

Session Title: GLO Virtual Young Scholars (GLO-VirtYS) Alumni Session

Session Chair: Olena Nizalova

1. Odmaa Narantungalag [O.Narantungalag@massey.ac.nz](mailto:O.Narantungalag@massey.ac.nz)

**Title:** The intended and unintended consequences of large electricity subsidies: evidence from Mongolia

**Abstract:**

We investigate the effectiveness of large electricity subsidies to reduce the consumption of dirty energy and improve ambient air quality. We exploit a policy change in Mongolia that provides 50-100 percent subsidy to households in some regions, allowing us to use difference-in-differences models. Using five rounds of the Mongolia Household Socio-Economic Survey, we find that the subsidy reduces the likelihood of reporting illness. We further find that households receiving the electricity subsidy increase their (total of subsidised and un-subsidised) electricity expenditure by at least 17 percent more than those who have not received any such benefit. This is an important positive outcome, indicating that households changed their behavior of daytime and non-winter season electricity consumption, when they do not receive any subsidy. Policymakers, therefore, need to internalize the unintended benefit of the subsidy when comparing with the cost of the programme.

2. Soumya Pal [soumya.pal17@iimb.ac.in](mailto:soumya.pal17@iimb.ac.in)

**Title:** Climate Change, Food Productivity, and Adaptation in Production Network

**Abstract:**

I empirically characterize the mechanics of input adjustment in agriculture production in India due to climate change using the detailed crop productivity data covering input utilization information from 1966 to 2011. Though incidences of extreme temperature and precipitation during the germination, growth, and harvest reduced the productivity of rice and wheat by approximately 10-12 percentage; the adjustments in the input selection played a sizeable role in reducing the impact. I highlighted the importance of adopting modern agricultural inputs such as irrigation and high-yielding variety seeds and how farmers adjust their input mix to adapt against the effects of climate change. Motivated by these facts, I build a model of adoption of intermediate inputs utilizing the theoretical framework of the Production Network with a fixed cost of input usage and inter-dependency across sectors for intermediate input demand. The demand for additional input in the agriculture sector impacts those sectors which directly or indirectly supply the intermediate goods. Additionally, I investigated the case with no inter-dependency across sectors and found that distortion in agricultural productivity impacts the overall welfare in proportion to its contribution to the national income. The presence of the Production Network reduces the overall impact, and the margin depends on the productivity gained from additional inputs and variety in the input mix.

3. Jun Hyung Kim [junhyung.kim49@gmail.com](mailto:junhyung.kim49@gmail.com)

**Title:** Consequences of Family Planning Policies on Gender Gap in Breastfeeding

**Coauthors:** Yong Cai, Minhee Chae, Jun Hyung Kim, and William Lavelly

**Abstract:**

Family planning policies (FPP) may exacerbate gender inequality in the presence of son preference in the household. But it remains unknown how they affect the gender inequality in breastfeeding, an important input in human capital development in early childhood. We fill this gap by examining the effects of an FPP known as "Later, Longer, and Fewer" (LLF; *wan xi shao*) policy which was implemented in China throughout the 1970s advocating later marriages, longer birth spacing, and fewer children. We find that FPP increased the daughter-son gender gap in breastfeeding favoring sons, especially in rural areas. Median intensity of FPP predicts gender gap to be 50% bigger than the gap without any FPP. We further find suggestive evidence that the effects were driven by parents' desire to have at least one son, increasing the probability that the last child in the family is a son rather than a daughter. Gender gap in breastfeeding disappears once we account for the effect from being the last-born in the family.

4. Samuel Mann [mann.samuel.j@gmail.com](mailto:mann.samuel.j@gmail.com)

**Title:** Anti-Discrimination Laws and Mental Health: Evidence from Sexual Minorities

**Abstract:**

This paper provides the first causal evidence on the effect of employment based Anti-Discrimination Laws on mental health. Exploiting the roll out of Anti-Discrimination Laws at the state level within a difference-in-differences model that is robust to staggered timing I document that these laws reduce the number of poor mental health days by around 11% for male sexual minorities but have no significant impact on female sexual minorities. I leverage data from several sources to explore plausible mechanisms. I demonstrate that these mental health effects are unlikely a result of changes in labor market outcomes or health insurance coverage, and instead are likely driven by significant reductions in animosity and prejudice and improvements in workplace climate. I demonstrate that these changes in discrimination are gendered: with reductions in prejudice being principally driven by reductions in prejudice towards sexual minority men.

5. Femke Cnossen [f.d.cnossen@rug.nl](mailto:f.d.cnossen@rug.nl)

**Title:** Learning the Right Skill: The Returns to Cognitive, Social and Technical skills for Middle Educated Graduates

**Abstract:**

Technological change and globalization have sparked debates on the changing demand for skills in western labour markets, especially for middle skilled workers who have seen their tasks replaced. This paper provides a new data set, which is based on text data from curricula of the entire Dutch vocational education system. We extract verbs and nouns to measure social, technical, management and basic skills in a novel way. This method allows us to uncover the skills middle-skilled students learn in school. Using this data, we show that each skill has a specific pattern of return, where we find that resource management skills have the most robust and positive return.