



Introduction to the Economics of Development

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2022 -2023



How (not) to write a paper



Assignment

What we want you to do for this course

What we expect – Relevant literature

- Show that you consulted the relevant academic literature
- Provide a brief overview of the state of the literature on your topic
 - Introduction

A good way to set the scene and explain the relevance of your topic
 - Main body

*Refer to the relevant literature to explain concepts and claims
(a good way to start your analysis)*

What we expect: no lecture summary

2.1. General description of microfinance:

Normally when we want to borrow some money to fund a project or to increase consumption we go to a bank and ask for a loan. For poor people however, this is not very evident. They will find it difficult to get a loan from a bank for two reasons. The first is the problem of limited liability. When a poor borrower cannot repay the loan there is not much the bank can do to recover its losses since the borrower probably does not have much assets. The other problem is one of limited enforcement. When a borrower refuses to repay his loan, there is not much a bank can do since most poor countries do not have the right institutions to force them to repay. To deal with these problems, banks will only lend to 'good' borrowers. The problem with finding these good borrowers is there is asymmetric information. This leads to adverse selection and the moral hazard problem. To deal with this, the bank can monitor the borrower (to deal with the problem of adverse selection) and can screen him (to deal with the moral hazard problem). This is however very time consuming and expensive for the bank to do.

Surveys show that most people do not lend from banks but from local moneylenders. For them it is easier to monitor and screen the borrower than it is for banks. However, the costs remain high which means the interest on the loans stays high as well.

This is where microfinance comes in. It brings together the benefits of banks and local moneylenders. By only giving loans to a group of people, the concept of microfinance can deal with the problem of screening and monitoring. If one person cannot repay his part of the loan, the others will have to do it for them. Because of this shared responsibility, people will be very

Don't summarize lectures !

What we expect – Relevant literature

How NOT to do it

The impact of natural resource endowments in Angola

*...Despite being “blessed” with vast natural capital endowments, Angola is one of the poorest countries in the world **because there exists a negative relationship between natural resources and economic and social development.***

REFERENCES!

What we expect – Relevant literature

How to do it

Despite being blessed with vast natural capital endowments, Angola is one of the poorest countries in the world (World Bank, 2017). This is line with the “natural resource curse” hypothesis, put forward by Auty (1993) in light of the contrasting growth experiences of several resource-poor East Asian countries compared to their resource-rich counterparts in much of Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa. This hypothesis was first confirmed empirically by Sachs and Warner (1995), who find a significant inverse association between the ratio of natural resource exports to GDP and economic growth. In addition, Bulte et al. (2005: 1034) demonstrate that “the resource curse appears to spill over from economic growth to a broader set of development indicators”, including the share of the population that is undernourished or without access to water and the Human Development Index.

What we expect - References

Every statement should be supported by a reference

unless it is truly common knowledge

E.g. Beijing is the capital of China

unless it is truly your own idea, analysis, conclusion...

What we expect - References

- To insert citation in text: include surname of author(s) and year of publication

Loud reference :

Nunn and Puga (2012) demonstrate that geography affects economic development today.

Soft reference :

Geography affects economic development today (Nunn and Puga, 2012).

- 1-2 authors: last name first author, (last name second author) + date
- 2+ authors: last name first author + et al., + date

What we expect - References

- Quotations (repeating exact words): **always** include a page number in reference

The authors conclude that “the finding that across regions within Africa, the magnitudes of the differential effects of the ruggedness align closely with the intensity of the slave trades provide suggestive evidence that the differential effect of ruggedness within Africa is intimately linked to the slave trades” (Nunn and Puga, 2012: 29).

What we expect - References

How to do it:

- Cite source after statement
- If entire section based on one source:
 1. Repeat reference
 2. Explain in footnote that section is based on reference X (YEAR)
- If it is clear from your writing that you are still discussing the previously mentioned source, it is not necessary to repeat the citation after the sentence

What we expect - References

How to do it:

Angola has faced several obstacles in its path to development. The country was subject to the colonization of the Portuguese in the 16th century and remained under the rule of Portugal until 1975 (missing reference!). Angola was a major source of slave trade for Portugal, Brazil and the Americas and was a large contributor to the forced labour system until it was outlawed in 1961 (Akongdit, 2013). 1975 was the year the country gained independence through a military coupe, which resulted in the guerilla forces along with the Angolan army overthrowing the Portuguese government (Akongdit, 2013).

History¹



In 1954, the Netherlands issued the “Statuut”, which made people from Suriname, still their colony at the time, legal Dutch citizens. This increased the migration from Suriname to the Netherlands, because there were no longer restrictions on travelling between parts of the same kingdom.

¹ The section “History” is completely based on the paper by van Amersfoort (2011).

What we expect - References

How to do it:

Gilbert and Khokhar (2008) conduct a review of surveys of migrant populations in Europe and conclude that supplementary foods such as snacks and sweets seem to change most quickly following migration, while staple food consumption takes the longest time to change. The authors further find that dietary acculturation varies across populations, and suggest that the extent of acculturation may depend on the availability and accessibility of foods from the original diet, and on the value placed on retaining food habits.



Not necessary to repeat source citation after this sentence, because it is clear that you are still talking about the source *Gilbert and Khokhar (2008)*.

What we expect - References

How NOT to do it:

Columbus discovered the island in 1492, and the Spanish Crown soon took possession of it. The amount of indigenous people living there, around 100,000, was persecuted; revolts, pestilences caused by European bacteria, and slavery decimated the native population of the island at the beginning of the XVI century yet. The Spanish installed an elite-ruled regime, where few white families controlled all the important economic activities and the key-positions in the government of the colony, imposing strictly immigration rules for the people coming from Europe not to share their power and wealth.

What we expect - References

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When Cuba was discovered and whose property it became is **not** common knowledge

What we expect - References

How NOT to do it:

- Strong/controversial statements in particular need to be backed by convincing sources

*The **increase in FDI** has been pointed out as the **most important factor for poverty reduction**.*

*One of the **major problems** facing Southern African countries and developing countries in general (**especially resource rich ones**) is **corruption**.*

What we expect – Reference list

- Include full reference in an alphabetically organized list at the end of the paper (APA style)

Diamond, J. (1997). *Guns, germs and steel: The fates of human societies*. New York: Norton & Co.

Nunn, N., & Puga, D. (2012). Ruggedness: The blessing of bad geography in Africa. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 94(1), 20-36.

In case you refer to works of the same author and same year, distinguish them by adding a,b,c,... after the year.

WHO, 2002**a**. WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2002-2005. World Health Organization.

WHO, 2002**b**. Acupuncture: Review and analysis of reports on controlled clinical trials. World Health Organization.

What we expect - References

Online Writing Lab (OWL) of Purdue University offers detailed instructions on how to cite sources in-text and in the references list in APA style

- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/>

- **When in doubt: include reference**

Usually relevant academic literature will include important facts, and you can simply refer to these papers

- **Do as we say, not as we do**

Many published articles fail to follow the rules completely

We want to know whether you are able to apply the rules correctly

What we expect - References

Google Scholar is your friend!



☒ Articles (☒ include patents) ☐ Case law

Stand on the shoulders of giants

What we expect – Reference list

- Tip: If you use Google Scholar, you can find the APA formatted citation by clicking "
(but not always correct, so double-check!)

Ruggedness: The blessing of bad geography in Africa

N Nunn, D Puga - *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2012 - MIT Press

We show that geography, through its impact on history, can have important effects on economic development today. The analysis focuses on the historic interaction between ruggedness and Africa's slave trades. Although rugged terrain hinders trade and most ...

☆ 99 Geciteerd door 608 Verwante artikelen Alle 32 versies Web of Science: 129

Cite

Copy and paste a formatted citation or use one of the links to import into a bibliography manager.

MLA Nunn, Nathan, and Diego Puga. "Ruggedness: The blessing of bad geography in Africa." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 94.1 (2012): 20-36.

APA Nunn, N., & Puga, D. (2012). Ruggedness: The blessing of bad geography in Africa. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 94(1), 20-36.

Chicago Nunn, Nathan, and Diego Puga. "Ruggedness: The blessing of bad geography in Africa." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 94, no. 1 (2012): 20-36.

BibTeX EndNote RefMan RefWorks

References - Why such a big deal?

- Quality control
 - Allows reader to verify reliability of the information and claims in the paper
- Contribution
 - Allows reader to know exactly what your contribution is, what you have added to the existing literature
- Intellectual Property Rights
 - We give credit when credit is due

Beware of plagiarism

- The biggest mistake you can make is to use other people's work without proper references
- Plagiarism is any identical or lightly-altered use of one's own or someone else's work (ideas, texts, structures, images, plans, etc.) without adequate reference to the source
- Distinguish between quoting (repeating exact words) and paraphrasing (using your own words)
- Forgetting to cite sources in text = **Plagiarism !**

Beware of plagiarism

- We check all papers for plagiarism

In some ways, those who doubted Bangladesh's potential were right. Economic growth since the 1970s has been poor, and one of the main reasons has been the political turmoil. Periods of democratic rule have been interrupted by coups, martial law, and states of emergency. Bangladesh is the proof that a country cannot achieve all its potential due to lack of good governance.

World Bank booklet cogently summarized the major symptoms of poor governance present in Bangladesh. These are:

- Corruption, led by a failure to make a clear separation between what is public and what is private hence a tendency to direct public resources for private gain;
- Failure to establish a predictable frame work of law and government behavior conducive to development or arbitrariness in the application of rules and laws;
- Executive rules, regulations, licensing requirements that impede, functioning of markets and encourage rent seeking;
- Priorities, inconsistent with development, resulting in a misallocation of resources;
- Excessively narrowly based or non-transparent decision making.
- The other symptoms of poor governance are "excessive costs, poor service to the public and failure to achieve the aims of policy. (The British Council, 1991)



Beware of plagiarism

- Of course accidental similarities can happen

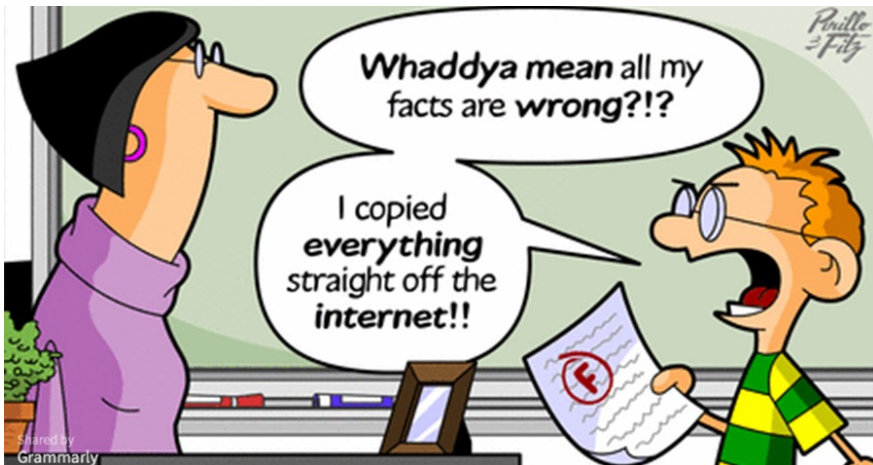
The World Bank (2013) estimated, using migrant stocks, destination country incomes and source country incomes, the bilateral remittances in 2010 from the Netherlands to Suriname to

→ Unintentional plagiarism

- Although you should try to avoid this, we will not accuse you of plagiarism if this happens
- We can run your paper through plagiarism-detecting software before you hand in if you want to check for similarities (max. two days before deadline)

What we expect - Sources

- Which sources can/should you use?
- Not just any published document
- DEFINITELY NOT just any website



What we expect - Sources

- Inappropriate sources for academic paper

“Pyramid scheme.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 6 Dec. 2014. Web. 18 Dec. 2014 < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyramid_scheme >

Cubanismo, 12th December 2010, “Geschiedenis van Cuba 9: De speciale periode”, *Initiatief Cuba Socialista*, viewed on 17th December 2014, < <http://cubanismo.net/cms/nl/cuba/achtergrond/geschiedenis#9>>

Hunt, N. 2014, “History of Cuban Nation from Colonial Days to the Present”, viewed on 14th December 2014, <http://www.cubahistory.org>

[3]Thayer Watkins, “José Sarney, Hyperinflation and
The Cruzado Plan in Brazil in the Late 1980's,”
<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/cruzado.htm>.

What we expect - Sources

- Appropriate sources for academic paper
 - Articles in academic, peer-reviewed journals
 - Published books and monographs
 - Working papers/reports from international organizations
 - World Bank, IMF, FAO, ...



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA



FAOSTAT

- Mass media are suitable **only** for describing current events or illustrative quotes
 - Newspaper articles, online articles, blogs, ...
 - Mass media includes The Economist!
- **Be critical** about your sources



What we expect - Data

Use of data is not a requirement, but an option

If appropriate you can illustrate your arguments using data from case studies / country comparisons etc.

- Specify the definition of the measures you're using
- Only present data that speak directly to your topic

What we expect - Data

- Data are very important sources of information
 - Be even more critical with data sources
 - **Never** use data without citing the source
- Inappropriate data sources

(1) <http://www.mining.com/angolas-diamond-industry-to-regain-record-production-levels-report-29501/>

(2) <https://townipproject.wikispaces.com/Blood+Diamonds>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-17/de-beers-expects-to-dig-angola-gem-mine-to-recoup-expense.html>

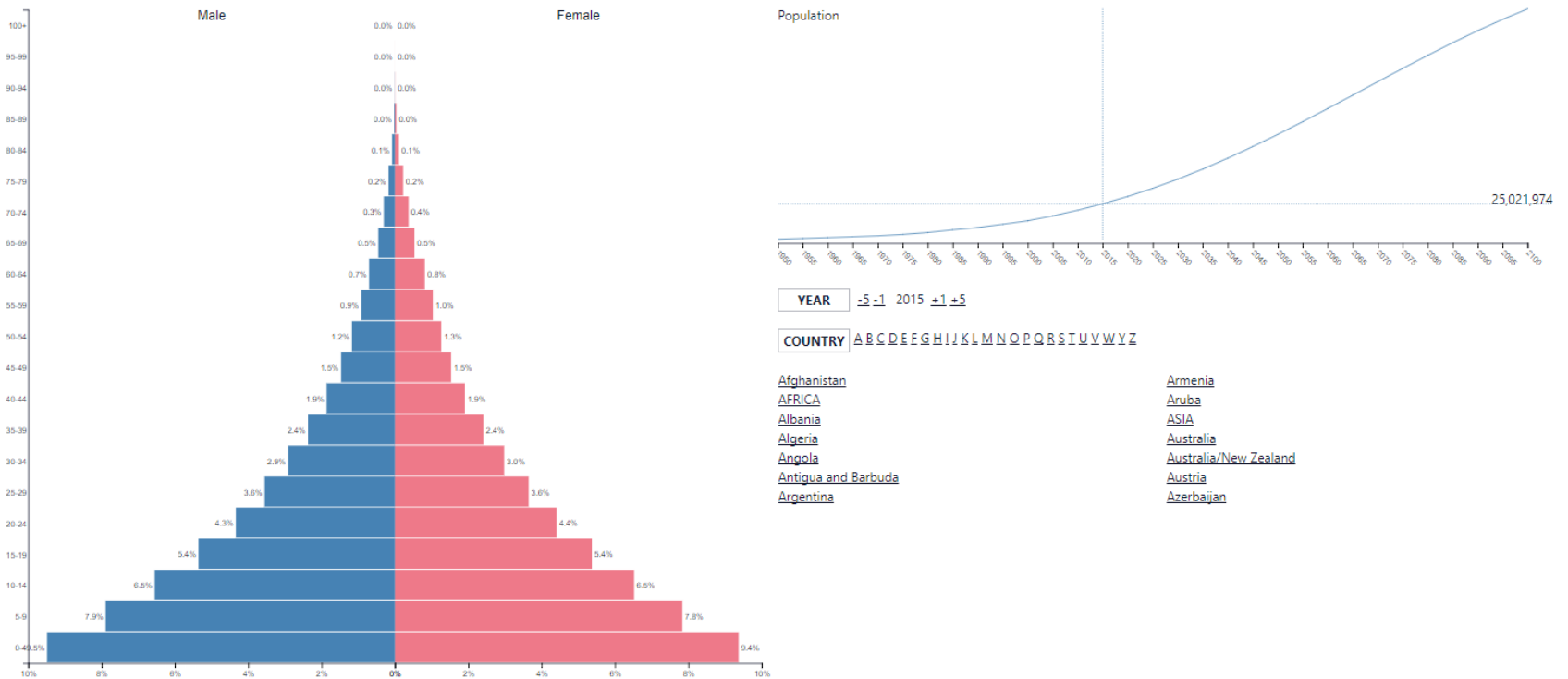
Source: Indexmundi - [http://www.indexmundi.com/angola/gdp_per_capita \(ppp\).html](http://www.indexmundi.com/angola/gdp_per_capita_ppp.html)

POPULATION PYRAMID OF THE WORLD:

<http://populationpyramid.net/angola/2015/>

Angola ▼ 2015

Population: 25,021,974



- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision. (Medium variant)
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Destination and Origin (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013)
- Boden, T.A., G. Marland, and R.J. Andres. 2016. Global, Regional, and National Fossil-Fuel CO2 Emissions. Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge, Tenn., U.S.A. doi 10.3334/CDIAC/00001_V2016
- 1959-2013 estimates for fossil fuels are from the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. http://cdiac.ornl.gov/trends/emis/meth_reg.html.
- 2014 and 2015 estimates are preliminary and are based on energy statistics published by BP (data in red). <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/pdf/energy-economics/statistical-review-2016/bp-statistical-review-of-world-energy-2016-full-report.pdf>

What we expect - Sources

- Criteria for selecting sources?
 - Quality
 - Peer review and internationally recognized organisations (e.g. World Bank) ensure some minimum quality
 - Identity of author (not just their name)
 - Authority on the topic, possible conflicts of interest,...
 - How information was obtained
 - Data: how was it measured, collected, processed,... ?
 - Analysis: what methodology was used?
 - If the source of the information is unclear, no idea about reliability
 - Date: when published and when last updated?

What we expect - Sources

- Useful (data) sources : International organizations

<http://data.worldbank.org/>

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/>

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>

<http://faostat3.fao.org/home/E>

<http://apps.who.int/nha/database/Select/Indicators/en>

<http://www.transparency.org>

What we will grade you on

1) Content

- Carefully build up your arguments by discussing the relevant academic literature
- Explain concepts and claims, even if they were discussed in class

What we will grade you on

2) Structure

- Macro-structure (subtitles, different paragraphs...)
- Micro-structure (logical sequence of sentences within paragraphs)

3) Sources

- Correct references/bibliography
- Quality of sources

4) Style / language

How (not) to write a paper

For all future papers

Too much information

- Present only relevant information
- Nobody is interested in Wikipedia-style discussions
- Don't waste your time and the time of your reader on things that are not immediately relevant

Too much information

- *Women empowerment in Sierra Leone through microcredit*

Sierra Leone knows a history of violence. From 1991 until 2002, there was a civil war. The war began when the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) started attacking villages in the east of Sierra Leone. There were many young Sierra Leoneans in the violent RUF movement. The reason RUF could attract a big amount of young people was because they were constantly marginalized, and their government was corrupt. The politicians were living in luxury while most of the country lived in misery. By promising the young people a fairer share of the diamonds trade revenue, RUF was able to attract all these young people. When the civil war ended in 2002, the physical and economic damage was enormous. More than 300 000 homes were destroyed and more than 70% of the people were living below the poverty line. To solve this the government started the National Microfinance policy which aim was to help the economy going again.

→ Relevant information:

Sierra Leone suffered from a civil war (1991-2002) that caused severe physical and economic damage (ref). The war destroyed more than 300 000 homes and left more than 70 % of the population living below the poverty line (ref). To stimulate economic recovery, the government started the National Microfinance policy (ref).

Too much information

- The relationship between foreign aid and HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is a worldwide phenomenon that has influenced people and countries around the world. Its origin can be found in the 1980s. In 1984 researchers found the virus that causes AIDS, namely HIV, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus. To treat this virus, researchers came up with the combination therapy or HAART, highly active antiretroviral therapy, in 1996. This cocktail of HIV-inhibiting drugs succeeds in suppressing the virus so that AIDS stays away. However, the problem with this therapy is that it's too expensive to make it available to developing countries in the vast amounts needed.

→ Relevant information:

The disease AIDS is a major cause of death (ref). Although medication exists, it is expensive and hence many patients in developing countries cannot afford it (ref).

Too little information

- Every strong statement should be followed by an explanation or convincing references

- Aid works only in a good policy environment, defined as low inflation or a zero budget deficit and a liberalized economy.

Why should a good policy environment consist of a liberalized economy with low inflation and zero budget deficit?

- For a country that has only become independent since 1975, Angola performs quite well. Of course this has a lot to do with the fact that Angola has a lot of important natural resources at its disposal.

Why should it matter that Angola has only recently become independent? Why should its good performance be related to an abundance of natural resources? (There is an entire lecture on the negative effects of natural resource abundance on economic growth!)

Too little information

- Briefly explain key concepts and **always** mention measurements (if you analyse or refer to data)

- How to do it

Determining the magnitude and nature of international migration can be extremely challenging. Therefore the World Bank numbers on net migration are based on five year estimates. “Net migration” means the total number of immigrants less the annual number of emigrants (World Bank, 2014).

- How not to do it

*Figure 2. Average **income** (source: The World Bank, 2014b)*

What measure of income did they use? There are many!

Too little information

- Always be specific

*However according to some researchers there are no indications that there is a significant reduction of new infections globally (Nunnenkamp, 2011). They find their results linked to different **outcome variables** and the source of the funds.*

What outcome variables?

*Furthermore **institutions** are crucial for economic development, which depends vastly on human capital.*

What kind of institutions? What is the link with human capital?

Organize, organize, organize

Structure

- Title page
- Introduction
- Main body
- Conclusion
- References

Structure

Introduction

- **What** is the topic of your paper or the question you will try to answer ?
- **Why** should we care about this topic ?

It may be useful to explain **how** you are going to answer this question and provide the reader with a “**roadmap**” in the last paragraph

Structure

What? Why? How?

When talking about the agricultural sector in Rwanda, it is key to introduce the characteristics of its agriculture. The agricultural sector is the second most important one in Rwandan economy. The share of the agricultural sector in the GDP has stabilized for the past 5 years at more or less 32%, while the services sector has increased (from 45% in 2009 up to 53% in 2014) at the expense of the industry.ⁱ Still, most of the active population is employed in the agriculture. With a total economically active population of 3.375.000, 2.957.000 was employed in the agriculture.ⁱⁱ That's as much as 87.6%.ⁱⁱⁱ Also, of the 2634 km², approximately 2000 km² is in use by the agriculture.^{iv} That's about 87,61%. A lot, when we compare it with a developed region like Flanders (1352 km²) where only 618 km² is used by the agriculture, 45% of the total.^v

Structure

One of the ambitious Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of the United Nations is to reduce child mortality. Estimates show that every day still more than 17,000 children die before reaching their 5th birthday. More than every second child death is happening in Sub Saharan countries. As later explained in detail, one of the major causes of child mortality is diarrhoeal disease as a result of poor water quality. This paper investigates potential connections between the child mortality in Angola and the access to clean water.

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What?

Structure

Most people will agree that a sound financial system is an important prerequisite for any economy to flourish. This is also reflected in a lot of economics textbooks, which prescribe the development of a financial system as an indirect cure for poverty through means of economic growth. But is this really the case? Does the development of a financial system prelude economic growth? And should policymaker therefore direct all the available resources toward this development?

Researchers do not have a united stance on the issue of this relationship. Some say that a financial system is a prerequisite; while others reckon that it is just the result of economic growth.

Depending on which one is believed to be true, governments will undertake different policies resulting in different economic outcomes. In this paper we will therefore discuss the different hypotheses on the link between financial development and economic growth. By giving an overview of the rather feeble Chinese financial system and the contrasting economic growth, with their respective data, we will be able to see which financial theory is the most applicable. Our aim is to downplay the initial importance of a financial system, implying that a country should first device policies aimed at the development of other ingredients of economic growth. Finally we will suggest some policies for other developing countries.

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What?

How?

Structure

Main body of the text

- Make sure to structure this part well
 - Make sure your logic is clear from the text
 - Each paragraph should focus on 1 main point
 - Bullet points are no substitute for structure
i.e. do NOT use bullet points!

Structure

How not to do it

Institutions are a critical factor for economic growth and development, it is therefore very interesting to research the impact of migration on institutions, which is what we will do in this section.

The majority of migrants, are low skilled and poorly educated, for example in Austria, Italy and Poland only 15% of migrants have had tertiary education.²²

Besides the low skilled workers, we put a special focus on the most skilled migrants, which are subject to an ongoing debate whether their migration will lead to a brain gain or a brain drain. Highly educated people can expect a huge salary gain if they migrate to a developed country.²²

There is no question that the relocation of those individuals holds significant benefits and changes, but how will it affect the institutions of the country they leave behind?

Migration can affect the economy of a developing country vastly, directly through the loss of crucial players in society such as doctors and engineers, or the remittances sent by workers abroad. But also indirectly through the alternation of institutions and consequently economic development in the long run. How important institutions are can be observed on the case of Korea.²³

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Structure

How to do it

The most important positive model for economic growth is the Solow model. This model suggests an implicit relation between financial development and economic growth: economic growth is achieved by the accumulation of capital. This accumulation process is maintained by the tuning of savings to investment demand, implying the existence of rigorous ways to channel savings into investments. In economic terms this means that there should be institutions with the appropriate resources for streamlining this process. Those institutions are called financial markets and financial intermediaries.

On the other hand we have the new economic growth theories that emphasize the importance of productivity of accumulated capital and thus technology. Technology is important because of the idea of diminishing productivity: above a certain threshold the accumulation of capital does not result in a proportional rise in output.

This new model is supported by the earlier mentioned criticism of Mellor (1966) and Penny (1968). Moreover, Lucas (1988) suggests that finance, as indirect determinant for the accumulation of capital, is an overstressed determinant of economic growth. Therefore strategies aiming at the development of a financial system would be a waste of resources. Instead, relevant policies should be positioned toward improvements of labour and productivity.

Structure

Conclusion

± Follow-up to the introduction

- What are your main findings or arguments
- How did you arrive at these findings or arguments
 - Depending on your approach
Which data did you use ? Which countries did you compare ?
Which strands of literature did you discuss ?
- Why your topic and analysis is important for development

Structure

How not to do it

Starting with section III., we are concluding that Cambodian authorities should concentrate on reducing bureaucratic barriers and procedures for people who want to start a business. Furthermore the costs to start a business should be reduced dramatically as high costs especially affect the poorest. This efforts will have an impact on the ease of doing business index. This tends to generate higher FDI inflows.

Regarding section IV., instead of actively fighting corruption, we believe it would be more efficient to focus on administrative reforms. This might automatically lead to lower costs for starting businesses. These lower costs will reduce the private gains of corruption, thus reducing corruption. Improvements in property rights might increase equality since the poorest will benefit the most of a decline in corruption. We consider this as a positive side effect.

From section V. we conclude that a larger share of producing costs is spent on transportation as Cambodia lags behind in terms of infrastructure. Higher investments in infrastructure are required in order to obtain a more competitive position in the developing world. Following the paper of Zhai (2010), investments in infrastructure can create huge welfare gains which makes the investment worthwhile considering.

Structure

How to do it

Conclusion of Squicciarini, M. P. & Voigtländer, N. (2015):

An ample literature has highlighted the importance of human capital for economic development in the modern world. However, its role during the Industrial Revolution has typically been described as minor. Hence, a crucial driver of modern growth appeared to be unrelated to the onset of growth itself, and thus to the greatest structural break in economic history. We resolved this puzzle by showing that not initial literacy of the masses, but upper-tail human capital – the presence of knowledge elites – played an important role during industrial growth. As a proxy for scientific elites, we use Encyclopédie subscriber density and show that this measure is strongly associated with other indicators of local scientific activity, both before and after the Encyclopédie was printed in the mid-18th century. We also shed light on one historical root of this spatial pattern – the presence of the suppressed Huguenot minority with its strong emphasis on educational attainment. A promising route for future research is to systematically examine the causes of the spatial dispersion of scientific elites at the eve of industrialization.

... (continued on next slide)

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... (continued on next slide)

Why important?

Structure

How to do it

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... (continued on next slide)

Main findings?

Why important?

Structure

How to do it

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... (continued on next slide)

Main findings?

Methodology?

Why important?

Structure

How to do it

...We discussed our empirical results in the context of a stylized framework of spatial knowledge diffusion, making two simple assumptions: while worker skills raise productivity for any given technology, upper-tail knowledge allows entrepreneurs to adopt more productive techniques. Thus, the former raise income per capita in the cross-section, while the latter fosters growth. In the spirit of Nelson and Phelps (1966), advanced knowledge is more important when the technological frontier expands rapidly. Consequently, upper-tail knowledge becomes particularly important for development during industrialization. Our data lend strong support to this prediction. Importantly, we do not argue that average worker skills were altogether unimportant; we show that they were strongly correlated with income levels before and after industrialization, but not with growth.

Our results have important implications for economic development: while improvements in basic schooling raise wages, greater worker skills alone are not sufficient for industrial takeoff. Instead, upper-tail skills – even if confined to a small elite – are crucial, fostering growth via the innovation and diffusion of modern technology. In this respect, our findings resemble those in today's economies, where the existence of a social class with high education is crucial for development (Acemoglu, Hassan, and Robinson, 2011), entrepreneurial skills matter beyond those of workers (Gennaioli et al., 2013), and scientific education is key (Hanushek and Kimko, 2000).

Structure

How to do it Main findings? Methodology? (Policy) relevance?

...We discussed our empirical results in the context of a stylized framework of spatial knowledge diffusion, making two simple assumptions: while worker skills raise productivity for any given technology, upper-tail knowledge allows entrepreneurs to adopt more productive techniques. Thus, the former raise income per capita in the cross-section, while the latter fosters growth. In the spirit of Nelson and Phelps (1966), advanced knowledge is more important when the technological frontier expands rapidly. Consequently, upper-tail knowledge becomes particularly important for development during industrialization. Our data lend strong support to this prediction. Importantly, we do not argue that average worker skills were altogether unimportant; we show that they were strongly correlated with income levels before and after industrialization, but not with growth.

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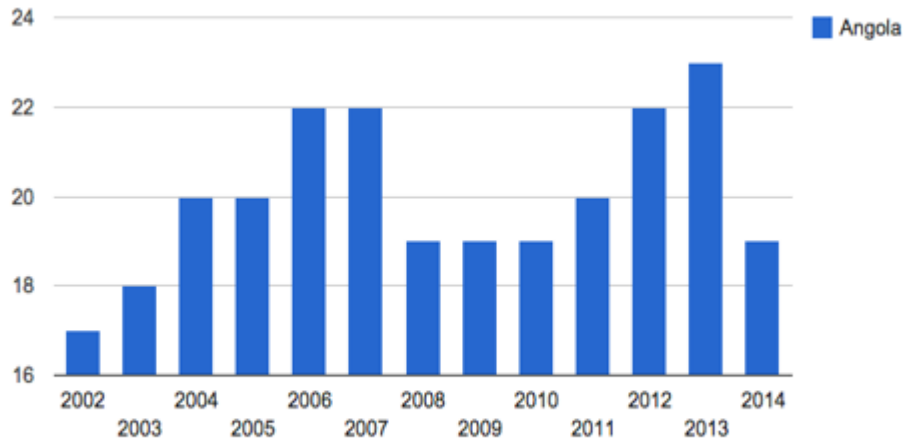
Not every picture says more than a thousand words

How to present data

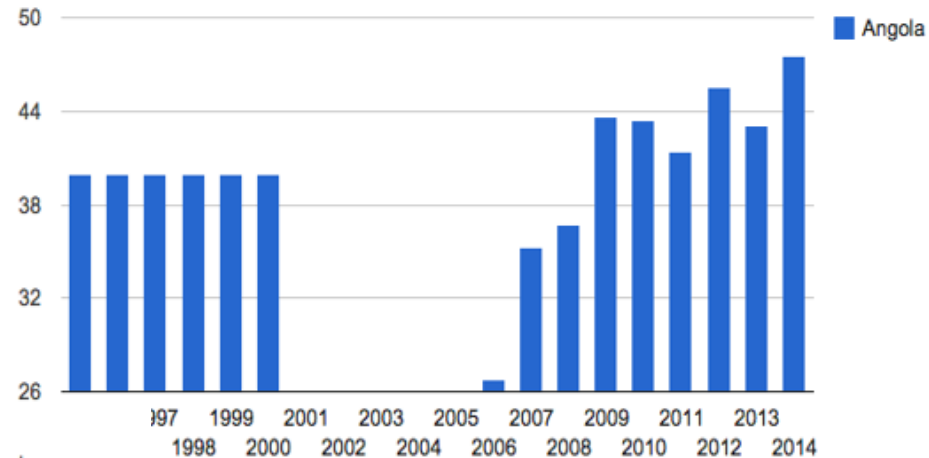
- Tables and figures should be **numbered** and need **titles** and an indication of **sources** used
- Every table or figure should be **referred to in the text**
- Always include **measurement units**
- Each figure or table should be self-explanatory
- Be careful about including too much information in 1 graph
- Pay attention to the formatting

Not every picture says more than a thousand words

How not to present data



Source: Transparency International - <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/angola>



Source: The global economy -
[/es.theglobaleconomy.com/Angola/herit_business_freedom/](http://es.theglobaleconomy.com/Angola/herit_business_freedom/)

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How not to present data

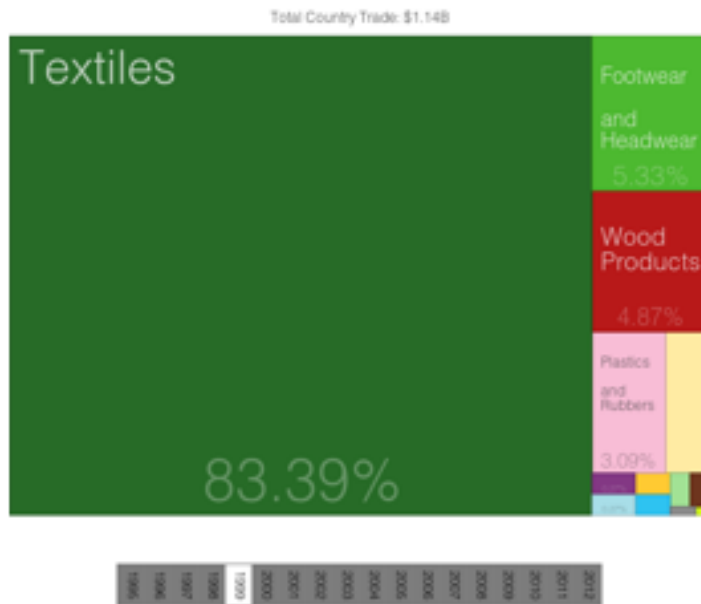


Figure 1: Cambodian exports by category in 1999 (MIT)

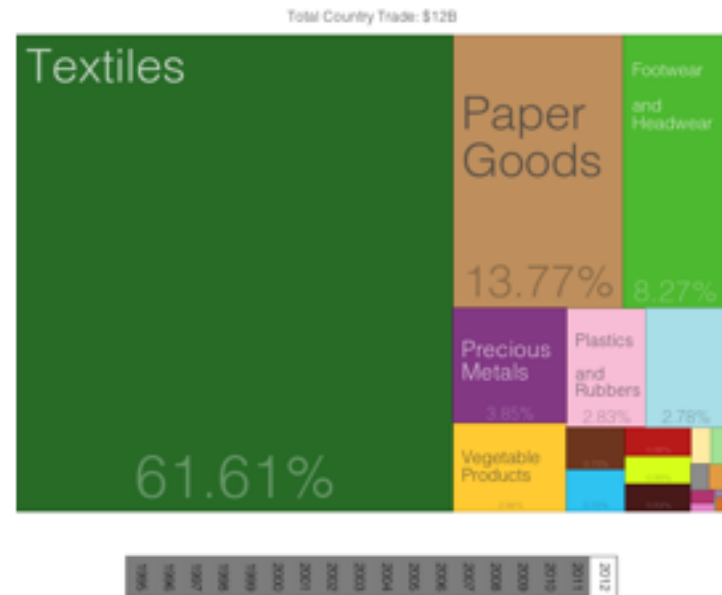
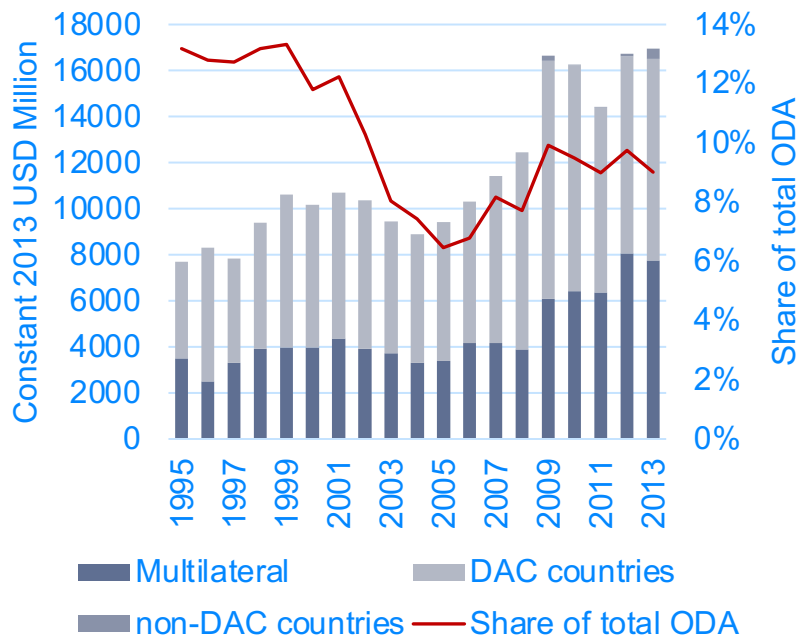


Figure 2: Cambodian exports by category in 2012 (MIT).

Not every picture says more than a thousand words

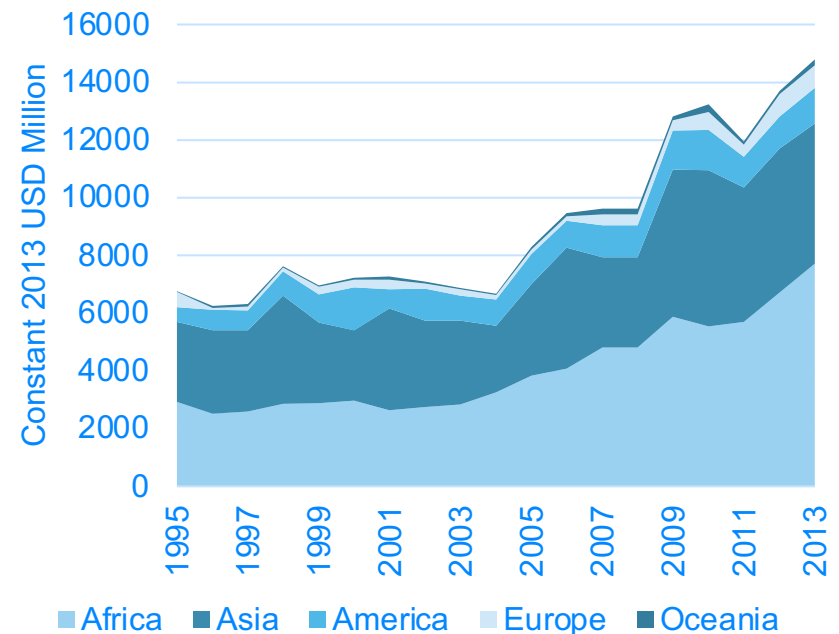
- **How to get it right**

Figure 1: Aid for food and nutrition security



Source: OECD/DAC (2015)

Figure 2: Regional distribution of aid flows



Source: OECD/DAC (2015)

Style

“Economics depends much more on the mastery of writing than on the mastery of mathematics and statistics”

(McCloskey, 1985:188)

- Avoid verb contractions

Doesn't, couldn't, isn't, haven't ...

- Use conjunctions (correctly)

Therefore, thus, hence, in addition, in contrast ...

- Favour the present tense (and keep the tense consistent)

A study **showed** that the perception of corruption **is** extremely high in Nepal.

[One] study **shows** that the perception of corruption **is** extremely high in Nepal.

Style

- Avoid 'wordiness': keep sentences short and clear

The reason for conducting this research focusing on Kerala and Bihar was that...
We focus on Kerala and Bihar because...

It has to be emphasized that we are aware of the fact that...
We note however, that...

- Favour active over passive verbs

*It **can be** assumed that...*
We assume that...

*The focus **will be put** on...*
We focus on...

*Data on health expenditures **are collected** by the WHO.*
The WHO collects data on health expenditures.

Style

- You are writing an academic paper, not a blog, column, ...
- Avoid language that is overly dramatic or implies value judgements

*A decade ago Botswana faced an HIV/AIDS epidemic on an unprecedented scale. However, the government took action and enacted one of **the most comprehensive treatments in the world**. The policy has been a **resounding success**, limiting, for instance, the mother-to-child transmission to under 4 %.*

*The war officially ended in 2002 but its effects can still be seen in the long-run affecting everyday life, in particular, **a scar was left in women's life** as violence became the routine.*

*Eventually colonists reached it in 1898, with the help of the United States, which soon converted the new republic in a **puppet government** under Washington's control.*

Style

Absolute minimum:

- Avoid grammar and spelling mistakes
- Proofread!
- Many writing and style guides on the web
 - Definitely check out Online Writing Lab of Purdue University!
 - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/>
 - UNC Writing Centre
 - <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/style/>
 - McCloskey (1985): Economical writing (see Toledo)
 - KU Leuven Academic Writing Assistant:
 - https://ilt.kuleuven.be/schrijfhulp_eng/index.php

