

Claire Duquennois

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Academic Positions	University of Pittsburgh University of Colorado, Denver	Assistant Professor of Economics Economics Instructor	2020-Ongoing 2009-2015
Education	University of California, Berkeley University of California, Berkeley London School of Economics University of Colorado Boulder	Ph.D., Agricultural and Resource Economics M.Sc. Agricultural and Resource Economics M.Sc. Urbanization and Development B.A. Economics and International Relations	2020 2017 2009 2007
Publications	<p>“Fictional Money, Real Costs: Impacts of Financial Salience on Disadvantaged Students” <i>American Economic Review</i>, 2022, 112(3):798-826. Available here Disadvantaged students perform differentially worse when randomly given a financially salient mathematics exam. For students with socio-economic indicators below the national median, a 10 percentage point increase in the share of monetary themed questions depresses exam performance by 0.026 standard deviations, about 6% of their performance gap. Using question-level data, I confirm the role of financial salience by comparing performance on monetary and highly similar non-monetary questions. Leveraging the randomized ordering of questions, I identify an effect on subsequent questions, providing evidence that the attention capture effects of poverty affect policy relevant outcomes outside of experimental settings.</p> <p>“Labor Calendars and Rural Poverty: A case study for Malawi.”(with Alain de Janvry and Elisabeth Sadoulet). <i>Food Policy</i>, 2022, 109. Available here The persistence of rural poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa is a major challenge for meeting the Sustainable Development Goal on poverty eradication. Using detailed data for Malawi, we investigate the association between seasonality in labor calendars and low consumption. We find that (1) seasonality in rural labor calendars runs deep, accounting for 2/3 of total rural underemployment, (2) we do not observe activities with labor requirements that run clearly counter-cyclical to the main agricultural season, (3) gaps in rural-urban annual consumption are strongly associated with differences in time worked due to seasonality differentials. The implication is that reducing rural seasonality in labor calendars should be a major objective in seeking to increase rural consumption levels. Methodologically, we show that labor calendars can be constructed from standard annual rural household survey data with information on labor use by crop and task.</p> <p>“Climate Change, Agricultural Production and Civil Conflict: Evidence from the Philippines.”(with Benjamin Crost, Joseph H. Felter and Daniel I. Rees) <i>Journal of Environmental Economics and Management</i>, 2018, 88, pp 379-395. Available here. Using unique data on conflict-related incidents in the Philippines, we exploit seasonal variation in the relationship between rainfall and agricultural production to learn about the mechanism through which rainfall affects civil conflict. We find that an increase in dry-season rainfall leads to an increase in agricultural production and dampens conflict intensity. By contrast, an increase in wet-season rainfall is harmful to crops and produces more conflict. Consistent with the hypothesis that rebel groups gain strength after a bad harvest, we find that negative rainfall shocks lead to an increase in conflict incidents initiated by insurgents but not by government forces. These results suggest that the predicted shift towards wetter wet seasons and drier dry seasons will lead to more civil conflict even if annual rainfall totals remain stable. We conclude that policies aimed at mitigating the effect of climate change on agriculture could have the added benefit of reducing civil conflict.</p>		

Working Papers

“Financial Concerns and Sleeplessness.”(with Maulik Jagnani). [Available here](#).

Do people worried about their personal finances experience lower quality sleep? Using a regression discontinuity research design, we find that eligible household heads surveyed just after the disbursement of an unconditional cash transfer in Indonesia report a 0.3 standard deviation improvement in sleep quality as compared to those surveyed just before the cash disbursement. The cash transfer appears to have alleviated financial concerns amongst household heads, who are responsible for satisfying the daily necessities of the household. Immediately after disbursement, eligible households report an increase in savings, and eligible household heads report feeling less worried, frustrated, and tired. Consistent with evidence from sleep medicine, eligible household heads displayed improved performance on memory and attention tests but not on reasoning or problem-solving tests. These patterns of results are not observed for household heads ineligible for the cash transfer, which suggests that our results are not driven by seasonal confounders or aggregate shocks. These results are also not observed for other members of eligible households, who are not responsible for satisfying the household’s financial needs. We also argue that nutrition, time in bed, and labor supply cannot explain our results.

“Casting Roles, Casting Votes: Lessons from Sesame Street on Media Representation and Voting”(with Jiangnan Zeng). [Available here](#).

Sesame Street’s representation of minority characters, egalitarian minority-white interactions and portrayal of working women was distinctive in the mass media landscape of 1969, when it started airing. By exploiting both age variation and technological variation in broadcast reception, this paper contributes to the media and contact theory literatures by showing that positive representations of minorities via mass media can reduce long-run prejudice and impact voting, an important societal outcome. We find that for preschool-age children, a 20 percentage point (1 standard deviation) increase in *Sesame Street* coverage reduced adult measures of implicit racial biases for white respondents and increased reported voting for minority and women candidates by 13% and 9.7% respectively. Voter turnout also increased by 4.4% in all elections. Voting for democratic candidates increased because of the increase in voting for diverse candidates. When the sample is restricted to ballots featuring white men, turnout gains are split between parties.

Research in Progress

“Racial Bias Impacts on Mental Health: Can Child Media Representation Help?” (with Jiangnan Zeng)

“Media Representation of Race: Impacts on Social Sorting” (with Jiangnan Zeng)

“Sports and Racial Attitudes.” (with Jiangnan Zeng)

“Changes in Labor Seasonality in Malawi.” (with Joachim De Weerd and Adriana Oliveres Mallol).

“Work, Gender Identity Norms and Psychological Well-being.” (with Megan Lang and Jian Qi Tan).

“Separation Failures: Market-Level Evidence for Labor Misallocation. ” (with Supreet Kaur, Jeremy Magruder, Aprajit Mahajan).

Refereeing

Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Review, The Economic Journal, Journal of Development Economics, Economics of Education Review, National Science Foundation, NPJ Science of Learning

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

2024	Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant	\$50,000
2024	Pitt Momentum Fund Grant	\$25,000
2018	Graduate Division Summer Research Grant	\$3,000
2017	Teaching Effectiveness Award	
2017	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor	

Talks	2024	Duke University; University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign; Barcelona Summer Forum; NOVAfrica; NBER Summer Institute - Children and Families; Women in Empirical Microeconomics
	2023	Aix-Marseilles School of Economics Conference in Applied Econometrics; Wageningen University; Society of Economics of the Household Conference; Western Economics Association Conference; Early Career Behavioral Economics Conference
	2022	IFPRI Malawi; FAO Technical Network on Poverty Analysis; Psychology and Economics of Poverty Convening
	2021	NBER Children's Conference; MIT Applied Microeconomics; Univ. of Colorado Denver
	2020	Seattle Univ: Department Seminar; Univ. of Pittsburgh: Department Seminar; Pacific Development Conference; Psychology and Economics of Poverty Convening (canceled due to COVID-19); Discrimination and Disparities Virtual Seminar
	2019	Psychology and Economics of Poverty Convening; UC Berkeley: ARE Department Seminar & Development Lunch Series
	2018	UC Berkeley: WEB Conference, Development Lunch Series

Teaching	University of Pittsburgh	
	<i>Research Capstone Seminar</i> (Undergraduate)	Spring 2023
	<i>Econometrics 2</i> (Undergraduate)	Spring 2023
	<i>Topics in Economics Development</i> (Ph.D)	Fall 2021, '22, '23
	<i>Seminar in Labor and Economic Development</i> (Ph.D)	Fall 2020
	<i>Economic Inference from Data</i> (Masters)	Fall 2020, '21, '22, '23
	As Guest Lecturer	
	<i>Economics and Diversity Seminar</i> (Undergraduate)	Spring 2021 & 2022
	University of California Berkeley	
	<i>Professional Preparation: Teaching of Environmental Economics</i>	Fall 2017
	<i>Intro. to Environmental Economics and Policy</i>	Summer 2016 & 2017
	As Graduate Student Instructor	
	<i>Introductory Applied Econometrics</i>	Spring and Fall 2019
	<i>Intro. to Environmental Economics and Policy</i>	Spring 2017, Fall 2016 & 2017
	University of Colorado Denver- Denver and Beijing Campuses	
	<i>Principles of Microeconomics</i>	2009-2015
	<i>Principles of Macroeconomics</i>	2010-2015
	<i>Intermediate Microeconomic Theory</i>	2009-2013
	<i>Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory</i>	2010-2014
	<i>Economic Development: Theory and Policy</i>	2010-2015
	<i>Economics of Race and Gender</i>	2012-2013
	<i>Independent Study Supervisor</i>	

Activities	2023-2024	Ph.D Admissions committee member, Univ. of Pittsburgh
	2021-2023	Undergraduate committee member, Univ. of Pittsburgh
	2021	Hiring committee member, Univ. of Pittsburgh
	2020	Labor and development seminar organizer, Univ. of Pittsburgh
	2020	Labor and development brownbag organizer, Univ. of Pittsburgh
	2019	Ph.D. Admissions committee member, UC Berkeley Agricultural and Resource Economics

Languages	English (native), French (native), Mandarin (intermediate).
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