

JDE Editor-in-Chief Perspective

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By the numbers

- Impact factor: 2.649 (5 year 3.644)
- Repec Rank: 21
- Submissions: 1849 (up from 1313 in 2016)
- Articles: 118
- Acceptance Rate: 6.38%
- Desk Rejection Rate: 76.57%
- Percent of First Decisions<30 Days: 81.3%

Registered Reports I

- A two phase review process to
 - Decrease publication bias
 - Encourage important but high risk studies esp for junior scholars
 - Improve quality of work through early review
- Only for data that are not accessible to scholars(prospective collection, RCTs) but can be after baseline.

Registered Reports I

- Phase 1: Paper describing motivation for work, literature and specifications examined
- Not a pre-registration plan—more like a paper without results.
- Receive Rejection or In Principle Acceptance
- Phase 2: Reviewed for accurate follow through
 - Allowance made for deviations from plan based on external events as long as clear and explained.
 - Can be put on hold for up to 5 years to submit to higher-ranked journals.
- About 129 submissions (some misclassified), 15 Phase 1 Acceptances, 4 Phase 2 Acceptances
- Very slow during COVID due to field work restrictions.

Short Papers

- High quality papers with important insights/results that do not need the space of a full length-manuscript
- Can be submitted through a specific channel
- On the recommendation of a co-editor a paper that is submitted as a long paper may be moved to short paper if perceived to be a better fit (normally following receipt of referee reports)
- At most 6000 words and 5 exhibits
- Expedited process (30-40 days first review, 4 weeks revision time, not returned to referees, no new substantive analysis)

What I look for

- Question likely to be of interest to researchers who think of themselves as wholly or in part development economists?
 - Boundaries are porous and many good development papers are development and something
 - Addresses a classic question in development (market failure, structural transformation, demographic transition) in a new way
 - Empirical papers mostly in low and middle income countries but also high income history and linkages between countries at different income levels (migrants and trade)
- Inference is carefully considered and executed given constraints of data and institutions
- An innovative element that may be of broader interest (Would any well-trained economist working on this topic using these data have done something similar?)
- At desk reject stage it is important that these issues be addressed in the abstract.

Example A

- This paper investigates whether temporary subsidies to the manufacturing sector at an early stage of structural transformation stimulate economic development. We study the Construction of Third Front (TF), a massive yet short-lived industrialization campaign in China's under-developed hinterland. Motivated by defense considerations, location choices of TF projects followed a peculiar set of criteria, which generates plausibly exogenous variation in manufacturing capacity before market reforms started in the mid-1980s. We find initial advantages in manufacturing have long-run positive effects on the structural transformation of the local economy. The effects are driven by new entrants in the private sector, consistent with the existence of local agglomeration economics. However, there is no evidence that agglomeration forces are stronger in initially less-developed regions. While the TF reduced regional inequality, it likely hurt the aggregate efficiency.

Example B

- Based on Adam Smith's division of labor, this paper proposes the Kuznets hypothesis of the income inequality in the highway construction process, which unifies the different opinions of scholars. By using the data from Chinese prefecture-level cities, we tested the conclusions of the theoretical section and found that the highway infrastructure construction will promote the expansion of the scope of division of labor. When the highway density exceeds a certain threshold, the expansion of the scope of division of labor will reduce the income inequality in urban and rural. At the same time, we also found that the "Extend Highway to Every Village" Project implemented in 2006 drives the reduction in both inequality and poverty. Findings in this study carry several important policy implications, increasing investment in highway infrastructure construction in the central and western regions is more beneficial to reduce the income inequality and achieve common prosperity.

Author -> Referee -> Associate Editor

- The idea of the peer review process is in part that the people who publish in a journal on a given subject are the best judges of the quality and limitations of work that is submitted.
- Representation of Associate Editors in Low and Middle Income countries reflects at least in part past submission and authorship. item This is changing rapidly particularly with the increased number and quality of ubmissions from China and we want to reflect those changes.
- The best way to become a referee is to become an author. This also ensures we have the right person in the database we use to search for referees
- Referees who gain a reputation for high quality and timely referee reports are asked to become Associate Editors, typically by one Co-editor)