

# Trade Openness and Fertility Rates in Africa: Panel-Data Evidence

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- The paper is motivated by the Unified growth theory.
- The aim of the paper is to study the linkage between the trade openness and a fertility rate in Africa.
- Implicit idea is that trade openness is a characteristic of economic development. In the regression the trade explains a part of variation that is not explained by the variation of per capita income and some other variables.

## Method:

- Panel data analysis with fixed effects, some regressions take instruments into account.

## Results:

- Greater trade openness is associated with lower fertility rates contrary to results of Galor and Mountford(2008)

## Endogeneity

- it is written: 'our trade openness variable has a negative effect on fertility in Africa.' (page 3). I do not think we can talk about causation here.

## Possible negative causation

- it is written: 'we find that imports of manufactured goods have a significant negative effect on fertility.' (p. 3)

Another possible explanation: greater fertility  $\rightarrow$  less per capita GDP  $\rightarrow$  less import, including import of manufactured goods

- Is it possible to take traditions (or religion or beliefs) into account?
- Are regressors really not collinear? It seems that mortality rate and education level may be linked with income per capita.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!