

# Workshop on Rigorous Empirical Research in Development Economics

Mannheim, 29.11. – 01.12.2017

Conference venue: ZEW, L 7, 1, 68161 Mannheim

The workshop covers recent developments in rigorous empirical research methods and applications in development economics. Impact evaluation of policy reforms has gained increasing importance in the recent fifteen years with a conspicuous increase in RCTs as well as other rigorous evaluation methods, particularly in the field of development economics, where large-scale RCTs are widespread nowadays. This development also led to a closer interaction between theory, empirical research and primary data collection, with inventive econometric methods being developed and tested, which are often tailored to specific impact evaluations. The workshop targets development economists who make use of impact evaluation methods but also invites applied econometricians with an interest in impact evaluation. The research workshop in Mannheim (29th November to 1st December 2017) will gather leading researchers in econometric impact evaluations for scientific discourse on methods and evaluations.

## Scientific Committee:

Alexandra Avdeenko (University of Mannheim)

Adrien Bouguen (University of Mannheim)

Philipp Dörrenberg (ZEW Mannheim)

Markus Frölich (University of Mannheim, J-PAL)

## Organization Committee:

Marina Jesse (SFB 884 & University of Mannheim)

Eva Lübke (University of Mannheim)

Ramona Stieber (ZEW Mannheim)

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## PROGRAMME

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

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09:30 – 10:15	Registration and Coffee
10:15 – 10:45	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Thomas König (Mannheim, Speaker of the SFB) Markus Frölich (Mannheim, Deputy Speaker of the SFB)</p> <p>Santiago Levy (IDB): Misallocation, Informality and Firm Dynamics in Mexico</p>
10:45 – 12:30	<p>Bruno Crepon (CREST): Creating new positions? Substitution effects of a dual apprenticeship program on youths and firms (with P. Premand)</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:20	<p>Craig McIntosh (San Diego): When the money runs out: Evaluating the longer-term impact of a two-year cash transfer program and Optimal Design of Experiments in the Presence of Interference</p> <p>Markus Goldstein (World Bank): Adolescent Empowerment and Conflict: Evidence from South Sudan</p>
15:20 – 15:40	Coffee Break
15:40 – 17:00	<p>Markus Frölich (Mannheim): Adverse Selection in Low-Income Health Insurance Markets: Evidence from a RCT in Pakistan (with T. Fischer and A. Landmann)</p> <p>Eliana La Ferrara (Bocconi) The entertaining way to behavioral change (with A. Banerjee and V. Orozco)</p>
18:00	Dinner at ZEW Bistro

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Thursday, November 30, 2017

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	Karen Macours (PSE): Measuring skills in developing countries (with R. Laajaj)
09:30 – 10:50	Alexandra Avdeenko (Mannheim): Humanitarian Aid and Natural Disasters – An Impact Evaluation in Pakistan (with M. Frölich, J. Vasquez-Escallon)
10:50 – 11:10	Coffee Break
	Pedro Carneiro (UCL): The Dynamics of Classroom Effects (with Y. Cruz-Aguayo and N. Schady)
11:10 – 12:30	Stefano Caria (Oxford): Decentralized Governments Do Have Better Information: Evidence from Ethiopia (with G. Abebe and E. Ortiz Ospina)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
	Kosuke Imai (Princeton): Causal Inference with Interference and Noncompliance in Two-stage Randomized Experiments
14:00 – 15:20	Christoph Rothe (Mannheim): Inference in Regression Discontinuity Designs with a Discrete Running Variable (with M.Kolesar)
15:20 – 15:40	Coffee Break
15:40 – 16:30	Karthik Muralidharan: Factorial designs, model selection, and (incorrect) inference in experiments (with Mauricio Romero and Kaspar Wuthrich)
18:45	Meeting point at ZEW Foyer for Dinner
19:00	Dinner at Restaurant Rheinterrassen

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## PROGRAMME

Friday, December 01, 2017

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9:30 - 10:50	Jo Puri (Green Climate Fund): Using mixed methods to assess trade-offs between agricultural decisions and deforestation
	Adrien Bouguen (Mannheim): Pre-schooling in Cambodia: An experimental evaluation
10:50 – 11:10	Coffee Break
11:10-12:30	Klaus Deininger (World Bank): Are women policymakers different? Impacts of political reservation on program implementation and local governance in India (with S. Singh and H. Nagarajan)
	Katja Kaufmann (Mannheim): Learning about the Enforcement of Conditional Welfare Programs: Evidence from Brazil (with F. Brollo und E. La Ferrara)
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:20	Imran Rasul (UCL): Delivery Agents, Social Ties and Group Identity: Theory and Evidence from a Two-Layered Field Experiment (Joint with O. Bandiera, R. Burgess, E. Deserranno, R. Morel and M. Sulaiman)
	Marie Gaarder (3ie): Lessons from doing Impact Evaluations in Fragile and Conflict Settings
15:20 – 15:40	Coffee Break
15:40 – 16:40	Panel Discussion: Impact evaluations: Scientific Rigour versus Policy Relevance - Marie Gaarder (3ie) - Craig McIntosh (San Diego) - Jo Puri (Green Climate Fund) - Markus Frölich (Mannheim) - Imran Rasul (UCL)
16:40	End of Conference