Fragile states: Employment programs must become a bridge to prosperity

In fragile and conflict-affected states, governments frequently turn to public works programs to provide temporary jobs to vulnerable populations. A new body of research across five countries and 40,000 households shows how policy makers can redesign these programs to transform their short-term benefits into long-term prosperity and stability. During an emergency, these programs deliver critical economic benefits for the communities where they are offered, whether measured by rates of employment, income, or consumption, but do little to tamp down crime or promote pro-social behaviors. Research shows that extending the impact of these programs requires better targeting of beneficiaries, complementary programs such as training and small grants, and interventions to provide at-risk youth alternatives to crime and violence.

Story | Video | Presentation | Blog

Re-evaluating peacekeeping missions

Sending peacekeepers to a conflict zone is based on the idea that they will help build peace “from the bottom up” by bolstering local security and supporting local economic and social vitality. This bottom-up hypothesis is tested using surveys and administrative data from post-war Liberia in a quasi-experiment that applies matching techniques to administrative data used in mission planning. When viewed this way the evidence supporting claims that peacekeeper deployments increase local security and have modest effects on economic or social vitality is weak. Moreover, NGOs tend to work in areas where deployments are not present, contrary to the hypothesis. It may be time to consider other mechanisms such as signaling and deterrence at the level of leaders, and to examine if and how peacekeeping missions contribute to stabilizing fragile states.


What characterizes Daesh foreign recruits?

U.N. estimates suggest over 25,000 foreign fighters went to Iraq and Syria between the start of the civil war in 2011 and September 2016 to fight for Daesh or the Al-Nusra Front. A leaked copy of Daesh’s personnel records for 3,695 recruits
include countries of residence, education level, age, and self-reported knowledge of Islam, as well as a desired occupation in the group. When the individual-level education information for recruits is linked to their peers in their home countries, the estimated coefficients indicate that higher unemployment rates are a push factor toward radicalization, especially in countries geographically closer to Syria. A one percentage point increase in the unemployment rate leads to 42 additional Daesh recruits. The effect vanishes for countries further away from Syria.


Assessing the size and consequences of criminal activity in Colombia

Illicit incomes in Colombia peaked at 12 percent of GDP in 2001 and decreased to less than 2 percent of GDP by 2013. In turn, laundered assets increased from about 8 percent of GDP in the mid-1980s to a peak of 14 percent by 2002, and declined to 8 percent by 2013. The decline in illicit activities and laundered assets occurred during a high economic growth period and the implementation of Plan Colombia. These estimates are guided by an economic model that considers illicit activities alongside a licit private sector and a functioning government. The model can also be applied to other countries. It can be used to assess the effects of changes in productivity, government efficiency, and drug prices on different types of illicit activities (those that generate new income, like drug trafficking, and those that only redistribute it, like theft) and, subsequently, on licit investment, work, and income growth.


Daesh ineffective in exploiting oil fields for revenue

Terrorist organizations and insurgencies—including the Islamic State group, also known as ISIL/ISIS or Daesh—tap oil as a revenue source. Understanding oil production in territories controlled by terrorist groups can provide estimates of potential revenue streams, assess long-term economic potential, and inform reconstruction strategies. More broadly, in circumstances lacking reliable administrative data, remote measurement of extractive industry activity can support a broad range of public policy decisions and academic research. Satellite multi-spectral imaging and ground-truth pre-war output data show production levels in areas controlled by Daesh were approximately 56,000 barrels per day (bpd) from July-December 2014, dropping to an average of 35,000 bpd throughout 2015, before dropping further to 16,000 bpd in 2016. These results support the view that Daesh financing comes from other sources such as taxation and extortion rather than oil.


Unconventional algorithms lead to better predictions of conflict

A robust predictive framework for conflict events can provide policymakers with opportunities to respond more proactively to different risks of conflict. For example, international organizations might use a risk of conflict assessment to persuade donors to devote resources to aid programs to mitigate the risk of conflict. This study tests both the estimation and predictive power of various conflict prediction approaches in 114 developing countries since 1977 using data on the frequency of battle deaths, the presence of UN peacekeeping operations, and the proportion of the population displaced as refugees across international borders. A simple “threshold classifier” that predicts conflict based on the number of conflict indicators cross thresholds is the best overall predictor. This algorithm is simple and transparent, making it well-suited for policy-making, and relevant for the World Bank’s classification of fragile and conflict-affected states.


Investments in behavioral skills can pay off in reduced crime and violence
Poor young men in many countries exhibit high rates of violence, crime, and other "antisocial" behaviors. Common government responses are policing and job creation. Research has shown that certain noncognitive skills, especially self-control, predict long-run economic performance and criminal activity. This study uses a combination of cognitive behavioral therapy and $200 grants to show that values are malleable in adults, and that investments in skills and preferences can reduce crime and violence. Cash alone and therapy alone dramatically reduced crime and violence, but the effects dissipated within a year. When cash followed therapy, however, crime and violence decreased by as much as 50 percent for at least a year. The hypothesis is that cash reinforced therapy's impacts by prolonging learning-by-doing, lifestyle changes, and self-investment.


The average duration of refugee exile is 10 to 15 years

As of end-2015, 15.5 million people were international refugees (including asylum seekers and people in refugee-like situations) and 33 major refugee situations had lasted five years or more (protracted situations). Data from UNHCR show people who were refugees at the end of 2015 have been in exile for an average of 10.3 years, while the average duration of exile has varied between 10 and 15 years since the late 1990s. The number of people in protracted situations (over five years) has been at 5 to 7 million since the mid-1990s, and currently stands at 6.6 million. For those people, the average duration of exile is 21.2 years. All these estimates are very sensitive to two situations: Afghanistan, where the crisis has been ongoing since 1979 and increases all averages, and the Syrian Arab Republic, which is relatively recent and lowers the averages. These numbers re-emphasize the importance of effective humanitarian interventions on the right scale.


The economic cost of crime and deterrence off the coast of Somalia

Piracy off the coast of Somalia took off in 2005. From 2005-2011 over 1,000 ships were attacked and over 200 were successfully hijacked. In 2012 piracy attacks plummeted. A model of crime and deterrence investigates two deterrents that lead to the collapse of Somali piracy: navy patrols, which provide security to all vessels, and onboard security, which only protects the vessels that hire them. The model is calibrated using unique data on attacks, hijacks, and ransoms and uses cost to explore the optimal allocation of limited funds between these two instruments. While private onboard armed security is found to displace crime towards smaller vessels, it nevertheless accounts for the bulk of the observed drop in piracy attacks starting in 2012.


BRIEFS


Growth in global trade has been slow since 2012. While global trade downturns are not unprecedented, is this trade slowdown transitory or a more long-lasting phenomenon brought about by structural changes? This new dynamic, coupled with the rise of protectionist policies and rhetoric in many countries, positions trade at the forefront of policy discussions. This brief explores recent patterns in global trade, examines the factors affecting trade—distinguishing between transitory and structural components of the slowdown—and discusses policies shaping the path of future trade, including the rise of protectionism and the relevance of multilateral and bilateral trade agreements.
Does large farm establishment create benefits for neighboring smallholders? Evidence from Ethiopia by Daniel Ayalew Ali, Klaus Deininger, and Anthony M. Harris, January 2018.

Positive spillovers for small holders is an essential part of the policy dialogue on large-scale agricultural investment, but difficult to measure. The direction and magnitude of spillovers were analyzed using variation over time in smallholders’ proximity or intensity of exposure to large farms, with available data sets for Ethiopia. The study found that between 2004 and 2014 newly formed commercial farms did not contribute to job creation and provided only minor benefits to neighboring smallholders cultivating maize. Ethiopia may need a more strategic approach to maximize smallholder benefits from large-farm formation. Finally, the study shows that the applied methodology is robust and can be applied to analyze spillover effects of large-scale commercial farming more generally.

EVENTS

- April 18, 2018: Roundtable on State Fragility and Development, Watch live @ 10 am.
- May 22, 2018: Policy Research Talk: Intergenerational Mobility around the World
- June 4, 2018: Policy Research Talk: The Human Capital Index
- June 12–15, 2018: Disruptive Innovations, Value Chains, and Rural Development

All upcoming events

BLOGS AND ARTICLES

Can satellites deliver accurate measures of crop yields in smallholder farming systems?

Let’s Talk Development, 29 March 2018

How much food is produced on a plot of land? The answer is central to several pressing questions in agricultural and development economics: How efficiently do smallholders use their labor and land? What interventions are most effective at lifting smallholders out of poverty? Are smallholders better off investing more time and resources on the farm, or intensifying their reliance on off-farm employment? The answers in part depend on the ability to accurately measure crop production. This is why household and farm surveys across the developing world, such as those supported by the World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study – Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) initiative, attempt to obtain precise, within-farm measures of crop production and productivity.

Read the blog by Talip Kilic and David Lobell.

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The latest research in economics on Africa: The CSAE round-up

Development Impact, 21 March 2018

This post was coauthored with Niklas Buehren, Joao Montalvao, Sreelakshmi Papineni, and Fei Yuan. This team couldn’t attend all 106 sessions so coverage is limited. If there is a paper you saw that you think people should know about please
submit a comment.

You can skim the full summary, or you can skip to one of the topics: Agriculture, conflict, credit, savings, risk and insurance, education, electricity access, firms, health and nutrition, households and networks, institutions, labor, political economy, poverty and inequality, and using evidence to inform policy.

The full program and links to most of the papers is available here.

Read the blog by Markus Goldstein and David Evans.

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Artificial intelligence for economic development conference: Roundup of 27 presentations

Let's Talk Development, 20 March 2018

Is artificial intelligence the future for economic development? Earlier this month, a group of World Bank staff, academic researchers, and technology company representatives convened at a conference in San Francisco to discuss new advances in artificial intelligence. One of the takeaways for Bank staff was how AI technologies might be useful for Bank operations and clients. Below you’ll find a full round-up of all the papers and research-in-progress that was presented. All slides that were shared publicly are linked here, as well as papers or other relevant sites.

Read the blog by Markus Goldstein and David Evans.

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The state of development journals 2018: Quality, acceptance rates, review times, and representation

Development Impact, 19 March 2018

Last year I published an inaugural "state of development journals" in which I put together information about different development journals that is not otherwise publicly available. As there seemed to be interest in this from readers and many of the editors, I thought I would do it again this year and see how much things have changed, as well as investigate a few more topics not covered last year. Many thanks to the editors and editorial staff at different journals for the information they shared.

Read the blog by David McKenzie.

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A school is not a factory: Why teacher specialization in early grades may not work

Let's Talk Development, 16 March 2018

In chapter 1 of book 1 of Adam Smith’s foundational economics book, The Wealth of Nations, he explains the concept of the division of labor. He uses the example of a pin factory.

To take an example, therefore, from a very trifling manufacture, but one in which the division of labour has been very often taken notice of, the trade of a pin-maker: a workman not educated to this business (which the division of labour has rendered a distinct trade, nor acquainted with the use of the machinery employed in it (to the invention of which the same division of labour has probably given occasion), could scarce, perhaps, with his utmost industry, make one pin in a day, and certainly could not make twenty.

Read the blog by David Evans.
For billions without formal land rights, the tech revolution offers new grounds for hope

*Let's Talk Development, 15 March 2018*

Many of today’s increasingly complex development challenges, from rapid urban expansion to climate change, disaster resilience, and social inclusion, are intimately tied to land and the way it is used. Addressing these challenges while also ensuring individuals and communities can make full use of their land depends on consistent, reliable, and accessible identification of land rights.

Read the blog by Klaus Deininger.

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Having an impact as a development economist outside of a research university: Interview with Alix Zwane

*Development Impact, 14 March 2018*

When you study for a Ph.D. in economics, the pathway to success and happiness as a development economist seems very straight and narrow. The implicit (or explicit) metric of success is to publish lots of articles and become a professor in a research university, and you are taught by people who have done this, and surrounded by lots of classmates aspiring to do the same. But there are many other ways to use the skills of your Ph.D., contribute to the world as a development economist, and have a great job and happy life following different paths. Since Ph.D. students tend to know a lot less about what life as a development economist outside of a research university looks like, we thought we’d profile some people doing interesting jobs outside of a research university. We thought we’d kick off this series by interviewing Alix Zwane, the CEO of the Global Innovation Fund.

Read the blog by David McKenzie.

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Registered reports: Piloting a pre-results review process at the Journal of Development Economics

*Development Impact, 9 March 2018*

The world is a messy place. What happens when the results of an empirical study are mushy or inconsistent with prevailing theories? Unfortunately, papers with unclear or null results often go unpublished, even if they have rigorous research designs and good data. In such cases, the research community is typically only left to consider the papers that tell a “neat” and clean story. When economic and social policy relies on academic knowledge, this publication bias can be costly to society.

In a new effort to potentially help address this problem, the Journal of Development Economics (JDE) now offers authors the opportunity to have their prospective empirical projects reviewed and approved for publication before the results are known. This track for article submissions will be available as part of a pilot project, which will allow us to better understand the extent to which pre-results review can be applied at the JDE, and possibly in economics. This new article format may not apply to all papers currently being published at the JDE; we envision that it will be particularly attractive to development economists working on research projects for which the data is yet to be collected (or researchers who have not yet had access to the data they will analyze).

Read the blog by Andy Foster, Dean Karlan, and Ted Miguel.

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Risk of sea-level rise: high stakes for East Asia & Pacific region countries

*East Asia and the Pacific on the Rise, 9 March 2018*
Sea level is rising, and the rise in sea level will continue beyond the year 2100, even if greenhouse gas emissions are stabilized today. Expected to rise by at least one meter during this century according to the current scientific consensus, sea levels may even rise by three meters by 2100, considering new evidence on ice-cliff instability of the Antarctic.

Read the blog by Susmita Dasgupta.

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What data do decision makers really use, and why?

The Data Blog, 7 March 2018

When it comes to revolutions, the data revolution has certainly been less bloody than, say, those in the 18th and 19th centuries. Equally transformative? A question for historians.

AidData, a research and innovation lab located at the College of William & Mary in the US, set out in 2017, to identify what data decision makers in low and middle-income countries use, whose data they use, why they use it, and which data are most helpful.

What can the World Bank learn from AidData’s study, and do data from our own Country Opinion Survey Program, align with AidData’s findings?

Read the blog by Sharon Felzer.

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How can machine learning and artificial intelligence be used in development interventions and impact evaluations?

Development Impact, 5 March 2018

Last Thursday I attended a conference on AI and Development organized by CEGA, DIME, and the World Bank’s Big Data groups (website, where they will also add video). This followed a World Bank policy research talk last week by Olivier Dupriez on “Machine Learning and the Future of Poverty Prediction” (video, slides). These events highlighted a lot of fast-emerging work, which I thought, given this blog’s focus, I would try to summarize through the lens of thinking about how it might help us in designing development interventions and impact evaluations.

Read the blog by David McKenzie.

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Machine learning and the measurement of injustice

Let’s Talk Development, 1 March 2018

Machine learning methods are increasingly applied in the development policy arena. Among many recent policy applications, machine learning has been used to predict poverty, soil properties, and conflicts.

In a recent Policy Research Working Paper by Paolo Brunori, Paul Hufe and Daniel Mahler (BHM hereafter), machine learning methods are utilized to measure a popular understanding of distributional injustice—the amount of unequal opportunities individuals face. Equality of opportunity is an influential political ideal since it combines two powerful principles: individual responsibility and equality. In a world with equal opportunities, all individuals have the same chances to attain social positions and valuable outcomes. They are free to choose how to behave and they are held responsible for the consequences of their choices.
Read the blog by Daniel Mahler, Paolo Brunori, and Paul Hufe.

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**How to attract and motivate passionate public service providers**  
*Development Impact, 28 February 2018*

In Gaile Parkin’s novel *Baking Cakes in Kigali*, two women living in Kigali, Rwanda—Angel and Sophie—argue over the salary paid to a development worker: “Perhaps these big organisations needed to pay big salaries if they wanted to attract the right kind of people; but Sophie had said that they were the wrong kind of people if they would not do the work for less. Ultimately, they had concluded that the desire to make the world a better place was not something that belonged in a person’s pocket. No, it belonged in a person’s heart.”

It's not a leap to believe—like Angel and Sophie—that teachers should want to help students learn, health workers who want help people heal, and other workers in service delivery should want to deliver that service. But how do you attract and motivate those passionate public servants? Here is some recent research that sheds light on the topic.

Read the blog by David Evans.

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**Bank ownership: Trends and implications**  
*Let’s Talk Development, 27 February 2018*

In the wake of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), many wondered whether the strong pre-crisis trend toward greater internationalization in banking would be reversed and, more immediately, whether local state-owned banks had to assume a larger role in restoring banking stability and ensuring the delivery of credit. We revisit those conjectures in the light of new data on bank ownership and research on the post-Crisis period (Cull, Martinez Peria, and Verrier, 2018).

Read the blog by Bob Cull and Maria Soledad Martinez Peria.

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**Future Development Reads: Teachers in poor countries, human capital investments, and tips for disseminating research**  
*Future Development, 23 February 2018*

A new paper by Justin Sandefur, senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, tells some inconvenient truths about teachers in poor countries: First, they are relatively well paid (the highest ratio of teacher salary to GDP per capita is in the Central African Republic). Second, their pay does not seem to have much to do with their qualifications or teaching performance. For example, public school teachers are paid about twice as much as their private-school counterparts with the same qualifications. A different paper by Tessa Bold, assistant professor at the Institute for International Economic Studies, and co-authors finds that among fourth grade teachers in a sample of African countries, only 7 percent had the minimum knowledge necessary to teach language in that grade.

These findings are particularly disturbing because there is now increasing evidence that the quality of teacher input matters a lot for student learning. Using data from 31 countries, Eric Hanushek, senior fellow at the Hoover Institute, and co-authors show a clear and robust relationship between teachers’ cognitive skills and student performance. And at the college level, using a creative identification strategy, Carolina Arteaga finds a significant relationship between human capital and earnings (thereby rejecting the hypothesis that a college education is simply “signaling”). In short, unless we make substantial progress in teacher ability and performance, students in developing countries will face significant difficulties later in life.

Read the blog by Shanta Devarajan.
If you pay your survey respondents, you just might get a different answer

*Development Impact, 21 February 2018*

When I was doing my dissertation fieldwork, the professor I was working with and I had a fair number of conversations about compensating the respondents in our 15-wave panel survey. We were taking a fair amount of people's time and it seemed like not only the right thing to do, but also a way to potentially help grow the trust between our enumerators and the respondents.

Read the blog by Markus Goldstein.

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Improving public service delivery through local collective action

*Let's Talk Development, 20 February 2018*

In the past two decades, development policy has aimed to involve communities in the development process by encouraging the active participation of communities in the design and implementation of projects or the allocation of local resources. The World Bank alone has provided more than $85 billion for participatory development since the early 2000s.

Read the blog by Xavier Gine and Ghazala Mansuri.

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List of New Policy Research Working Papers

- 8358. "If it's already tough, imagine for me..." A Qualitative Perspective on Youth Out of School and Out of Work in Brazil by Ana Luiza Machado, and Miriam Muller
- 8359. *The Reallocation of District-Level Spending and Natural Disasters: Evidence from Indonesia* by Emmanuel Skoufias, Eric Strobl, and Thomas Tveit
- 8360. *Gender Differences in Poverty and Household Composition through the Life-cycle: A Global Perspective* by Ana Maria Munoz Boudeg, Paola Buitrago, Benedicte Leroy de la Briere, David Newhouse, Eliana Rubiano Matulevich, Kinnon Scott, and Pablo Suarez-Becerra
- 8361. *Analysis of the Mismatch between Tanzania Household Budget Survey and National Panel Survey Data in Poverty and Inequality Levels and Trends* by Nadia Belhaj Hassine Belghith, Maria Adelaida Lopera, Alvin Etang Ndip, and Wendy Karamba
- 8362. *The Performance of a Consumption Augmented Asset Index in Ranking Households and Identifying the Poor* by Diana Ngo and Luc Christiaensen
- 8365. *International Competition, Returns to Skill, and Labor Market Adjustment* by Rod Falvey, David Greenaway, and Joana Silva
- 8367. *Giving Sisyphus a Helping Hand: Pathways for Sustainable RIA Systems in Developing Countries* by Peter Ladegaard, Petter Lundkvist, and Jonathan Kamkhaji
• 8368. Resource Misallocation and Productivity Gaps in Malaysia by Lay Lian Chuah, Norman V. Loayza, and Ha Nguyen
• 8369. Long-Run Impacts of Increasing Tobacco Taxes: Evidence from South Africa by Alan Fuchs, Giselle Del Carmen, and Alfred Kechia Mukong
• 8370. The Distributional Impact of the Fiscal System in Albania by María E. Dávalos, Monica Robayo-Abril, Esmeralda Shehaj, and Aida Gjika
• 8371. An Evaluation of the Contributing Factors of Water Scheme Failures in Nigeria by Luis Andres, Gnanaraj Chellaraj, Basab Das Gupta, Jonathan Grabinsky, George Joseph
• 8372. The Speed of Justice by Florence Kondylis and Mattea Stein
• 8373. Credit Risk Dynamics of Infrastructure Investment: Considerations for Financial Regulators by Andreas A. Jobst
• 8375. Safety Nets and Natural Disaster Mitigation: Evidence from Cyclone Phailin in Odisha by Paul Christian, Eeshani Kandpal, Nethra Palaniswamy, and Vijayendra Rao
• 8376. Risk Preferences and the Decision to Flee Conflict by Lidia Ceriani and Paolo Verme
• 8377. General Equilibrium Effects of Targeted Cash Transfers: Nutrition Impacts on Non-Beneficiary Children by Deon Filmer, Jed Friedman, Eeshani Kandpal, and Junko Onishi
• 8378. Asymmetric Information on Noncognitive Skills in the Indian Labor Market: An Experiment in Online Job Portal by Futoshi Yamauchi, Shinsaku Nomura, Saori Imaizumi, Ana Areias, and Afra Chowdhury
• 8379. Reflections of Employers’ Gender Preferences in Job Ads in India: An Analysis of Online Job Portal Data by Afra R Chowdhury, Ana C Areias, Saori Imaizumi, Shinsaku Nomura, and Futoshi Yamauchi
• 8380. Growth, Safety Nets and Poverty: Assessing Progress in Ethiopia from 1996 to 2011 by Ruth Vargas Hill, and Eyasu Tsehaye
• 8381. Unemployment and Violent Extremism: Evidence from Daesh Foreign Recruits by Mohamed Abdel Jelil, Kartika Bhatia, Anne Brockmeyer, Quy-Toan Do, and Clement Joubert
• 8382. Fiscal Incentives and Firm Performance: Evidence from the Dominican Republic by Alessandra Amendola, Marinella Boccia, Gianluca Mele, and Luca Sensini
• 8383. Access to Employment and Property Values in Mexico by Laura H. Atuesta, J. Eduardo Ibarra-Olivo, Nancy Lozano-Gracia, and Uwe Deichmann
• 8384. Public Works Programs and Crime: Evidence for El Salvador by Pablo Acosta, and Emma Monsalve Montiel
• 8385. Obstacles on the Road to Palestinian Economic Growth by Roy van der Weide, Bob Rijkers, Brian Blankespoor, and Alexei Abrahams
• 8386. What Investors Want: Perceptions and Experiences of Multinational Corporations in Developing Countries by Peter Kusek, and Andrea Silva
• 8387. Too Small to Be Beautiful? The Farm Size and Productivity Relationship in Bangladesh by Madhur Gautam and Mansur Ahmed
• 8389. Peacekeeping and Development in Fragile States: Micro-Level Evidence from Liberia by Eric Mvukiyehe and Cyrus Samii
• 8390. Assessing Fiscal Space in Sub-Saharan Africa by César Calderón, Punam Chuhan-Pole, and Yirbehogre Modeste Some
• 8391. Taxation and the Shadow Economy: How the Tax System Can Stimulate and Enforce the Formalization of Business Activities by Rajul Awashti and Michael Engelschalk
• 8392. Paris Climate Agreement and the Global Economy: Winners and Losers by Muthukumara Mani, Zekarias Hussein, Badri Narayan, Gopalakrishnan, Deepika Wadhwa
The Impact of Interest Rate Caps on the Financial Sector: Evidence from Commercial Banks in Kenya by Mehnaz Safavian and Bilal Zia

Lobbying for Capital Tax Benefits and Misallocation of Resources during a Credit Crunch by Gabriel Zaoura

Does Workfare Work Well? The Case of the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest in Bangladesh by Yoonyoung Cho and Ummul Ruthbah

Understanding Effective Teaching Practices in Chinese Classrooms: Evidence from a Pilot Study of Primary and Junior Secondary Schools in Guangdong, China by Andrew Coflan, Andrew Ragatz, Amer Hasan, and Yilin Pan

Surviving Firms of the Syrian Arab Republic: A Rapid Assessment by Kinley Salmon, Nabila Assaf, and David Francis

Interest Rate Caps: The Theory and The Practice by Aurora Ferrari, Oliver Masetti, and Jiemin Ren

Communism as the Unhappy Coming by Simeon Djankov and Elena Nikolova

Determinants and Dynamics of Business Aspirations: Evidence from Small-Scale Entrepreneurs in an Emerging Market by Patricio S. Dalton, Julius Ruschenpohler, and Bilal Zia

Closer, but No Cigar: Intergenerational Mobility across Caste Groups in India by Rishabh Sinha

Returns to Investment in Education: A Decennial Review of the Global Literature by George Psacharopoulos and Harry Antony Patrinos

To Impute or Not to Impute? A Review of Alternative Poverty: Estimation Methods in the Context of Unavailable Consumption Data by Hai-Anh H. Dang

The Effects of Cash Transfers on Adult Labor Market Outcomes by Sarah Baird, David McKenzie, and Berk Özler

Capital Inflows, Equity Issuance Activity, and Corporate Investment by Charles W. Calomiris Mauricio Larrain, and Sergio L. Schmukler