelism and Development

Bardhan and Mookherjee (2012), *Political Clientelism and Capture. Theory and Evidence from West Bengal, India*. UNU Wider Working Paper 2012-97.

Fighting corruption: experimental evidence (literature review)

Bardhan, P. (1997), Corruption and development: a review of issues. *Journal of Economic Literature* 35, 1320–1346.

Olken, B.A. (2007) Monitoring Corruption: Evidence from a field experiment in Indonesia. *Journal of Political Economy* 115, 200-249.

Armantier and Boly (2011), A controlled field experiment on corruption. *European Economic Review* 55, 1072-82.

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

Ashraf, N., D. Karlan, and W. Yin, "Tying Odysseus to the Mast: Evidence from a Commitment Savings Product in the Philippines," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121, 673-97.

Ashraf, N., D. Aycinena, C. Martínez, and D. Yang, "Remittances and the Problem of Control: A Field Experiment Among Migrants from El Salvador," Harvard Business School Working Paper, available at: http://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Publication%20Files/aamy_remittancecontrol_94af696c-d154-4ae2-a308-4229c8282076.pdf, 2011.

Can corruption be studied in the laboratory?

Armantier and Boly (2013) *Economic Journal*

Abbink et al. (2002), An experimental bribery game. *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 18(2), 428-54.

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

Dupas and Robinson (2013), Why Don't the Poor Save More? Evidence from Health Savings Experiments. *American Economic Review* 103 (4)

Ashraf, N., D. Karlan, and W. Yin, "Tying Odysseus to the Mast: Evidence from a Commitment Savings Product in the Philippines," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121, 673–97.

Environment and behavior

Alessandra Cassar, Andrew Healy, Carl von Kessler (2011), Trust, Risk, and time preferences after a natural disaster: experimental evidence from Thailand. Working Paper

Chong et al. (2011). Trust and Trustworthiness in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters: Experimental Evidence from the 2010 Chilean Earthquake. IIEP-WP-2011-15.

Prediger et al. (2014), Resource scarcity and antisocial behavior. *Journal of Public Economics* 119, 1-9.

The behavioral consequences of violent conflict

Voors et al. (2012), Violent Conflict and Behavior: A Field Experiment in Burundi. *American Economic Review* 2012, 102(2): 941–964.

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

Microenterprise performance

Cash grants and firm performance

De Mel, Suresh, David McKenzie, and Christopher Woodruff (2008). "Returns to Capital: Results from a Randomized Experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123(4): 1329–72.

Blattman, Fiala, Martinez (2014) Generating skilled self-employment in developing countries: Experimental evidence from Uganda. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (forthcoming)

de Mel, S., McKenzie, D., Woodruff, C. (2012), One-Time Transfers of Cash or Capital Have Long-Lasting Effects on Microenterprises in Sri Lanka. *Science* 335, 962–966

Savings constraints and microenterprise development

Dupas and Robinson (2013), Savings Constraints and Microenterprise Development: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Kenya. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 5, 163-92.

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

Fafchamps, Marcel, David McKenzie, Simon R. Quinn, and Christopher Woodruff. 2011. "When Is Capital Enough to Get Female Microenterprises Growing? Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Ghana." National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 17207.

De Mel, McKenzie and Woodruff (2014), Are women more credit constraint? Experimental evidence on gender and microenterprise returns. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2009, 1-32.

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.

De Mel, McKenzie and Woodruff (2014), Business Training and Female Enterprise Start-up, Growth, and Dynamics: Experimental evidence from Sri Lanka. *Journal of Development Economics*

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

Karlan, D., Valdivia, M., 2011. Teaching entrepreneurship: Impact of business training on microfinance clients and institutions. *Review of Economics and Statistics* 93, 510–552.

Microfinance

Access to finance and female empowerment

Duflo (2012), Women Empowerment and Economic Development. *Journal of Economic Literature* 2012, 50(4), 1051–1079.

Ashraf et al. (2010), Female Empowerment: Further Evidence from a Commitment Savings Product in the Philippines. *World Development*, 38, 333–44.

Ashraf (2009), Spousal Control and Intra-Household Decision Making: An Experimental Study in the Philippines. *American Economic Review* 2009, 99: 1245-1277.

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

Dupas and Robinson (2013), Why Don't the Poor Save More? Evidence from Health Savings Experiments. *American Economic Review* 103 (4)

Ashraf, N., D. Karlan, and W. Yin, "Tying Odysseus to the Mast: Evidence from a Commitment Savings Product in the Philippines," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121, 673–97.

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