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Fields

Applied microeconomics: education, development, health, public economics

Education

PhD, Economics, Texas A&M University, 2015 to present

MS, Economics, University of North Texas, 2015

BS, Economics, University of Ibadan (First Class), 2009

Research

Working Papers:

“The Economic Effects of Facebook” (with Roberto Mosquera, Xiongfei Guo, Trent McNamara, Ragan Petrie)

Social media permeates many aspects of our lives, including how we connect with others, where we get our news and how we spend our time. Yet, we know little about the economic effects for users. In 2017, we ran a large field experiment with over 1,765 individuals to document the value of Facebook to users and its causal effect on news consumption and awareness, well-being and daily activities. Participants reveal how much they value one week of Facebook usage and are then randomly assigned to a validated Facebook restriction or normal use. Those who are off Facebook for a week reduce news consumption, are less likely to recognize politically-skewed news stories, report being less depressed and engage in healthier activities. One week of Facebook is worth \$67, and this increases by 19.6% after experiencing a Facebook restriction (33% for women), reflecting information loss or that using Facebook may be addictive.

“Exposure to Negative Shocks and Child Development: Evidence from Boko Haram Attacks”

This study examines the intent-to-treat effects of exposure to negative shocks on child development. Given that early exposure to adverse events has long-term consequences, this research identifies short-term effects. By exploiting temporal and spatial variation in violent attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria, I find that children exposed to violence are shorter and lag in cognitive and motor skills development. These effects are more pronounced in those exposed at younger ages. The results are robust to different model specifications and falsification tests. I performed some mediation analysis to explore potential pathways through which violence affects these outcomes. I find that malnutrition, parental investments, and morbidity can explain part of the effect of violence. This analysis therefore highlights areas in which interventions in early childhood can lessen the negative impact of violence. I conclude that the effects of early life exposure on health and development could help explain the non-negligible impacts in the long run.

Work in Progress:

“Reassessing the Effects of Education on Fertility Outcomes: Causal Evidence from Nigeria”

“Intergenerational Persistence of Human Capital: Evidence from a School Construction Program”

“Intergenerational Impacts of the Peruvian Conflict on Education ”, with Raisa Sara

“Gender, Information and Education Outcomes: Experimental Evidence from Nigeria”

“Women’s circles: Testing the Impact of Female Support Groups on Goal Achievements”, with Alessandra Cassar, Danila Serra, Linc Gasking

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

Ray C. Battalio Fellow, Texas A&M University, 2018-2019

J-PAL Proposal Development Grant, PI, 2018

Graduate Assistantship, Texas A&M University, 2015 to present

Texas Education Public Grant, 2014

Aaron Wuensch Memorial Scholarship - Top Graduate Student Award in the Department of Economics, University of North Texas, 2014

Graduate Assistantship, University of North Texas , 2013-2015

Dean’s List, University of Ibadan, 2008

Research Experience and Other Employment

Research Assistant, Texas A&M University, 2017-present

Research Assistant, University of North Texas, 2014-2015

Business Risk Associate, Deloitte, Touche & Tohmatsu, 2010-2013

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant: mathematical economics, econometrics, macroeconomics and principles of microeconomics, 2014-2016

Conferences, Seminars and Workshops (Including Planned)

ASSA Meetings, Atlanta, 2019

Southern Economic Association Conference, Washington DC, 2018

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Washington DC, 2018

Summer Empirical Workshop, West Virginia University, 2018

Seminar on Markets and Morals, Elm Institute, Yale University, 2016