Setting Ground Rules

Welcome to the Applied Economics Fall 2023 Seminar Series. I am your host Ryan McWay. As a reminder, the presenter will give a 40 minute presentation, followed by a 10 minute discussant presentation, with 10 minutes left over for Q/A. Questions can respectfully asked throughout the presentation in a standard economics format. Today’s presentation on “TITLE” will be presented by “PRESENTER”… [Intro for person]

Matt Bombyk

Matt Bombyk is a job market candidate who is a member of the 2017 PhD cohort. Matt earned his bachelors in economics and biology from UM-Morris prior to joining the department, and has earned his master’s in applied economics while attending the program. Matt has worked in Mongolia for the Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Minnesota Population Center (MPC). Working closely with Marc Bellemare, Matt's research focuses on labor economic issues.

Hosam Ibrahim

Hosam Ibrahim is a PhD student prior to oral defense who is a member of the 2021 PhD cohort. Hosam has earned economics degrees from both the American University of Sharjah and The American University of Cairo. Hosam works extensively within the Middle East and Northern African region on topics related to development economics. Previously working for the World Food Program and IFPRI, Hosam currently works as a researcher with J-PAL. Hosam has published in journals such as World Development and Maternal & child nutrition. Working closely with Paul Glewwe, Hosam's research focuses on evaluating food security, labor, conflict, and education through primary data collection.

Jeff Bloem

Jeff Bloem is a 2020 Alumni of the PhD program. Jeff is currently a research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). During Jeff's time in the program, he had quite a productive research output working alongside Marc Bellemare. Jeff has published in Economic Development and Cultural Change, the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, the Journal of Development Economics, and World Development. Recently, Jeff had co-hosted the online research seminar #OARES with Marc Bellemare featuring early career researchers and minority researchers in the fields of agricultural and resource economics. Jeff's research focuses on topics in agriculture, conflict, and psychology.

Wahed Rahman

Wahed Rahman is a 2021 Alumni of the PhD program. Wahed is currently a Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford. During his time in the program, he worked closely with Ragui Assaad. He has previously worked with the World Bank as well as IFPRI. Wahed has published in journals such as the Journal of Population Economics and the Journal of Development and Migration. His research lies primarily in evaluating labor issues in developing contexts.

Stephen Pitts

Stephen Pitts is an ABD PhD student who is a member of the 2020 PhD cohort. Stephen is an Catholic priest who has earned several degrees in mathematics, computer science, and economics from the University of Oklahoma, Loyola University of Chicago, the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, and the University of San Francsico prior to joining APEC. Stephen been awarded several grants for his agricultural and development fieldwork in Mexico. Working Marc Bellemare and Mike Boland, Stephen's research interests focus on development economic topics related to Latin America, rural agriculture, and geospatial analysis.

Caitlyn Keo

Caitlyn Keo is a job market candidate who is a member of the 2019 PhD cohort. Caitlyn received her BS from St. Catherine University prior to joining our department. Caitlyn has published in journals such as the Journal of Development Studies, and the Journal of applied educational and policy research, as well as several book chapters on the labor force in developing settings. Caitlyn has earned both the best 2nd year paper award in APEC as well as the university-wide doctoral dissertation fellowship. Working with Liz Davis, Aaron Sojourner, and Joe Ritter, Caitlyn's research focuses on labor economics and policy analysis.

Aiden Opatz

“Hurricanes and Human Migration”

Aiden Opatz is a Masters student from the 2022 cohort. Aiden earned his BA in economics from Luther College prior to joining the department. He has experience modeling generational transfers of wealth while working for UMN Extension. His research focuses on the impacts of natural disasters. He is currently on the job market.